

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **WALMAN OPTICAL JOINS PREVENT BLINDNESS AMERICA IN EFFORT TO PRESERVE SIGHT**

**CHICAGO (April 2, 2007)** – Prevent Blindness America, the nation’s oldest eye health and safety organization, is pleased to announce the support of Walman Optical. Through this new program, Walman Optical asked its safety eyewear vendors, Titmus Optical Inc. and OnGuard Safety, to donate 10 cents to Prevent Blindness America for every pair of glasses purchased beginning April 1, 2007. Walman Optical will then match those donations.

Although half of all blindness is preventable, the number of Americans that lose their sight continues to increase. It is estimated that 80 million people have a potentially blinding eye disease and as the baby boomer generation ages, that number is expected to skyrocket. Donations to Prevent Blindness America’s sight-saving programs will help preserve vision for adults and children across the country.

“We are honored to have such wonderful support from our friends at Walman Optical,” said Hugh R. Parry, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness America. “It is through the generous support of companies such as these that we are able to continue our important work, to help protect vision for Americans of all ages.”

Walman Optical is the largest independent ophthalmic company in the United States. Based in Minneapolis, the company has offices in 19 states across the country.

“Walman Optical has been in the business of caring for people’s vision since 1915,” said Marty Bassett, president and CEO of Walman Optical. “We look forward to helping Prevent Blindness America further its mission to provide sight-saving services to others.”

### **About Prevent Blindness America**

Founded in 1908, Prevent Blindness America is the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness and saving sight. Focused on promoting a continuum of vision care, Prevent Blindness America touches the lives of millions of people each year through its certified vision screenings, public and professional education, advocacy, community and patient service programs and research. These services are made possible through the generous support of the American public. Together with a network of affiliates, divisions and chapters, it's committed to eliminating preventable blindness in America. For more information, or to make a contribution to the sight-saving fund, call 1-800-331-2020 or visit us on the Web at [www.preventblindness.org](http://www.preventblindness.org).

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