KERRY BEEBE, O.D. (MN)
Optometry Cares – The AOA Foundation, Board Member
INFANTSEE®, Provider since 2005
Minnesota Optometric Association, Past-President

“Bring us the Babies!” says Dr. Kerry Beebe. Without having seen a baby in his office in 29 years, he was introduced to InfantSEE...

As we celebrate the 10 year anniversary of InfantSEE, let me reflect on how this AOA program has helped our practice and community. Prior to 2005, we saw NO babies in our office. I had practiced for 29 years and was apprehensive about performing an infant examination. We had a new, young associate, but he too lacked experience. Through the InfantSEE program, we gained the confidence and realized we possessed the skills to see this underserved population. Bring us the babies!

It soon became apparent that the educating of parents, pediatricians, and other providers of children services would be vital to increasing the number of infant assessments performed. We moved outside of our comfort zone and spoke to local pediatricians, public health agencies, day care providers, health fair audiences, service clubs, new parent groups, and most importantly educated our own office staff to be ambassadors.

The InfantSEE program with its one time, no charge element, made it easier for these outside groups to listen, learn, and promote the program. Today, our two InfantSEE optometrists see over 75 assessments each year. We have countless heartwarming success stories and strong relationships with pediatric providers that could never have been achieved without InfantSEE. The day an 8 month old, Native American girl put on her +9.00 glasses, smiled at her grandmother, and proceeded to charm all of us including the physician who had suggested an InfantSEE assessment, may be one of the most memorable events of my career.

Education and community outreach must continue, however, as there is a new audience of parents and new providers of childcare services each year. Our practice is happy to provide a one time, no cost eye and vision assessment, in exchange for the opportunity to educate our community and introduce a new generation to a lifetime of optometric care.