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### **The Eye Institute of Salus University Offers Vision Care in the Philadelphia School District**

Elkins Park, Pa. – For several decades, The Eye Institute (TEI) of Salus University has collaborated with the School District of Philadelphia to provide comprehensive vision care services to under-insured and uninsured children. Since 2007, these services have been provided through the University’s “Looking Out for Kids” vision care initiative and charity fundraiser.

Each year, vision care teams from The Eye Institute work collaboratively with Philadelphia’s public schools nurses to assist in providing state-mandated vision screenings to their children. The Eye Institute provides vision screenings to over 2,000 children each school year. School nurses identify children who have failed a vision screening and have required follow-up care. Those students were then transported to one of The Eye Institute’s three locations for comprehensive vision exams. 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. Since its inception in 2007, the “Looking Out for Kids” program has brightened thousands of children’s lives and enhanced educational performance.

“The school vision program at The Eye Institute has helped so many children with their vision issues,” Beth Fernando, school nurse at Rhodes Middle School and Charles W. Henry School explained. “As a result, they’re doing much better in school and progressing to the next grade.”

Since December, over 300 full eye exams were provided and 85 percent of those students needed a prescription for eyeglasses. Each student requiring glasses received two pairs – one for school and one for home. Approximately 514 pairs of eyeglasses were distributed to students in the Philadelphia School District this year alone.

“I have nothing but praise for the entire vision care staff and doctors for demonstrating such a caring and professional demeanor,” Regina Ward, school nurse at D. Newlin Fell School shared. . The “Looking Out for Kids” program helped me complete vision screenings in a timely fashion instead of it taking me months to complete 600 students’ vision screenings – allowing children to get eyeglasses earlier in the school year.

Teachers thank me because their students test scores improve after receiving their eyeglasses.”

Schools within the Philadelphia District who received support this past academic year included: Laura H. Carnell School, Strawberry Mansion High School, Stephen Girard Elementary, Richard Wright School, Wagner Middle School, Edward Gideon School, Edward T. Steel School, Rhodes Elementary, Northeast High School, John F. McCloskey Elementary School, D. Newlin Fell School, William Rowen Elementary School, F.S. Edmonds School, Feltonville Intermediate and Feltonville Arts & Sciences.

For more information on the “Looking Out for Kids” initiative, email [lookingoutforkids@salus.edu](mailto:lookingoutforkids@salus.edu).

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### ***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, Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Biomedicine, Occupational Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology. Salus operates four clinical facilities in the Philadelphia area that provide highly specialized vision, hearing and balance, and speech-language pathology services. The University has more than 1,100 students, including PhD candidates, and more than 12,500 alumni worldwide. For more information, please visit [www.salus.edu](http://www.salus.edu).

**About The Eye Institute (TEI): The Eye Institute**, since opening its doors in 1978, has been a valuable vision care resource for Philadelphia and all of 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 50,000 patients annually. The Eye Institute has locations in Oak Lane, East Falls and Chestnut Hill.

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