



Vision Is Our Focus

2024 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 Advocates,

Community can be defined as a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests and goals. Our communities create the roots that nurture our great nation fundamentally, socially and economically. Every person matters and contributes. The Pennsylvania Vision Foundation's focus has always been on community and lifting up those who struggle to stand themselves.

As Coretta Scott King once said, "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

The Pennsylvania Vision Foundation aligns with many amazing partners who connect their essential services along with our vision benefits to community members who need it most. Many of these relationships have been fostered for years. Working together with these like-minded partners is how we achieve success.

This year we joyfully witnessed Salus at Drexel University's ribbon cutting ceremony, launching their new Mobile Unit for Health Resources, which will bring health and vision care to underserved communities around Philadelphia. The Foundation provided a grant for the ophthalmic exam equipment in this mobile unit. We added new key partners in Pittsburgh, Scranton and Philadelphia communities. Through partnerships, our Vision Benefit Program provided vision exams and glasses for nearly two thousand Pennsylvanians. We proudly continued to support the Trucks for Maddox Optical Assistance Fund. Additionally, we made a major contribution to the Vision Benefits of America Opportunity Scholarship at PCO which helps doctors in training complete their path to becoming new eyecare providers in Pennsylvania.

I would like to recognize the Central Pennsylvania Optometric Society member Doctors for their very generous donation to our Foundation. This positively impacted lives in Central PA by providing vision care for many individuals in Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Juniata, Lebanon, Perry, Snyder and York counties.

As we continue to lift up our community friends and neighbors, I express my sincere gratitude for the financial support of VBA and their leadership's commitment to our mission. With VBA's annual contribution, we will continue to serve those who need us most across communities in Pennsylvania.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Leitzel'.

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

The Vision Benefit Program's Increase in Impact

The Foundation's Vision Benefit Program had approximately 20% more claims in 2024 than 2023.



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.



1,765 uninsured Pennsylvanians served in 2024



12,180 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
- Bucks County Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Centre Volunteers in Medicine
- The Edward R. Leahy Clinic for the Uninsured
- Latino Community Center
- Logos Academy
- Neighborhood Resilience Project
- New Hope Ministries
- North Side Christian Health Center
- Saint Patrick's Church, Health Screening Program
- Sights for Hope
- Thrive Ministry, Inc.
- VBA
- VisAbility
- 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

2024 PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

The Latino Community Center

The Latino Community Center (LCC) is a Pittsburgh based non-profit organization founded in 2017 providing families with immediate needs as well as the tools to build a bright future.

With a focus on the future, LCC has programs to support families with children from birth through college. Their programs give community members the tools and opportunities needed to reach their full potential through educational programming, family support and community building.

LCC envisions a world in which all people are valued and have equitable opportunities to thrive. From home visiting programs focused on the well being of new parents and babies, to parenting classes that focus on discipline, parents gain skills to help their children flourish. LCC continues to work with parents and children through after school programs, high school and career support.

To meet immediate needs, LCC provides community members with necessities like food and dental care. To aid in it's mission, The Pennsylvania Vision Foundation provides vision exams and eyeglasses to members of the LCC community who need them.

In 2025, LCC will establish a Latino Youth Center to extend it's mission. It will provide a safe, welcoming space where youth feel valued.

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Our partnership with the Pennsylvania Vision Foundation has been transformative since March 2024. Every month, we've been able to help 10 individuals with access to vision exams and glasses if needed, referring a total of 94 users so far. The gratitude expressed by those served through this opportunity is a testament to the incredible impact this collaboration has had on our community.

– Sofia Murra

Promotora
Latino Community Center

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The Perfect Pairing: Exams and Screenings

Vision screenings and vision care exams are complimentary methods of identifying potential eye issues. According to the CDC, approximately 1 in 4 preschool-aged children have undiagnosed or untreated vision problems. Since children often don't know their vision is blurry, vision screenings play an important role in identifying potential issues at an early age.

Vision Screenings

Vision screenings are a tool to identify children who need additional vision care.

They Are A Way To:

- Identify simple-to-detect issues like nearsightedness or lazy eye.
- Find children who need to see an optometrist or ophthalmologist for an eye exam.

They Cannot:

- Result in a prescription.
- Identify all common childhood eye conditions.

Eye Exam

Vision care exams are performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist to diagnose vision or eye health issues.

They Are A Way To:

- Assess visual acuity and test refraction.
- Perform an eye health evaluation on the structure of the eye and surrounding tissue.

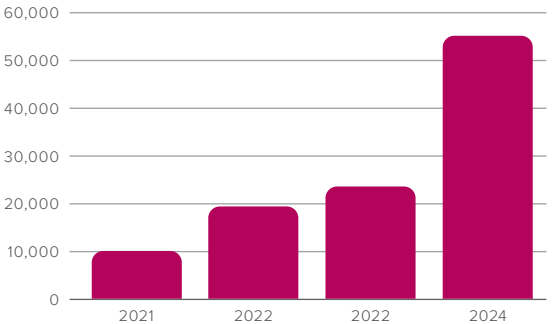
They Can:

- Provide a prescription for corrective eyeglass lenses or contact lenses.
- Detect ocular and systemic diseases

Partnering For A Better Future

Our partner organizations performed over 55,000 vision screenings in PA in 2024. They were able to refer almost 6,000 children for vision care exams using the Vision Benefit Program to pay for eyeglasses for qualifying families.

Bucks County Association for the Blind, Looking Out For Kids, Sights For Hope, VisAbility, VisionCorps, VRCBerks and VROCP all perform vision screenings during the year.



Paving the Way For Eye Doctors

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. Optometrists, as primary eye care providers, will need to rise and fill this shortfall.

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 at Drexel University optometric student is an important part of serving our mission.

Pennsylvania College of Optometry awards approximately 150 degrees each year as one of 25 optometry schools in the United States. The Pennsylvania Vision Foundation offers this endowed scholarship to ensure a bright future for optometrists in Pennsylvania.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

— Nelson Mandela

Honoring VBA's Chairs of the Board

The Vision Benefits of America Scholarship for a Salus at Drexel University optometric student is a gift from The Foundation in honor of the former and current Chairs of the Board of VBA.

Dr. Bruce May

Dr. Vincent Cascino

Dr. Claudia Wendel

Dr. Peter Theodoros

Dr. David Rule

Dr. Sam D'Onofrio

Dr. Karen Rule

Dr. Lewis A. Carrarini

Dr. Andrew L. Leitzel

Dr. Marcus Devlin



Access To Eye Care Is On a Roll

In 2024, Salus University at Drexel hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Mobile Unit for Health Resources (MUHR). Formerly the Big Red Bus, the new mobile facility offers clinical services through The Eye Institute, Pennsylvania Ear Institute and the Speech-Language Institute.

The new mobile unit will continue the mission of providing comprehensive eye care to underserved members of the Philadelphia regional community.

The Pennsylvania Vision Foundation and VBA are proud to support the community through the MUHR. The \$50,000 grant provided necessary optometric equipment including: pupilometer, phoropters, digital visual acuity systems, iCare tonometer, exam chairs, handheld autorefractor, handheld slit lamps, binocular indirect ophthalmoscopes and trial lens kits.

Spreading Kindness with Trucks for Maddox

In 2024, a \$15,000 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, 96 pairs of glasses were granted to children in financial need.



"I truly can't thank the donor's enough. Because of their generosity, my son doesn't have to have surgery. Please let them know how grateful we are!"

- Kassidy, Trenton's Mom

Meet Trenton

As a baby, Trenton's mom took him to a local hospital for his care. After he developed RSV, rhinovirus and a collapsed lung, she started taking him to UPMC Children's for his medical care.

The Eye Center at UPMC Children's treated Trenton for strabismus, misalignment of the eyes. In order to avoid surgery, he needed to wear eyeglasses consistently to gradually correct the condition. However, his glasses were thick and heavy which was a challenge, especially as a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Trenton developed a love for the athletic apparel brand Nike. "The eye care team and I thought Nike-brand glasses might motivate him to wear them," Kassidy shares. "It sounded perfect, but I told them there was no way I could afford name-brand glasses, and our insurance will not cover them.

The team at The Eye Center was able to provide Trenton a pair of Nike eyeglasses using a special fund through the Pennsylvania Vision Foundation to help cover the cost of the glasses.

Through Trucks for Maddox, Trenton was able to receive glasses he was motivated to wear.



Financials (unaudited)

	2022	2023	2024
Income			
Contributions	\$ 100,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 90,000
Investment Income (Loss)	(210,115)	132,322	83,956
Total Income (Loss)	\$ (110,115)	\$ 157,322	\$ 173,956
Expenses			
Vision Benefits Program	\$ 98,650	\$ 128,136	\$ 161,854
Grants	41,000	50,500	35,350
Administrative Expenses	39,446	29,624	43,952
Total Expenses	179,096	208,260	241,156
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ (289,211)	\$ (50,938)	\$ (67,200)

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

Meet the 2024 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

Akos Nagy
IT Manager, PPG Industries


Kristin O'Connor, CPA
Chief Administrative Officer, The Kingsley Association

- Susan M. Overton, Esq.**
General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer, ShiftMed

Christine Weld, O.D.
Partner, Optometrist, Sans Pareil Eyecare LLP

Brock Snyder (Honorary Director)
Executive Vice President of Sales, MITER Brands

David Tintera (Honorary Director)
Actuarial Analyst, Hawley Consulting Group



*“ Since you get more joy out
of giving joy to others, you
should put a good deal of
thought into the happiness
that you are able to give. ”*

– Eleanor Roosevelt



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