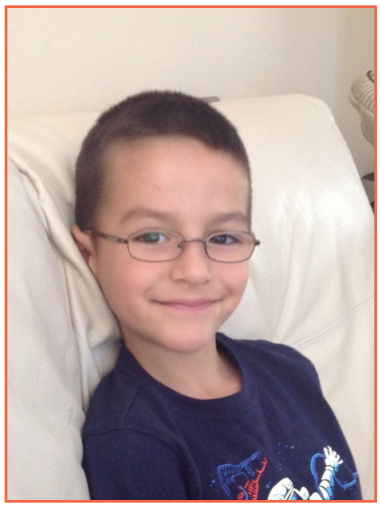
COMMUNITY HEALTH CHARITIES EXISTS TO EMPOWER PEOPLE TO TAKE ACTION TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELLBEING.

Friends for Sight works passionately each day to save sight and change lives. We do this by providing free vision screenings, working to ensure that people of all ages and backgrounds have access to quality eye care, and disseminating information about eye safety, threats to vision, and available community resources.

SALT LAKE CITY — The day Liz Player Young gets to hand-deliver glasses to underprivileged kids in her school district is magical.

"When they get their glasses, that's the magic moment. That's when it all becomes real," said Young, Salt Lake Education Foundation's development officer. "The kid gets so excited, and a smile just erupts on their face."



"I just wanted to say a BIG thank you to Friends for Sight. You tested my son at his school and caught a problem with his vision. Thanks to you, he can see clearly now and we are extremely grateful."

Impact Vision disorders are the most prevalent disabling condition for children in the United States—and most can be corrected.

This morning, 10,300 Utah children woke up with Amblyopia, a vision disorder that, if not treated, leads to blindness. The problem is, they don't know it. Their parents don't either. Amblyopia is easily identified through a simple screening process. With timely medical treatment, a child's sight can be fully restored, and a life is forever changed.

Early detection of vision impairments is vital to a child's sense of self, ability to socialize, and success in school.

An estimated 58,000 children in Utah alone struggle in school due to poor eyesight, and only half of those children who need vision correction receive it. The impact of poor eyesight on school performance is profound. In fact, many children with poor eyesight show some of the same behavioral problems as those who are ultimately diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorders. With timely diagnosis from a professional, marked improvement in all aspects of young lives is possible with vision correction.

The price of vision loss and blindness continues throughout adulthood. The total economic burden resulting from eye disorders in the United States last year was an estimated $139 billion. Loss of sight impacts our ability to work, to stay active, and to contribute to our community in meaningful ways. Vision disorders like Glaucoma affect more adult Americans than ever before. With early treatment, the vision loss impact of Glaucoma can be contained.

Did you know that it is estimated that 80% of classroom education is taught visually? As the new school year is about to begin, Friends for Sight reminds you to include an eye examination as a critical part of your back to school check list.

1 and 5 percent of preschool-aged children in the United States have vision impairment.1 Common conditions that can affect a child's vision include:1 and 5 percent of preschool-aged children in the United States have vision impairment. Common conditions that can affect a child's vision include:

- Amblyopia ("lazy eye")
- Strabismus ("crossed eyes")
- Color deficiency ("color blindness")
- Refractive errors
- Nearsightedness ("myopia")
- Farsightedness ("hyperopia")
- Astigmatism