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Chapter Locations

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Fax: 614.481.9670

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Dayton, OH 45402
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For more information:
www.pbohio.org / info@pbohio.org

Prevent Blindness Ohio 2022-2023 Annual Report
A special thanks to our Legacy Society members who help PBO to continue sight-saving work through a gift to Prevent Blindness Ohio in their wills, trusts or estate plans. Members of our Legacy Society include:

- Lauren Abel, Bob Bidinger, Alan Blumenthal, Rick Bunner, Anita Campbell, Jenny Camper, Julie Capuano, Larry Clarke, Mike Curtin, Andrea Albanese Denning, Mike D’Ippolito, Darcy Downie, Bradly D’Souza, Sonya Elkins, Kylie Gang, Phillip Gasson, Steve Grassbaugh, Darlene Jacobson, George Kademenos, Carolyne King, EL Doris McFarland, Kathy McGinnis, John Michelman, Marc Molea, Robert Neal, Stephanie Nunn, Dave Parcher, Doug Piper, Amy Pulles, Mary Robins, Lauren Rogers, Samuel Scott, David Sherriff, Brian Smith, Eve Stratton, Kent Stuckey, Jeff Swartz, Cari Van Pelt, Marie Wagner, Jody Wainscott, Sherry Williams, Frances Wright, and Rich Young.

**Visionary Leadership ($15,000+)**
- Albert and Olive Schlimg Foundation
- Community Foundation of Lorain County
- Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- National Alliance of Chronic Disease Directors
- Nationwide Foundation
- Ohio Department of Health
- Prevent Blindness America-Illinois
- Robert H. Reakirt Foundation
- Samuel S. Scott Trust

**Directors ($5,000 - $14,999)**
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- CareSource Management Group
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- The Marge & Charles J. Schott Foundation
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- Cincinnati Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired
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- Ms. Lynette Kocab
- Mr. Scott Koenigs
- Ms. Deborah M. Kogler
- Ms. Stephanie Kornaman
- Mr. John Kuhl
Who Says PBO is All Work and No Play?

PBO staff enjoyed an afternoon of friendly competition, lunch and team building at TopGolf in Columbus.

2022 Research Fellows Present Findings at Virtual Vision Forum

PBO’s 2022 Young Investigator Student Fellowship Awards for Female Scholars in Vision Research were given to recipients Archana Murali from the Case Western Reserve University Ophthalmology Department, Erica Shelton from The Ohio State University College of Optometry, and Olivia Taylor from The Neuroscience Department at The Ohio State University.

Murali studied “Immunoblot Analysis of Lymphatic Marker Expression in Human Ciliary Body Cells Following Prostaglandin Analog Treatment;” Shelton studied “Assessing Social Determinants of Health in the Pediatric Population’s Utilization of Vision Care Services Using Data from the National Survey of Children’s Health;” and, Taylor studied “Exploring Sphingosine 1-Phosphate as a Mediator of Retinal Regeneration via Epigenetic Regulation of Muller Glia Reprogramming.”

All three presented their findings during a Scientific Forum attended by professionals and educators in vision research and care.

This PBO fellowship program provides 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 Ohio.

“I picked up my glasses and I had a great fit! And I can see well! I got compliments on how good they looked, and for the first time in months I have not had a headache.”

- Cheryl K., Rossford

Children’s Vision Screening Expanded Through Grade 12

PBO expanded its Children’s Vision Screening Training and Certification to reach children ranging from preschool through grade 12 (formerly through grade 1). The training course has been updated and all new screeners are trained in PBO’s new workshops that are available as virtual (self-paced), live virtual, and in person. New equipment is available to screen the older age groups (grades 2 and beyond). Thanks to funding through the Save Our Sight Fund at the Ohio Department of Health, Prevent Blindness Ohio can provide this training and new equipment to certified screeners at no cost to them.
A Message from our Leadership

A Return to Normal?

Our 2022-2023 fiscal year began emerging from the pandemic. Events and meetings were slowly moving from online platforms back to in person and sometimes hybrid formats. We quickly realized that we were not, in fact, returning to normal – we were moving forward and engaging in new ways.

How we work with our partners and our clients is forever changed. Our children’s and adult vision screener training courses continue to be offered in three modalities, virtual (self-paced), live virtual, and in person. Trainees can choose the modality that works best for them. We reach far more trainees through our virtual trainings than in person. For three years running, we have the added bonus of offering school nurses Continuing Nurse Education credits for completing our children’s vision screener training.

We have re-engaged and expanded our Vision Care Outreach Program (which provides donated eye exams and glasses for underinsured and uninsured Ohioans). During the year, we recruited and trained more than 25 new partner organizations and re-engaged with 30 more. We also updated the strategic plan for the Aging Eye Public Private Partnership and expanded the partnership’s reach. These successes helped us expand our service reach and ensured that more Ohioans accessed the vision care services they needed to save their sight. Through our direct services, public education and advocacy, we reached more than 900,000 Ohioans of all ages.

Thank you to all our donors for your critical support – YOU make it possible for us to continue our work to address the 50% of vision loss that is preventable!

“Thanks to the partnership with Prevent Blindness Ohio, I was able to take Lakota West student, Sim G., to get glasses for the very first time. We walked out of Clarkson Eyecare and Sim exclaimed, ‘33% off Audible! I’ve never been able to read that sign before!’ On the drive back to West he kept saying, ‘Oh, it says…!’ And, ‘I can see … now!’ It was precious! Thank you!”

– Sara M., Lakota West High School

Protecting Vision in Your Community

2022 - 2023 Program Year Results

NORTHWEST OHIO
Children Screened 23,773
Adults Screened 10,262
Donated Vision Care 507
Community Education 923
New Vision Screeners 155

MIAMI VALLEY OHIO
Children Screened 21,018
Adults Screened 8,993
Donated Vision Care 264
Community Education 1,408
New Vision Screeners 145

SOUTHWEST OHIO
Children Screened 20,861
Adults Screened 8,319
Donated Vision Care 531
Community Education 1,092
New Vision Screeners 135

NORTHEAST OHIO
Children Screened 67,542
Adults Screened 15,852
Donated Vision Care 1,033
Community Education 1,094
New Vision Screeners 468

CENTRAL/SOUTHEAST OHIO
Children Screened 47,862
Adults Screened 10,504
Donated Vision Care 1,068
Community Education 664,604
New Vision Screeners 287

STATEWIDE
Children Screened 181,056
Adults Screened 54,056
Donated Vision Care 3,403
Community Education 669,121
Total Vision Screeners 3,153

Prevent Blindness Ohio 2022-2023 Annual Report
A complete set of audited financial statements is available upon request.

World Sight Day 2022 is a Success

World Sight Day was October 13, 2022. Thanks to grant support from Horizon Therapeutics and Prevent Blindness America, Prevent Blindness Ohio celebrated and promoted good vision and eye health in the Governor Thomas Worthington Center at the Ohio Statehouse. PBO distributed World Sight Day information along with PBO eye health and safety information, and conducted adult vision screenings for legislators, legislative staff, executive staff and the general public.

Over thirty people attended, including multiple legislators, legislative staff, PBO Board members and the general public.

State Representative Michael Sheehy (a PBO Board member) attended and presented House Resolution 361, recognizing October 13, 2022 as World Sight Day in Ohio.

Partner Organization Spotlight

PBO works with partner organizations throughout Ohio so they can offer valuable eye care service to their clients.

One such partner is Physicians CareConnection (PCC), an affiliate of the Columbus Medical Association and a volunteer-based, charitable organization that helps coordinate care for adults in Central Ohio who have healthcare challenges due to individual barriers. Many do not know the importance of caring for their vision.

PCC Care Coordinator, Kouzan Abdullah calls PBO a “gem in town” as hundreds of their clients have benefitted from PBO services. When clients come to PCC for various health issues, the staff also asks them when they last had an eye exam. Most either don’t recall because it has been so long, or they never have had one at all. “Many of our clients do not know the correlation between their health and their eyesight,” explains Abdullah. “We enroll them with PBO and get them a voucher for an eye exam and glasses, if needed.” She added, “Being able to help clients with wraparound services with the help of PBO has been amazing.”

Abdullah shares a PCC client success story at PBO’s People of Vision event.
Prevent Blindness Ohio received a grant in the amount of $475,000 for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 from the Ohio Department of Health Save Our Sight (SOS) Fund for PBO to train and certify 700 children’s vision screeners at schools, primary healthcare practices and public/private child care organizations. The funding comes from Ohioans who donate $1 or more to SOS when they renew their Ohio motor vehicle registrations.

This funding also allows PBO to provide vision screening equipment to children’s vision screeners at no cost to them.

Save Our Sight and Ohio Drivers Fund Children’s Vision Screenings

PBO is pleased to offer licensed nurses, including school nurses, 4 Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) Units for becoming a Prevent Blindness Certified Children’s Vision Screener. Since the program’s inception in the Fall of 2020, 610 nurses have earned these CNEs.

PBO provides the activity in conjunction with Ashland University, Dwight Schar College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Licensed nurses who complete all components of this training may obtain 4.0 credits of continuing nursing education.

The Prevent Blindness Certified Children’s Vision Screener Training program is paid for in part by the Save Our Sight Grant through the Ohio Department of Health.

**Aging Eye Summit Brings Together Aging Eye Experts**

The Aging Eye Summit took place on June 23, 2022 at The Ohio State University Faculty Club, as well as virtually. The hybrid Summit was a great success with 75 individuals participating virtually and another 44 participating in person.

The Summit featured a lineup of experts speaking on a variety of topics including: aging eye diseases, with a focus on current research and treatment for glaucoma; disparities in vision healthcare; using health surveillance data to assess barriers to vision care in Ohio; technology and low vision management; and uveitis, a clinical discussion and patient perspective.

“Ruthie’s job was very stressful on her eyes. The glare from lights was making it difficult to see well to do her work well. Since getting her eyes examined & getting glasses, she no longer complains of tired eyes & glare bothering her.”

- A grateful mother in Ashtabula County

**Save Our Sight and Ohio Drivers Fund Children’s Vision Screenings**

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This funding also allows PBO to provide vision screening equipment to children’s vision screeners at no cost to them.

Brothers Anderson and Alexis were both found to be in need of vision care during the screening conducted by the PBO vision screener at their school. Without insurance or the financial resources to get their children glasses, the family was referred to the PBO Vision Care Outreach Program for free eyeglasses. The brothers wrote to us...

“Thank you for my glasses. I’m so happy that I can see far now. Thank you so much.”

-11 year old Anderson

“Thank you for the glasses. I can see better with them & I can do all my work. God bless you.”

- 13 year old Alexis

**PBO Offers CNE Units for Nurses**

**PBO Introduces Refresh & Recertify Class**

PBO introduced a new Refresh & Recertify training opportunity for individuals already certified as adult vision screeners, but who need to renew their certification and/or refresh their adult vision screening skills.

Adult vision screening certification is good for three years and, in the past, after certification has expired, the recertification test could be taken online to renew the three-year certification. However, often trainees would have questions and would want to retake the training to refresh their skills. The program was created for those interested in getting a refresher course without having to retake the full training.
2022-2023 EVENTS
Prevent Blindness Ohio raises awareness and support through special events across the state, including the People of Vision Award events and the Swing Fore Sight Golf Tournaments. All events generate revenue to support our mission to prevent blindness and preserve sight.

$291,000 raised! The People of Vision Award was established in 1985 by Prevent Blindness to recognize Ohio’s top corporate and civic leaders for outstanding philanthropic works in their community. The 2023 honors were presented in Cleveland, Dayton, Cincinnati, Toledo, and Columbus.

Toledo
Honoree: PNC Bank & Bill McDonnell
Chair: Shrader Tire & Oil & Joe Shrader

Dayton
Honoree: Kurt Lewis & UnitedHealthcare of Ohio
Chair: McGohan Brabender & Scott McGohan

Cincinnati
Honoree: Michael McCuen & KeyBank
Chair: Freestate Foodbank & Kurt Reiber

Columbus
Honoree: Mark Peacock & Encova Insurance
Chair: Columbus Crew & Kristin Bernert

Cleveland
Honoree: Kim Riley & Hylant - Cleveland
Chair: AMHigley & Gareth Vaughan

$102,000 raised! The Swing Fore Sight Golf Tournaments were held in Cleveland and Columbus! Thanks to Jim Griveas & Dave Rath (Columbus), and Alan Gunner (Cleveland) for their outstanding leadership chairing the events!