

LOIS' VISION4KIDS

Vision Screenings

Nearly 150 children from across Palm Beach County received life-changing vision care at the **Lois' Vision4Kids** eye screening event at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Palm Beach Gardens.

Lois' Vision4Kids was established in 2023 by Florida philanthropist **Lois Pope**, in partnership with the world-renowned **Bascom Palmer Eye Institute**. The program provides free eye screenings for children aged 2 to 18 throughout Palm Beach County. If necessary, the children receive two pairs of prescription eyeglasses and a pair of prescription sunglasses at no cost. Children requiring additional care are referred for follow-up treatment at Bascom Palmer. It is estimated that well over 30,000 children in Florida experience vision difficulties. So far, 615 children have been screened through the four Pediatric Screening events at Bascom Palmer's Palm Beach Gardens campus.

Out of the total number of children screened, it was revealed that 56% of children had vision problems, underscoring the importance of accessible, quality eye care for young learners. By removing financial barriers to vision health, Lois' Vision4Kids ensures that children can see clearly, perform better in school, and gain confidence in and out of the classroom.

"I know quite a bit about vision impairment," said philanthropist Lois Pope, founder of Lois' Vision4Kids. "My mother suffered terribly for years from macular degeneration, and I saw firsthand how vision loss affected her physically and emotionally. Can you imagine what it does to a child? No child should ever feel stupid, be bullied, or have any barrier to learning simply because they need glasses."

According to the National Institutes of Health, children from underprivileged backgrounds are at greater risk for undetected vision problems, which can lead to academic struggles, frustration, and even misdiagnosis of learning disorders. The American Optometric Association estimates that up to 80% of children with a learning disability may have an undiagnosed vision issue.

For Lois Pope, the program is rooted in a simple but powerful truth taught to her by her mother, a schoolteacher: "If children can't see, they can't learn."

Lois' Vision4Kids is not just a one-time event, but a continuous effort to give children the gift of sight — and with it, the confidence and tools they need to succeed in school and beyond. This ongoing commitment brings hope to many families.

Every child who participated in this vision screening event left with improved vision, sunglasses, and a goody bag filled with Halloween treats, spreading happiness and excitement.

For more information about Lois' Vision4Kids visit www.life-edu.org.



TOP ROW: Lois Pope; Dr. Zubair Ansari, Lois Pope and children that were screened;
MIDDLE ROW: Lois Pope with children at the Lois' Vision4Kids event;
BOTTOM ROW: Dr. Maja Kostic and young girl receiving an eye exam.
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