



# Vision Is Our Focus

2022 Community Impact Report



pennsylvania  
vision foundation

A young child with dark, curly hair and glasses is smiling broadly. They are holding a pair of glasses in their right hand. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting, possibly a classroom or home office, with a desk and some papers visible. The entire image has a warm, reddish-pink color overlay.

# 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,



I believe that children are our future... Provide them sight and they will lead the way... Allow them to see the beauty all around outside. (Repeat to the melody of Whitney Houston)

This past year has been a turning point for many of our partners, giving us the privilege of increasing services for many communities across the

state. At the Pennsylvania Vision Foundation, we are incredibly grateful to work with amazing community partners who are dedicated to helping adults and children residing in Pennsylvania.

Since 2007, the Vision Benefit Program has been the cornerstone of our Foundation. Our community of partner organizations is committed to offering quality eye care and has built the program back to its pre-pandemic impact.

It was a record-breaking year in 2022 for child vision screenings as we nearly surpassed the total screenings from the previous two years combined. This is why we exist, and it's what makes our Foundation special. I'm filled with pride when I see the Foundation impacting so many young lives.

One of the things I enjoy most about my work as Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Vision Foundation is seeing our work in action. As production continues, I look forward to seeing Salus University's new and improved Mobile Eye Care Unit driving around Philadelphia communities.

With kindness and friendship in mind, our friends at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation and the Trucks for Maddox Optical Assistance Fund doubled the number of glasses granted to children in need.

As we continue to expand our service, we are thankful for VBA and its generous annual contribution. With VBA's support and shared commitment to our mission, we will continue to serve those who need us most across communities in Pennsylvania.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Leitzel', written in a cursive style.

**Andrew Leitzel, O.D.**

*Executive Director*

*Pennsylvania Vision Foundation*



# Serving Those in Need with Coverage and Care

## 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.

## Who Qualifies for Our Benefit Program?

Adults and children residing in Pennsylvania who are underprivileged, distressed and live at 250 percent of poverty level or below.

## What's Included?

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

## Vision Benefit Program Impact

The Foundation has proudly assisted more than 8,000 uninsured Pennsylvanians.



**1,034** uninsured Pennsylvanians served in 2022



**8,721** 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.

We were pleased to add a new partner agency in 2022, Sights for Hope. Through their partnership goal "Focus Futures Initiative", Sights for Hope aims to provide 2,500 pre-school children with comprehensive eye exams and glasses by 2030. Sights for Hope has two centers serving Northampton, Monroe, and Lehigh Counties.

- Act Faith GWC
- Ann Silverman Community Health Clinic
- Blind and 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

### 2022 PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

#### **VROCP - Vision Resources of Central Pennsylvania**

Vision Resources of Central Pennsylvania (VROCP) has served south central Pennsylvania for over 100 years. It's amazing to say that out loud! Very few organizations share the honor of a centenarians' impact on community service.

Their mission is to facilitate independence, enrich the quality of life and empower individuals who are visually impaired or otherwise disabled through prevention, employment, and educational awareness programs.

For those who are visually impaired or blind, they provide case management services, access to technology training, audio services, support groups, transportation, and a low vision rehabilitation center. For others, VROCP provides child vision screenings, comprehensive eye exams and day camps. For all, they are an equal opportunity employer with business production, flooring and custodial divisions.

The PA Vision Foundation is proud to highlight VROCP as our 2022 Spotlight Partner. Since our partnership began in 2016, VROCP has facilitated over 781 vision benefits to less fortunate individuals in the community.

They provided thousands of pre-school vision screenings that identified hundreds of vision issues, prompting immediate referral for care. In addition, through grant funding provided by our foundation, VROCP connected visually impaired individuals who are financially challenged with the low vision aids needed to maintain a level of independence.

We are honored to serve Pennsylvania communities alongside such an amazing organization and partner.

“

*The partnership between Vision Resources of Central Pennsylvania (VROCP) and the Pennsylvania Vision Foundation began in 2016 as a pilot program to provide no- cost comprehensive eye exams and basic needs eyeglasses. The program allows anyone in the community lacking insurance or financial means to obtain a professional eye exam and complete pair of prescription glasses.*

*Vision Resources is both proud and grateful for the opportunity to assist in creating such a successful partnership with the Foundation to better serve clients. Foundation support and programs have made it possible to expand services and more affectively staff the VROCP Eye Clinic, while we work towards a self-sustaining business model. The Clinic shares and supports the Foundation's mission.*

— Cheryl Cuddy  
Director of Community Relations  
VROCP

”

# An Eye On Our Littlest Citizens

2022 saw a significant increase in preschool vision screenings, reaching a total of 19,404 screenings. This total nearly surpassed 2020 and 2021's numbers combined.

According to the CDC, about 1 in 4 preschoolers have undiagnosed or untreated vision problems. Through these screenings, children are able to understand their vision needs at an early age and address any problems that could worsen in the future.

## Total Pre-School Vision Screenings

2022 pre-school vision screenings and immediate referrals from our four partner agencies engaged with grants:

### VRCBerks:

Total screenings

# 1,594

with 177 referrals  
1 county served

### VisionCorps:

Total screenings

# 9,590

with 836 referrals  
throughout 5 counties

### Looking Out for Kids:

Total screenings

# 7,979

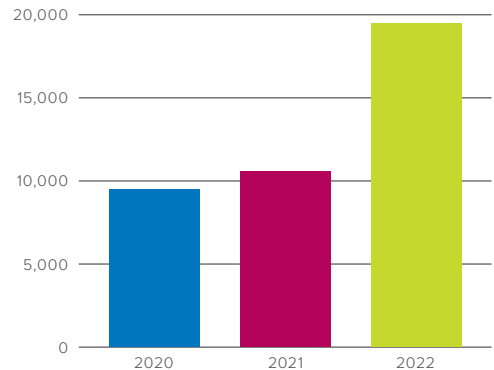
with 2,358 referrals  
1 county served

### VROCP:

Total screenings

# 2,411

with 185 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.

## A Rosy Outlook for Salus University

The Foundation granted Salus University \$50,000 to outfit their new Mobile Eye Care Unit, The Big Red Bus, in 2021. With brand new ophthalmic exam equipment, the mobile eye care unit will be able to provide quality eye care for students throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania.

To offer more accessibility, the bus will feature a new, quieter generator that will not interfere with conversation and treatments, as well as a wheelchair ramp entrance. Inside the bus will be two eye lanes with new equipment, allowing clinicians to provide more efficient care and serve more students overall.

Salus University aims to implement the new unit in late 2023.

VBA is proud to sponsor ophthalmic equipment for the Big Red Bus.

- Pupilometer
- Handheld Autorefractor
- Phoropters with Stands
- Handheld Slit Lamps
- Digital Visual Acuity Systems with Ipad Controls
- Binocular Indirect Ophthalmoscopes
- iCare tonometer
- Trial Lens Kits
- Exam Chairs

## Salus University Student Scholarship

The Vision Benefits of America Endowment Fund and Scholarship is a gift from the PA Vision Foundation in honor of former and current Chairs of the Board of Vision Benefits of America.

This is an endowed scholarship that will be awarded annually to an optometry student from Pennsylvania, with a preference for a student who intends to practice in Pennsylvania.

Honoring VBA's Chairs of the Board:

- 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**





## Spreading Kindness with Trucks for Maddox

In 2022, a \$20,000 grant was awarded to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation at UPMC for exclusive use in the Trucks for Maddox Optical Fund. Since 2020, the Trucks for Maddox Optical 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, 403 pairs of glasses were granted to children in financial need.

### Meet Araya

Araya was a year old when Amber noticed she had a habit of squinting when looking at far distances. Amber took her to the UPMC Children's Eye Center where a specialist informed her that Araya would likely be near-sighted.

When Amber was unable to pay the full cost of Araya's first pair of glasses, she learned about the Trucks for Maddox Optical Assistance Fund.

Now, Araya is able to find the light in every day in her new glasses, which she picked out in her favorite color blue.

The name "Araya" symbolizes a ray of hope, a ray of sunshine. Araya's grandmother and caregiver chose this name for that reason, and with the goal of raising her to look for the light in each new day.



**"She's a sweet, bubbly girl, and I know when she puts on these glasses, she's going to see the world in a completely new way," Amber, Araya's grandmother and caregiver said.**

**"When she watches Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood, she'll be able to see it even when she's sitting far away. And we take nature walks during all four seasons, so there's so much to see," Amber said.**

## Financials (unaudited)

	2020	2021	2022
<b>Income</b>			
Contributions	\$ 500,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Investment Income (Loss)	102,662	70,830	(210,115)
Total Income (Loss)	\$ 602,662	\$ 170,830	\$ (110,115)
<b>Expenses</b>			
Vision Benefits Program	\$ 79,077	\$ 94,396	\$ 98,650
Grants	72,000	100,826	41,000
Administrative Expenses	45,139	43,872	39,446
Total Expenses	196,216	239,094	179,096
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	<b>\$ 406,446</b>	<b>\$ (68,264)</b>	<b>\$ (289,211)</b>

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

## Meet the 2022 Board of Directors

### **Brian A. Black**

Director of Corporate Engagement, Pennsylvania State University Smeal College of Business

### **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.

### **David Tintera**

Actuarial Analyst, Hawley Consulting Group

*Children are the world's  
most valuable resource  
and its best hope for  
the future.*

**- John F. Kennedy**





pennsylvania  
vision foundation

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