



**BIENNIAL
REPORT**

2014

Hello to All



Dear Friends and Partners of Sight Savers America,

I want to thank all friends and partners of Sight Savers America (SSA) for your generous support over more than two decades. Together we have created a model for children's eye care that is recognized across the nation for two major accomplishments; case management of children's follow-up eye care for statewide populations and the provision of high tech vision aids for children to eliminate the need on a citywide, statewide or regional basis. We are now well placed to eliminate the need for high tech devices for Alabama adults with severe visual impairment or blindness. So, while we have made much progress, there is much left to do.

I will be forever grateful for the eye care community's incredible support of SSA. Your generosity has directly led to the growth and sustainability of SSA. Over 800,000 children and more recently adults with eye care needs have benefitted from your support and we can not come close to thanking you enough!

Leadership Transition at Sight Savers America

In 1978, I began a 25-year career in eye research. During this period, I became aware that many children did not receive necessary eye care. With the connections, knowledge and experience gained from this scientific research career, I founded Sight Savers of Alabama (now Sight Savers America) in 1997. Now 26 years later, I am nearing retirement and have decided to transition out of my role as President & CEO of Sight Savers America on October 16, 2023 at the age of 70.

Sight Savers America (SSA) has been a huge part of my life for the past 26 years. I have been intensely committed to founding and developing this organization to provide eye care for children. Throughout the years, tremendous support has been provided by my wife Margie, SSA staff and numerous individuals and organizations in Alabama and across the United States. The eye care, philanthropic, business and governmental communities, as well as national partners, all have contributed to our success. SSA has become a national model for providing case managed follow-up eye care for children and high tech vision and blind aids for children and adults on a citywide, statewide and regional scale. SSA is currently serving children in 16 states, providing services to ~100,000 children annually.

I will continue as a part-time special advisor to the new CEO of Sight Savers America and also lead special projects. This will make it possible to stay heavily involved with SSA while also allowing for more personal time. I am thrilled to welcome Dr. Dawn DeCarlo as the upcoming new CEO of Sight Savers America. Dawn will transition into the full-time CEO position on October 16, 2023.

I am both excited and sad to announce this transition. But this is the right time for this leadership change as SSA is in an excellent programmatic and financial position. Our programs, partnerships and funding have expanded to the highest level ever and our executive team has almost 4 decades of experience at SSA. I am excited and proud that someone with Dr. DeCarlo's credentials, experience, abilities and national recognition is willing to continue this legacy. She is uniquely qualified to carry on our mission. SSA is a sustainable organization with an impeccable reputation that I expect to continue growing under the strong leadership of Dr. Dawn DeCarlo.

Dr. DeCarlo has been a member of the UAB Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences and Director of the UAB Center for Low Vision Rehabilitation since 2005. Dawn and SSA have had a long-term partnership working together to provide low vision evaluations and life-changing high-tech vision aids for Alabama children and adults with low vision.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Dawn DeCarlo as the new CEO of Sight Savers America. Beginning October 16, 2023, please send all CEO correspondence to Dr. DeCarlo at ddecarlo@sightsaversamerica.org.

Thank you for all your support of SSA!

Warmest regards,

Jeff

FY 2021-2022

Financial

Summary

WE ARE DEDICATED TO BEING FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF
EVERY DOLLAR PROVIDED TO OUR ORGANIZATION.

BELOW IS THE FINANCIAL OVERVIEW FOR FISCAL YEARS 2021 & 2022
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

REVENUE	2021	2022
FEE FOR SERVICE (AL & MS)	\$2,139,149	\$2,188,246
FOUNDATION GRANTS	\$946,297	\$1,344,696
IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS	\$447,696	\$726,764
CORPORATE & INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$123,282	\$150,026
SPECIAL EVENTS	\$104,755	\$104,724
INVESTMENTS	\$77,826	(\$62,420)
OTHER	\$483,034	-
TOTAL REVENUE	\$4,322,039	\$4,452,036
EXPENSES		
PROGRAM	\$3,532,608	\$4,123,522
SUPPORTING	\$501,254	\$581,734
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,033,862	\$4,705,256

Our Mission Statement:

To identify and secure treatment for unmet
vision and health needs.

Eye Care Program

Sight Savers America's Eye Care Program is a national model for children's individual case managed follow-up eye care. This one-of-a-kind program partners with multiple vision screening organizations and other referral partners along with 1,300 eye care professionals who provide comprehensive eye care services to children in need, helping them achieve their best vision. From birth until their 19th birthday, all aspects of a child's eye care needs are case managed (including motivational health coaching, extensive eye care education/awareness, dilated eye exams, eyeglasses, medications, vision therapies, aphakic contact lenses, surgeries, and all other necessary treatments).

Each of the nearly 75,000 children referred in the past two years received one-on-one case managed eye care. Sight Savers America continues to serve children statewide in Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and South Carolina and in areas of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. In the fall of 2021, the South Carolina Legislature appropriated funds for the screening and follow-up of preschool age children in all 46 SC counties. This new state funding doubled our impact in South Carolina.

Since the program's inception, we have provided eye care for more than 775,000 children with unmet vision needs. A local eye care home is established and recurrent eye exams and prescribed treatments throughout a child's formative years are coordinated. The vast majority of these children are assisted numerous times from preschool all the way to high school graduation.

Working closely with partners and following all local/state/federal safety guidelines, SSA continued operations during COVID-19, ensuring school children received all necessary eye care services. Parents of children with scheduled eye exams affected by the pandemic were informed their child's appointment would be rescheduled. Case Managers worked with individual eye care offices to reschedule canceled appointments and communicated their safety protocols to parents/guardians.





	FY 2021	FY 2022
TOTAL CHILDREN REFERRED FOR FOLLOW-UP EYE CARE	28,101	45,930
CHILDREN RECEIVING EYEGLASSES	12,233	19,234
CHILDREN WITH POTENTIAL AMBLYOPIA	1,029	1,852
CHILDREN RECEIVING OTHER TREATMENTS & CONTINUING CARE	186	263
CHILDREN WITH NO FURTHER TREATMENT CURRENTLY PRESCRIBED	1,399	2,627
CHILDREN RECEIVING PARENT HANDLED EYE CARE AFTER THOROUGH SSA CASE MANAGEMENT/EDUCATION	10,127	15,797

Low Vision & Blindness Program

This program serves children and adults with low vision (vision that is permanently impaired and cannot be corrected by glasses, medication, or surgery) or blindness (vision impairment so severe that learning is primarily non-visual) by providing high-tech aids. SSA is the only organization in the United States proactively placing assistive technology into the homes of children with severe visual impairment on a large scale – all at no cost to qualifying families.

Assistive technology is life-changing, allowing each child to make the most of his or her remaining vision. Video magnifiers dramatically enhance contrast and magnify objects up to 118x, and allowing a child to read, write, groom themselves, and complete other daily living tasks independently. Blindness aids will convert text-to-speech or even print-to-braille, allowing children with blindness to fit into a sighted world, leveling the playing field between them and their normally sighted peers. However, these aids are more expensive than the average family can afford and are not covered by medical insurance. Our vision is for all people to have access to services and technology needed in order to compete and thrive in a visually oriented world.

Over the past two years, our Low Vision & Blindness Program has continued to expand across the United States, providing services for over 4,000 individuals in 16 states and adding New York to an already robust footprint (AL, AR, AZ, CA, FL, GA, HI, IL, LA, MS, NC, OH, SC, TN, and TX). SSA has successfully eliminated the backlog of children in need of low vision assistive technology in their homes throughout Alabama, Mississippi, and the panhandle of Florida. Over 65% of Texas children, 75% of Louisiana and Hawaii children, and significant numbers of children in several other cities and states have received high-tech vision or blind aids from SSA.

Once the original backlog is eradicated within a city/state, the program’s maintenance phase for children begins, serving children who age into the program, move into the area, or develop new or worsening eye conditions. This phase serves a smaller number of children newly identified each year (approximately 10% of the original need). When additional funding allows, SSA also serves adults with low vision or blindness. Sight Savers America is now serving adults across all 67 Alabama counties, Dallas, San Antonio, and Texas Hill Country.

	FY 2021	FY 2022
CHILDREN RECEIVING VIDEO MAGNIFIERS	282	322
ADULTS RECEIVING EVMs	97	124
OTHER VISUAL / BLIND AIDS	480	517

Screening Program

VISION SCREENINGS

Sight Savers America’s Vision Screening Program provides school-based vision screenings using a Plusoptix vision screener. In less than one second, the state of the art ophthalmic device screens for anisocoria, anisometropia, astigmatism, corneal reflex abnormalities, myopia, hyperopia, and indications of amblyopia (lazy eye). If not identified and treated early on, amblyopia can cause permanent vision loss. All children found to have a potential vision issue are referred to our Eye Care Program for comprehensive case managed follow-up eye care.

Over the past two years, we have expanded services into preschools Head Starts, daycares, and preschool programs in the Lower Pearl River Valley of MS and San Antonio, TX area. The Screening Program in Fulton County, GA has also expanded, now including 1st graders in addition to 3rd and 5th graders.

	FY 2021	FY 2022
CHILDREN SCREENED	19,082	23,241
REFERRED FOR FOLLOW-UP CARE	5,751	8,212





HEALTH SCREENINGS IN ALABAMA

Sight Savers America's Health Screening Program provides annual head-to-toe health screenings to preschool-12th grade students in underserved schools across Alabama. These screenings detect potential vision and health issues impeding a child's ability to learn and perform at their best. Through expanded funding, SSA provided health screenings to an additional 10,000 children. Over the past two years, our partnerships with nursing and professional schools throughout the state have provided valuable clinical experiences for 3,132 future nurses and professional students.

Screening Stations

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

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Mindy Long Mixon, Lead Nurse for Monroe County Schools recently stated, "I have seen the positive impact of this program for the children in our schools and community as a whole. By participating in the free health screenings, students receive screening reports which can be used to help us not only establish a baseline of health for each student, but also can alert parents and school nurses to potential health issues. For some students, this might be the only health screening they receive in a given year."

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	FY 2021	FY 2022
CHILDREN SCREENED	10,510	12,363
SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING	68	61

Hero For Sight

Annually, Sight Savers America (SSA) holds a special celebration that brings together a comprehensive representation of Alabama's eye care community, as well as corporate and community leaders across Alabama. This event raises awareness of the work of SSA and honors the recipient of our Hall W. Thompson Hero For Sight Award. This award is presented to an individual or organization whose impact on children's eye care has been both lasting and profound.

Each year, to commemorate the Hero For Sight Award, SSA commissions a painting from an artist with severe visual impairment. A 25-foot long tribute wall on the first floor of the UAB Callahan Eye Hospital is dedicated to SSA. The commemorative artwork is the centerpiece of this tribute wall that also includes space to recognize the work of SSA and the Hero For Sight Award recipients.



2021 Hero For Sight Award Recipient
William E. "Bill" Burrus, Jr., Chairman
of the Board, Sight Savers America •
Commissioned Artist - Mary Dignan



2022 Hero For Sight Award Recipient
Dawn K. DeCarlo, OD, PhD, Director,
UAB Center for Low Vision Rehabilitation •
Commissioned Artist - Robert Steinem



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Jeff Haddox
President & CEO/Founder

Chad Nichols
Chief Development Officer

Jennifer H. Williams
Chief Program Officer

Gwen Camacho-Hughes
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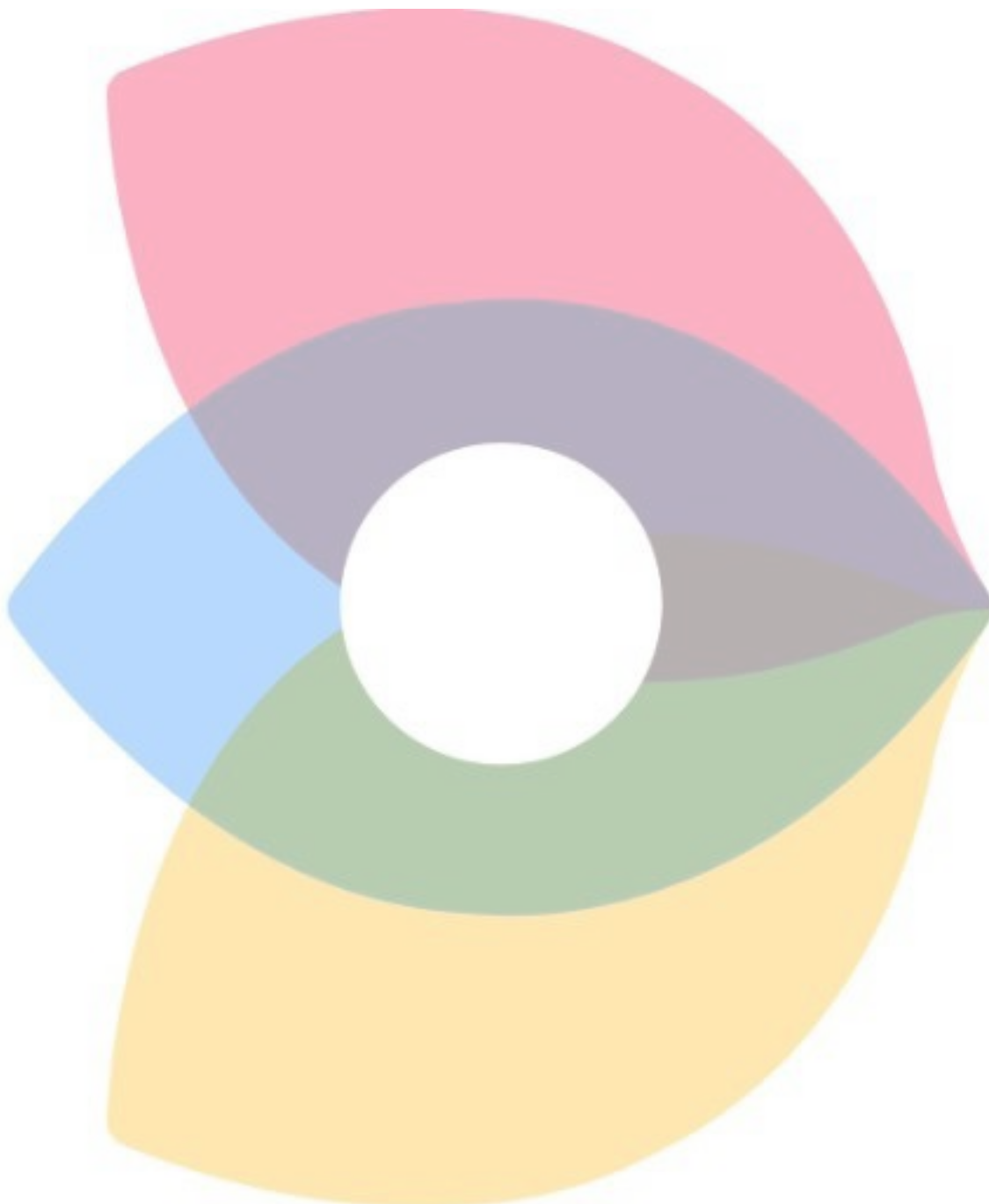
Holly Lollar, APR
The Lollar Group

Dawn DeCarlo, OD, PhD
Director, UAB Center for Low Vision Rehabilitation

Jeff Haddox
Sight Savers America, Ex Officio



Sight Savers America Team



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