Solving the Vision Care Crisis for Our Youth

As children grow, 80 percent of what they learn is processed visually. Yet one in four students in North America has an undetected vision problem.

For too many children, poor vision results in poor academic performance, low self-esteem and unrealized potential. Often, a simple pair of glasses can transform how they see their world and their future. It is estimated that only one in seven children in Ohio has an eye exam prior to entering school. Upon graduation, only 50 percent have ever received an eye exam. For many it’s due to inadequate access to vision care.

Chief among the barriers preventing children in Cincinnati from receiving comprehensive eye care is a childhood poverty rate that is third worst in the United States. As a result, school nurses or community centers often serve as the lifeline to health services for 75 percent of Cincinnati Public School students living below the federal poverty line.

Helping Cincinnati Students See their Future

Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a partnership of experts to solve today’s vision care crisis for our youth. Based on this shared belief, seven organizations have come together as founding partners to create the OneSight Vision Center at Oyle School - The City of Cincinnati Health Department, The Cincinnati Public Schools, The Cincinnati Eye Institute Foundation, Ohio Optometric Association, OneSight, Growing Well Cincinnati, Oyler School, along with support from the Cincinnati Women’s Club.

Providing Cincinnati’s Students with Year-Round Access to Quality Vision Care

The OneSight Vision Center at Oyler School is the first self-sustaining school-based vision center in the United States. The American Optometric Association considers this a program with strong expansion potential to serve the vision care needs of low-income students nationwide.

Operated by the Cincinnati Health Department, the OneSight Vision Center at Oyler School provides access to comprehensive eye exams, glasses fittings, adjustments and medical eye care. The center’s staff includes full-time optometrists, ophthalmic technicians, opticians and office coordinator.

Opened since October 2012, the center has focused on serving the Cincinnati public, private and parochial students, including all children newly placed on an Individualized Education Program and those who have failed vision screenings.

For more information, please contact:
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