



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

“WILD ABOUT EYES” EXHIBIT TEACHES ABOUT HEALTHY VISION

EAST PALESTINE – Prevent Blindness Ohio and the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery’s **Wild About Eyes** educational kiosk will be featured during a reading hour at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24, 2007, at the East Palestine Memorial Public Library. Leah Wilson, wife of State Senator Jason Wilson, will read a book to children gathered for the hour.

The exhibit teaches children and their caretakers about the importance of good eye health and safety. Vision problems affect one in four school-age children and one in 20 preschoolers. About 21 percent of preschool-aged children have their vision screened and only an estimated 14 percent of children receive comprehensive vision exams before entering kindergarten or first grade. Vision is the primary sense used for learning in the early years. Approximately 80 percent of what a child learns is learned visually. Early detection and treatment of vision disorders are important to maximize a child’s visual potential. The longer eye conditions are left untreated, the more likely they are to worsen, affecting learning ability, athletic performance and self esteem.

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 vehicle registration to support eye health and safety programs for kids www.saveoursight.org.

The **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. The kiosk provides four learning stations providing hands-on, interactive vision experiences for children and adults. The learning stations have integrated the educational framework adopted by the Ohio Department of Education, (based upon National Health Education Standards) emphasizing preventive health practices. This is a great fun and educational experience for children.

Prevent Blindness Ohio, founded in 1957, is Ohio’s leading volunteer, nonprofit public health organization dedicated to preventing blindness and preserving sight. It serves all 88 Ohio counties, providing direct services to more than 800,000 Ohioans annually and educating 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.