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Contact: Kira Baldonado
614-464-2020 ext.106

“WILD ABOUT EYES” KIOSK A SUCCESS

BARBERTON – To stress the importance of good eye health and safety to children, John Rutecki, Field Representative for Congresswoman Sutton, read to children on August 7th at the Barberton Library. His appearance was in conjunction with Prevent Blindness Ohio’s **Wild About Eyes** educational kiosk tour which will be on display at the library from August 1 through August 30.

The **Wild About Eyes** kiosk provides four learning stations providing hands-on, interactive vision experiences for children and adults. 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.

Wild About Eyes was developed by Prevent Blindness Ohio and the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery in Dayton. It is funded by the Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Child and Family Health Services and the Save Our Sight Program. The Save Our Sight Fund is supported by \$1 donations at the time of motor vehicle registration to support eye health and safety programs for kids www.saveoursight.org.

Vision problems affect one in four school-age children and one in twenty preschoolers. Eighty percent of what a child learns is visual – good vision is critical to learning. Undetected vision problems can affect how well a child performs in the classroom. An estimated 47,300 Ohio preschool children (1 in 20) have a vision disorder including amblyopia (lazy eye) and strabismus (crossed eyes) that can lead to loss of vision.

Many eye problems in children can be effectively treated and corrected if diagnosed early. Prevent Blindness Ohio recommends a continuum of eye care for children to include both vision screening and comprehensive eye examinations. All children, even those with no signs of trouble, should have their eyes checked at regular intervals.

Prevent Blindness Ohio is celebrating 50 years as Ohio’s leading volunteer nonprofit public health organization dedicated to preventing blindness and preserving sight. Founded in 1957 by U.S. Senator John Bricker and Lion’s Club Member, Bob Morrison with support from Nationwide, the Ohio Department of Health and Delta Gamma Fraternity, PBO serves all 88 Ohio counties. We provide direct services to more than 800,000 Ohioans annually and educate millions of consumers about what they can do to protect and preserve their precious gift of sight. Prevent Blindness Ohio is an affiliate of Prevent Blindness America, the country’s second-oldest national voluntary health organization. For more information or to make a contribution, visit our website at www.pbOhio.org or call 800-301-2020.



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