Star Pupils™ Program Saves Children’s Sight

When Harrison Gough was in pre-kindergarten at Trinity School in Atlanta, Prevent Blindness Georgia conducted a vision screening. Director of Children’s Programs, Laurie Iry, screened Harrison. Harrison Gough wears prescription sports goggles to stay in the game.

and found that he tested 20/200 in his left eye, although he had passed his vision screening at the pediatrician’s office “with flying colors,” mom Tiffany Gough said.

Laurie followed up with a phone call and the family made an appointment with an eye doctor. Patching and eyeglasses began, thus saving Harrison from a lifetime of vision problems. The good news is his vision had improved to 20/25 by this summer.

Always an avid sportsman Harrison enjoys basketball, soccer, baseball, squash, swimming and skiing. “He’s a true model of what a child can do. He wears prescription sports goggles and even wanted to wear his patch longer. He’s back to his old self and officially on the right track,” his mom said.

Prevent Blindness Georgia vision screened more than 31,000 four year old children reaching 81 counties in 856 sites throughout Georgia this year. The Star Pupils program aims to ensure that these children are “vision ready” to learn. Approximately six percent of the children failed the screenings and were referred to an eye doctor for further evaluation.

The vision screenings are conducted by certified vision screeners and cost about $7 a child. Funding for this statewide service comes from state grants, foundations, fundraising events, and individual donors.

You’re Invited …

The Georgia Retinal Imaging Project is going strong. Approximately 1,400 people at risk for aging eye disease were screened using Prevent Blindness Georgia’s new retinal imaging camera which takes a photo of the retina. The photo is encrypted and sent to an ophthalmologist who specializes in glaucoma to be read. About 14 percent of those screened were referred to an eye doctor. Eye diseases such as diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma can be detected through the photo.

If you are African American and age 40+ or Caucasian and age 60, please make an appointment for a free retinal screening to keep your eyes healthy. Simply call 404-266-2020. With early detection, blindness can be prevented.

Dear Friends,

Thanks to your support, Prevent Blindness Georgia has continued to provide important vision screenings for four year old children and eye exams for impoverished adults. The needs are great and our passion for preserving sight for all Georgians is strong. Please help us with your financial support by visiting www.pbga.org.

For the best of eye health,

Bill Burke, Chairman of the Board
Jenny Pomeroy, President and CEO

Staff member Tekella Powe takes a photo of a patient’s eye with our retinal imaging camera.
Gingrey Co-Chairs Congressional Vision Caucus

Prevent Blindness Georgia is pleased that US Representative Phil Gingrey (R-GA) is co-chairing the Congressional Vision Caucus along with Representatives Gene Green (D-TX), David Price (D-NC), and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL). The caucus is a bipartisan, bicameral group of Members of Congress dedicated to strengthening and stimulating a national dialogue on the importance of vision health. The Congressional Vision Caucus seeks to achieve its goals through Congressional briefings, Dear Colleague letters, and press conferences. We look forward to working with Representative Gingrey to address critical issues in vision and eye health.

Public Health Nurses Trained Statewide

CEO Jenny Pomeroy and Director of Children’s Programs, Laurie Irby, crisscrossed the state during the months of April, May and June training public health nurses in the best evidenced based method of vision screening children. The trainings, part of a state contract from the Department of Community Health, were offered in all 18 public health districts in Georgia from Rome to Augusta and Athens to Valdosta. A total of 510 public health nurses were trained and 180 vision screening kits were distributed.

Recognizing Freddie Stallings’ Service

Prevent Blindness Georgia thanks Freddie Stallings for her service to the children of Augusta these past 14 years. Freddie, a certified children’s vision screener, began screening as a volunteer and later became a Prevent Blindness Georgia staff member. We appreciate Freddie for her many years of dedicated service to saving sight.

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Laurie, Irby, Director of Children’s Programs, Children’s Vision Services trains public health nurses.

Visit www.pbga.org to:

- Get up to date eye health and safety information
- Learn more about our adult and children’s programs
- Make a donation toward our good work

To see the FY 2011 audited financial statement, visit www.pbga.org.
Thank You National Vision and CIBA VISION!

Through the 2010 National Vision, Inc. and CIBA VISION golf tournaments, our corporate friends raised $215,000 (net) in support of our sight-saving vision programs. Hundreds of NVI vendors and CIBA VISION suppliers enjoyed a great day of golf while learning more about Prevent Blindness Georgia and the services we provide. We are grateful to Des Taylor, NVI senior vice president - merchandising, and Gregory Brown, CIBA VISION associate director - global procurement and sourcing, for their commitment to these golf events and their corporate support of our mission.

Vision Outreach™ Serves Georgians in Need

Prevent Blindness Georgia’s Vision Outreach program traversed the state visiting senior centers, homeless shelters and federally qualified health centers this year providing more than 1,600 clients with eye exams and supplying 1,326 free or reduced price eyeglasses. Approximately 250 patients were referred to an ophthalmologist for further evaluation regarding eye disease.

Baker Emmett James Lee brought doughnuts to thank staff for helping him see again.

Sweeney's Named Volunteers of the Year

Optometrists Dr. David Sweeney, and his wife, Dr. Rachael Sweeney, were named the Prevent Blindness Georgia 2011 Volunteers of the Year at the board’s annual meeting this June. The doctors' practice, Insight Your Vision Source, is located on Roswell Road in Sandy Springs.

Dr. Rachael Sweeney has performed about 50 Vision Outreach clinics a year for the past ten years with each clinic serving about 30 underprivileged Georgians. She has easily helped more than 10,000 people. The Sweeney's remain willing to treat patients unable to afford care who need further evaluation. Thank you Sweeney's for your selfless service to Prevent Blindness Georgia!
The UGA chapter of Delta Gamma helped PBGA create a “visionary” tree for the Festival of Trees.
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