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**WEST VIRGINIA OPTOMETRISTS PARTNER WITH SENS. BYRD AND  
ROCKEFELLER, U.S. HOUSE LEADERS IN IMPROVING INFANT EYE AND VISION  
CARE**

*No-cost, comprehensive eye and vision assessments provided by InfantSEE® Program*

**Charleston, W.Va. (April 28, 2009)** – Due to the overwhelming number of children with eye and vision problems across the United States, West Virginia optometrists are devoting appointments to no-cost, comprehensive eye and vision assessments for infants between six to 12 months of age through InfantSEE®. InfantSEE®, a public health program developed by Optometry’s Charity™ - The AOA Foundation in partnership with The Vision Care Institute™, LLC a Johnson & Johnson company, was designed to provide professional eye care for infants nationwide at no-cost, regardless of family income or number of eligible children.

The InfantSEE® Weeks project is funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and by a direct appropriation sponsored by U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.). A long-time advocate for advancing the health and well-being of all West Virginians, Sen. Byrd championed the InfantSEE® program after learning of the overwhelming number of children with eye and vision problems in the Mountain State and across America.

“Many parents of newborns do not know that the most dramatic development of a child’s visual system occurs within the first year of life,” said Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.). “And it is through early detection and treatment of potential problems that parents can help ensure poor vision and eye health does not severely affect their child’s ability to learn and place them at a disadvantage in education and in life. That is why I have put my full support behind the InfantSEE® program and worked to secure federal resources to help our Mountain State optometrists, and their colleagues around the country, expand the scope and impact of this great program. I encourage all parents to take advantage of the InfantSEE® program and to make a lifetime of eye and vision health a top priority for the whole family.”

“This free, early detection and prevention program is a great resource for West Virginia families, and I urge all parents to take advantage of the InfantSEE® Week for free comprehensive eye and vision assessments for infants,” said Senator John D. (Jay) Rockefeller, IV (D-W.Va.) “I am a strong believer in making sure our children have access to quality, affordable care, and InfantSEE® is doing a great service by making this available at no cost to families.”

Leading members of the U.S. House of Representatives delegation from West Virginia have also expressed their support for the InfantSEE® program. Reps. Alan Mollohan (D-W.Va.), Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), and Nick J. Rahall, II (D-W.Va.) [urged local parents to have their infant's eyes assessed during InfantSEE® Week.](#)

To encourage parents to take advantage of the InfantSEE® program and to help protect infant vision and eye health, Governor Joe Manchin has officially declared Monday, May 4 through Friday, May 15 InfantSEE® Week in West Virginia.

“I am proud to be involved with InfantSEE® Week as part of West Virginia’s commitment to children’s health and wellness,” said First Lady, Gayle Manchin. “I encourage parents to take advantage of this public health program to help protect their infants’ vision and eye health.”

One in 10 children are at risk from undiagnosed eye and vision problems, which, if undetected, could lead to permanent vision impairment, and in rare cases, life-threatening health risks. However, only 14 percent of children from infancy to age six have had a comprehensive eye assessment from an eye care professional. In West Virginia, great strides are being made to ensure that potential eye and vision problems are detected early. Infant eye assessments have been available in West Virginia since the InfantSEE® program launched in 2005.

“Many parents are surprised to learn that the first year of life is one of the most critical stages of a child’s visual development,” said Dr. Gary Veronneau, a West Virginia optometrist and InfantSEE® provider. “It’s the ideal time to detect eye and vision problems before these conditions worsen or cause developmental delays.”

The program launched in 2005 with support from former President Jimmy Carter, honorary national chair. Nearly 8,000 optometrists nationwide volunteer their time to provide assessments to babies in their communities. The majority of vision problems detected included retinoblastoma (eye cancer), severe hyperopia (farsightedness), myopia (nearsightedness), congenital glaucoma and congenital cataract.

“As a parent, one of my biggest concerns is making sure my child’s development is on track,” said Marsha Burke, local mother of Rebekah, now age 3. “When I learned about the InfantSEE® program, it was an obvious decision to take Rebekah for an assessment. Knowing her vision is healthy puts my mind at ease!”

To continue to improve infant eye assessment rates in West Virginia, parents can bring their infant in for a no-cost assessment at the VSP InfantSEE® Mobile Clinic stationed in towns across the state. Also, for those parents who can't make it to the VSP InfantSEE® Mobile Clinic, optometrists from around the state will be providing these no-cost InfantSEE® eye assessments from May 4 through 15 in their offices by appointment.

**VSP InfantSEE® Mobile Clinic Schedule – Walk-ins accepted**

**Monday, May 4 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Charleston, W.Va. - FamilyCare: Big Lots Plaza on Patrick St., 116 Hills Plaza

**Tuesday, May 5 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Beckley/Mt. Hope, W.Va. - Crossroads Mall: 2 Crossroads Mall

**Wednesday, May 6 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Lewisburg, W.Va. - Robert Byrd Health Clinic: 400 N. Jefferson St.

**Thursday, May 7 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Bluefield, W.Va. - Mercer Mall

**Friday, May 8 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Logan, W.Va. - Wal-Mart: 77 Norman Morgan Blvd.

**Monday, May 11 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Huntington, W.Va. - Pullman Square: 220 9th St.

**Tuesday, May 12 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Parkersburg/Vienna, W.Va. - Grand Central Mall: 100 Grand Central Ave.

**Wednesday, May 13 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Wheeling/Triadelphia, W.Va. - Cabela's: One Cabela Dr., Triadelphia, WV

**Thursday, May 14 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Bridgeport, W.Va. - Bridgeport Conference Center: 300 Conference Center Way

**Friday, May 15 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Fairmont, W.Va. - Middletown Mall: 2500 Fairmont Ave.

**Saturday, May 16 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Martinsburg, W.Va. - Martinsburg Mall: 800 Foxcroft Ave.

**Participating Optometrist offering NO-COST InfantSEE® Assessments in their Offices – Appointment Required**

**Anmoore**

Dr. Cynthia Zwolensky  
67 Casino Dr., Ste. 102  
304-627-3937

**Barboursville**

Dr. Glenn Bailey  
Dr. Melissa Leoni  
6010 US Route 60 East  
304-733-0809

**Beckley**

Dr. Charles Field  
701 S. Oakwood Ave.  
304-253-3150

Dr. David Holliday  
Dr. Mark Holliday  
1928 Harper Rd.  
304-252-1299

Dr. Charles Waitkus  
624 Neville St.  
304-253-8822

**Bluefield**

Dr. Frank Britton  
3101 Cumberland Rd.  
304-325-3603

Dr. John Hendrix  
Dr. Donald Taylor  
332 Worth St.  
304-325-8685

**Bridgeport**

Dr. J. William Barnes  
Dr. Gregory Groves  
Dr. Harry Murray, III  
107 Doctors Dr.  
304-842-6220

**Charleston**

Dr. Kent Hall  
Dr. Jeffery Whittington  
Dr. Sandra Whittington  
3840 Pennsylvania Ave.  
304-342-0660

**Clarksburg**

Dr. Jim Fick  
Dr. Craig Liebig  
538 B Emily Dr.  
304-566-7709

**Elkins**

Dr. Edward Hyre  
1500 Harrison Ave., Suite 2  
304-636-9111

**Fairmont**

Dr. Cheryl C. Van Horn  
3 Hutchinson Dr.  
304-366-3830

Dr. Martin Carpenter  
Dr. Phillip Wilmoth  
709 Morgantown Ave.  
304-366-4721

Dr. C.D. Laughlin  
Dr. J.K. Wade  
405 Locust Ave.  
304-366-2020

**Huntington**

Dr. Chris Ratcliff  
Dr. William Ratcliff  
919 Fifth Ave., Ste 100  
304-523-4819

**Hurricane**

Dr. James Herman  
3709 Teays Valley Rd.  
304-757-2533

**Kenova**

Dr. Gregory Browning  
912 Oak St.  
304-453-4072

**Lewisburg**

Dr. Nancy Collins  
107 E Foster St.  
304-645-7000

**Logan**

Dr. Arabel Hatfield  
315 White & Browning Bldg.  
304-752-4694

Dr. Mason Edward White, II  
113 LB and T Way  
304-752-2020

**Morgantown**

Dr. James Pasinski  
1257 Pineview Dr.  
304-599-7034

**Moundsville**

Dr. John Myers  
511 Fifth St.  
304-845-1560

**New Martinsville**

Dr. Neill Marshall  
903 3rd Ave. South  
304-455-4300

Dr. James Campbell  
700 Kevin Dr., Ste. E  
304-455-5861

**Parkersburg**

Dr. Jerry Lantz  
2905 Emerson Ave.  
304-422-3662

Dr. Douglas Conrath  
Dr. Scott Lauer  
Dr. Vicki Lauer  
402 Avery St.  
304-422-1841

**Princeton**

Dr. Scott Carpenter  
1043 Stafford Dr.  
304-487-2020

Dr. Christopher Hansen  
Dr. Bradley Lane  
700 Oakvale Rd.  
304-425-2444

**Rainelle**

Dr. Gary Veronneau  
1102 Main St.  
304-438-8574

**Ravenswood**

Dr. Ben Mize  
706 Washington St.  
304-273-2020

**Ripley**

Dr. Howard Klapper  
200 Academy Dr.  
304-372-5981

**St. Mary's**

Dr. Larry Carr  
214 Washington St.  
304-684-2491

**Sistersville**

Dr. Rob Christen  
Dr. Richard Stender  
624 Wells St.  
304-652-2459

**Spencer**

Dr. Brett Radow  
149 Main St.  
304-927-5112

**South Charleston**

Dr. Travis Taylor  
Dr. Sarah Taylor  
415 D St.  
304-744-1303

**Summersville**

Dr. Eddie Prendergast  
651 Water St.  
304-872-5678

**Williamson**

Dr. Steven Wilson  
126 W. Second Ave.  
304-235-2020

InfantSEE<sup>®</sup> assessments are complementary to the routine well-care exams a baby receives from a pediatrician or family physician. Optometrists have the training to identify areas of risk that are critical to vision development and the skills to identify conditions that might not be detected in a routine pediatric wellness exam. In some cases, conditions may need to be monitored, immediately treated or referred to a pediatric eye specialist.

To learn more about InfantSEE<sup>®</sup>, visit [www.InfantSEE.org](http://www.InfantSEE.org).

Stay up-to-date on the VSP InfantSEE<sup>®</sup> Mobile Clinic at:

[www.twitter.com/SeeLia](http://www.twitter.com/SeeLia)

[www.twitter.com/SeeZar](http://www.twitter.com/SeeZar)

***About InfantSEE<sup>®</sup>***

InfantSEE<sup>®</sup> is a public health program managed by Optometry's Charity<sup>™</sup> — The AOA Foundation. Designed to ensure that eye and vision care become an integral part of infant wellness and improve a child's quality of life, doctors of optometry provide one eye and vision assessment to infants free-of-charge regardless of socioeconomic status. For more information visit [infantsee.org](http://infantsee.org).

***About the American Optometric Association***

American Optometric Association doctors of optometry are highly qualified, trained doctors, on the frontline of eye health and vision care, who examine, diagnose, treat, and manage diseases and disorders of the eye. In addition to providing eye and vision care, optometrists play a major role in an individual's overall health and well-being by detecting systemic diseases. Doctors of optometry have the skills and training to provide more than two-thirds of all primary eye care in the United States. The American Optometric Association represents more than 36,000 doctors of optometry, optometry students and paraoptometric assistants and technicians in nearly 6,500 communities across the country. For more information, visit [www.aoa.org](http://www.aoa.org).

***About The Vision Care Institute***

The Vision Care Institute of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Inc. is an innovative educational resource created to prepare optometry students for a successful transition into the real world of delivering quality eye care, as well as to assist practicing Eye Care Professionals in the growth and development of their practice. The state-of-the-art facility gives participants a rare opportunity to gain first-hand experience with the latest in vision diagnostic and treatment technologies through hands-on contact lens instruction. Besides clinical training, participants also concentrate on communication skills. The curriculum, taught by leading eye care practitioners from around the country, gives participants the skills and confidence necessary to excel in today's professional practice. The Vision Care Institute has hosted students from all 19 of the schools and colleges of optometry throughout North America at its headquarters in Jacksonville, Florida.

***About the VSP Family of Companies***

VSP®'s family of companies includes the largest not-for-profit vision benefits and services company in the United States with 55 million members; VSP Labs, industry leaders in new technologies, production processes, service and logistics; Marchon® Eyewear Inc., one of the world's largest manufacturers, designers and distributors of quality fashion and technologically-advanced eyewear and sunwear, distributing its products to more than 100,000 customer locations in more than 100 countries; Eyefinity®/Officemate® which offer innovative solutions and the premier management software and technology to improve overall practice management and the patient experience.

Since 1997, VSP has provided more than 510,000 low-income, uninsured children with free eyecare. Through relationships with the American Diabetes Association, Prevent Blindness America and the Center for Health Transformation, VSP promotes the importance of annual eye exams for maintaining eye health and overall wellness.

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