



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Robyn Bland
609.760.7430

Salus University's Looking Out for Kids Receives \$10,000 Donation



(From left) Jacqueline Patterson, vice president of institutional advancement and community relations, Dr. Brandy Scombordi, assistant professor and pediatric optometrist at The Eye Institute (TEI), Bruce Foulke, American Heritage Credit Union president and CEO; Dr. Michael Mittelman, Salus University president, and Dorian Smith, American Heritage senior vice president/business development.

Elkins Park, Pa. — The Eye Institute (TEI) of Salus University has received a \$10,000 donation from the American Heritage Credit Union. The funds are a charitable contribution to TEI's Looking Out for Kids (LOFK), an initiative providing comprehensive vision care services and eyeglasses to thousands of local children throughout the Greater Philadelphia area.

The funds will be used to provide complimentary eye exams and two pairs of glasses for more than 65 children through the program, according to Jacqueline Patterson, MPA, vice president of institutional advancement and community relations. Screening nearly 4,000 children during the 2019-2020 academic year alone, the LOFK program, which was established in 2007, serves

children from the School District of Philadelphia, Norristown, Abington, Cheltenham, Chester, Souderton, William Penn School Districts and Delaware County Charter.

During a recent visit to the University's main campus in Elkins Park on Aug. 19, American Heritage representatives, Bruce Foulke, president and CEO, and Dorian Smith, senior vice president/business development, presented the check to University officials, addressing the importance of the partnership.

"For American Heritage, it's a part of our corporate social responsibility to be able to support other organizations that are doing good in the community," Smith said. "We're more than happy to support the efforts of Salus University and helping kids in the city of Philadelphia and throughout the region."

Along with Salus President Michael Mittelman, OD '80, MPH, MBA, FAAO, FACHE, accepting the check for the University was Patterson and Brandy Scombordi, OD '98, Resident '99, assistant professor in the University's Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO), pediatric optometrist at TEI and coordinator of the school vision programs. Dr. Scombordi is also the primary provider on the University's Mobile Vision Care Unit, commonly known as the "Big Red Bus," which travels to communities, offering on-site eye screenings and comprehensive eye exams for disadvantaged children throughout the Greater Philadelphia region.

"This school year will be a challenging one for many students and teachers and we are committed to making sure any child who needs vision care can access it," Dr. Scombordi said. "In order to do this, we will be adding new ways of delivering care, which will include tents at schools, increased PPE and newer automated equipment. In addition, due to the increase of computer use with virtual learning, we will need to educate all students, teachers and parents on healthy visual practices. The partnership with the American Heritage Credit Union will help with that immensely."

In addition to the donation from American Heritage, LOFK recently received a \$2,000 grant from the City of Chester Giving Circle, a program of The Community's Foundation. The program brings together individuals who share a common charitable goal to engage and encourage the organizations and residents working to improve the quality of life in Chester.

For more information about LOFK or sponsorship opportunities, visit salusuhealth.com/lofk.

About Salus University

Salus University, founded as the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 1919, today is a diversified, globally recognized professional academic center of learning that offers a wide range of degree programs in the professions of Optometry, Audiology, Physician Assistant, Public Health, Blindness and Low Vision Studies, Biomedicine, Occupational Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology. Salus operates four clinical facilities in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties that provide highly specialized vision, hearing and balance, and speech-language pathology services. The University has more than 1,200 students, and more than 14,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, please visit www.salus.edu.