# Sight Savers America gives high tech vision aids to Pee Dee children

**By Naeem McFadden, September 25, 2024**

Eight-year-old Liberty Cranford trains with Sight Savers America on her new Freedom Scientific ONYX Deskset HD at the Pee Dee Education Service Center on September 25, 2024. The nonprofit organization gave high tech vision aids to more than a dozen children from the area from the Pee Dee area.

FLORENCE, S.C. – Nonprofit organization Sight Savers America gave away high tech vision aids to 15 children from area at the Pee Dee Education Service Center Wednesday. Organizer Jennifer Haddox said the low vision and blindness program delivered assistant technology and trained children who are legally blind or suffering from severe visual impairment.

The new tools featured the Freedom Scientific ONYX Deskset HD. The portable video magnifier adapts to multiple environments and tasks for productivity at school, work, and at home. Features include a three-in-one flexible camera and magnification up to 118 times the original size.

“It’s a 22-inch video magnifier,” Haddox said. “It does color contrast modes because contrast is often an issue for children with low vision. It has line markers and shades and things to help them track as they’re reading. It’s really great to help them with their academics at home.”

Haddox said the new equipment can be used for a variety of purposes. Recipients will be able to read, write, do homework or crafts, and even see their loved ones’ faces clearly, she said. Each child is offered training on all functions and capabilities of their new equipment as well as its proper care before taking it home the same day.

“It also helps with a lot of things like putting together legos, putting on make-up, looking out the window,” she said. “They cost about $3,000 each. We work with Vispero, which is the largest distributor of these devices. Honda USA Foundation and Power Ed are funding this today.”

Sight Savers America’s mission is to identify and secure treatment for unmet vision and health needs, she said.

“We will follow up with the children until they’re age 19,” Haddox said. “If their vision continues to get worse, we’re there to make sure they have the device they need.”

Christina Tayor and her eight-year-old daughter Hannah Taylor made drive from Hartsville for the program.

“It was very helpful and very appreciated,” Taylor said. “It was pretty easy to use, and he did an awesome job explaining how to work it.”

Canford said she was excited to use the new tool for her third-grade classes at North Hartsville Elementary.

Vision Teacher Buffy Berry invited all of her students to her office at the Pee Dee Education Service Center for the clinic.

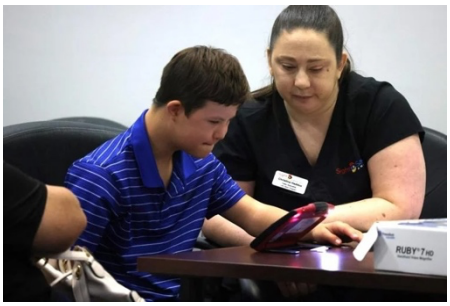
“I travel from school to school,” she said. “I just go to the schools and work with them individually. I love my job.”

Berry said some students she visits every day.

“I’m so grateful because these machines that cost to provide and they get to take them home,” Berry said. “I’m just excited because it’s going to make such a big difference.”

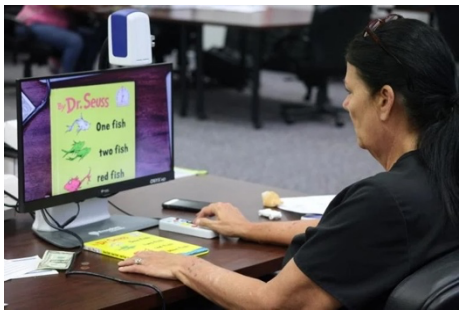
Berry said children love technology and expects them to put the new resources to good use.

Eleven-year-old Quinton Stewart works with Sight Savers America Associate Director Leigh Irvin at the Pee Dee Education Service Center on September 25, 2024. More than a dozen children with severe visual impairment received high-tech vision aids.



Sight Savers America Case Specialist Christina Haddox helps train children on new high tech vision aid equipment at the Pee Dee Education Service Center on September 25, 2024.

Sight Savers America Pee Dee Education Service Center Sight Savers America, Honda USA Foundation, Power Ed and Vispero provided 15 children with severe visual impairment from the Pee Dee with new high-tech vision aid.




Sight Savers America provided 15 children with severe visual impairment from the Pee Dee with high-tech vision aids. The nonprofit facilitates eye care and provides low vision and blind equipment, along with the necessary training.

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