

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

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HEADLINE: Vizavance formerly Prevent Blindness Oklahoma To Conduct Local Vision Screening

BODY:

Oklahoma City, OK --

Good vision is vital for the education and development of young children. Vizavance formerly Vizavance's new vision screening program for younger children, E Z as 1 2 3, is designed with new computer technology to detect vision problems in the earliest treatable stages. "Our new PediaVision SPOT cameras, purchased with grant money provided by Oklahoma City Rotary Club 29, Oklahoma Mason's, and other organizations, are used to screen children without any verbal response needed," says President/CEO, Dianna Bonfiglio. "Children whose results are outside normal ranges are referred for a complete eye exam with an eyecare professional."

Very young children cannot communicate about their vision problems and often adults are unaware that there IS a problem until a screening occurs. Some vision problems like amblyopia or lazy eye must be caught and corrected early to prevent permanent vision loss in the 'lazy eye.' Mrs. Bonfiglio asserts that "sometimes, even four years old is too late to prevent permanent and life-long damage." Vizavance formerly Prevent Blindness Oklahoma will provide a vision screening at

School Name and Date of Screening

Vizavance formerly PBO has provided free vision screening to children PK-12th grade in public and private schools in all 77 counties of Oklahoma since 1965. "We have also provided screening to a limited number of Head Start and preschool children during this time utilizing the MTI photoscreener." This device has become obsolete and outdated and has been replaced with the new SPOT technology, according to Mrs. Bonfiglio. During the 2015-2016 school year, Vizavance screened over 365,000 children and referred over 36,000, with possible vision problems, for a complete exam with their local optometrist or ophthalmologist.

A professional examination for every child, including those who do not display any signs of eye trouble, is recommended shortly after birth, at six months of age, during the preschool years and periodically throughout their time in school. Resources are available for free exams and glasses, if needed, through VSP, SoonerCare, and the Vizavance Oklahoma One-Sight program. Children birth through one year can receive free vision exams through the InfantSee program at www.infantsee.com

For information about the new EZ as 1 2 3 program or to schedule a screening at your day care or preschool contact Melanie Gamble, Director of Programs at Vizavance, 6 NE 63rd Street, Ste. 150, Oklahoma City, OK 73105

405-848-7123, Fax 405-848-6935

(For complete information on number screened at this location please contact the center director)