



Vision Is Our Focus

2023 Community Impact Report



pennsylvania
vision foundation



Vision

Positively impact the lives of Pennsylvanians through advancements in optometry and access to quality eye care.

Mission

Conduct and finance projects to foster and preserve human eyesight through the science of optometry in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

In the words of the eminent Dr. Suess, “The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”

Healthy eyes, clear vision, learning and education are the building blocks of a bright future filled with endless possibilities. This is top of mind in my day-to-day work as an optometrist, as well as in our Foundation’s vision to positively impact the lives of Pennsylvanians through advancements in optometry and access to quality eye care.

This year, the Foundation made a commitment to the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University by funding the “VBA Learning Lab” where future optometrists can study together. In addition, we made a significant donation to the Vision Benefits of America Endowment Scholarship for future optometrists who intend to practice their profession in Pennsylvania.

Through the Foundation’s Vision Benefit Program and our partners’ child vision screening programs, we identify vision deficiencies and provide essential eye care. In 2023, we surpassed 10,000 lives served through the Benefit Program. Our amazing partners deserve high praise in helping us reach this important milestone.

None of this would be possible without the financial support of VBA and their leadership who recognize that all deserve to see clearly and live life to the fullest.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Leitzel". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Andrew Leitzel, O.D.
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Vision Foundation

A Milestone Year For The Vision Benefit Program

2023 was a monumental year for the Foundation as it has officially surpassed 10,000 lives covered through its Vision Benefit Program.

The Vision Benefit Program

The benefit program ensures that adults and children who qualify for this need-based program have access to receive quality eye care through local VBA providers.

What's Included?

Participants in the Vision Benefit Program receive an exam, eyeglass frames and lenses from one of VBA's Participating Providers.

Who Qualifies for Our Benefit Program?

Adults and children residing in Pennsylvania who are underprivileged, distressed and live at 300 percent of poverty level or below.



1,374 uninsured Pennsylvanians served in 2023



10,319 uninsured Pennsylvanians served to date

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Our partner agencies are like-minded health and charitable organizations that are able to identify those in need of essential vision care by performing basic eligibility screenings.

- ACT in Faith GWC
- Ann Silverman Community Health Clinic
- Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh
- Centre Volunteers in Medicine
- Logos Academy
- Neighborhood Resilience Project
- New Hope Ministries
- Northside Christian Health Center
- Saint Patrick's Church, Health Screening Program
- Sights for Hope
- Thrive Ministry, Inc.
- VBA
- VisionCorps
- Vision Resource Center of Berks County (VRCBerks)
- Vision Resources of Central Pennsylvania (VROCP)
- Volunteers in Medicine, Wilkes-Barre
- Washington Lions Club
- York County Youth Development Center

Focusing on Our Partners

2023 PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Ann Silverman Community Health Clinic

This year, Ann Silverman Community Health Clinic (ASCHC) is celebrating the milestone of serving greater Bucks County for 30 years.

With the goal of serving over 3,000 patients in 2024, ASCHC provides free medical and dental care, behavioral health and social services to low-income, uninsured residents of Bucks County.

These services are made possible by volunteer physicians, dentists, nurses and support staff. The facilities and support services provided by Doylestown Hospital in addition to the generous donations from the community are what help fuel ASCHC's mission.

ASCHC is one of our Foundation's original Vision Benefit Program partners and we are proud to highlight their great deeds as our 2023 Spotlight Partner.

Since our partnership began over 15 years ago, the Ann Silverman Clinic has referred more than 2,000 patients for essential vision care including vision care exams and glasses. The Doylestown community and greater Bucks County are fortunate to have Ann Silverman Community Health Clinic.

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For over a decade, the Pennsylvania Vision Foundation and Vision Benefits of America have been our invaluable partner, enriching the Ann Silverman Community Health Clinic with their commitment to vision benefits.

Their unwavering support has not only improved eyesight for our patients but has also been the cornerstone in shaping us into a more comprehensive and impactful nonprofit.

– **Meri L Gaumont**

Executive Director
Ann Silverman Community
Health Clinic

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An Eye On Our Littlest Humans

2023 saw a significant increase in preschool vision screenings, reaching a total of 24,114 screenings.

According to the CDC, about 1 in 4 preschoolers have undiagnosed or untreated vision problems. Through these screenings, we are able to identify and address issues that may delay vision development or negatively impact learning at a much earlier age.

Total Preschool Vision Screenings

2023 preschool vision screenings and immediate referrals from our four partner agencies engaged with grants:

VRCBerks:

Total screenings

2,333

with 219 referrals
1 county served

VisionCorps:

Total screenings

11,001

with 1,062 referrals
throughout 5 counties

Looking Out for Kids:

Total screenings

8,252

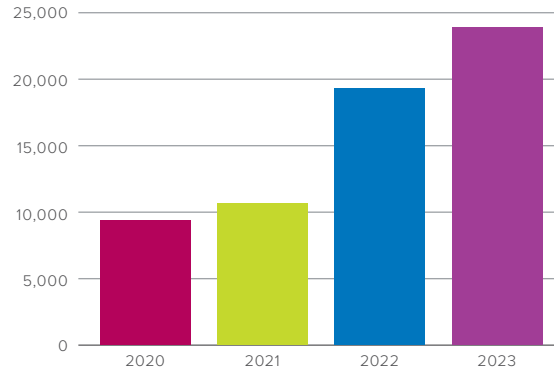
with 2,080 referrals
4 counties served

VROCP:

Total screenings

2,528

with 322 referrals
throughout 4 counties



Vision Screenings

Kids often don't know if their vision is blurry. Vision screenings are a tool for simple-to-detect issues like nearsightedness or lazy eye. They identify children who need to see an optometrist or ophthalmologist for an eye exam.

Vision screenings do not result in a prescription. Instead, they may result in a referral for an eye exam.

Eye Exam

Eye exams are performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist. Eye exams can help diagnose vision or eye health issues that may affect learning, development, play and future job opportunities.

Eye exams usually include an assessment of visual acuity, lazy eye, eye turns, 3D vision, eye tracking, convergence, color vision and overall eye health.

Paving the Way For Student Eye Doctors

One of the most proactive ways to manage vision and general health concerns is by having yearly vision care exams. Did you know the next generation might not be able to access vision care as easily as you can today?

In the next decade, it's estimated there will be a 15% shortage* of ophthalmologists nationwide. With a shortage in ophthalmologists, it's possible that not everyone will have access to the eye care they need.

The Pennsylvania Vision Foundation recognizes the importance of supporting the future of optometry and ophthalmology through investing in students.

We believe a quality education is the foundation of a well-rounded eye care practitioner. Providing an annual scholarship to a Salus University optometric student is an important part of serving our mission.

Through this endowed scholarship, we're ensuring a bright future for optometry in Pennsylvania.

*Health Resources & Services Administration



Regular vision care exams are critical for detecting any issues that could interfere with a child's physical, cognitive or social development.

National Institutes of Health



As of 2022, 79% of the U.S. population uses some form of vision correction.

Consumer inSights



Serious conditions like diabetes, hypertension and high cholesterol are often first detected by an eye care provider,

American Academy of Ophthalmology

Honoring VBA's Chairs of the Board:

Dr. Bruce May
Dr. Vincent Cascino
Dr. Claudia Wendel
Dr. Peter Theodorou
Dr. David Rule
Dr. Sam D'Onofrio
Dr. Karen Rule
Dr. Lewis A. Carrarini
Dr. Andrew L. Leitzel

Study Room For Enhanced Learning



In 2023, the Foundation gave a \$10,000 grant to the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University. This grant will fund the "VBA Learning Lab" where future optometrists can study together.

Spreading Kindness with Trucks for Maddox

In 2023, a \$25,000 grant was awarded to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation at UPMC for exclusive use in the Trucks for Maddox Optical Assistance Fund. Since 2020, the Trucks for Maddox Optical Assistance Fund has worked to ensure that all children have access to the eyeglasses they need. Through this initiative, Maddox Derkosh's family is able to spread his legacy of kindness and friendship. With the Foundation's grant, 224 pairs of glasses were granted to children in financial need.



Programs like Trucks for Maddox mean so much to the family of a medically complex child. Braxton was fitted for his first pair of glasses. After taking the time to adjust to them, his caregivers saw an immediate improvement in his behavior. Now, he knows how to crawl, walk and play like other kids his age.

Meet Braxton

Braxton was born with 7q11.23 duplication syndrome, a genetic disorder that can cause a variety of neurological issues, developmental delays and other conditions. One issue that was apparent early in his life was that he had both strabismus and intermittent exotropia of his left eye. These disorders mean his eyes do not line up in the same direction.

His caretakers Jamie and Tori were not able to address these disorders right away due to other life-threatening conditions. He was a toddler by the time he was physically stable enough for treatment for his eyes.

Children like Braxton who have these vision concerns may experience issues with depth perception that could delay certain developmental milestones like grasping for objects and crawling. Braxton's doctors explained that prescription eyeglasses would help improve his vision enough for him to achieve these goals and milestones. Jamie and Tori were initially relieved until they found out that their insurance did not cover eyeglasses at all.

After feeling defeated, Jamie contacted the eye clinic at UPMC Children's and learned about the Trucks for Maddox program.

Through Trucks for Maddox, Braxton was able to receive his first pair of glasses.



Financials (unaudited)

	2021	2022	2023
Income			
Contributions	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 25,000
Investment Income (Loss)	70,830	(210,115)	132,322
Total Income (Loss)	\$ 170,830	\$ (110,115)	\$ 157,322
Expenses			
Vision Benefits Program	\$ 94,396	\$ 98,650	\$ 128,136
Grants	100,826	41,000	50,500
Administrative Expenses	43,872	39,446	29,624
Total Expenses	239,094	179,096	208,260
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ (68,264)	\$ (289,211)	\$ (50,938)

The Foundation's most recent IRS Form 990-PF is available upon request.

Meet the 2023 Board of Directors

Marcus Devlin, O.D.

Partner/Owner, Optometrist, Spring House Eye Associates, LLC

Stephen R. Holloway, O.D.

Owner, Optometrist, Advanced Family Eye Care

Jeff A. Hollowood, Esq.

President & Chief Executive Officer, VBA

Andrew L. Leitzel, O.D.

Partner/Owner, Optometrist, Sans Pareil Eyecare LLP

Akos Nagy

IT Manager, PPG Industries

Kristin O'Connor, CPA

Chief Administrative Officer, The Kingsley Association

Susan M. Overton, Esq.

Attorney, Senior Vice President, General Counsel
Genesis HealthCare, Inc.

Brock Snyder

Executive Vice President of Sales, MITER Brands

David Tintera

Actuarial Analyst, Hawley Consulting Group

A young woman with long braids and glasses is sitting at a desk in a library, looking thoughtfully to the side. She is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and has a white earbud in her left ear. The desk in front of her has an open book and some papers. The background is filled with bookshelves packed with books, creating a warm, studious atmosphere. The lighting is soft and focused on the woman.

“*There is no future
without education.*”

– Rosa Parks



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