



Contact: Roxann Sebest, Director of Marketing And Communications
330.746.8494 or rsebest@ymvunitedway.org
Denise Dick, Youngstown City Schools
denise.dick@youngstown.k12.oh.us
Dawn Friedkin, Classic Optical, President
dawn@classicoptical.com

PRESS RELEASE

Youngstown Students Get New Glasses thanks to Collaboration

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(Youngstown, OH) - Students in Youngstown will be getting brand new glasses thanks to a collaboration with the United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley, the Youngstown City Schools, and several key community organizations. As a part of its Success After 6 program, which provides wraparound services to students and families, the United Way has been working with the Essilor Vision Foundation, Classic Optical, Ageless Eyecare, Youngstown City Schools, Youngstown Community School, Youngstown Health Department, Youngstown Lions Club, DentaQuest, Sight for All United, Modern Optical International, and Mercy Health Foundation.

During the fall, thanks to this partnership, volunteers screened more than 2,000 students kindergarten through 5th grade as well as the seventh grade. Those students in grades K-4 who need additional eye exams will see a doctor from Ageless Eyecare at their schools the week of December 18-December 22 and select frames for their eyeglasses.

"The partnership with these groups truly defines community impact," said Bob Hannon, President of United Way of Youngstown and Mahoning Valley, "We want our children to succeed in the classroom, and sometimes they face various barriers including not being able to see the board in the front of the classroom. As the United Way we can bring the right partners to the table to help as many students and families as we can, we cannot do this work alone."

Hannon says by working closely with these groups the children can get what they need to correct their vision and hopefully, improve their performance in school.

"We are grateful to have organizations like the United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley and the vision foundations, companies and organizations who care about our children," said Krish Mohip, chief executive officer of the Youngstown City School District. "It's difficult, if not impossible, for a child to do well in school if he or she can't see clearly. These organizations not only worked together and partnered with us to provide vision screenings in the fall but to

United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley
255 Watt Street Youngstown, OH 44505
www.ymvunitedway.org

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also offer eye exams and free glasses to the children that need them. We thank them for their time and for their generosity."

Local doctors as well as doctors from Ageless Eyecare will exam about 300 students at the 10 elementary schools in Youngstown as well as the Youngstown Community School. Each child will receive two pairs of glasses.

Classic Optical, with its long-time partners at the Essilor Vision Foundation (EVF) and Modern Optical will manufacture, and provide eyeglasses at no charge to the children in need. The EVF donated the lenses and Modern Optical donated the frames.

Thank you to all the doctors, techs, and specialists donating their services:

- Dr. Luis Lewis, Ageless Eyecare
- Dr. Lananh Ngo, Ageless Eyecare
- Dr. Betsy Ahlquist
- Dr. Nick Lawrence
- Dr. Frank D'apolito
- Dr. Rebecca Brown
- Dr. Guy Barrett
- Dr. Carla Bolino
- Selena Garzon
- Francisco Somoza
- Maria Gasca
- Maria Murillo

Thank you to all the sponsors and volunteers who made this project possible:

- United Way
- Essilor Vision Foundation
- Classic Optical
- Modern Optical International
- DentaQuest
- Youngstown School District
- Youngstown City Health Dept.
- Youngstown City Schools
- Youngstown Community School
- Lions Club
- Sight for All United
- Mercy Health Foundation
- YSU Nursing students
- Employees from Vallourec
- Women United Members
- Youngstown Lions Club