

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

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[www.pbnc.org](http://www.pbnc.org)  
919-755-5044



**Prevent  
Blindness**  
North Carolina

# FROM THE BOARD

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Prevent Blindness North Carolina (PBNC) began 2019-20 under new leadership, but with a reaffirmation of our mission of preventing blindness and preserving sight in our state through advocacy, education and service programs. In his first full year as President & CEO, Edwin Jeffords, with the support of our dedicated and experienced staff and volunteers, maintained the quality, breadth and efficiency of our vision programs.

PBNC continued its long-standing, effective programs of pre-school and school-aged vision screenings for children across the State of North Carolina. At the same time, we are taking stock of how we may best strengthen our vision service programs for vulnerable populations that otherwise lack vision resources due to geographic or financial factors. We are mindful that the COVID-19 crisis impacts children and vulnerable populations and causes challenges in our delivery of services to these populations. This makes PBNC's focus on reevaluating and improving the delivery of quality, efficient vision services that best serve the vision needs of our State all the more essential.

We are thankful for our staff, volunteers, community supporters and partners, governmental leaders, and foundations who support us in our mission to prevent blindness and improve vision health across the State of North Carolina.

**R. Sterling Perkinson**

BOARD CHAIR



# FROM THE STAFF

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This year, the board, staff, and volunteers at PBNC have been, more than ever, focused on the effective and efficient delivery of our life-changing vision services to the people we serve across the state. Through the generous funding provided by the State of North Carolina as well as many community foundations, private foundations, businesses and individuals, PBNC has been able to positively affect the lives of over 470,000 North Carolinians once again this year.

The PBNC team focused early in the year on coverage expansion for preschool students in some of the areas of the state that need those services the most. We were able to successfully add several new counties to the existing thirty-six counties funded through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services this year. These expansions required new partners, new funders, and a joint commitment by all involved to provide high-quality screenings, follow-up, and expanded access to care for the children in these areas.

Throughout the year, the PBNC team continued to provide the important vision services that many North Carolinians depend on each year. Some highlights are the 3,000+ nurses and school volunteers that PBNC trained this year to provide evidence-based and age-appropriate vision screenings in all 100 counties, the 28,000+ preschoolers screened, the 5,900+ adults receiving a free retinal imaging screening, and the 3,500+ people that received financial assistance for eye care through one of our voucher programs.

As the year wound down in Mid-March, the world changed as we knew it, and immediately, we paused and shifted focus to think about how and when we could safely provide our screenings and trainings again. The team adapted quickly, created new safety protocols, new screening and training procedures, and leveraged our investments in technology to help us continue to serve those who need us. These proactive steps taken early on in the '20-'21 year have strengthened the foundation of our services moving forward. While *everything* is different right now, PBNC's life-changing programs will continue to serve the people of North Carolina this year and beyond.

**A. Edwin Jeffords, Jr.**

PRESIDENT & CEO

# PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

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Healthy vision plays an important role in the early, critical years of a child's development. Young children often do not know they have a vision problem because they do not realize that their view of the world is being impaired or distorted. The Prevent Blindness Preschool Vision Screening Program was established over twenty years ago to help ensure a continuum of vision care for NC preschoolers through early detection, education, and access to comprehensive follow-up care.

While COVID-19 caused us to conclude the vision screenings earlier than expected this year, the program still successfully served 28,112 preschoolers during the 2019-2020 school year. Possible vision problems were detected in over 3,200 of those screened, and PBNC recommended that each of those children receive a comprehensive eye exam for diagnosis and treatment. The best practice, highly efficient screenings were provided on-site and at no cost for 587 centers across North Carolina including Head Start centers, NC Pre-K sites, Title 1 Pre-K programs, and private childcare centers. This preventative program positively impacted the visual health and overall development of thousands of children this year. We are happy to share one of our many success stories with you:

## Meet Ian

"I had no idea Ian had a vision problem. He's a bright, joyful child with a deep love for books, and I was very surprised. I immediately made an appointment with a doctor and sure enough he had serious vision problems in both eyes. I was concerned glasses would be a difficult adjustment for a three year old, but his willingness to wear the glasses I think tells me that they make a big difference. When he first put them on he started laughing at how they made everything bigger. He recently turned four and he has started to learn to read. This picture shows him working on coloring a book he just made. Thank you for helping my son enjoy learning even more and for protecting his eyes."



***-Ian's Mother***

# ADULT PROGRAM

Prevent Blindness North Carolina provides no cost retinal and acuity screenings for adults at community health centers, free clinics, senior centers, health fairs, and the NC State Fair. Many screening participants would not otherwise be able to see an eye doctor, even though it is recommended they receive an annual eye exam and may have other underlying health conditions like diabetes. In addition to direct service screenings, PBNC trains clinic staff to conduct acuity screenings on-site for their patients. These trainings provide patients faster access to professional eye care services when referred.

Through the adult vision screening program, Prevent Blindness North Carolina provided 5,921 adults across our state with an opportunity to evaluate their eye health during the year. Of those who participated in the vision screening program, 1,401 were referred for a comprehensive eye exam due to possible visual impairment. Prevent Blindness North Carolina also continues to offer an array of follow-up resources for anyone who is referred for professional care after a vision screening. During the 2019-2020 year, 2,363 uninsured or under-insured adults were provided with vouchers through one of Prevent Blindness North Carolina's three voucher programs, ensuring everyone screened has access to the professional vision care they need.



## Meet Tammy

Tammy's insurance covered her complete eye exam but provided no vision hardware benefits. Unable to afford the glasses prescribed by her doctor, Tammy turned to Prevent Blindness North Carolina for help. In a note to PBNC, Tammy says, "I was just so excited to hear of this [voucher] program. Thank you for your help."

# SCHOOL-AGED PROGRAM

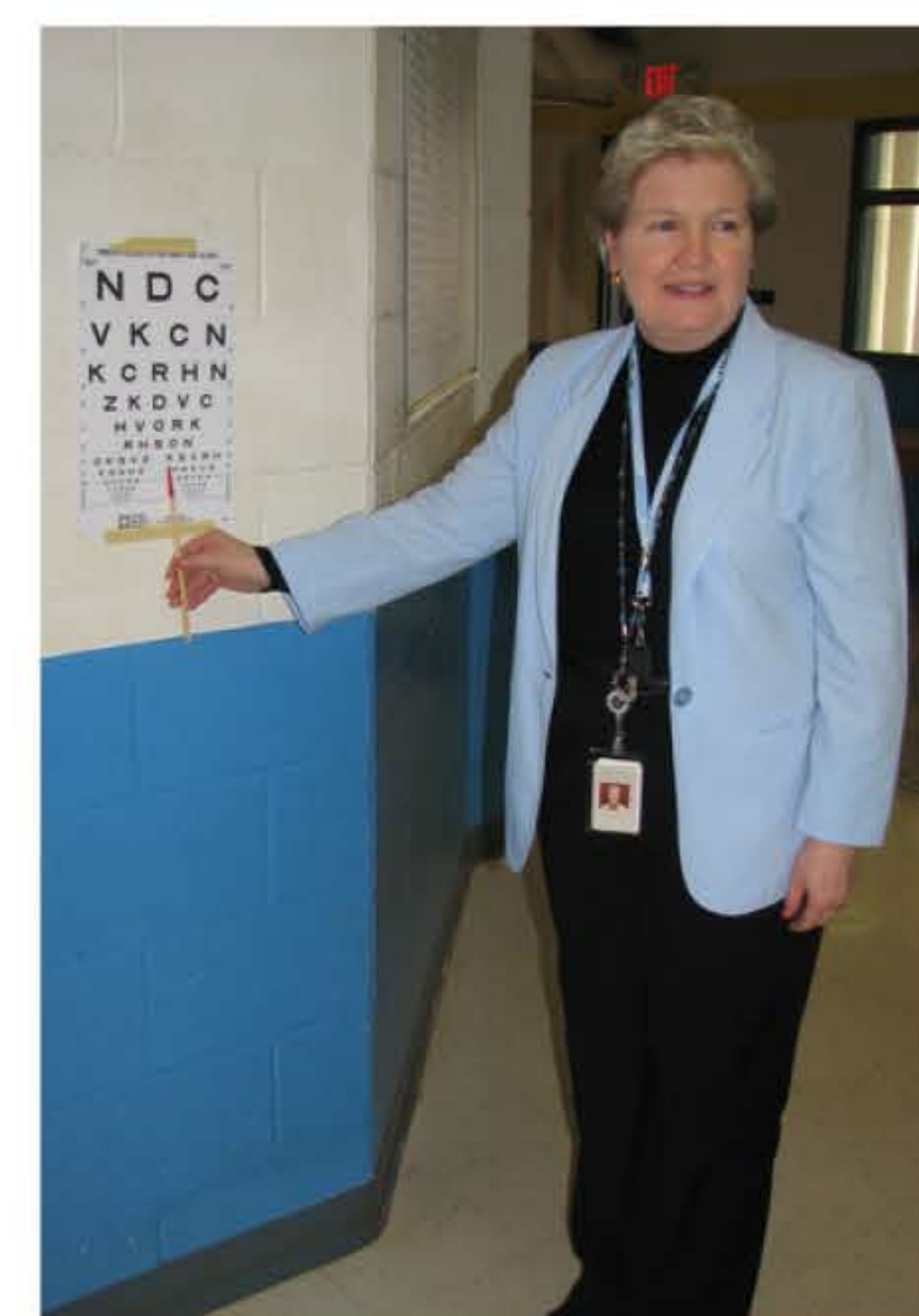
The PBNC Children's Vision Screening Certification program addresses the challenge of undetected vision problems as a barrier to learning and quality of life for school-aged children across North Carolina. As children progress in school, they face increasing demands on their visual abilities. When certain visual skills are poorly developed, learning can be difficult and stressful. Identifying and treating childhood vision problems as soon as they arise has a positive impact on literacy. Research shows that after diagnosis and treatment with prescription glasses, children experience improved academic progress, confidence and behavior as well as increased classroom focus, and participation.



PBNC provides workshops across all 100 NC counties to certify school staff and volunteers in the fundamentals of vision screening techniques, referral, and follow-up. We ensure NC public and charter schools are able to conduct vision screening according to current national guidelines using age-appropriate evidence-based vision screening tools and procedures. School nurse partners also receive access to three PBNC voucher programs

offering eye exams and/or glasses to any eligible child referred from screening and in financial need.

Screening is most effective when performed periodically throughout childhood because vision can change as children grow. During the 2019-20 school year, 3,059 individuals were certified in 211 PBNC vision screening workshops, contributing to a statewide network of 6,464 school-based PBNC children's vision screeners. Screeners conducted 434,218 individual student screenings during the school year. More than 36,200 children were referred to an eye care professional for a full eye exam, diagnosis, and treatment.



# SCHOOL NURSE NOTES

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"A third grade student had been seen by an eye doctor during fall break and was prescribed glasses. During the mass screening at school in the fall, he was unable to pass the school screening even though he was wearing glasses. The nurses notified his mother of this. She made another appointment with the eye doctor for her child - even though it had been less than 6 months since he had been seen. His vision had changed a significant amount during this time and the student required a different prescription for his glasses. The mother of this student was extremely appreciative of the services provided."

## ***Clay County - Lead Nurse***

"A second grade student was screened by the school nurse and referred for a follow-up eye exam. This boy's mother was having a lot of financial hardships and didn't know how she was going to get his eyes checked. She was very grateful that Prevent Blindness was able to help with a voucher for a free eye exam and glasses. His grades have improved and seeing his face light up when he came in with his new glasses being able to see the board in the classroom was wonderful and such a great feeling."

## ***Stokes County - Lead Nurse***

"A kindergartener was screened at school and referred for a comprehensive eye exam. The doctor diagnosed the girl as completely blind in one eye and prescribed glasses. No one had caught this child's severe vision problem until she received a screening as part of her school's mass screening program. Her parents report that she enjoys reading now and is much more involved in school!"

## ***Alleghany County - Lead Nurse***

# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

## Fiscal Year Ending: March 31, 2020

### REVENUE, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT

Contributions	176,399
Government grants	1,121,015
Net special events	81,638
Program service	7,987
Miscellaneous	1,498
Net investment return	(63,103)

**TOTAL REVENUE** **\$ 1,325,434**

### OPERATING EXPENSES

***Program Services:***

Research	95,271
Public health education	465,113
Professional education & training	325,690
Community services	219,968
<b><i>Total Program Expenses</i></b>	<b>1,106,042</b>

***Supporting services:***

General & administrative	137,405
Fundraising	112,937
<b><i>Total Supporting Expenses</i></b>	<b>250,342</b>

**TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES** **\$ 1,356,384**

### NON-OPERATING EXPENSES

Loss on sale of assets	0
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**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS** **\$ (30,950)**



# MEET THE TEAM

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## Board of Directors

### Executive Committee ('19-'20)

R. Sterling Perkinson - Chair  
Linda Douglas - Vice Chair  
Robin Shannon - Vice Chair  
J. Scott Edwards - Treasurer  
Bob Wright - Secretary  
Daniel Bernstein, MD  
R. Jeffrey Board, MD  
Tom Clinard  
Steve Corman  
Walt Winiewicz

### At-Large Members ('19-'20)

Frances Blevins  
Bonnie Bradley  
L. Frank Cashwell, MD  
Sam Crisp  
John P. Denny, MD  
David Dunbar  
Randy Fraser  
Beth Gonzalez  
Linda Herrman, RN  
Deborah Holland  
Greg Johnson, MD  
Timothy Jordan, MD  
Nisha Panjwani Mehta, OD  
Kevin Perry  
Kara Ramsey, OD  
Nan Robinson  
Jeff Sampere  
Tim Saunders, MD  
Melissa Shipley, MD  
Lejla Vajzovic, MD  
Joseph P. Welch

## Staff

**A. Edwin Jeffords, Jr.**  
President and CEO

**Wendy Aves**  
Assistant Director of Outreach and  
Certification

**Gail Bradley**  
Preschool Program Assistant

**Marcia Brantley**  
Preschool Program Director

**Caroline Carbone**  
Program and Database Assistant

**Eileen Dustin**  
Preschool Program Coordinator

**Anya Helfrich**  
Certification Program Director

**Becca Leenstra**  
Program Assistant & Voucher  
Programs Coordinator

**Angie Morris**  
Operations Director & Executive Assistant

**Lynn Patterson**  
Certification Program Coordinator

# THANK YOU

## Key Corporate and Individual Donors

FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2020

### Corporate

Complete Eye Care, OD, PA

Duke Eye Center

Dreher Martin, CPA, PA

The Hamlin Companies

The Raleigh Eye Center

Regeneron

WalMart Stores

### Individuals

Daniel Bernstein, MD

R. Jeffrey Board, MD

L. Frank Cashwell, MD

Steve Corman

John P. Denny, MD

Linda Douglas

David Dunbar

J. Scott Edwards

Randy Fraser

Lewis R. Gaskin, MD

Beth Gonzalez

Dave and Chris Gospodarek

Taressa Haney, MD

Linda Herrman

Greg Johnson, MD

Timothy Jordan, MD

Kurt K. Lark, MD

Minnie T. Moore

Olivia Morris

Kelly W. Muir, MD

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Charles H. Robinson, Jr., MD

Nan Robinson

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Michelle Scott, MD

Robin Shannon

Gordon W. Tennett

Joe Welch

Walt Winiewicz

Charles M. and Florence

B. Winston

Craig Wood, OD

Bob Wright

Smedes and Rosemary York



# THANK YOU

## Foundation and Grant Support

FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2020

### Component Funds of the North Carolina Community Foundation

Louise Oriole Burevitch Endowment  
Richard Chapman Cleve Fund  
Columbus County Unrestricted Fund  
Currituck-Dare Unrestricted Fund  
Carlton Thorpe Daley Fund  
Duplin County Unrestricted Endowment  
Daniel Lee "Dan" Eldreth Memorial Endowment  
Greene County Fund  
Hoke County Unrestricted Endowment  
Jackson County Unrestricted Endowment Fund  
Lorraine Cooper Johnston County Community Foundation Endowment  
Lee County Unrestricted Endowment  
Macon County Unrestricted Endowment Fund  
Montgomery County Fund  
Onslow Caring Communities Foundation Unrestricted Endowment  
Volunteers of Maria Parham Medical Center Health Awareness Endowment  
Martha Frances Pruitt Endowment Fund  
John W. and Marjorie A. Roffe Endowment (for Moore County)  
Ann L. Sams Endowment  
Judy Stevens Endowment  
Suzanne and George Taylor Endowment Fund  
Vance County Unrestricted Endowment  
Warren County Unrestricted Endowment  
Judge Thomas Watts Memorial Endowment

### Private Foundations and Other Funders

The Babies Hospital Foundation, Inc.  
Cape Fear Memorial Foundation  
The Cemala Foundation  
The City of Raleigh  
Community Foundation of Burke County  
The Curtis Foundation  
Dickson Foundation, Inc.  
The Glass Foundation  
Huffman-Cornwell Foundation  
The Johnson Family Fund  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors  
Raleigh Kiwanis Foundation, Inc.  
Reidsville Area Foundation  
Rite Aid Foundation KidCents  
Sisters of Mercy of NC Foundation  
SunTrust Foundation  
Wake Electric Care, Inc.



**Prevent  
Blindness**  
North Carolina

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PERMIT 579

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Raleigh, NC 27607

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Our Mission:** To prevent blindness and preserve sight through advocacy, education and service programs.

Stay up to date on the latest sight-saving efforts of  
Prevent Blindness North Carolina!



And be sure to check out our website at [www.pbnc.org](http://www.pbnc.org)