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Looking Out for Kids' Vision

As the future of Philadelphia lies in the hands of our children, their education is vital for success. Early diagnosis and treatment of vision problems in children is critical. However, one in four children suffers from visual difficulties, which can impact their school performance. Undiagnosed vision problems can also make it difficult to read and can affect a child's self-esteem. Comprehensive vision care is essential for academic success.

In 2007, The Eye Institute (TEI) established the "Looking Out for Kids" initiative to provide comprehensive vision care services for under-insured and uninsured children in Philadelphia and its surrounding communities. Since its inception, the "Looking Out for Kids" program has brightened thousands of children's lives and ensured their continued

success in the classroom. Each year, TEI doctors and optometry students provide vision screenings to over 1500 children in the Philadelphia School District and hundreds receive eye exams and glasses. "It was a very rewarding experience, and I think it's a great service we provide to the Philadelphia community," Dr. Lindsey Perno said about the vision screenings she performed during the 2013-14 academic year. Dr. Pooja Patel, who alternated performing screenings with Dr. Perno, agreed. "It's amazing to see children's lives and academics change for the better when they put on glasses and are able to go from seeing completely blurry to crystal clear all because their vision problem was detected during a vision screening," she said.

Reading requires the integration of several vision skills: visual acuity,

visual fixation, accommodation, binocular fusion, convergence, field of vision, and form perception. If a child has inadequate visual skills in any of these areas, they can have problems in school. School screenings generally measure a child's vision from a distance. Children who suffer from blurry vision and have trouble seeing the board from the back of the classroom are usually referred for glasses. However, only a comprehensive eye exam can assess all of a child's vision skills and need for glasses. "Many times vision problems are undetected, and I feel that the school screenings are a good way to identify children who would benefit from glasses," Dr. Perno said.

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The Eye Institute's Donor Reception



Salus University president, Dr. Michael Mittelman, during his presentation at the donor celebration. (Photos by John Dolores Photography)

This past winter, a donor recognition reception was held at The Eye Institute (TEI). The evening was an opportunity for the University to show its appreciation for donors of the "Setting Our Sights" capital campaign that raised money for the \$11 million renovation of TEI. A video of historical, ground breaking and renovation photos played on the televisions in the main lobby. Over 115 attendees were able to tour the facility, take pictures alongside their donor plaques, and hear remarks from current Salus University president, Dr. Michael H. Mittelman, who welcomed guests to the University's flagship clinical site that originally opened in 1978. "I was in the first class that actually utilized

this facility from start to finish, and in those days it was actually considered a state-of-the-art

L. Lewis, whose tenure included the campaign and renovation, and Board of Trustees chair, Ms. Jo Surpin, also spoke of how The Eye Institute symbolizes the vitality and changes at Salus and how the University continues to respect our past while also moving forward.

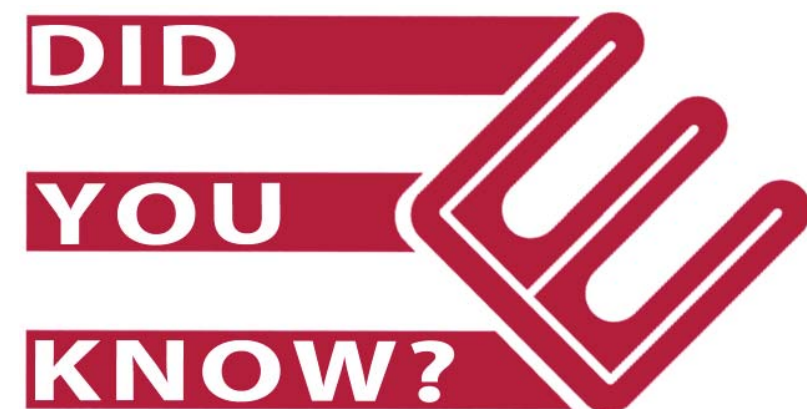
The evening was a time for the administration to thank all of the donors who made the renovations possible and for many former students/classmates and faculty to reconnect. "The



renovation of this fantastic facility has allowed us to think big, appropriately I might add, and to do more great things for our profession, the community in which we work, and really ultimately influence the national debate on how healthcare delivery is supposed to be provided," Dr. Mittelman said. "As we morph into this next generation of healthcare delivery, I think this building, this facility is going to allow us to think into the next stage."

Dr. Susan Oleszewski, who was TEI's Executive Director before and during the renovations, touched on the necessity of The Eye Institute for the optometry program and for patient care during her comments. Immediate past president, Dr. Thomas

facility," Dr. Mittelman said during his speech that evening. "We really have a state-of-the-art facility today, and that didn't happen without the benefit of some very generous private and corporate donors."



In 1949, the then Pennsylvania College of Optometry was the first college of optometry to open a contact lens clinic?



During construction of The "New" Eye Institute, faculty, staff and students signed a steel beam which was installed in the ceiling of the current lower level?



The Eye Institute celebrated 20 years of service to the community in 1998?

*Did You Know? is a new, recurring feature of TEI's Eyesight Newsletter. To send suggestions, email aabate@salus.edu.

“Looking Out for Kids” continued...

This year, TEI also expanded a school-based vision clinic in collaboration with the Norristown Area School District (NASD). During the 2013-14 academic year, working collaboratively with NASD school nurses, TEI moved the school-based eye clinic from school to school according to need. Dr. Luis Trujillo and optometric technician, Cathie Muhr, provided care to children at eight schools in the district over a period of 24 days. The school nurses identified children requiring care, who received comprehensive eye exams in their own schools and

when eyeglasses were needed, two pairs were provided – one for home and a second for school. “Having the gift of vision is a true gift,” nurse Cheryl Brumbaugh of Norristown’s Stewart Middle School said. “We want the best for our students and especially want them to achieve and do well in school, having their vision corrected ensures a good start for them.”

During this school year, **185** children were examined in five schools and over **330** pairs of glasses were dispensed. “Your fine team is to be commended for providing

medical care as well as promoting a comfortable environment for our students - such a key component to the success of any medical program,” nurse Linda DiMartini and principal Maryanne Hoskins from Whitehall Elementary School said in a thank you letter to TEI’s staff.

The “Looking Out for Kids” program is completely funded by corporate and individual donations. To make a contribution, please e-mail LookingOutforKids@salus.edu or visit www.TEIVision.com/LOFK.

Vision Care on the Road



Right: Dr. Elise Ciner during an eye exam in the mobile unit.
Left: The University’s van received some new, but temporary signage this spring. (Photos by Alexis R. Abate, MA)

On two separate dates, Dr. Elise Ciner and her team provided vision exams to pre-school students in Philadelphia on Salus University’s Mobile Unit. On April 28th, the team which included two optometry interns, examined six children from three to five-years-old at Feltonville Head Start.

Several weeks later, on June 16th, the team examined seven children at Pratt School. The 13 children who were examined previously failed a vision screening through the Head Start program. Any child needing eyeglasses received two pairs - one for home and one for school.



1649

CHILDREN
SCREENED IN THE
SCHOOL VISION
PROGRAM

737

CHILDREN FAILED THE
VISION SCREENING

306

CHILDREN
TRANSPORTED TO THE
EYE INSTITUTE FOR FULL
EYE EXAMS

480

EYEGASSES
DISTRIBUTED TO PUBLIC
SCHOOL CHILDREN

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

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

The Eye Institute (Chestnut Hill)
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Website: www.TEIVision.com

The Eye Institute is the clinical optometric practice of Salus University



Electronic Health Record: Part TWO



Assistant director, Celeste Tucker, goes over the electronic health record with primary care patient representative, Sheree Akers. (Photo by Andrew Ciechanowski)

- Time savings and efficiencies in appointing and billing
- Ability to compile public health and research data

These changes, while great, can be difficult to integrate into patient care and student training. Over the past year, TEI went through

several customizations and changes to their own Electronic Health Record screens and processes. These useful updates enhanced the quality of care for our patients, documentation, and the academic experience for our students.

The Eye Institute is in the final stages of phase II of the EHR transition. At the end of May, the majority of The Eye Institute's specialty services completed the transition to EHR. Pediatrics, which includes Vision Therapy and the Brain Injury Clinic,

Low Vision Services, which includes community outreach services at schools for the visually impaired and at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, and the Neuro-Ophthalmic service all converted to the EHR. These services worked extremely hard preparing for this difficult transition, developed individualized screens and redesigned their processes to take advantage of EHR benefits. This conversion will continue to improve quality and the continuity of care from start to finish.



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The Eye Institute PA Eye Institute

Last summer, The Eye Institute (TEI) transitioned to a specialty Electronic Health Record (EHR). The first phase of this transition was focused on primary care – a large part of the care provided to our patients. In the year prior to implementation, this service had over 21,500 patient visits. This drastically changed the way patient care was documented, tracked, and maintained.

The benefits of an EHR are tremendous, and include:

- Elimination of lost medical records