

Sight Savers America

(SSA) is a 501(c)3 organization founded in 1997. With a Board of Trustees and a staff of 38, SSA operates three key programs: **Low Vision & Blindness, Screening, and Eye Care**. Our mission is to identify and secure treatment for unmet vision and health needs through collaboration with local partners, eye care professionals, and funders. Using an individualized, case-managed approach, we ensure that children in need have access to appropriate eye health care and glasses. We provide high-tech assistive devices to people who are visually impaired or blind so they can compete and thrive in a visually oriented world. Each year our Low Vision & Blindness Program provides high-tech aids to over 400 individuals, our Screening Program serves approximately 30,000 children, and Eye Care Program receives approximately 45,000 child referrals. SSA provides services in 16 states (AL, AR, AZ, CA, FL, GA, HI, IL, LA, MS, NC, NY, OH, SC, TN, and TX).

Screening Program

SSA's Screening Program vision screens thousands of children annually in the Texas Hill Country, Mississippi Lower Pearl River Valley, underserved areas of Alabama including the Black Belt and Atlanta Georgia using a state-of-the-art Plusoptix ophthalmic device. Trained staff administer screenings, detecting conditions such as anisocoria, anisometropia, corneal reflex abnormalities, astigmatism, and refractive error (hyperopia - farsightedness, and myopia - nearsightedness).



The Centers for Disease Control states approximately 80% of what children learn in their early years is visual. Undiagnosed vision problems can be frustrating for children and cause lack of participation and poor academic performance. Vision screening effectively identifies those children likely to have vision problems and children who fail a screening are referred for comprehensive eye exams. Undiagnosed vision problems can hinder a child's learning abilities, social interactions and even lead to permanent vision impairment if left untreated.

Eye Care Program



SSA case specialists use a multi-step protocol (calls, text messages, emails, letters via mail, and voicemails) to remind parents about failed vision screenings and encourage and facilitate them having their child evaluated by a local eye care provider. After the exam, SSA coordinates prescribed treatments including, but not limited to: glasses, amblyopia treatment (can cause permanent vision loss if left untreated), surgery, medications and vision therapy or other continuing care, all at no charge to families with a financial need. When vision problems are identified and addressed early on, reading scores increase, classroom performance improves, graduation rates increase, and children are equipped to become more productive citizens and future members of the workforce.

Our comprehensive case management program distinguishes Sight Savers America from other organizations providing vision screenings in that, through our proven multilayered contact protocol, parents of over 80% of children referred are successfully contacted. Of those, 73.5% have a reported outcome. Case management helps parents find an appropriate eye doctor who accepts their insurance. Our Provider Network is extensive in the areas we serve. Case specialists serve as motivational health coaches to inform parents about failed screenings (notes home in backpacks are often not effective) and to help them understand the need for a dilated eye exam. The case specialist then works with the parent to remove all barriers to accessing care for the child (finances, transportation, locating a doctor, etc.).

Low Vision & Blindness Program

AWARDS

SSA has received numerous awards including:

- The American Optometric Association's "Distinguished Service Award"
- Johnson & Johnson's "Community Health Care Crystal Award".

For more information please visit us on the Web:

www.sightsaversamerica.org

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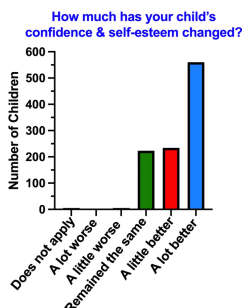
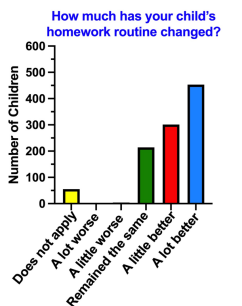
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SSA's Low Vision & Blindness Program provides life-changing aids in the homes of individuals with low vision (decreased vision that cannot be corrected by glasses/contact lenses, medication, or surgery) or blindness (vision impairment so severe that learning and daily activities are primarily accomplished non-visually). Children with low vision or blindness are often unable to see well enough to read, write, or even recognize their loved ones' faces. This

negatively affects their developmental growth, and creates a disadvantage in the classroom, where they may experience poor academic performance. The correct high-tech aids empower children to maximize their remaining vision and functional abilities, resulting in improved academic performance and overall quality of life. While these high-tech aids are often provided in school, children are rarely permitted to take them home and medical insurance never provides them.

Video magnifiers are the gold standard of low vision equipment on the market today. They use a camera and display screen to perform digital magnification, enlarging images up to 118X, enabling individuals with low vision to read, write, and perform daily activities independently. OrCam, a highly rated blindness aid, reads texts out loud, provides facial recognition, identifies currency, is easily portable, and conveys visual information audibly, in real-time.



Sight Savers America conducts a Likert format telephone survey of children who receive video magnifiers through our Low Vision and Blindness Program. This survey is conducted at 6 months after receiving the device. The data to the left is from a survey of **1,033 children** who received desktop video magnifiers. Large improvements are also made in reading, writing, independence and school grades. Several other types of high-tech vision aids are also provided through our program; however the most common device is a desk-top video magnifier. We continue to follow the child until they are 19 years old with additional telephone follow-up calls so that we can troubleshoot any problems the child may be having with their device and to be sure they have the high-tech vision tools they need for success.

