



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 27, 2018**

**Contact: Ashley Jefferson
Marketing Coordinator
215.780.1440 | 215.276.6158
ajefferson@salus.edu**

The Eye Institute Provides Vision Care to 4,300 Philadelphia Children

Elkins Park, Pa. – The Eye Institute (TEI) of Salus University, in collaboration with the School District of Philadelphia, provided comprehensive vision care to more than 4,300 students through its “Looking Out for Kids” (LOFK) charity initiative.

The LOFK initiative helps provide vision care for underinsured and uninsured children in Philadelphia and its surrounding communities. Early diagnosis and treatment of vision problems in children is critical. One in four children suffers from visual difficulties, which can adversely impact their school performance and impede social development.

“A child cannot be successful in school without good vision. Vision problems create a disadvantage but with our program, we can remove that barrier and help students on their path to success,” said Dr. Brandy Scombordi, pediatric optometrist and coordinator of TEI’s School Vision Programs.

Every year, TEI’s vision care team works collaboratively with Philadelphia public school nurses to assist in providing state-mandated vision screenings for elementary, middle and high school students. During the 2017-2018 academic year, more than 4,300 Philadelphia students were given screenings, in which approximately 29 percent failed.

The students who did not pass their screening were then transported to one of TEI’s locations in Oak Lane, Chestnut Hill or East Falls for a comprehensive eye exam. Following the exam, each student that required a prescription was given two pairs of glasses – one for home and one for school. This year 262 exams were conducted and 400 pairs of glasses were dispensed to students in Philadelphia’s schools.

Since its inception in 2007, the LOFK charity benefit has brightened the lives and enhanced the educational performance of more than 17,000 children locally.

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 six 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.

About The Eye Institute (TEI): The Eye Institute (TEI), since opening its doors in 1978, has been a valuable vision care resource for Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley. As the clinical practice of the Salus University Pennsylvania College of Optometry, TEI employs a multidisciplinary approach – with optometrists, ophthalmologists, opticians, optometric technicians, optometric interns (trainees) and other health care professionals working together to provide total vision care for nearly 40,000 patients annually. The Eye Institute has satellite locations in Oak Lane, East Falls, Chestnut Hill and Norristown.

###