# **Increasing Our Impact Together.**

"Ellie struggled with certain letters and numbers that looked similar, but I thought that it was just normal preschool confusion. As soon as she got glasses, this went away. She gets her letters and numbers correct 100% of the time now!"

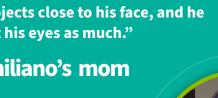
#### - Ellie's mom

"I have seen a lot of improvement. He no longer holds objects close to his face, and he does not squint his eyes as much."

- Emiliano's mom

"I can now see better and I am starting to understand my vision and how my eyes work."

- Klow Meh







## 2019-2020 Annual Report

## Dear Friends,

During these unique and challenging times, we are filled with gratitude for our volunteers, screeners, partners and donors who continue to help Prevent Blindness Wisconsin transform lives one pair of eyes at a time and ensure that all Wisconsin residents enjoy healthy vision at every stage of life.

Everyone at Prevent Blindness Wisconsin is excited to share the incredible impact our collected efforts had on 325,000 Wisconsin residents whose sight was impacted through our preventative vision health services last year. Through our enhanced programs, barriers to vision care were addressed. Additionally, our growing adult programs worked to implement comprehensive vision health services that reach the most vulnerable adults in our community. This ongoing work of Prevent Blindness Wisconsin ensures the vision health needs of children and adults continue to be met, and healthy vision results in greater independence and an overall improved quality of life for our State and particularly those who we serve.

This year of 2020 implies a promise of clarity in vision and perfectly reflects the mission of Prevent Blindness Wisconsin. As our organization's rich history proves, ensuring healthy vision transcends any one calendar year, but 2020 is the perfect time to reflect on our past successes and focus our sights on innovative and sustainable solutions for the future.

Prevent Blindness Wisconsin's important work would not be possible were it not for people like you; your continued support enables us to further our mission every day. Thank you!

Together, we can work to make 2020 another great year of 20/20 vision for Wisconsin residents.

Sincerely,

Charles B. Monthell

HZ, Deman &

Charles B. Groeschell Co-Chairman

F.R. Dengel III Co-Chairman

## **2019-2020 Board of Directors** – As of 3.31.2020

#### **Directors**

David Bier Kristin Ellsworth, JD Trent Graham Amy Jankowski, OD Adam Keen Jeff McClellan Mike Meissen, PhD Amy Mihelich Monica Parchia Price Maria Patterson, MD, FAAP Rhonda Powell, MS, BS, RN Ned Purtell Michelle Lahey Reed, JD Tony Revolinski, CPA Daniel J. Schneck Steven Schneider Timothy Somers Thomas N. Tuttle, Jr. JD

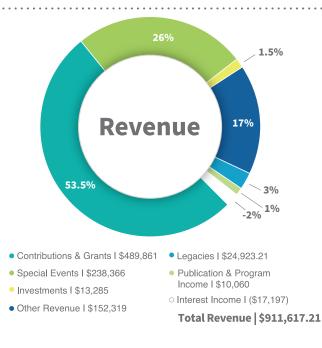
#### Officers

Charles B. Groeschell – Co Chairman F.R. Dengel III – Co Chairman Sarah "Sally" Fry Bruch – Treasurer Kristin Severson – Secretary

#### **Members Emeritus**

Sandy Gold (Mrs. Thomas E.) Robert L. Hanley Thomas J. Hauske, Jr. Harry Hersolf Barbara D. Struck Carl K. Trimble







## **Transforming Lives Together**

## Volunteers

This year, the Ozaukee County Children's Vision Screening Group began a new partnership with the Mequon School District to provide vision screenings to 4K students.

This is just one of the many screening partnerships supported by Prevent Blindness Wisconsin's 15 volunteer vision screening groups. More than 6,000 children received a certified vision screening from Prevent Blindness Wisconsin volunteers this year!









### Adopt-a-School

Volunteers from local corporations and community groups stepped up by providing vision screenings to children at schools that cannot provide vision screening in-house.

Thank you to our 2019 partners: Baird, Executive Benefits Network, Satisloh North America, and Woman's Club of Wisconsin.

#### **Community Partner Award**

Milwaukee Capital was awarded the 2019 Community Partner Award in recognition of more than 25 years of support and partnership. Thank you, Milwaukee Capital, for your dedication to our mission which has brought the world into focus for so many children and adults in our community!



From left: Greg Johnson, Carl Trimble, Russ Trimble, John Devine, Jim Bauman, Stephanie Mariano, Tyler Trimble

## Donors

**Thank you to our donors** for helping us bring our vision for each Wisconsin resident to have healthy vision into focus!

For a full listing of our funders and donors, or to learn more about how you can help, please visit us online at:

#### Wisconsin.preventblindness.org



#### Lizzy's Walk

Lizzy's Walk, in honor of the 2018-2019 Preschool Vision Screening Ambassador, hosted more than 260 walkers who helped raise more than \$26,000 to benefit children's healthy vision.

### Swing for Sight Golf Outing

A record-breaking year, the 24th Annual Swing for Sight Golf Outing welcomed 123 golfers and raised more than \$115,000.





"Lizzy's Walk gave us an opportunity to give back to an organization we will forever be indebted to while making Lizzy feel truly special and loved."

- Laura Sommer, Lizzy's mom



#### **Celebrity Waiters Dinner**

Visionary sponsors **The Milwaukee Admirals** and **Baird** returned to the ice at the Milwaukee Panther's Arena for The Celebrity Waiters Dinner. This unique event raised \$146,763 in support of our mission.

## **Making a Difference Together**

## **Partners**

**Nurses "Every time I attend a Prevent Blindness Wisconsin training, I learn something new,"** said Susan Wollmer, Milwaukee Public Schools School Nurse. Susan was just one of the 76 school nurses across the state who received Children's Vision Screener Training and Certification this year. Prevent Blindness Wisconsin partners with 424 Wisconsin School Districts to ensure children in our communities have healthy vision for success in school and life.

#### **University Partners**

"The training and education received from Prevent Blindness Wisconsin compliments and supports the education from MSOE, as the students move into their various nursing job roles. This collaboration is key to optimal patient outcomes."

- MSOE Professor Robin Gates





#### **Head Start**

The Head Start Vision Health Program partners with all 43 Wisconsin Head Start grantees to ensure some of the communities' most vulnerable and at-risk children have the healthy vision needed to build an educational foundation early and subsequently achieve life-long success.

#### Lions



Through their dedicated service, Lions and Lioness provided more than 81,000 certified vision screenings to children and adults across Wisconsin this year! "As a Lions Club, one of our global causes is vision; Prevent Blindness Wisconsin has been a great partner in offering our members vision screening training. This has allowed our membership to make a difference in our communities by finding children and adults who need professional vision evaluation. Thanks for helping us help our community!"

- Dan Tekippe, Phillips Lions President

"Thank you very much for introducing this program to us. Our Southeast Asian community has a chance to take care of their vision health or get the knowledge of needing to take care of their vision health."

> Maria Chay, Milwaukee Consortium for Hmong Health Community Health Worker



#### NACDD

The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) selected Prevent Blindness Wisconsin for a grant to build capacity of preventative adult vision health programming within the City of Milwaukee's Public Health Department Well Woman Program and with the Milwaukee Consortium for Hmong Health.



#### **Racine High School Partnership**

Thanks to generous funding from the Racine Community Foundation, a new sustainable vision screening partnership was developed between Prevent Blindness Wisconsin, Racine Lutheran High School and three private K-8 Lutheran schools.



"What a blessing! Prevent Blindness Wisconsin provided our parents and students with much needed information to enable them to be successful in school. Receiving a no-cost vision screening was so very beneficial."

- Mrs. Jeannine Klein, Principal of Concordia Lutheran School

#### **Project Homeless Connect**

#### "I didn't know I had vision coverage through Medicaid,"

was a common phrase from clients served at Project Homeless Connect, an annual outreach event hosted by the United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County. This event brings together more than 100 organizations to aid adults and families experiencing extreme poverty or homelessness. Through the program, Prevent Blindness Wisconsin discovered many of our most vulnerable community members have vision coverage but are unaware they have it or how to access it.





731 North Jackson Street Suite 405 Milwaukee, WI 53202

#### Our vision is for each Wisconsin resident to have healthy vision at every stage of life.



"My new glasses help me in improving my eyesight. My eyes no longer tear up as much." – Bu



Jacob used to sit close to the TV and hold his tablet near his face so he could see. That all changed after his vision problem was detected and he received his glasses. Now Jacob can see the world around him clearly and can set his sights on his future! "We did not suspect Brooke had a vision problem," said her mother, who was shocked when Brooke did not pass her preschool vision screening.

"Your voucher program has helped me with my vision and in helping provide the right glasses. I can now see clearer and better." - Shaw





**Our Mission:** Founded in 1958, Prevent Blindness Wisconsin improves the lives of children, adults, and families through early detection of eye conditions to prevent blindness and preserve sight. On-going vision screening activities and state wide public health education lead to a lifetime of healthy vision.

414.765.0505 | wisconsin.preventblindness.org | info@pbwi.org



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