



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

PBO's VISION IS VISION!

The Ohio Affiliate of Prevent Blindness is the statewide consumer advocate for sight conservation. We promote eye health and safety while working to find the cure for blinding eye diseases.

Founded in 1908, Prevent Blindness the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness and preserving sight. The Ohio Affiliate of Prevent Blindness serves all 88 Ohio counties, providing direct services to more than 1,000,000 Ohioans annually and educating millions of consumers what they can do to protect and preserve their precious gift of sight.

Prevent Blindness provides services statewide and have Chapter Offices in Cleveland, Dayton, Cincinnati and Toledo, with the state office located in Columbus.

Why is the work of PBO so important?

Because vision loss is everyone's problem, whether you are a child struggling with amblyopia or a senior facing vision loss due to glaucoma, Prevent Blindness recognizes the overwhelming need to preserve sight and is taking a variety of approaches to stop needless loss of sight. PBO is working through public education initiatives, preventative education and treatment, and advocating on behalf of consumers to ensure vision safety and access to eye care.

Better vision for all Ohio through partnership...

PBO is working in partnership with hundreds of organizations throughout Ohio to ensure healthy sight for life through a variety of different programming approaches that:

- serve individuals that are uninsured for vision care,
- educate children, adults, and seniors about their vision,
- provide the skills and equipment necessary for organizations to provide early detection of vision problems and educational information to their clients.

Continue reading to find out more about our education and programming initiatives that can help you and your clients maintain healthy vision.

Vision Preservation Programming and Educational Initiatives

Adult and Preschool Vision Screening Training- Prevent Blindness provides vision screening training, equipment and certification to health care providers, social service providers, preschool and senior care staff, and community groups so that they are able to provide vision screenings and referrals to the populations they serve. Screeners serve more than 350,000 preschoolers, adults and seniors annually in Ohio!

EyeWatch- Eye Health Advocate Presentation Toolkit- The goal of the EyeWatch Initiative is to decrease the incidence of preventable vision loss among Ohio's high risk adult populations through promotion of healthy lifestyles, early detection and treatment, and increased use of eye care access. Prevent

Blindness has developed an EyeWatch Eye Health Advocate Toolkit that contains three PowerPoint presentations on age-related eye diseases, vision resources, and healthy living. The toolkits also provide handouts, brochures, and questionnaires to support each of the presentations.

PBO delivers orientation and training on use of these kits to professionals/volunteers recruited from aging network/health organizations that have a commitment to deliver eye health educational information and services to their constituents. PBO provides access to eye health education resources, services and programming. Targeted agencies/organizations for this program are those that have access to a large network of consumers in high risk populations.

Vision Conferences and Research Summits- Prevent Blindness is committed to educating key groups about the growth of vision problems and the important role that research, public health, clinicians, and the patients themselves play in reducing unnecessary vision loss. This effort is supported by annual statewide conferences highlighting specific eye diseases such as age-related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy that bring together internationally known researchers with public health agencies, government officials, funders, and patients to discuss solutions to the growth of age related eye diseases.

Prevent Blindness is also supporting future researchers through the Young Investigators Student Fellowship Award. The PBO Fellowship Award was designed to provide training support for future generations of outstanding female scientists committed to pursuing biomedical, behavioral or clinical research careers relevant to the mission of Prevent Blindness – to prevent blindness and preserve sight.

Vision Care Outreach Program- The purpose of the Vision Care Outreach program is to provide access to donated comprehensive, professional eye exams, follow-up care, education and eyewear to medically indigent children, youth, families and homeless/uninsured adults. The program serves those up to 200% federal poverty level who are uninsured or underinsured. The ultimate goal of the VCO program is to reduce the incidence of unnecessary vision loss and impairment.

The VCO program uses a vast network of social service agencies, eye and other health care professionals, hospitals, optical companies and others to provide donated preventive vision care for disorders as easily correctable as myopia (near- sightedness) to more serious diseases such as diabetic retinopathy or glaucoma to indigent populations. PBO trains and equips staff of local healthcare and social service agencies (VCO partner agencies) to conduct vision assessments for their clients. Through PBO, agency clients receive access to eye exams, eyeglasses and surgical care when needed at no or low cost to the recipient.

Educational Brochures and Websites- Prevent Blindness has a wide variety of brochures, fact sheets and information available on eye health and safety topics- ranging from common vision problems to uveitis and workplace safety. PBO is able to provide these materials to community organizations, health care providers, and companies throughout Ohio to support the eye health education of their constituents. Even more information can be found online at www.pbohio.org.

Vision Advocacy- Prevent Blindness has established itself as an advocate for the vision care needs of Ohio consumers. Advocating for all Ohio citizens regarding issues of vision safety in regards to fireworks, vision and safe driving, access to eye health care, and providing policy makers with the information they need to fight the future problem of vision loss in Ohio's senior population. By the year 2030, an estimated 2.5 million Ohioans will be faced with vision problems such as age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, cataract, and diabetic retinopathy. All Ohioans can join this fight by going to www.pbohio.org and selecting the Advocacy link to voice their opinions on current issues and legislation.