A Message from our Chair & President

As we write this report on the April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021 fiscal year, we are entering the third year of the COVID pandemic. We write with gratitude for your continued support during these lean and challenging times. We also write to share and celebrate what, with your support, we have been able to accomplish in the last year. Despite episodic school closures and the difficulties of making plans and scheduling health screenings at a time when the ability to gather face-to-face is never guaranteed, our programs managed to provide in-person service to nearly 20,000 Georgians and countless more with information, referrals, and advocacy for critical national funding for glaucoma and other vision and eye health issues.

COVID and the many ways it has exacerbated existing economic and health disparities has made the need for our services ever more essential. Before the pandemic, an estimated 62 million people in the U.S. had no vision insurance coverage. With significant job losses during the pandemic, the number of people who are uninsured has grown resulting in greater need for our Vision Outreach Services.

The need for our Children’s Vision Services is similarly critical. Children have spent countless hours staring at screens during virtual schooling and cancelled recreational activities. Many parents have delayed or foregone preventative medical visits. Prevent Blindness Georgia is the single largest provider of free vision screening services for children in the state of Georgia. The children of the pandemic need us and our attention to their vision now more than ever.

PBGA and the people who depend on us have been very fortunate to have your support during this time. Because of you, despite the challenges, we emerged from the 2020/2021 fiscal year stronger. Generous COVID relief grants from the R. Howard Dobbs Foundation, relief initiatives like the now forgiven Payroll Protection Act Loan, and the many who attended our virtual fundraising events have helped us to navigate our way through.

COVID re-affirmed the value of the work we do. Thanks to you, we will be able to continue. We invite your continued support in the mission of preventing blindness and preserving sight.

With appreciation,

Jill S. Thornton
President & CEO

Dave Smith
Board Chair, 2019 - 2021
Our Mission:

To prevent blindness & preserve sight
**HIGHLIGHTS**

- **New Vision Outreach Permanent Clinic in Augusta:** With generous support from United Healthcare, the Vision Outreach program was able to open a permanent clinic site in Augusta in the offices of community partner, Medical Associates Plus. The Augusta clinic first began holding vision clinics in June 2021.

- **Whitefoord Vision Clinic in South Atlanta Reopens:** Our permanent clinic at Whitefoord Family Medical Center temporarily closed in 2020 as the Whitefoord clinic moved from its location on Warren Street to a new, larger facility on Hosea Williams Drive. Our Vision Clinic at Whitefoord re-opened in May 2021.

- **Digital Retinal Imaging Helps 312:** Through our Georgia Retinal Imaging Program (GRIP), Vision Outreach no-cost retinal screening through our community partners to diagnose possible problems with diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and macular degeneration.

**About Vision Outreach:**

The program provides vision screening, comprehensive eye exams and free and low-cost prescription glasses: Serving adults living at- or below-200% of the federal poverty level, VO offers an array of eyecare services through a network of community partners across the state, including homeless shelters, FQHC’s, domestic violence shelters, and community service organizations targeting special populations such as those who are HIV+.

**GRIP:** VO is the home of the Georgia Retinal imaging program (GRIP) which takes digital images of the back of participants retinas and sends those images to specialists for evaluation, allowing for early detection of retinal disease, especially diabetic retinopathy.

**Healthy Aging Programs:** Working with area agencies on aging, VO offers education about healthy aging and your eyes and provides screening for seniors at-risk.

**Renewing your driver’s license?**

Say “Yes!” when asked if you would like to donate $1 to the Drive for Sight program. Your voluntary contribution benefits the Vision Outreach program of Prevent Blindness Georgia!
Our Program Impact

CHILDREN’S VISION SERVICES

18,445 children
296 schools
188 glasses
“Completing the Circle of Care” in Hall County: With generous support from United Healthcare, National Vision, Alcon, the Essilor Foundation, and more than a hundred community volunteers, the Children’s Vision Services of Prevent Blindness Georgia “completed the circle of care” by going beyond vision screening to actually putting glasses on children’s faces. After vision screening more than 9,000 children in 20 Hall County elementary schools, the program held a series of three Saturday clinics to invite the parents and guardians of children who failed the vision screening to bring their children for a free comprehensive eye exam. All children who needed glasses were given a free pair of prescription glasses.

Program’s Leader Shavette L. Turner Wins National Award: For her visionary leadership of the Hall County project, Shavette L. Turner, VP of Children’s Vision Services for Prevent Blindness Georgia, was given the Bonnie Strickland Champion for Children’s Vision Award, a prestigious, nationally competitive award from the National Center for Children’s Vision and Eye Health at Prevent Blindness. The award recognizes one person or group each year that makes a significant public health impact on children’s vision.

New Partnership with Nursing Students from University of North Georgia: Nursing students from the University of North Georgia are now trained on vision screening and are working in PBGA’s Star Pupils Children’s Vision Services Program. This not only helps extend PBGA’s program reach, it also strengthens the skills of future nurses and decreases the likelihood of children’s vision problems going undetected.

About Children’s Vision Services:
PBGA’s Star Pupils child vision screening program sends certified screeners to schools and other childcare settings throughout the state to test young children to identify those who might need vision correction or have a vision disorder. The program has an extensive outreach effort which involves contacting lottery-funded pre-kindergartens, Head Starts, Title I schools, and daycares to schedule screenings for the upcoming academic year. Through careful stewardship, the cost to vision screen a child is only $10. By committing to sponsor at least one child per month—that is, by donating $10/month or more—you can join the Sight Club, our monthly giving program and help Knock Out Blindness!

Join the Sight Club
pbga.org
Financial Report

Funding

$977,510

43%

Contributions & Grants 22%
Investments 1%
Special Events (net) 11%
InKind Gifts 6%
Government Grants 17%
Other 4%

Expenditures

$698,005

74%

Program Activities 24%
Fundraising Expenses 2%
InKind Gifts 6%
Management & General 11%
Government Grants 8%
Special Events (net) 22%
Investments 43%
Contributions & Grants 17%
Other 1%

Prevent Blindness Georgia is committed to financial transparency. More detailed financial information, including our external audit and tax form 990, is available on our website at https://georgia.preventblindness.org/financial-reports/. Prevent Blindness Georgia is a nonprofit organization, tax exempt under 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. The organization’s EIN number is 58-6050305. Visit pbga.org to learn more.

Join Us in 2022

APR 26
Cast & Swing
Piedmont Driving Club

JUN 11
Sight Saving Summer Social
Magnolia Hall at Piedmont Park

OCT 22
Night for Sight
Egyptian Ballroom, Fox Theatre
With COVID and social distancing, the 2020 gala held on October 24th was virtual. We are grateful for our event’s sponsors. Janice Rothschild Blumberg, author of One Voice: Rabbi Jacob M. Rothschild and the Troubled South, opened the event by saying, “Vision is more than what meets the eye, but that’s where it begins so we cherish it and we must preserve it.” A surprise celebrity appearance from Samuel L. Jackson helped ensure that the virtual event was so much more than just another Zoom call. The event honored ophthalmologist Dr. Paul Kaufman, a retinal specialist with Thomas Eye Group, as the 2020 Person of Vision. Many thanks to our 2020 Sponsors and all who made the event a success.

2020 SPONSORS

Power of Sight Sponsors ($15,000)

- Eye South Partners
- Thomas Eye Group

Visionary Sponsor ($10,000)

- National Vision

Gourment Cuisine Sponsor ($7,500)

- Following the gala, food that was not served at the gala because of the virtual nature of the event, was delivered by Alcon representatives and PBGA staff to front-line healthcare workers at Emory Hospital.

Insightful Sponsors ($5,000)

- Ninita Brown, MD, PhD
- Georgia Power
- Ocular Therapeutics
- Dr. Jeanne Perrine & Terry Neal
- UBS
- Wellstar Neuro Care

Apple of Our Eye Sponsors ($2,500)

- Dunn Laboratories
- Gainesville Eye Associates
- Dr. Jeffrey Gallups
- Georgia Eye Associates
- Georgia Eye Partners
- Kearny Street Consulting

Eye-Catching Sponsors ($1,000)

- Accel Healthcare Resources
- Aprio
- Clearwave Construction
- Gay Construction
- Georgia Primary Care Association
- Georgia Society of Ophthalmology Foundation
- Greater Atlanta Oral Facial Surgery
- Safer Way IT
- United Community Bank
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United Healthcare |
| **$50,000 - $99,999**  
Alcon Foundation  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors  
National Vision  
R. Howard Dobbs, Jr. Foundation |
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2020 Quest  
Alimera Sciences  
Aprio  
Ben Seals  
Care Source  
Carl Zeiss Meditec  
Catholic Foundation of North Ga  
Chatham Foundation  
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Michael Young  
Oak River Services  
Parker and Elizabeth Miller  
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Rachel Skypek  
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Carlye Dooley  
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Abtin Shahriari, MD  
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Anitha Kannan  
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Prevent Blindness
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Judy Brower
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Medieval Times
Museum of Art & Design
National Vision
Opal Aesthetics
Optique
Scott & Andrea Bullock
The Eye Stuff Group
Tim Dunn
White Columns Country Club

Corrections?
Every effort is made to create an accurate, comprehensive list of 2020 - 2021 donors. If there is an omission or correction, please contact our offices at 404-537-4985.
THANK YOU!

Prevent Blindness Georgia
270 Carpenter Drive - Ste 606
Sandy Springs, GA 30328

You're the Apple of our Eye!