

# Resources for Children's Vision and Eye Health

**Presenters: Kira Baldonado, Tasha Lockridge  
and Donna Fishman, Prevent Blindness**

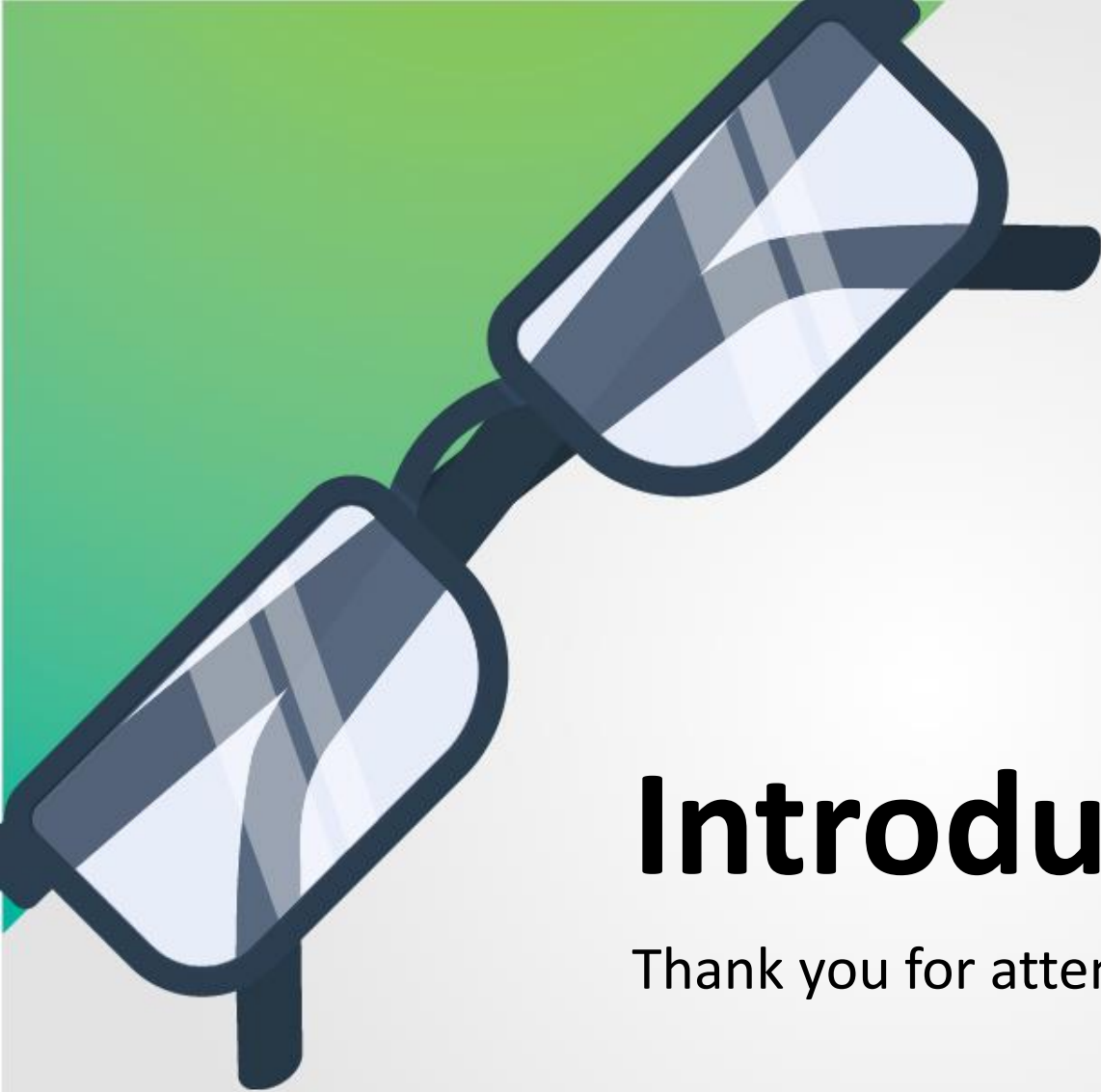
October 28, 2020



**National Center  
for Children's Vision  
and Eye Health**

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**Prevent Blindness**



# Introduction

Thank you for attending



National Center  
for Children's Vision  
and Eye Health  
Prevent Blindness

# Presenters

- Tasha Lockridge, Program Manager, National Office, Prevent Blindness
- Kira Baldonado, Vice President of Public Health and Policy, Prevent Blindness
- Donna Fishman, MPH, Director of the National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health at Prevent Blindness



**Expert-Led, Evidence-Based Guidance and Resources**

**State-Level Technical Assistance and National Resources**

**Community and State Support:  
Quality Improvement, Community of Practice**

**Vision Screening  
Certification Program**

**Partnerships**



**National Center  
for Children's Vision  
and Eye Health**

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**Prevent Blindness**

# Early detection and eye care is critical

Vision problems in children are relatively common.

Detecting possible problems at a young age is recommended to identify disorders such as:

- Amblyopia
- strabismus
- refractive error

If left undetected and/or untreated these vision conditions can affect the child's visual, social, and educational development.



# It's not easy to get my child an eye exam!

There are a lot of reasons that parents/caregivers may not follow up on a referral from a vision screening. Doctors, school nurses, and community organizations (Like Prevent Blindness) can help!

Native  
language



Easy to understand  
text



Feelings of  
mistrust



Access Issues



# Personal Considerations

- Knowledge about eye health for children
- Disbelief of a health problem
- Difficulty navigating the healthcare system
- Insurance coverage
- Cost- monetary, personal, prestige
- Loss and breakage of glasses
- Perceived health risk
- Mistrust of healthcare
- Feelings about vision problems (guilt; too young; performance of correction)



*"An active evaluation of the potential severity of the vision loss and the perceived loss of normality and social stigma compared with the benefit of the treatment."\**



# Social Considerations

- Socioeconomic issues
- Cultural sensitivity
- Language barriers
- Health beliefs
- Social influences
- Distribution of providers
- Reliability of support networks





# People and Resources Here to Help You

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Coming up next:

- Services
- Stories
- Resources

# SIGHT FOR STUDENTS GIFT CERTIFICATES

- 19 years of age or younger
- Family income at or under 200% of [Federal Poverty Level guidelines](#)
- Haven't received care through a VSP program during the last 12 months
- No vision care coverage through a private insurer or government program



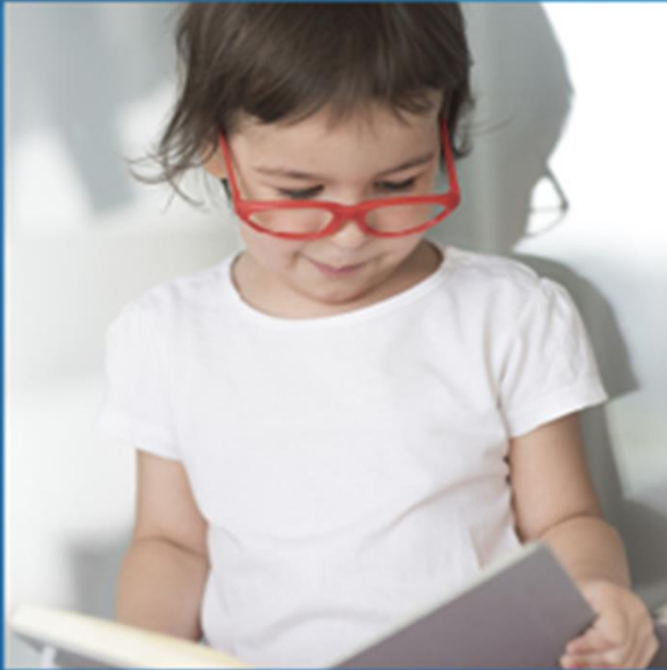
Eyes of Hope®



Steven has nystagmus (an involuntary, rapid and repetitive movement of the eyes) and has had glasses since he was 18 months old. He does not like to be without his glasses at 4 years of age. Thanks so much for making this possible for us.

– *Steven T.'s Story*

*Assistance facilitated through Prevent Blindness, Ohio Affiliate*



**“Susan is 2 1/2 we had noticed that she was having a hard time seeing so we got her eyes checked and her eyesight is pretty bad. She’s had her glasses for 3 days and we can really tell a difference in her. Thank you for helping us make it possible for her to see!”**

*– Susan T.’s Story*

*Assistance facilitated through Prevent Blindness, Ohio Affiliate*

# Voucher Program



- Recipient will need to have an updated prescription not more than 1 year old (voucher program does not include an eye exam)
- Total household income at or under 200% of [Federal Poverty Level guidelines](#).





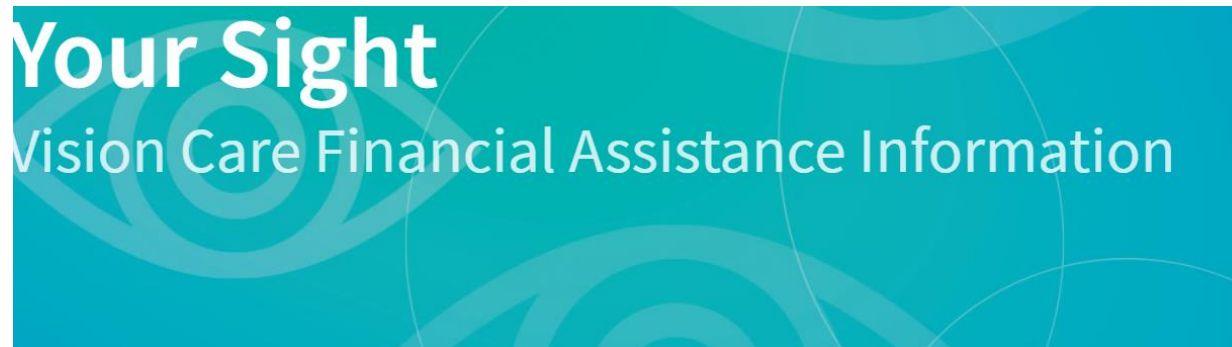
I appreciate the help that I'm receiving from Prevent Blindness. Because without this organization I would not have been able to afford glasses. I will recommend this group to those who are in need. They are a blessing. Thanks.

– Charmaine J.

*Assistance facilitated through Prevent Blindness North Carolina*

# Learn More

<https://preventblindness.org/vision-care-financial-assistance-information/>



Following is a list of contact information for organizations and services that provide financial assistance for vision care.

[\*\*Download the Vision Care Financial Assistance Directory\*\*](#)

[\*\*Download the Vision Care Financial Assistance Directory in Spanish\*\*](#)



# Resources: ACHIEVE



A child's future is brighter when they can see it.  
Find out more about how children's vision develops at  
[preventblindness.org/achieve](http://preventblindness.org/achieve) or [nationaloptometricassociation.com/achieve](http://nationaloptometricassociation.com/achieve)



## A.C.H.I.E.V.E



All Children's Health Initiative for Eye and Vision Excellence



La visión saludable conduce  
a un desarrollo saludable.

Obtenga una examen ocular para su hijo.  
Obtenga más información en

[preventblindness.org/achieve](http://preventblindness.org/achieve) or [nationaloptometricassociation.com/achieve](http://nationaloptometricassociation.com/achieve)



## A.C.H.I.E.V.E



All Children's Health Initiative for Eye and Vision Excellence

# Your Child's Sight

<https://preventblindness.org/>

## Signs of Possible Vision Problems in Children



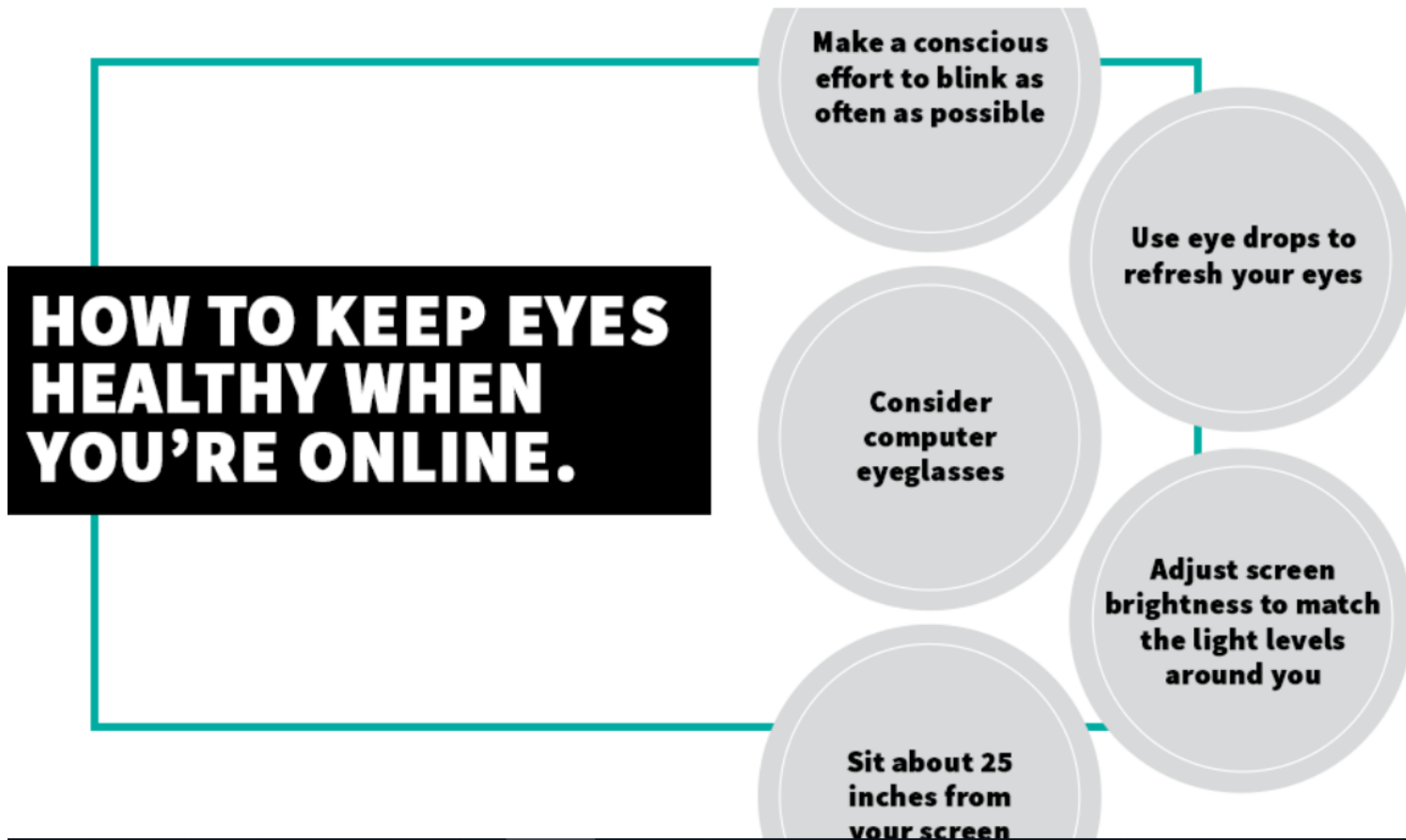
If your child shows one or more of these signs, have your child seen by an eye doctor without delay.

Appearance	Behavior	Complaints
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Eyes do not line up or look straight ahead – one appears to look inward toward nose, outward toward ear, upward toward forehead, or downward toward cheek</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Eyelids are red-rimmed, crusted, or swollen</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Eyes are watery or red (inflamed)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Eyelid does not fully open (droopy)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Recurring stye or bump (infection) on eyelid</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Color photos of child's eyes show a white reflection in the pupil (middle of the eye)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The pupil (the black circle in the colored part of the eye) in one eye is larger than the pupil in the other eye.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rubs eyes often</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Closes or covers one eye when reading or looking at a close object</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Squints eyes when trying to see things near or far away</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tilts head or turns face when playing with a toy, trying to read, or trying to see something near or far away</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Has difficulty concentrating when reading, doing schoolwork, or doing other close-up work</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Brings toys or books close to his or her face</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Eyes itch, burn, or feel scratchy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Blurred vision when looking at near objects, such as toys or books</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dizziness, headaches, or nausea when doing near work</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Light is too bright</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Unable to see something other people can see</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sees worse at the end of the day</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty copying material from a whiteboard in the classroom</li> </ul>



# Take a Screen Time Out

<https://preventblindness.org/screen-time-out/>



# **Vision Screening Guidelines by Age**

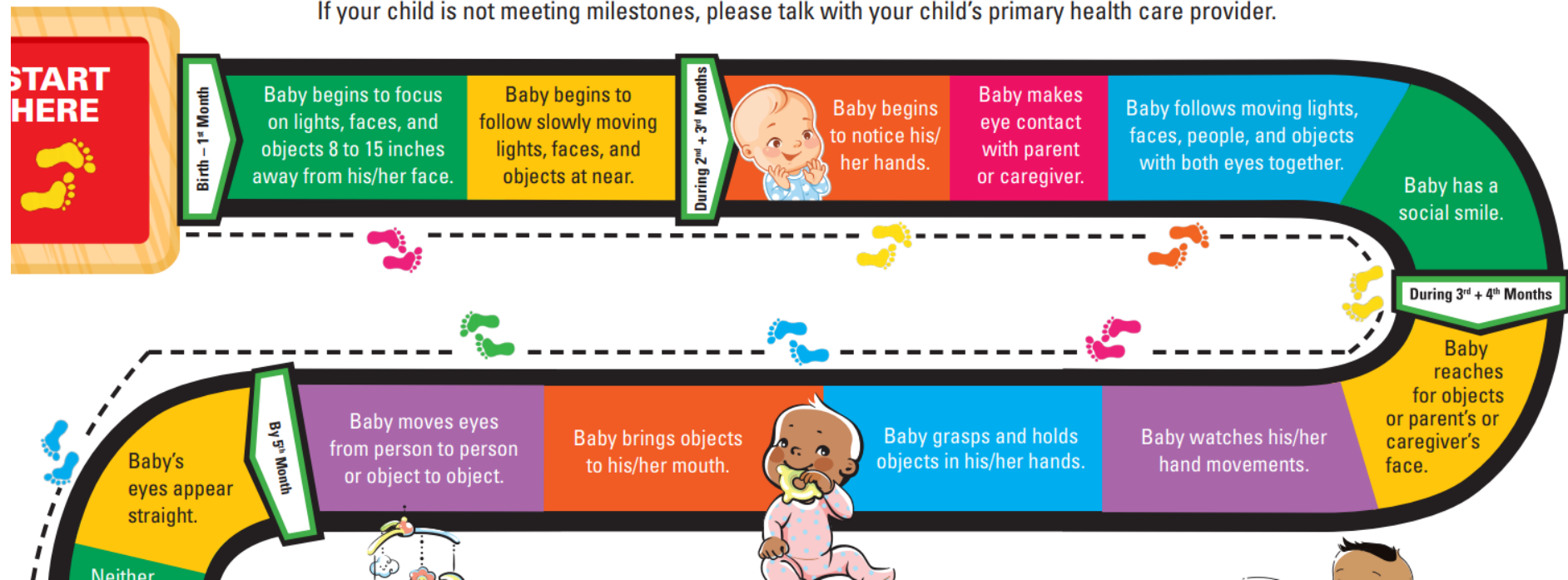
**<https://nationalcenter.preventblindness.org/vision-screening-guidelines-by-age/>**

## **Vision Screening Guidelines by Age**

Vision Screening Guidelines by Age

# 18 Vision Development Milestones From Birth to Baby's First Birthday

Milestones can vary by 6 weeks (except that baby's eyes should appear straight by the 5<sup>th</sup> month).  
If your child is not meeting milestones, please talk with your child's primary health care provider.





# Introducing the tool kit

<https://nationalcenter.preventblindness.org/small-steps-for-big-vision/>



Small Steps for  
**BIG VISION**



**About the  
Tool Kit**

**Parent/  
Caregiver  
Resources**

# Resources

**Importance  
of Vision  
Screening**

**Glasses**

**Parent/  
Caregiver  
Resources**

**Vision Screening  
Eye Exam  
Treatment Plan  
Process**

**Videos  
and  
Webcasts**

**Importance  
of an Eye  
Examination**

**Signs and  
Symptoms of  
Possible Vision  
Disorders**



# Vision Health Along the Lifespan



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
CHRONIC DISEASE DIRECTORS  
*Promoting Health. Preventing Disease.*



## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

Prevent Blindness Texas (PBT) integrated vision and eye health activities with a women's health program providing free cervical and breast cancer screening events for uninsured or underinsured women.

## Seeing the Way to Better Health: *Women's Health and Vision Health*

Women comprise two-thirds of the world's visually impaired population. Throughout a woman's lifespan, she can experience vision and eye health changes at all stages of life—puberty, pregnancy, menopause, and older adult.

Women are disproportionately affected by nearly all major vision and eye disorders, especially those associated with aging. Women tend to live longer than men and are less likely to access eye care.<sup>1</sup> Women of lower socioeconomic status, lower educational attainment, or those living in rural areas experience increased barriers to eye care services.<sup>2</sup>

**Approximately 6 out of every 10 people with the following conditions are women:<sup>3</sup>**

- Age-related macular degeneration (AMD)
- Glaucoma
- Vision impairment
- Cataract
- Blindness
- Refractive error



Women's Health and Vision Health

**WOMEN CAN EXPERIENCE VISION AND EYE HEALTH CHANGES AT ALL STAGES OF LIFE.**



Take action today, visit:  
<https://cvph.preventblindness.org/integrating-vision-programs/>



<https://cvph.preventblindness.org/integrating-vision-programs/>

# Thank You

For more information, on  
children's vision: Donna  
Fishman, NCCVEH

[dfishman@preventblindness.org](mailto:dfishman@preventblindness.org).

For more information or assistance  
with eye care, contact

Prevent Blindness

Phone: 1-800-331-2020

Email: [info@preventblindness.org](mailto:info@preventblindness.org)

<https://preventblindness.org/>

