As people learned of Jenny Pomeroy’s death, an outpouring of love and support was received by the staff and board members of Prevent Blindness Georgia. We greatly appreciate your kind words and actions. Jenny served as the CEO of Prevent Blindness Georgia for nearly 17 years and, in that time, she touched thousands of lives.

Brenda Horne, executive director of Community Health Charities of the Southeast, expressed the thoughts of many others. “Jenny was a gracious, intelligent and skillful nonprofit executive who was responsible for the tremendous growth of Prevent Blindness Georgia. She deserves every accolade she will be given. Jenny was a perfect example of a dedicated life well-lived.”

Jenny Pomeroy passed away on July 15, 2013. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to her family members and many friends. Please join us as we remember some of Prevent Blindness Georgia’s and Jenny’s accomplishments.

2012
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta commissioned Prevent Blindness Georgia to write the vision section of the Georgia School Health Resource Manual containing core pediatric health information for school nurses.

2011
Georgia Natural Gas presented Prevent Blindness Georgia with the True Blue Award for Outstanding Focus and Commitment to the People of Georgia by a Nonprofit Organization.

2010
The Atlanta Dream presented CEO Jenny Pomeroy with an Inspiring Woman Award.

2009
Prevent Blindness Georgia was included as one of five states selected by the National Center for Children’s Vision and Eye Health to participate in a Maternal and Child Health Bureau project to promote and ensure a continuum of vision care and eye health for young children.

2008
A poster highlighting three years of data from the Prevent Blindness Georgia children’s vision screening program was presented at the Amblyopia and Strabismus subgroup of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

2001
Prevent Blindness America presented an Award of Excellence to Prevent Blindness Georgia for its Vision Outreach program.

1999
Prevent Blindness Georgia led the advocacy effort which resulted in the creation of the Georgia Drive for Sight program in collaboration with the Georgia Department of Driver Services.

1997
CEO Jenny Pomeroy was one of the first instructors in the nation trained to teach Prevent Blindness America’s certified vision screening courses for children and adults.

Jenny’s death is a tremendous loss for the vision community. She will forever be remembered as an innovative thinker and a selfless, dedicated leader in Atlanta and across the state of Georgia. We will miss her deeply.
New board members (L-R) Jim Bicknell, Kim Musierowicz, Pandora Yeargin-Johnson, John Price and Scott Klisures were welcomed this year. Not pictured are Dr. Steven Corwin and Dot Stoller.

Prevent Blindness Georgia was fortunate to have Jenny Pomeroy at its helm for nearly 17 years. As she demonstrated with so many things she touched, Jenny was a true visionary – able to see the trees, as well as the forest.

Planning for Jenny’s retirement, Prevent Blindness Georgia applied for and was awarded a succession grant from the Healthcare Georgia Foundation. The grant enabled the organization to hire Ellen McCarty as Vice President. Ellen is an experienced nonprofit executive who has 20 years in leadership positions in the sector. Ellen began working with Jenny in February 2013 to create a seamless transition.

Jenny passed away unexpectedly in July – leaving the organization she so expertly led much too soon. The board immediately named Ellen as Acting CEO and the able and experienced staff remain dedicated to fulfilling the organization’s mission and committed to honoring Jenny’s legacy.

We deeply appreciate the support of the community as we go through this transition. And we mourn with Jenny’s family and friends the loss of this gracious and visionary woman.

We’re pleased to share our good work with you and recognize your contributions on the pages that follow.

For the best of eye health,

Amy Hutchinson, MD

Scott Pastor, MD

Co-Chairs, Prevent Blindness Georgia Board of Directors

Elliott McCarty

Acting CEO

Amy Hutchinson, MD

Co-Chairman

Board of Directors

Scott Pastor, MD

Co-Chairman

Board of Directors
A nonprofit organization’s reason for being is encompassed in its mission statement – Our mission is to prevent blindness and preserve sight for all Georgians.

Toward that end, Prevent Blindness Georgia’s programs provided direct early detection screening and treatment services to more than 38,000 adults and children through our Adult Vision program and Star Pupils™ this program year.

**Adult Vision Program**
The Adult Vision program consists of Vision Outreach which provides comprehensive eye exams, education, and referrals if needed to indigent, low-income and uninsured adults. Low cost eyeglasses are provided if prescribed. The Georgia Retinal Imaging Project utilizes portable retinal imaging technology to provide a free, community-based screening program for clients at high risk for diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma. The Glaucoma Treatment Program provides free eye care and medication to glaucoma clients who financially qualify.

**Impact:** More than 3,300 adults received vision services.

Our adult patients are served either through direct referrals at our scheduled onsite clinics or in cooperation with shelters, federally qualified health centers and other agencies throughout Georgia.

A patient from rural South Georgia said, “I had no insurance and no way of getting glasses. The clinic saved my career and my eyes. I’m very, very thankful for you and your organization. I want people to know about this – that you don’t have to go blind.”

**Star Pupils™**
Through the services of 16 certified vision screeners, the Star Pupils™ program screened more than 35,000 prekindergarten children in 89 counties, referring approximately 2,000 of these students for further evaluation. This was a record year for vision screening with more children reached by Prevent Blindness Georgia than ever before!

**Impact:** 35,679 children were vision screened.

Our goal is to ensure Georgia’s children are “vision ready” to learn and this year we found many children with vision problems that put them at risk for vision loss and difficulty in learning. One mother, Sandra Ballestero, wrote, “I would like to thank you for finding my son Julian’s eye problem during his vision screening. The eye doctor’s diagnosis was Anisometropia, a condition in which the two eyes have unequal refractive power. Julian is wearing his glasses and patch, and hopefully he will recover his vision in the right eye. If you hadn’t found the problem at school, it would not have been noticed. He had passed the screening at the pediatrician’s office in August.”

Support from foundations, special events and corporate and individual donors make it possible for Prevent Blindness Georgia to deliver its services across the state and to change lives daily.

**TEA TO SEE RAISED FUNDS AND FRIENDS FOR CHILDREN’S SCREENING PROGRAM**

About 120 women of all ages gathered at the Piedmont Driving Club on a beautiful February afternoon to enjoy a selection of teas, sandwiches, scones and sweets and hear about the work of Prevent Blindness Georgia. Tiffany Gough, a Prevent Blindness Georgia board member and the chair of this year’s tea, shared the story of her son, Harrison, who was vision screened by Prevent Blindness Georgia and found to have amblyopia or “lazy eye” blindness. The annual “Tea to See,” which provides an opportunity to visit with old and new friends and family members, helps raise money to provide free vision screenings for prekindergarten children across the state.
In recognition of World Sight Day, a global initiative that focuses on bringing attention to blindness and vision impairment, the Essilor Vision Foundation and the Alcon Foundation partnered with Prevent Blindness Georgia and Gwinnett’s Peachtree Elementary School to bring the Kids Vision for Life program to Atlanta for the first time last fall. The program focuses on helping eliminate poor vision and its lifelong consequences on elementary-aged students across the United States.

First, associates from Alcon, staff members from Prevent Blindness Georgia and local volunteers vision screened the approximately 1,700 Peachtree Elementary School students. Prevent Blindness Georgia trained the 35 volunteers to vision screen.

Then, associates from the Essilor Vision Foundation joined Alcon and volunteer eye care professionals to administer free eye exams on the 299 students who failed the screenings. Qualified students received one free pair of glasses. Students with more severe refractive errors received two free pairs of eyeglasses, one to take home and one for the school nurse to keep as a backup.

The Kids Vision for Life mobile clinic was on hand to accommodate eye exams, provide a chance to select frames, and to help make the majority of the free eyeglasses onsite on the same day.

The mission of the Kids Vision for Life program is to focus on providing eye exams and eyeglasses free of charge to at-risk students from low-income families who would not receive them otherwise, as well as educating parents and communities about the importance of children’s vision care. With one in four American children having an uncorrected vision issue, this program allows local eye care professionals and volunteers to give back to their community and help ensure that every child has access to eye care.

THE GLAUCOMA PROJECT BRINGS AWARENESS TO SW ATLANTANS

The Glaucoma Project: SWAT (Southwest Atlanta), a two-year program funded by Alcon and local foundations, was launched in January 2013. The project consists of a glaucoma awareness campaign which stresses the importance of early detection, along with free retinal photos read by a glaucoma specialist for 1,000 African-Americans in Southwest Atlanta. Prevent Blindness Georgia is working with established community partners and influencers to promote the program. Southwest Atlanta residents found to have glaucoma are referred to an eye care professional or entry into the Prevent Blindness Georgia Glaucoma Treatment Program, if unable to access treatment, for follow-up care and medications. The plan is for this project to serve as a model to be replicated for other communities. The goals for the program are to educate at-risk individuals about the importance of regular eye exams, make referrals based on individual needs, and prevent unnecessary vision loss.

PARTNERSHIP

PREVENT BLINDNESS GEORGIA

teaming up

PBGA JOINS ESSILOR AND ALCON FOUNDATIONS TO PROVIDE KIDS VISION FOR LIFE

FIVE ALL STAR AWARDS HONORED NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS

Three Georgians, a vision company and a Henry County clinic were honored with “All Star” awards at the Prevent Blindness Georgia annual meeting held in May.

Amy Hutchinson, MD, was recognized as the Volunteer of the Year for her service as board co-chair and as a member of the National Expert Panel of the National Center for Children’s Vision and Eye Health. Dr. Hutchinson works as an associate professor of ophthalmology at Emory University School of Medicine.

Sandra Metcalf received the Star Pupils Award for Children’s Vision in recognition of her dedication to promoting children’s vision screening. Metcalf is a Nurse Consultant in the Maternal and Child Section of the Georgia Department of Public Health.

GEORGIA VISION COLLABORATIVE SUMMIT

SHEDS LIGHT ON INCREASING RATE OF EYE DISEASE

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Eyesight, the Georgia Society of Ophthalmology and the Georgia Department of Public Health Georgia Drive for Sight Program.

The mission is to promote eye health for all Georgians through education, early identification, access to care and rehabilitation services. By strengthening relationships between vision agencies in Georgia, the collaborative works to identify and reduce gaps in vision services, educate the public and those at risk on vision health issues, and improve access to locations where vision services are offered.

The Georgia Vision Collaborative is supported by the Georgia Drive for Sight Program and is coordinated by Marnie Filstein, MPH, CHES.

Founding partners of the collaborative include the Center for the Visually Impaired, Georgia Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, Georgia Drive for Sight program, Georgia Eye Bank, Prevent Blindness Georgia and Vision Rehabilitation Services of Georgia.
As the state’s consumer advocate for vision, Prevent Blindness Georgia works hard to spread its eye health and safety messages across Georgia. With limited resources, the nonprofit organization must use creativity and resourcefulness to fulfill this role. That’s where our terrific board members step up to the plate.

With the challenge of producing professional public service announcements in both English and Spanish, PM Publicidad, led by Prevent Blindness Georgia board member Eduardo Perez, hit a home run. And then board members Pam Bisikinski, Marketing Director of National Vision, Inc., and Mike Loverde, Director of Advertising and Public Relations for MetroPCS, helped secure air time for the PSAs, while Stephen Kendig ensured that the ad appeared on SoloHealth kiosks in Wal-Marts across Georgia.

Because of our board member’s willingness to help by donating their time and talent, the people of Georgia learned the importance of regular eye exams, to have their children’s eyes checked, and to practice eye safety.

Visit YouTube to see the Prevent Blindness Georgia channel and to preview our See the Risks Campaign. Join us in applauding our fabulous board members and in appreciating the media who give voice to our messages. Other notable press coverage this year included an op-ed in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution about children’s vision, a story about computer vision syndrome featuring board co-chair Scott Pastor, MD, in the AJC, and a lengthy report about children’s vision screening on WXIA’s Class Notes program by Donna Lowry.

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changing lives

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