



PBO Celebrates 50 Years

of Giving Voice to Vision

PREVENT BLINDNESS OHIO

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In 1908, Dr. Park Lewis, a noted ophthalmologist from Buffalo, New York and Edith Holt, daughter of the New York publisher, decided to take action to fight preventable blindness in the United States. Through the help of volunteers, they established the first volunteer-driven eye health and safety organization, the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness. Ohio volunteers, Dr. William Synder (Ophthalmologist-Toledo), Robert Irwin (American Association of Workers for the Blind-Cleveland), Jacob Shawan (Columbus Public Schools), an E.M. DePeltquestagny (American Nurses Association-Massillon)

joined notables such as William H. Taft, Theodore Roosevelt and Helen Keller in composing the first nationwide board of Directors of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness. This organization also had the distinction of being the second national health organization formed, after the American Red Cross.

Through the hard work and dedication of this early group of volunteers, the National Society successfully led legislation that virtually eliminated ophthalmia neonatorum, then a leading cause of blindness in infants. The organization later created the first volunteer-run preschool vision screening program in the United States.

In the 1940's, the National Society (now known as Prevent Blindness America) began expanding children's vision screening in different areas of the country and at the same time enlisted the support of Delta Gamma Fraternity. As part of this period of expansion, the Ohio Society for the Prevention of Blindness (now known as Prevent Blindness Ohio) was founded in 1957 by U.S. Senator John Bricker and Upper Arlington Attorney and Lions Club Member, Robert Morrison.

On April 11, 1958, Prevent Blindness Ohio's first Board Meeting was held at the Hotel

Fort Hayes in the Sapphire Room. Judge Henry Robison was elected State Chairman of PBO.

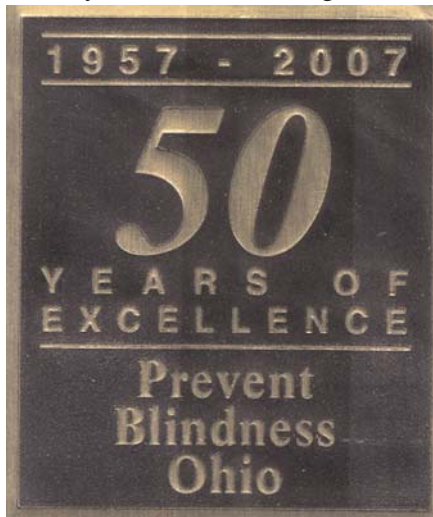
Other members of the first Board of Directors included Lois Booker, Columbus Public Health Nursing Service, Della Loviner, State Department of Education, Mary O'Brien, Columbus Association for the Blind, Alma Sutherly, Columbus Hospital Federation, E.C. Baum, Lions Clubs of Ohio, George Davis, Ohio Department of Health, Paul McDaniel, Nationwide Insurance, W.J. Treece, Franklin County Society for Crippled Children and Dr. Morris Battles, Ophthalmologist.

PBO's first year fund raising efforts yielded \$8000. In

our 50th year, the PBO budget has grown to over \$2 million with 5 offices and a staff of 20+.

Our mission has remained steadfast - to prevent blindness and preserve sight. And, our mission has never been more important! Vision disorders and impairment are major public health problems.

As long as healthy vision is valued by the citizens of Ohio, PBO's mission "to prevent blindness and preserve sight" will remain relevant and we will continue to join hands with volunteers, donors and partner organizations statewide to "help Ohioans enjoy good sight for life!"



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Highlights in History -- Volunteer Leadership

1908: Volunteers create Prevent Blindness America when they learn that 30% of blindness in children could be prevented.

1957: U.S. Senator John Bricker asks friends statewide to help create an Ohio affiliate of Prevent Blindness America.

1958: First annual meeting of the Ohio affiliate.

1961: PBO constitution adopted.

1963: Jack Nicklaus serves as PBO Sight Saving Chair; Walt Disney serves as PBA Sight Saving Chair.

1964: Incorporation papers for PBO are filed on September 16th by Bob Morrison, Dolly Lund and Dan Scarberry.

1965: PBO officially becomes an "affiliate" of PBA, versus a Chapter.

1977: Bob Evans and Archie Griffin serve as Sight Saving Chairs.

1986: PBO develops its first Strategic Plan.

1989: SW Ohio Chapter formed. A staffed office opens in 1994.

1993: NE Ohio Chapter formed. A staffed office opens in 1995.

2000: Dayton office opens as satellite division of SW Ohio Chapter.

2002: NW Ohio Chapter Office opens in Toledo.

2007: PBO celebrates its 50th Anniversary of "Helping Ohioans Enjoy Good Sight for Life!"

Russ Kennedy Elected PBO 25th Board Chair

Russ Kennedy, VP of PR and Government Affairs, Mt. Carmel Health System, was elected as Chair of the Prevent Blindness Ohio Board of Directors at its annual meeting on May 17, 2007. Russ joined PBO through involvement with the People of Vision Dinner when his organization was honored in 2004.

"I am looking forward to serving this outstanding organization as Chair and sharing my passion for healthy vision all across the state. PBO deserves wider recognition of their message being that every Ohioan is our concern and my mission is to spread that message."

Chairs for Chapter Executive Councils were also elected and include Tim Kimmel (SWOH Chapter), David Sherriff (NEOH Chapter), Michael Seay (NWOH Chapter), and Mark Meister (Dayton Office).

Prevent Blindness Ohio salutes our 200+ volunteer leaders on our Board, Chapter Executive Councils, Committees and the more than 4,000 volunteers that conduct vision screenings, advocate improved public policies to protect and preserve sight and educate the public at school and in the workplace.

Kennedy joins an impressive list of volunteer leaders who have given their service in this capacity through the years including:

1958: Judge Henry Robison
1962: Robert Morrison
1964: Dorothy Wildasin
1966: Dan Scarberry
1968: Judge Vincent M. Shields
1970: Charles Leftwich
1972: Ralph Kunze
1974: Edmond Coughlin
1976: Jim Liggett
1978: J.A. Turner
1979: Fritz Zeigler
1981: Mike Canter
1984: Vic Woods
1985: Martha Bullock
1988: Kent Stuckey
1990: Press Southworth
1992: Malcolm Murray
1994: Bob Saik
1996: Steve Grassbaugh
1999: Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton
2001: Rick Bunner
2003: Bob Weisman
2004: Larry Leguire
2005: Kathy McGinnis
2007: Russ Kennedy

LEAVE A LEGACY

Many PBO volunteer leaders and supporters have included a gift to PBO in their estate plan.

When you write or review your *Will*, please consider a charitable bequest to Prevent Blindness Ohio. Ask your financial planner to include either of these legal phrases in your *Will*:

"I give, devise and bequeath to Prevent Blindness Ohio, 1500 West Third Avenue, Suite 200, Columbus, OH 43212, for its general purposes, all (or percentage) of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, whether real or personal."

"I give to Prevent Blindness Ohio, 1500 West Third Avenue, Suite 200, Columbus, OH 43212, the sum of \$_____ to be used for the general purposes of Prevent Blindness Ohio."

PBO Advocates for All Ohioans

Prevent Blindness America, PBO's national organization, was founded in 1908 to combat babies born with ophthalmia neonatorum or "babies' sore eyes". This infection was contracted by newborns during delivery. If left untreated it could cause blindness. Because of the work of Prevent Blindness America, it is now common procedure to place anti-bacterial drops in the eyes of newborns, wiping out this cause of blindness.

Prevent Blindness Ohio and Prevent Blindness America continue their leadership in advocating for public policies to protect and preserve sight. In March the organization celebrated the success of its second annual "Eyes on Capitol Hill" campaign, held in Washington, DC. The national program was developed in an effort to allow Americans to meet with our nation's leaders to discuss their vision challenges and to educate and empower the participants to become advocates in their own state.

Turner and Zach Space for hosting visits with our advocates and making the event possible."

More than 80 participants were selected from a nationwide search of those who have been affected by vision loss through eye disease or traumatic injuries.

Ohio advocates urged support for the Centers for Disease Control's National Vision Screening and Education Program which partners with Prevent Blindness America to raise awareness about potentially blinding eye diseases, identify individuals at risk for vision loss and assure that appropriate treatment is received.

Advocates also sought support for an appropriation to provide for screening, detection and early treatment of vision problems that would otherwise result in delayed learning and education in children and H.R. 507, the Vision Care Act for Kids, which establishes a fund to assist needy families in obtaining professional eye care for their children.



Shown here are Ohio delegates: John and Jeri Pendergest, Hamilton; Jennifer Stanke, Grove City; Karen Levin, Dayton; Laura and Kylie Glass, Alliance; Teresa and Matt Law, Vincent; Jayson Braunde from Sen. Sherrod Brown's office; Carl Seletz, Columbus; Karla Miller, Baltimore; Richard Bunner, Zanesville. Also attending was Lauren Abel, Cincinnati.

"We would like to sincerely thank all of our Ohio delegates who enthusiastically shared their stories with us and our government leaders," said Sherill K. Williams, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness Ohio. "We would also like to thank Ohio Senators Sherrod Brown and George Voinovich and Representatives Pat Tiberi, John Boehner, Deborah Pryce, Ralph Regula, Charlie Wilson, Mike

When asked about this experience, Matt Law, delegate from Vincent, Ohio said: "Eyes on Capitol Hill has hooked me. Just days after my eye accident, I was talking about using my experience to help make changes so someone else might avoid what I was dealing with. I had no idea at the time how to go about doing this. Prevent Blindness Ohio has opened the door."

Highlights in History

-- Advocacy

1908: Volunteers create Prevent Blindness America when they learn that 30% of blindness in children could be prevented.

1917: Efforts lead to federal legislation that virtually eliminates the leading cause of blindness in newborns (ophthalmia neonatorum). Eye drops at birth are now standard procedure.

1963: Ohio becomes first state to pass School Eye Safety Law, sponsored by State Representative and PBO Board Member Clara Weisenborn (Dayton), now adopted by most states.

1983: PBO advocates for vision test requirement for motor vehicle operators.

1997: Ohio Eye Care Coalition defeats fireworks bill.

1999: Save Our Sight Initiative (HB 756), led by PBO with 20 partners, is implemented as a \$1 Ohio motor vehicle registration check-off. Funds raised are invested in expansion of vision care services for children.

2003: Aging Eye Public Private Partnership formed by a proclamation from Ohio Governor Taft and supported by the Ohio Department of Aging.

2005: Ohio Legislative Task Force to Preserve Adult Vision formed with leadership from PBO, makes recommendations about curbing doubling of vision loss among Ohio seniors.



Highlights in History

- Vision Research

1963: PBO advocates for \$200,000 state budget appropriation for vision research and requirement for safety windshields on automobiles.

1965: PBO officially becomes an "affiliate" of PBA, versus status as a Chapter.

1967: First research grants given to Dr. Kean at Case Western Reserve University and Dr. Keates at OSU.

2006: PBO creates the Young Investigator Student Fellowship Awards for Female Scholarship in Vision Research to bring awareness to the critical importance of vision research.

Prevent Blindness Ohio, with financial support from Charlotte R. Schmidlapp Fund, Fifth Third Bank, Trustee, and the Sarah R. Slack Fund of the Muskingum County Commuty Fund launched Prevent Blindness Ohio's **Young Investigators Student Fellowship Award for Female Scholars in Vision Research** in 2006.

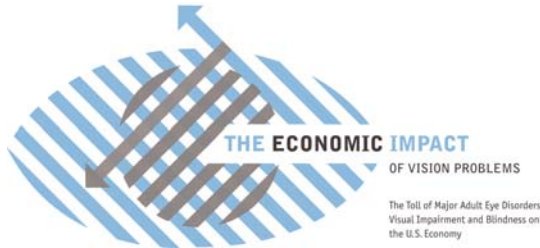
The Fellowship Award is designed to encourage female scientists at the beginning of their careers to pursue vision research that can contribute toward the early detection and treatment discoveries that will be needed to curb the growth of vision loss in Ohio due to the four leading causes of blindness - age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, cataract and diabetic retinopathy.

Prevent Blindness Ohio has made nine fellowship grants through its new research program to students at The Ohio State University, Case Western Reserve University and the University of Cincinnati. The young researchers are working on projects that will have future impact on preventing corneal infections, contact lens safety, dry eye, early detection of glaucoma, regeneration of retinal cells responsible for age-related macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa, and the impact of nutrition on vision preservation.

PBO Supports Vision Research

Research is a vital ingredient in preventing the 50% of vision loss that is needless.

Prevention, early detection and treatment are dependent upon on-going scientific research to provide the latest answers for how to best live a healthy lifestyle and



when treatment is needed, to make sure that the best and most effective is available.

"The Economic Impact of Vision Problems: The Toll of Major Adult Eye Disorders, Visual

Impairment, and Blindness on the U.S. Economy," was a new Prevent Blindness America report highlighted at an Age-Related Macular Degeneration Research Summit in Cleveland on May 2. The Summit was presented by The Cole Eye Institute-The Cleveland Clinic, Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership, The AMD Initiative for Prevention and Cure, and Prevent Blindness Ohio.

The startling results revealed that costs associated with adult vision problems in the United States are estimated at \$51.4 billion annually. This cost estimate is expected to grow exponentially in the coming years as the nation's 78 million baby boomers reach retirement age and beyond. Of that number, \$575 million was directly attributed to age-related macular degeneration (AMD) costs.

"These astounding numbers underscore the significant need to address the overall impact of vision problems on individuals, their families and our society," said Sherry Williams, President & CEO of Prevent Blindness Ohio. "The goal of this report is to ensure our nation's leaders understand the seriousness of America's eye health and create a call-to-action to focus on treatment and prevention."

AMD is a serious eye disease that affects the vision of more than 1.5 million Americans and 71,000 Ohioans. And, it's the leading cause of visual impairment among those ages 50 and older. AMD robs people of their central vision and often, the ability to read a book, recognize a face, drive an automobile, see fine details, and distinguish some colors which greatly limits personal independence.

For more information on Economic Impact of Vision Loss in the United States study or the Aging Eye Summit, visit our website at www.preventblindness.org/ohio/agingeye or call 1-800-301-2020.

PBO Research Grantee Honor Roll

Case Western Reserve University: Caleb Ing, Nathan Blackwell, B.S.c., M.S.c., Eric Pearlman, Ph.D., Loretta Szczotka-Flynn, O.D., Meera Shukla, Michelle Lin

Children's Hospital-Columbus: Lawrence E. Leguire, Ph.D., Naheed Wali, Ph.D.

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Research Foundation: Elizabeth McDonald

The Cleveland Clinic Cole Eye Institute: Joe G. Hollyfield, Ph.D., Roger H. Langston, M.D., Hilel Lewis, M.D. Sanjoy Bhattacharya, PhD, Quansheng Xi, PhD

Medical College of Ohio: Mark Hankin, Ph.D

The Ohio State University: Dianne Henry, Richard M. Hill, O.D., Ph.D., Delwin T. Lindsey, Ph.D., Amy Long, Thomas Mauger, M.D., Kristin Oblad, E. Mitchel Opremcak, M.D., Jennifer Stanke, Corrie Ziegler.

University Hospitals-Cleveland: Jonathan Lass, M.D

University of Cincinnati: Jiub H. Suleiman

Other Researchers: Carl Asseff, M.D., Thomas J. Byers, Ph.D., Maggie Chen, Robert J. Cionni, M.D., John S. Cohen, M.D., William J. Crawford, M.D., Tayyab S. Diwan, Carl Ellenberger, M.D., Mehra M. Golshan, Maria Hadjiconstantinou-Ne, M.D., Edward I. Kean, Ph.D., Vance Lemmon, Ph.D., Leo E. Lipetz, Ph.D., Sylvia Mann, Amanakoppa Nagaraj, Sunil V. Rao, Joel G. Sacks, M.D., Candace C. Sady, Gerald G. Striph, M.D.

PBO Promotes Eye Safety

From our beginnings, the public has looked to Prevent Blindness America and Prevent Blindness Ohio to provide the latest science and guidance on effective eye safety practices at home, work and play. 90% of eye accidents that lead to vision loss are preventable if proper eye protection is used. Most eye accidents happen at home and play. It has never been more important than now to step up our efforts to alert Ohioans about the dangers that everyday activities might bring to their vision and to encourage that protective eyewear is a staple of every home and athlete.

PBO's Wild About Eyes kiosk gives participants hands-on experience and knowledge to make informed and healthy decisions regarding the care of their eyes.

Using bowling balls, hand held paddles that simulate eye diseases and an eye safety matching game, the kiosk lets participants see for themselves how the eye works. This is a great fun and educational experience for children.

The Wild About Eyes educational kiosk has visited 24 libraries across the state reaching over 235,000 children and their caretakers. It was featured during a reading hour on April 24th at the East Palestine Memorial Public Library.



Leah Wilson, wife of State Senator Jason Wilson, read "Arthur's Eyes" to children gathered for the event.

Highlights in History - Eye Safety

1930: First eye safety program for industry.

1948: The first Ohio Wise Owl Club charter at Herring-Hall-Marvin Safe Company in Hamilton. Wise Owl recognizes those saving their vision at work, school or sports through use of protective eyewear.

1963: Ohio becomes first state to pass School Eye Safety Law and advocates safety windshields on automobiles.

1981: "Eye Care for Children" teaching curriculum introduced statewide.

1992: "Play It Safe With Your Eyes" preschool curriculum introduced, now expanded to serve children through grade 6.

2000: Wise About Eyes, an interactive children's eye health and safety exhibit developed by PBO premieres to 37,000 visitors at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, Dayton.

Pirates Encourage All to "Treasure Eyesight"

Prevent Blindness Ohio provided its 30th year of eye health and safety presentations at the 2007 Ohio Safety Congress and Expo and encouraged more than 5,000 participants to "treasure their eyesight!"

A Treasure Island/Pirate theme provided a fun and interactive way for the participants to learn about eye safety in the workplace.

More than 300 corporate, school, and government agency health and safety managers participated in four PBO educational sessions. Participants had the opportunity to wear an eye patch for part of the day. Many had problems when navigating the conference site, making a powerful statement about the effect that an eye injury can have on an individual.

Prevent Blindness Ohio provides on-site employee vision screening and

education and also offers several free fact sheets and brochures including Eye Safety is No Accident, Questions on Eye Safety at Work and Workplace Safety Quiz. Employers can find out more about these services by calling 800-301-2020 or by visiting www.pbohio.org.



PBO Leads the Way in Prevention, Early Detection and Treatment

Prevent Blindness America's nationwide preschool vision screening program began in 1926. There is still much work to do as 1 out of every 4 school-aged children has a vision problem that may be undetected or untreated. And, approximately 6% of Ohio children enter school each year with undetected and untreated vision problems. If left untreated, these vision problems can cause permanent damage to their eyes and their success in school. It is vital that we reach these children to ensure that they have good vision for starting their academic careers and good vision for life!

In the past year, Prevent Blindness Ohio provided vision screening training and equipment to 464 health care providers and other volunteers in Ohio by partnering with the American Academy of Pediatrics - Ohio Chapter and other health professional organizations. Our corps of trained vision screeners in Ohio is now 1,465. These vision training and screening programs enabled screeners to serve 225,112 Ohio children and detect potentially blinding eye diseases at the earliest stages when they are most successfully treated. Early detection & prompt professional treatment are essential in halting eye diseases like "lazy eye".

Despite the fact that Medicare covers medical eye care expenses for age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma and cataract, only 47% of Ohioans aged 65+ reported having some type of health insurance coverage for eye care and 13% reported that cost or lack of insurance prevented them from getting an eye exam. In addition, 11.4% of Ohio seniors, aged 65+, report that their last visit to an eye doctor was more than 2 years ago - this is nearly one out of every nine Ohio seniors (172,000) who are not getting periodic, professional eye care.

To combat these startling statistics, PBO trained, certified and equipped 170 health care workers last year to provide vision screenings to their adult patients in the primary health care setting, bringing our total adult vision screening corps to 479. These screeners served 53,648 adults.

Expanding Access to Eye Care for Ohio's Most Vulnerable Citizens

An estimated 1.39 million Ohio adults and children (12%) are without health insurance, but the number of Ohioans who lack vision coverage is greater than the number of Ohioans who are uninsured. The number of Ohio children without vision coverage is 25.6% and the number of Ohio adults without vision coverage is 36.2% according to a study published by the Health Policy Institute of Ohio in 2006.

Poverty and a lack of health care coverage often means that uninsured residents seek help for emergency medical problems only, and preventive health services, such as comprehensive eye exams, are often overlooked. Vision loss due to lazy eye, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy often produce no symptoms and if left undetected and untreated can lead to blindness.

Through the generosity of our friends in optometry, ophthalmology and the vision industry, Prevent Blindness Ohio has assembled a system of donated eye care for Ohio's indigent that is the largest statewide "virtual free clinic" for indigent eye care in the United States. This past year we brought 5,242 clients through this comprehensive system of eye care which includes a professional eye exam (donated by an optometrist or ophthalmologist), glasses (donated by a variety of optical companies) and surgery/aftercare (again donated by eye care professionals in the local communities we serve). These services have a retail value of \$1,310,500. The goal of our Vision Care Outreach Program is to provide access to comprehensive, professional eye care to indigent populations that need the care the most, but have no other way to get it.

Thanks to the hundreds of eye doctors that donate their services statewide and our donors in the Optical Industry: LensCrafters, VisionMakers of Dayton, Select Optical, VSP Lab-Columbus, Essilor of America, Toledo Optical, Rooney Optical, Interstate Optical, James Optical, VSP, W.A. Jones Optical and Geauga Vision.

Highlights in History -- Prevention, Early Detection and Treatment

1926: Nationwide preschool vision screening program begins.

1959: First Ohio Glaucoma Screening is conducted with the Lions Club.

1977: Glaucoma Alert Program launched.

1984: PBO opens glaucoma screening clinic.

1990: Vision Care Outreach Program initiated to provide access to comprehensive eye care to homeless and medically indigent Ohioans.

1999: Save Our Sight Initiative (HB 756), led by PBO with 20 partners, is implemented as a \$1 Ohio motor vehicle registration check-off. Funds raised are invested in expansion of vision care services for children. Over 4,000 vision screeners have been trained serving nearly 1 million Ohio children.



PBO Celebrates 50 Years of Giving

A History of Giving

In 1957, PBO's annual budget was \$8,000, most of which was generated through the federal employee workplace campaign called the "combined federal campaign". Since that time PBO has diversified its revenue sources to include direct mail, an annual Sight Saving Campaign, special events and cause-related marketing. Our annual budget has grown to \$1.5 million which has allowed wide expansion of our programs and services in all 88 Ohio counties.

Since the beginning, though, we have depended upon the generosity and passion of Ohioans who have an interest in our mission and a belief that PBO will invest their contributions wisely. PBO depends upon contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations to continue our work. We receive no United Way funding or tax-based government funding.



Russ Kennedy accepts the lead corporate gift to the PBO Sight-Saving Campaign from Mike D'Ippolito of Nationwide Insurance.

2007 People of Vision Awards Dinners

At the conclusion of our 50th year, PBO will have held 58 People of Vision Award Dinners and honored corporate and community leaders of the state for their visionary leadership in enhancing the quality of life in their communities. People of Vision Award Dinners are held in Columbus, Dayton, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Toledo.

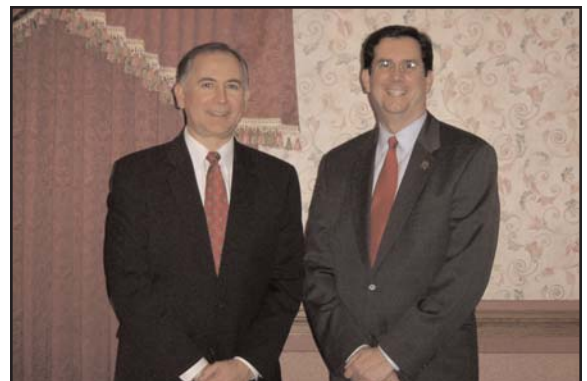
COLUMBUS: Host David P. Blom, President & CEO of OhioHealth, and Honoree William W. Pfeiffer, Chairman and CEO of CareWorks



TOLEDO: Host Steven Mickus, President and CEO of Mercy Health Partners, and Honoree Barbara Berebitsky, Community President of Huntington Bank.



CINCINNATI: Honoree John Prout, President and CEO of TriHealth, and Host Michael D. Connelly, President and CEO of Catholic Healthcare Partners.



Dayton: Host Brad Tidwell, President of JP Morgan Chase and Honoree Dr. Daniel Curran, President of The University of Dayton

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Happy 50th Anniversary from Justice Stratton

I grew up as the child of missionaries who worked in remote villages in Thailand in the 1950s. The villages were poor and the people lived off the land with no modern conveniences and little available health care.

I vividly recall that when boxes of used glasses would arrive from churches in the United States, the villagers would rush to try on the glasses until they found a pair that helped them to see better. I'll never forget how their faces would light up when they could see again - many for the first time in their life!

I received my first glasses when on furlough to the United States at age 14. A family friend took me to the eye doctor and paid for my

glasses.

When I became involved in Prevent Blindness Ohio in the 1990s, I learned that while America offers the best to its citizens, there are often large groups of people that don't get the care they need whether it is due to perceived lack of need, financial and insurance barriers, shortage of doctors or geographic barriers.

Prevent Blindness Ohio has been working for the last 50 years to reverse that trend, and has helped thousands of people regain or save their sight here in Ohio. I'm proud to be part of this fine organization and invite you in joining with me in celebrating these past 50 years and looking ahead to many more.



Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, Ohio Supreme Court; PBO Board of Directors, Honorary Member