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Contact: Darcy Downie
440-842-1284

PREVENT BLINDNESS OHIO TO HOST LIGHT THE NIGHT FOR SIGHT WALKATHON Walk Raises Awareness of Firework-Related Eye Injuries

CLEVELAND - Prevent Blindness Ohio (PBO) will host its Annual Light the Night for Sight™ Walkathon (LNS) on Saturday, June 23, 2007 at Cleveland Metroparks, Brookside Reservation, in Cleveland. Registration begins at 5:30 pm and the walk begins at 6:00 pm.

The walk events, held statewide in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Dayton and Columbus, are held to celebrate the gift of sight and emphasize safe ways to celebrate summer. The LNS Walk is PBO's grassroots event, which offers individuals and families a safe alternative way to celebrate the Fourth of July, which is traditionally marked by events, parades, baseball games, picnics, and fireworks. The theme of this year's event is "Safe Summer Celebrations" with an educational warning about the dangers of backyard fireworks. Did you know that a sparkler burns at 1800 degrees Fahrenheit - hot enough to melt gold? Prevent Blindness Ohio wants you to be SAFE this Fourth of July! There are precautions you can take to avoid ending a day of fun by taking a trip to the emergency room or worse! The best way to prevent accidents is to avoid handling ALL fireworks.

In 2005, there were 10,800 serious injuries in the United States due to consumer fireworks use. Twenty-five percent of these injuries are to the eye and 50% involve children. PBO is known throughout the Prevent Blindness affiliates for our successful work in advocating against the legalization of backyards fireworks use in Ohio. Through this event, the walkathon it gives us an opportunity to highlight this message, raise money and have fun with this family-oriented event.

Event sponsors include: Food and beverage sponsors Quaker and Pepsi, local sponsor Anatomy Ultra Lounge, and statewide sponsor Grange Insurance.

Help Prevent Blindness Ohio save sight by participating in the Light the Night for Sight Walkathon. To register as a walker, volunteer, or to make a donation, call Darcy Downie at 440-842-1284 or go to www.LNSwalk.org.

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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