



# Vision Is Our Focus

2025 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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## Executive Director's Letter



Dear Friends and Advocates,

Personal connections weave the fabric of our community. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, we are reminded to show compassion and love for anyone we encounter in our daily activities. It serves as a guide to love our neighbors as ourselves regardless of their ethnic, religious or socio-economic status. Our focus this year is neighbors helping neighbors.

Commonly in my optometric practice, I have patients ask for a friend or neighbor about some issues they shared creating concern. Out of context, these questions are often difficult to answer, but my heart is filled with hope whenever someone genuinely cares enough about their neighbor to seek help on their behalf.

The Pennsylvania Vision Foundation aligns with many community partners who connect our Vision Benefit Program to their neighbors who in turn share this amazing benefit with other neighbors who need it most. Many of these partnerships have been fostered for years just like the neighborly bond in those communities.

Through these friends and neighbors our Vision Benefit Program provided vision exams and glasses for nearly 2,000 Pennsylvanians in 2025. The Pennsylvania Vision Foundation has served over 14,000 people to date. We continue to support doctors in training and invest in the future of eye care by making annual contributions to the Vision Benefits of America Opportunity Scholarship at PCO. This helps future doctors complete their training to become new eyecare providers in Pennsylvania.

We are very grateful for the Central Pennsylvania Optometric Society's continued support and very generous donation to our Foundation. This donation will brighten the lives of their friends and neighbors in south central Pennsylvania by providing vision care for needy individuals.

Much of this would not be possible without the financial support of VBA and their leadership's commitment to our Foundation's mission. With VBA's annual contribution, we will continue to help our neighbors help their neighbors and positively impact our community together.

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 4% more claims in 2025 than 2024.



## 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.



**1,827** uninsured  
Pennsylvanians  
served in 2025



**14,077** 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.

- 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
- Neighborhood Resilience Project
- New Hope Ministries
- Rainbow Kitchen Community Services
- Saint Patrick's Church, Health Screening Program
- Sights for Hope
- 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

### 2025 PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

#### VisAbility Pittsburgh

VisAbility is a Pittsburgh-based non-profit organization serving people in southwestern Pennsylvania who are blind or visually impaired. VisAbility provides innovative training and tools to help people who are blind or visually impaired achieve their goals and dreams.

Their specialized programs ensure that everyone experiencing vision loss or living with blindness has the opportunity to engage, learn, adapt and thrive. From regular eye exams to hands-on independent living skills, or cutting-edge access technology training.

VisAbility envisions an inclusive society where everyone who is blind or visually impaired has equal opportunity to pursue their passions and achieve their purpose. Their vision for the future is to ensure that services are accessible to anyone who needs them, without limitations or restrictions. They are dedicated to developing and implementing cutting-edge technology, comprehensive programs, and personalized services to empower individuals affected by vision loss and blindness.

Their goal is to help clients envision a future that transcends the barriers they face, enabling them to pursue and achieve the life goals that matter most to them.

The partnership with the Pennsylvania Vision Foundation and VisAbility began many years ago. Together, we are removing barriers to routine vision care, ensuring early detection of systemic diseases and helping our patients and clients achieve their goals and dreams.

“

*Our partnership with the Pennsylvania Vision Foundation began many years ago, and we have seen the positive impact it has on our community.*

*Together, we are removing barriers to routine vision care, ensuring early detection of systemic diseases, and helping our patients and clients achieve their goals and dreams.*

**– Erika Petach**  
President  
VisAbility

”

# 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

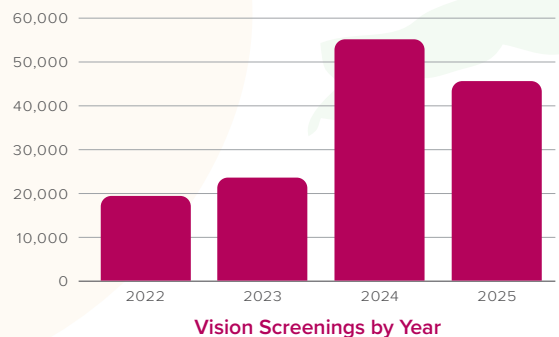
### They Can:

- ✓ 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 45,000 vision screenings in PA in 2025. 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.



# Is a Vision Care Exam Needed?

Increasing the number of children who receive vision care exams is the goal of most vision screening programs. Without a vision screening, parents can still proactively manage their child's eye health through routine vision care exams with an optometrist or ophthalmologist.

## Signs It's Time To Schedule A Vision Care Exam For Your Child

- You believe your child may have a vision-related problem
- Your child has a systemic disease that's associated with eye disorders
- You, your spouse or other children have been diagnosed with strabismus, amblyopia or high refractive error
- Your child has a known neurodevelopmental disorder (hearing impairment, cerebral palsy, cognitive impairment, autism spectrum disorders, speech delay)
- Your child has crossed or wandering eyes or a droopy lid

Children as young as six months old can receive an eye exam. It's never too early to consider vision care for your child.

## Supporting Eye Care Through Education



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 annual scholarships for students at Pennsylvania College of Optometry, Drexel University, is an important part of serving our mission.

## Honoring VBA's Chairs of the Board

The Pennsylvania Vision Foundation offers this endowed scholarship to ensure a bright future for optometrists in Pennsylvania. 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

## Spreading Kindness with Trucks for Maddox

In 2025, a \$12,500 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 this year, 70 pairs of glasses were granted to children in financial need.



*"Please thank the donors who support this fund. Their kindness completely changed the future for each of my children."*

**- Carrie, Arianna and Castiel's Mom**

### Meet Arianna and Castiel

Arianna (9) and Castiel (6) were born with serious eye conditions including cataracts, glaucoma and strabismus. Living in central Pennsylvania, the children were not receiving the ophthalmology services they needed until they were adopted by Carrie.

Carrie prioritized finding the treatment they needed, so she traveled to the Eye Center at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh for services.

In addition to surgery to remove their cataracts, both children needed specialized eyeglasses with custom features. The two pairs cost more than \$1,000. Without assistance, Carrie would have been forced to delay purchasing eyeglasses.

Through Trucks for Maddox, Arianna and Castiel were able to receive their glasses as prescribed without out-of-pocket costs.

Today, the kids are thriving, learning and exploring the world with clearer vision.



## Financials (unaudited)

	2023	2024	2025
<b>Income</b>			
Contributions	\$ 25,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 95,000
Investment Income (Loss)	132,322	83,956	138,843
Total Income (Loss)	\$ 157,322	\$ 173,956	\$ 233,843
<b>Expenses</b>			
Vision Benefits Program	\$ 128,136	\$ 161,854	\$ 164,792
Grants	50,500	35,350	22,500
Administrative Expenses	29,624	43,952	49,479
Total Expenses	208,260	241,156	236,771
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	<b>\$ (50,938)</b>	<b>\$ (67,200)</b>	<b>\$ (2,928)</b>

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

## Meet the 2025 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**

Senior IT Manager II, Pittsburgh Paints

### **Kristin O'Connor, CPA**

Chief Administrative Officer, The Kingsley Association

### **Susan M. Overton, Esq.**

Chief Risk Officer, Nemours Children's Health

### **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



*“ It’s not so much what we have in this life that matters. It’s what we do with what we have. ”*

**– Fred Rogers**



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