



Saving Sight Since 1950

# Eye-Care Fund

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Philanthropists Eugene and Marilyn Glick established the Eye-Care Fund in 1998 to assist Prevent Blindness Indiana (PBI) in its statewide mission to prevent blindness and preserve sight. The State of Indiana and thousands of its residents have benefited from their generosity and challenge to other benefactors to add to the Fund to provide the following important services:

## Ensuring Sight for Indiana Children's Education



**80 percent of what a child learns is learned visually.**

Young children with vision problems often do not know that the way they see the world is not the way others without vision problems see it. According to Prevent Blindness America statistics, vision problems affect one in four school-age children and one in 20 preschool children, yet 86 percent of school-age Hoosier children are not being vision screened.

*Vision problems affect one in four school-age children.*

It is estimated that amblyopia ("lazy eye") is responsible for more loss of vision in people age 45 and younger than all other eye diseases and trauma combined.

Without early detection and treatment, children's vision concerns often lead to numerous learning difficulties and may even cause permanent loss of sight.

Contributions to the Eye-Care Fund will help more children receive vision screenings and avoid an additional hindrance to their physical, academic and social development.



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## Keeping Hoosier Adults Self-Sufficient & Workforce Capable



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Half of all vision loss is preventable, yet for the Baby Boomer generation it is estimated that the number of visually impaired individuals will double by 2030 unless something is done to curb this looming threat. One of the biggest contributing factors to this statistic is the skyrocketing cases of diabetes—25 percent of diabetics in Indiana may expect to experience vision disorders. In addition, thousands of our citizens already suffer from glaucoma, macular degeneration and cataracts. Without their sight, these adults will be forced to leave the workforce and often times to depend on public support—the price to communities for those who have lost their vision is projected at \$22,000 annually per individual. Your gift to the Eye-Care Fund can positively alter the future of many adults and build towards Indiana’s economic viability.

## Removing Barriers for Achievement for the Uninsured and Underinsured

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Over 800,000 Hoosiers are without medical insurance for basic healthcare needs, according to *Americans for Health Care* studies in 2002. Nearly 70 percent of the uninsured have at least one full-time worker at home. Those with basic coverage but limited incomes are the “working poor” who have no safety net through government programs. From 2005 to 2006, PBI referred nearly 400 children and over 300 adults to our in-kind network of vision care professionals. By contributing to the Eye-Care Fund, you will help us expand the resources and services available to deserving but economically challenged individuals.

## Working to Impact Vision Care Policies

Indiana law requires every child be vision screened at key points beginning at preschool or kindergarten, yet no funding is available to support this mandate. In past years, school nurses and social workers have been instrumental in helping PBI make sure that children are screened. Due to recent budget cuts, however, school systems have been losing nurses and social workers, thus dictating a larger role for PBI. Elevating sight for students as a basic need in Indiana’s public health and education agenda is crucial. Monies contributed to the Eye-Care Fund will support staff and volunteer efforts to educate legislators about this budgetary omission in Indiana’s health-care and educational initiatives.

### **PREVENT BLINDNESS INDIANA**

PBI is a nonprofit agency that has been leading statewide efforts in preventing blindness and preserving sight since 1950. PBI offers education, vision screenings, in-kind referrals and training throughout Indiana with a staff of seven full-time employees and more than 1,100 statewide volunteers.

### **PREVENT BLINDNESS AMERICA**

Founded in 1908, Prevent Blindness America (PBA) is located in Chicago. PBA is focused on promoting a continuum of vision care along with its 18 affiliates and divisions across the United States. Indiana was PBA’s first affiliate in 1950.