Annual Report 2013

Annual Report

Message from the President & CEO

Sight Savers America has made a profound difference in the lives of children since 1997. We served 11 children in our first year and now serve over 60,000 children each year through four unique programs. We started with the basic principal that every child in need of eye care should ***actually*** receive it. It seems so simple, yet, at that time there were relatively few annual vision screenings and no case managed follow-up care, so most children identified as needing eye care never made it to an eye care provider. We closed that gap once and for all.

Through our *Children's Eye Care Network*, we provide the bridge for every child to receive follow-up eye care. Our staff works with each parent, linking them to a local eye care provider. We then work with the parent every step of the way until their child's follow-up treatment is completed.

We were quickly recognized for our hallmark of providing the highest standard of case managed follow-up care. Now almost all children failing a vision screening in Alabama and Mississippi are referred to us. Sight Savers America has case managed the follow-up eye care for every child who has ever failed a Focus First vision screening. We also provide follow-up care for every child failing the State of Alabama's K, 2, 4 and the State of Mississippi's kindergarten vision screenings and almost all children vision screened by community organizations.

In an effort to never lose sight of the whole child our mission has expanded into four unique programs:

- **Children's Eye Care Network** has provided follow-up eye care to over 350,000 children (30,000/year), far more than any other program in the country. Our unique database provides measureable outcomes for every single child.
- **I Can See Now** is the only program in the country working on a statewide or multistate level that purchases high tech vision aids for children with severe visual impairment. We partner with local organizations to serve children in 10 states.

- **KidCheck Plus** is the only statewide, school-based comprehensive health screening program in the country, serving 22,000 students in AL each year. We utilize wireless technology and a customized database to provide quality health screenings and coordinate follow-up health care services.
- **Vision Check** uses a state of the art Plusoptix auto refractor to provide vision screenings to children in AL and MS. This device captures refraction data in one second and those children failing the screening are entered immediately into our database to receive follow-up eye care. We will vision screen over 15,000 children in the coming year.

Our dramatic growth has been the result of numerous individuals and organizations. The leadership and dedication of Board members, the compassion and productivity of the staff, and the collaboration of our medical and community partners has allowed us to grow throughout Alabama and beyond to become a national model. We are blessed to have the generous support of corporations, foundations, state governments and individual donors who believe in our work.

We eagerly look forward to the next several years as we strengthen and diversify our funding sources. We are excited about our inaugural Hero for Sight Luncheon on March 6 as a way to recognize those who have helped further our goals and to share our mission with the business community in Birmingham.

We are proud of what we have accomplished, together, but we are even more optimistic about the future.

Best Regards,

Jeff Haddox
President & CEO/Founder

Mission Statement

To identify and secure treatment for unmet vision and health needs that impede a child's ability to reach their full potential in school and in life.

Vision Statement

For every child to access the vision and health services that they need.

Organizational Overview

Sight Savers America (SSA) operates with a Board of Directors and a staff of 35 from our headquarters in Birmingham, Alabama. Our mission is to identify and secure treatment for the unmet vision and health needs that impede a child's ability to succeed in school and life. SSA works to achieve its mission through the coordination of four important programs: **Children's Eye Care Network**, **I Can See Now**, **Vision Check** and **KidCheck Plus**. A few important recent accomplishments for our organization include:

1. 2013 - Childcare Resources "Children's Advocate Award" for our unique role in improving children's vision and health in Alabama.

2. 2013 - 42nd Biennial Convention of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, a research and evidence-based abstract of our health screening program was presented in partnership with Jacksonville State University.

3. 2012 - American Optometric Association's "Distinguished Service Award" for outstanding service and dedication to the visual welfare of the public and for contributions to the advancement of vision rehabilitation care. This is the most prestigious national award for vision rehabilitation.

4. 2010 - "Robert Sherrill Quality Award" presented to Jeff Haddox, SSA Founder, by the Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation, recognizing him as a healthcare leader in the state.

350,000
children received follow-up eye care since 1997

10
STATES
served with our low vision services

Total
60,000
Children are served each year

22,000
children in
Alabama
receive health screening annually

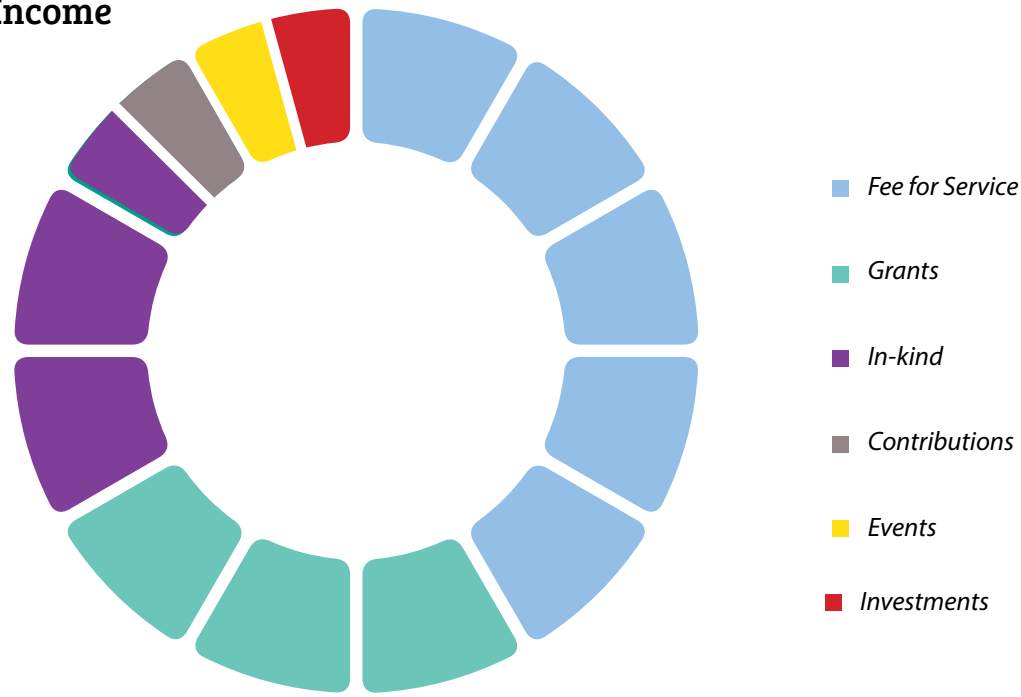
Financial Summary

Statement of Activities for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013. Sight Savers America prepares its financial statements on the modified cash basis of accounting.

Unrestricted Net Assets	2012/13
Revenue	
Fee for Service	$1,568,050
Grants	693,137
Contributions – in-kind	396,518
Contributions – cash	34,532
Contributions – non cash	25,451
Special Events	3,605
Net Gain on Investments	26,170
	$2,747,463
Expenses	
Program Services	$2,259,011
Supporting Services	400,089
	$2,659,100

2013 Expenses

2013 Income



Children's Eye Care Network

Children's Eye Care Network™

Children identified to be in need of eye care are referred to Sight Savers America (SSA) for comprehensive follow-up. We provide individual case-managed services from the initial dilated eye examination to the final treatment, settling for no less than each child obtaining his or her best possible vision. Since SSA's inception, more than 350,000 children in all AL and MS counties and in Fulton County, GA have received comprehensive eye exams, eyeglasses, medications, surgeries and case management support via our Children's Eye Care Network. SSA coordinates eye care for underserved children at no cost to their families. Our network of over 650 volunteer eye care professionals provides the eye care services needed by these children.

Children's Eye Care Network Report 2012-2013

	Alabama	Mississippi	Georgia	Total
Eye Care Follow-Up Completed	21,900	4,494	703	27,097
Child Unreachable	3,542	743	0	4,285
Total Children Referred 2012-2013	2,5442	5,237	703	3,1382
REPORTED OUTCOMES				
Eyeglasses	10,234	1,879	170	12,283
Amblyopia	2,061	543	42	2,646
Other Treatments & Continuing Care	463	60	3	526
No Treatment Needed	1,734	330	50	2,114
SSA facilitated/Parent handled	10,950	2,425	438	9,528

Children's Eye Care Network

Keziah's Story

When Keziah reached the fifth grade at Wetumpka Elementary School, she had been receiving assistance from Sight Savers America for several years. Keziah had severe congenital cataracts in the left eye which was treated surgically. In the spring of 2011, a retinal detachment left her completely blind in the left eye with subsequent atrophy. Sight Savers America and the Wetumpka Lions Club partnered to provide Keziah with a prosthetic lens implant. Keziah is a lovely young lady who has held up quite well through all the surgeries. We are pleased to have played a role in the improvement of Keziah's physical and emotional wellbeing with the provision of this prosthetic lens.

Referrals

Children are referred to our Children's Eye Care Network from a variety of sources:

- **All** children failing a vision screening from
  - Alabama State Dept. of Education k,2,4 vision screening program
  - Mississippi Dept. of Education kindergarten vision screening program
  - Focus First preschool vision screening program
  - SSA's KidCheck Plus and Vision Check programs
  - Cahaba Valley Healthcare program
  - United Way Success by Six program
- Parents, teachers, school administrators
- UAB School of Optometry
- Health care providers
- Lions Clubs
- Other community organizations

Our Rural Eye Clinics

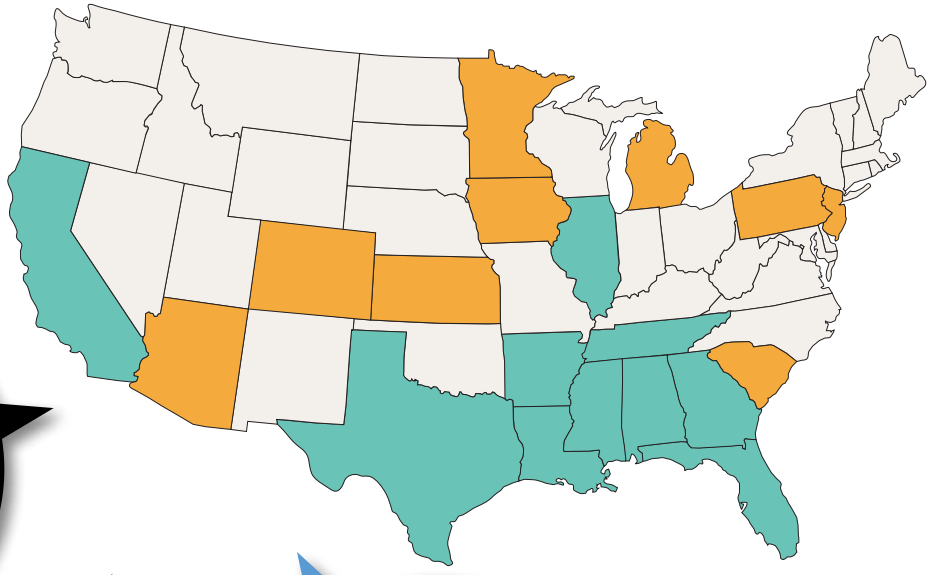
Significant barriers in rural and underserved areas, such as the lack of eye care professionals, inadequate transportation, lack of awareness, and other socioeconomic issues, prevent families from accessing care. Our program works to remove these barriers and provide children with improved access to eye care services that are critical to their educational development and overall wellbeing. Sight Savers America provides annual eye clinics in rural and underserved areas of Alabama where no other eye care is available. Year after year, many of these children attend our annual Hale and Perry County eye clinics for dilated eye exams and glasses, and so, for many of them, these clinics have become their medical home for routine eye care. The excitement a child has when they can see with their very first pair of eyeglasses is always a reminder of how important Sight Savers America's service is to communities whose children might not otherwise have access to adequate eye care.

I Can See Now

I Can See Now™

New states with waiting list pending funding

Current States



121
Children Referred

53
Children Received other Vision Aids

12
Previously donated EVMs repaired /replaced

66
New EVMs placed in homes

Sight Savers America's I Can See Now program focuses on helping children who have a disabling loss of vision. Since our inception, over 1,000 children have been referred to our low vision program. We have provided high tech vision aids including Electronic Video Magnifiers (EVMs) and other assistive devices in the homes of over 500 children in ten states (AL, AR, MS, TX, GA, TN, CA, IL, FL and LA) at no cost to their families. Our ultimate goal is to provide services to children with low vision in all 50 states.

When vision-impaired children receive EVMs, which can enlarge images up to 79X, they have the tools necessary to maximize their ability to succeed in school and perform daily functions like their fully sighted peers. Children who have received EVMs from I Can See Now joyfully share the immediate changes in their abilities as soon as they begin to use the equipment. The most common exclamation by our recipients during first use of their new EVM is, "Wow, I can see now!" which inspired our program name.

Nathaly's Story

Nathaly is a 7 year old girl with Leber's Congenital Amaurosis, which is a degenerative disorder of the cells that sense light to send visual signals to the brain. She also has nystagmus or a rhythmic motion of the eyes. Her visual acuity is 20/400 in the right eye, 20/400 in the left eye, and 20/277 using both of her eyes together. Nathaly struggled with school and would cry while trying to complete her homework because she was unable to see. Nathaly was provided an Electronic Video Magnifier (EVM) in her home by our I Can See Now program. She was waiting anxiously at the door when we arrived at her home. Her mom and grandmother were also present for the training. Nathaly caught on very quickly to the functions and was really excited to see how it impacted her life.

Nathaly's mom reports that she has become more independent and that her homework has become easier to complete. According to her mother, Nathaly loves her new EVM because of the independence it has given her.

I Can See Now

Emily's Story

When Emily was 13 years old she received chemotherapy for a brain tumor, damaging her optic nerve. Emily wanted to pass the time at the hospital by doing one of her favorite hobbies, making sequin ornaments, but she quickly realized that she could not see well enough to make them anymore and she became upset. Her severe vision impairment also prevented her from reading.

Emily received an Electronic Video Magnifier (EVM) at one of our I Can See Now clinics. She recently wrote us: "Dear Sight Savers, I am still in awe of the Optelec EVM. It is amazing! Absolutely amazing! It has allowed me to do so much more than I could do before. From simple things like putting on my makeup, to being able to read! I can't thank you all enough."

Emily uses her EVM daily for schoolwork and for reading, but she also uses her EVM to make her holiday ornaments. Her mom told Sight Savers America that without the EVM this would be impossible for Emily because the craft requires so much detail. She says Emily is so thankful for the EVM because it not only helps her with school, but it also helps with doing things she loves.

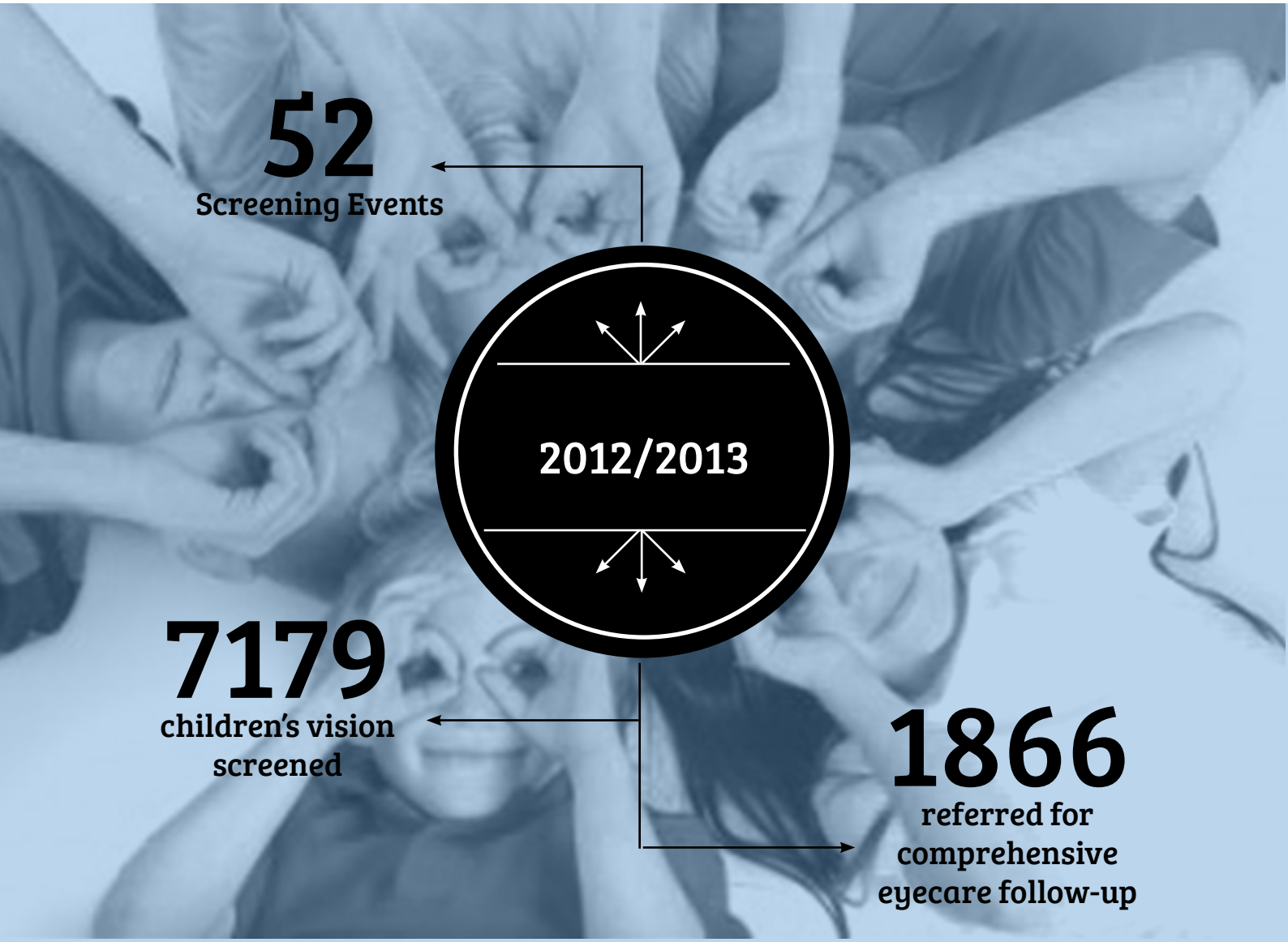
Vision Check

Sight Savers America provides school-based vision screenings through our Vision Check program. We use a Plusoptix auto refractor allowing children to be vision screened in a non-invasive, time efficient manner. The Plusoptix captures refraction data in less than one second; ensuring students miss a minimal amount of classroom instruction time. This screening method is neither biased by interpretation of the person performing the screening nor biased by poor cooperation of the child.

Vision Check outcomes demonstrate that approximately 25% of all children vision-screened need an eye exam and are referred to SSA immediately for comprehensive eye care services.

Vision Check provides screenings through a variety of schools and programs, including:

1. Alabama Black Belt 6th grade program
2. Mississippi Lower Pearl River Valley program
3. Walker County AL program
4. KidCheck Plus program
5. Private Schools



Vision Check

The Plusoptix auto refractor allows us to immediately analyze each child's screening data and provide a screening report to the school nurse and child's parents. The Plusoptix provides full refraction data and screens for vision problems including anisocoria, anisometropia, astigmatism, corneal reflex abnormalities, myopia, and hyperopia.

KidCheck Plus

2012-2013 Events

Sight Savers America provides Alabama's only head-to-toe school-based health screening through its KidCheck Plus program. We identify undiagnosed and unmet medical concerns for preschool-12th grade students in underserved areas and coordinate necessary care to improve each child's wellbeing. Health screening options include:

- **Height & Weight with BMI**
- **Dental**
- **Vital Signs**
- **Chest & Abdomen Examination**
- **Vision**
- **Scoliosis**
- **Skin& Musculoskeletal**
- **Hearing**
- **Cholesterol**
- **Eyes, Ears, Nose, & Throat Examination**
- **Glucose**

KidCheck Plus

Saranda's Story

Saranda, a Blount County High School junior, says Sight Savers America's KidCheck Plus program is right up there near the top of her list. Cumulative screening results pieced together over a number of years led to the diagnosis of Saranda's rare and illusive medical condition called dysautonommia, an autonomic nervous system condition. Thanks to this health screening program, Saranda is now receiving treatment for the disease and living a normal life.

Saranda is grateful that our program was able to alert her to symptoms which allowed her doctors to piece together a diagnosis. She states, "If it wasn't for them (KidCheck Plus) figuring out those tid-bits, I might not have known I had dysautonomia and I might not have received the proper treatment." For Saranda, understanding her condition means she learns to work within her limitations, but still participate in activities she loves. By participating annually in the our program, Saranda was able to see the onset of her disease and work with her doctors to live a healthy normal life.

Partnerships

Our successful community partnerships with over 20 two and four year Alabama nursing schools along with the UAB School of Medicine, School of Dentistry, School of Optometry, and Physician Assistants Program allow us to impact the health of children across the state of Alabama. Over 2,600 college nursing students volunteer each year, logging almost 20,000 volunteer hours for the program. Our KidCheck Plus program is a win-win for Alabama's school children and our future healthcare workforce.

100 Events

22,000 Screened

22 Counties

93 Schools

Supporters

Abraham J. & Phyllis Katz Foundation
Advantage Payroll Services
Alison, Susan H.
Altom, Kent & Charla
America's First Federal Credit Union
Anniston Community Education Foundation
Ashford, D Leon
Autauga County Community Foundation
Barber, Mark & Karon
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama
Bridges, Bryan
Brooks, Tamara C.
Brown, L.W.
Buffalo Rock Company/Pepsi Cola
Burr & Forman LLP
Burrus, William
Business Council of Alabama
Byerly, Nathan
Camacho-Hughes, Gwen
Carolyn W & Charles T Beaird Foundation
Carpenetti, Carla F
Casey, Donald L
Central Alabama Community Foundation
Chaudhry, Rabia
Clark, Chester
Collins, Andrew J.
Colonial Properties Trust
Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham
Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama
Community Foundation of West Alabama
Consolidated Pipe & Supply Co.
Cox, Randy & Amy
Crumb, Desire
Daniel Foundation of Alabama
Dekeyser, David & Torrey
Delta Regional Authority/USDA Rural Development
DentaQuest Foundation
Dier, Kelly & Teresa
Dikerson, Jason K.
Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust
Elmore County Community Foundation
Entrekin, Billy R.
EyeSight Foundation of Alabama
First Baptist Church of Westwood
Flynn, Steven J.
Ford, Frances
Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Foundation
Gannett Foundation
Gorrie, M. James
Green, JoAnn
Haddox, Margie & Jeff
Ham, Danielle
Hardin, Marshall & Glynda
Hare Wynn Foundation
Harold Ripps Charitable Foundation
Harrelson, Brandon and Stephanie
Hays, Sarah
Henry G Sims & Henry U Sims Memorial Foundation
Hill Crest Foundation
Hillview Baptist Church
Honda Manufacturing of Alabama
Hopper, Donna & Mark
Howell, Jimmy Thomas
Hudgens, Dallas
Hugh Kaul Foundation
Humber, Terry
IberiaBank
Institute for Total Eye Care, P.C.
J L Bedsole Foundation
Jackson, Russell
Jenkins, Jennifer & David
Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies
Johnson, Carmesha
Joseph S Bruno Foundation
Junior League of Birmingham
Karing for Kids Foundation
Keller Rackauckas LLP
Krogsgard, Jeffrey A
LaBorde, Liz M
Lentz, Rebecca A.
Letitian Literary Club
Lewis, Tomiya Sada
Lindsey, Robert W.
Liu, Barbara B.
Lofranco, Scott
Loper, R Coleman
Lower Pearl River Valley Foundation
Macular Health, LLC
Marmon Highway Technologies
Maynord, Jo
McCalla Raymer, LLC
Million Dollar Round Table Foundation
Monday Morning Quarterback Club
Money Management Services, Inc.
Motion Industries, Inc.
Nichols, Chad
Naftel, David C
Nix, Shirley W
Northstar Realty Securites, LLC
O.M. Hughes Insurance, Inc.
Optelec
Owen, Stephen L
Parker, Mavis
Peebles, Anthony
Perry & Ruby Stevens Charitable Foundation
Protective Life Foundation
Pursell, Taylor & Lydia
Radford, Sybil Graham
Rahm, Donald & Jessica
Rainey, Cliff & Lucinda
Rathor, Mukesh
Raymer, Richard
Reid, Susan E.
Robert R Meyer Foundation
Robinson, Larry Grant
Roenigk, Ryan
Saari, Krista
Sanderson, James L. Jr. DMD, LLC
Sarrell Regional Dental Center
Scott, Bradley & Sandra
Scott, Sue
Sellers, Richardson, Holman & West, LLP
Sheffield, Michael
Shelby County Community Health Foundation
Smiles For Life Foundation
Spurgeon, Kyle C.
State Farm Insurance, Ken Taylor Agency
STC Network Services, Inc.
Stein, Kerry
Stevens, Ruby M.
Susan Mott Webb Charitable Trust
Thompson Foundation
Tommasello, Jennifer R.
UAB Benevolent Fund
Verizon Foundation
Walker Area Community Foundation
Walmart Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation
Wiregrass Community Foundation
Wright, Kimberly Anne

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