



A Quarterly Publication
of The Eye Institute of the
Pennsylvania College of
Optometry at Salus University

Eyesight

Summer 2012
Volume 3, Issue 2



Keeping an Eye on Children's Vision

On a Friday morning at the beginning of the 2011 school year, a vision care team from The Eye Institute screened over 60 children at a local Philadelphia public school. An eight-year-old failed her vision screening that morning along with over 30 of her classmates. Days later, The Eye Institute's staff began working closely with the school's nurse to arrange for comprehensive care for those who failed the screening. The vision care partnership between The Eye Institute and the School District of Philadelphia includes providing vision care services to uninsured children, as well as eyeglasses. The TEI team works hard to deliver eyeglasses to the child's school within two weeks from the date of the child's exam.

"You screened the children, examined them and they received glasses –

you say comprehensive and it really is," Nurse Gail Bunting of Edward T. Steel Elementary School, 4301 Wayne Avenue, said about TEI's school vision program. "I'm extremely satisfied with the services you provided." Working with The Eye Institute for the first time, Nurse Bunting is enthusiastic about participating in the vision program again in September.

For many years The Eye Institute has had a strategic alliance with the School District of Philadelphia to provide services to their children. Each school year, The Eye Institute deploys vision care teams to dozens of schools to provide free vision screenings. "The screenings are incredibly helpful," Nurse Joanne Packer, who shares her time between Bache Martin Elementary School and General Louis Wagner Middle School, said. TEI personnel work closely with

school nurses to ensure children who fail their vision screening receive a comprehensive vision and eye health exam. Children who failed the vision screening are transported to one of The Eye Institute's clinical facilities for this care.

Even with many scheduling challenges during the 2011-12 academic year, The Eye Institute was able to expand the services provided to Philadelphia's public school children. More than 2300 children received a vision screening; 575 children were transported to The Eye Institute for comprehensive care and 860 pairs of glasses were provided to children in need.

"The partnership I have with The Eye Institute is great," Nurse Packer said about the long-standing relationship.

Continued on page 2...

The Facts of Cataracts

Defined as a clouding of the lens of the eye, cataracts affect an individual's vision. The lens is the clear part of the eye that helps focus light on an image on the retina. The retina sends signals to areas of the brain responsible for vision. The lens must be clear for the retina to receive a sharp image. If the lens is cloudy from a cataract, the image will be blurry.

Because most cataracts are related to aging, they are common in older adults. As people age, the more likely cataracts will affect vision. Although cataracts are generally related to aging of the eye, other

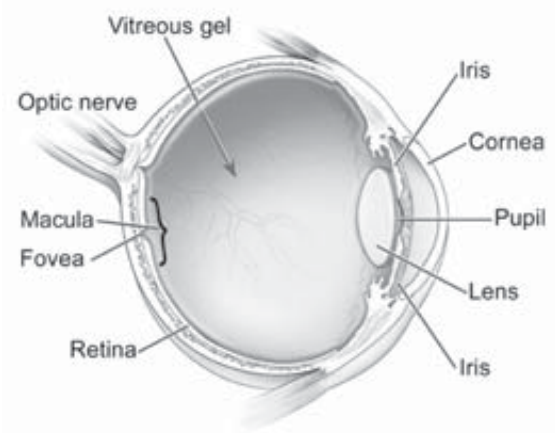
risk factors for cataracts are smoking, diabetes and ultraviolet light.

Symptoms associated with cataracts are:

- Cloudy or blurry vision
- Colors become faded
- Glare from lights or sunlight appears too bright
- A halo may appear around lights
- Poor night vision
- Double vision or multiple images in one eye
- Frequent changes in eyeglass prescription

Cataracts are **detected** through a comprehensive dilated eye exam. Early cataracts

may be improved with a new eyeglass prescription, brighter lighting or magnifying lenses. Once the lens of the eye becomes too cloudy, a change in prescription may no longer be sufficient. Surgery (out patient) may be the only effective treatment, which involves removing the cataract and replacing it with an artificial lens. Surgery should only occur when vision loss interferes with everyday activities such as



driving or reading. Call **215.276.6111** or visit **TEIvision.com** to make an **appointment** today for a comprehensive eye exam at one of The Eye Institute's THREE locations.

PA Secretary of Health Visits TEI



Dr. Marla Moon, Dr. Eli N. Avila, Dr. Susan Oleszewski and Dr. Linda Casser after touring The Eye Institute.

On Thursday, March 22nd, the Secretary of Health for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Dr. Eli N. Avila, visited the campus of Salus University and The Eye Institute. Dr. Marla Moon, Chair of the Pennsylvania State Board of Optometry, accompanied Dr. Avila. According to Dr. Linda Casser,

Dean of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO), the visit helped the state's leading health regulator learn more about PCO and the field of optometry. Before heading back to Harrisburg, Dr. Susan Oleszewski, TEI's Vice President for Patient Care Services, gave Dr. Avila a tour of The Eye Institute's newly renovated Oak Lane facilities.

2389
CHILDREN SCREENED IN THE SCHOOL VISION PROGRAM

1066
CHILDREN FAILED THE VISION SCREENING

575
CHILDREN TRANSPORTED TO THE EYE INSTITUTE FOR FULL EYE EXAMS

860
EYEGASSES DISTRIBUTED TO PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN

All Eyes on “Eyelene”



Decorated with dozens of colorful eyeballs and flowers, The Eye Institute’s newest addition to its pediatric department is a three-foot bear. “Eyelene” was brought to life through the creativity of local Chestnut Hill artist, Rebecca Thornburgh.

Rebecca also painted “Seemore” – the nine-foot polar bear bench standing front and center in TEI’s pediatric waiting room – as well as a 179-square-foot mural on the waiting room walls of TEI’s pediatric service.

The essence of “Eyelene’s” personality started with a simple sketch. But, Rebecca quickly realized the bear’s curved surfaces would make painting her difficult. After concentrating on the precise color of her body – café au lait - she moved onto her fingers, toes, face and finally her outfit. She painted “Eyelene’s” cheeks as any female would apply blush – rubbing off a little before re-applying. “I thought a lot about what I wanted to do to make her look girlish,” the Bryn Mawr College alumna said. “I worked a long time on her green eyes and went back a couple of times to redo her eyelashes because I didn’t want to overdo it.”

Her outfit was the next step. Rebecca penciled an outline before painting the bright colors and “fabulous” eyeballs and flowers. Stylistically, she described the difference

between “Seemore” and “Eyelene.” “The interesting thing is when I painted ‘Seemore’, I treated the animal as a surface to paint on instead of painting the animal,” she said. “But ‘Eyelene’ is different because she’s like a little person with an outfit on.”



Standing at basically the same height as many of the kids being examined in TEI’s pediatric department, “Eyelene” will be friendly and accessible. “I think she’s really cute and has a great personality,” Rebecca said.

To view Rebecca’s palette of work, visit www.rebeccathornburgh.com.

Neighborhood Screenings



Each year, The Eye Institute provides thousands of vision screenings at public schools, head start centers and a variety of community based locations including senior centers and health fairs. During a two day event in May, a large team of 20 TEI interns and five doctors provided diabetic and glaucoma vision screenings to Bravo Health members at the Pearl Theatre, 1600 N. Broad Street.

According to Dr. Elizabeth Tonkery, over 375 Bravo members were screened. One hundred and twenty five of those screened were in need of more care and were referred to qualified eye care providers. Community based vision screenings provide opportunities to identify vision and eye health problems early, allowing for early intervention and improved patient outcomes.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter



The Eye Institute



PA Eye Institute

Acknowledgements



For more information, visit www.alcon.com.



The Clear Choice For Your Vision Care Needs

The Eye Institute (Oak Lane)
1200 West Godfrey Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19141

The Eye Institute (Mt. Airy)
7145 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19119

The Eye Institute (Falls Center)
3300 Henry Avenue, Suite 104
Philadelphia, PA 19129

The Eye Institute (Chestnut Hill) *Fall 2012*
7630 Germantown Avenue, #4
Philadelphia, PA 19118

Main: 215.276.6000
Appointments: 215.276.6111
Website: www.TEIVision.com

The Eye Institute is the clinical practice of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University

Luxury Fashion Eyewear

The Eye Institute's eyewear department offers a variety of designer brands. Recently, top designer collections such as Tiffany & Co., Tory Burch and Tom Ford have been added to the already extensive collection. With more than 1100 frames available, The Eye Institute's optical department offers styles to suit any budget.

As an exclusive distributor of diamond high-definition lenses, patients can achieve optimal vision and clarity with their lenses. With a focus on quality materials, TEI's expert opticians also understand the importance of functionality and fit that will satisfy the needs of any age. All Eye Institute opticians can help patients choose a suitable frame to make



for the perfect fashion-forward eyewear combination.

Stop in one of The Eye Institute's **THREE** locations today to check out the latest trends in eyewear.

The Eye Institute is ON THE MOVE

The Eye Institute's Mt. Airy office at 7145 Germantown Avenue will be moving to Chestnut Hill at the end of the summer. Less than a mile up the avenue, the new office space located at 7630 Germantown Avenue in the Chestnut Hill Plaza will offer patients an expansion of services. The larger space will provide more exam rooms and an expanded optical

department, improving the frame selection and increasing the number of designer frames available.

The Eye Institute's newest community satellite will bring the latest technology and will help improve patient services. TEI looks forward to continuing to serve loyal Mt. Airy patients as well as the Chestnut Hill community.

