

Vision Is Priceless

VISION MATTERS

FALL 2017

It's time to put on your sneakers, create a team, and walk with us Saturday, November 4 for the First Annual Vision Is Priceless Strides for Sight Awareness Walk. Check-in begins at 8 a.m. and the walk will start at 9 a.m. The inaugural event will take place at Riverside Park in Jacksonville's Five Points neighborhood.

Each lap around the park is 1/2 mile long, and set on a paved path. Our hope is for each participant to set a goal of walking two miles. A water station will be set up halfway through each lap and teams will be rooted on by local cheerleaders throughout the park. The event will feature a kid-friendly DJ, face painting, and activities. All ages and pets are welcome to come together to raise money for improving vision health in Northeast Florida.

Vision Is Priceless helped over 43,000 adults and children last year receive the vision care they deserve thanks to our generous donors and volunteers. The walk will bring attention to the importance of vision health and ensure the underserved in our community has access to free eye care.

Registration for the Vision Is Priceless Strides for Sight Awareness Walk is **FREE** and you can register as an individual, create your own team, or join an existing team. To sign-up, go to www.stridesforsightwalk.com.

Vision Is Priceless

STRIDES FOR SIGHT AWARENESS WALK

NOVEMBER 4, 2017 • RIVERSIDE PARK



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR INAUGURAL EVENT SPONSORS!



MILLER ELECTRIC

JAMES E. GAFF, DDS



MARCO OPTHALMIC

MEET VIP'S NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS

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Vision Is Priceless is fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers serving as Board of Directors. Our Board is engaged, supportive, and provides important financial oversight. We are pleased to introduce three new Board members, Susan Monahan, Anitha Patel, and Kelly Unkrich, for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Susan Monahan, OD, FAAO, is an optometrist who relocated to Ponte Vedra Beach in 2008 with her husband and two daughters. Susan is an active community volunteer and works part-time at Ponte Vedra Eye Associates. Since joining the Board, she has used her talents to provide numerous free comprehensive eye exams at Vision Is Priceless vision clinics. Susan is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, as well as a member of the Florida Optometric Association and the American Optometric Association.

Anitha Patel, MD, moved to Ponte Vedra Beach from Bridgeport, CT, where she was a practicing ophthalmologist. Since arriving in Jacksonville with her husband and children, Anitha has actively volunteered with Vision Is Priceless and other nonprofit organizations. Anitha is deeply interested in wellness where the roles of positive physical and mental health intersect to create overall well-being in the individual. She is a student of diet, exercise and stress reduction techniques to optimize the health of individuals as well as communities.

Kelly Unkrich, MD, moved to Jacksonville in 2016 to become a pediatric ophthalmologist at Nemours Children's Specialty Care following her time as a pediatric ophthalmology fellow at the Medical University of South Carolina Storm Eye Institute. Recently, Kelly and her husband welcomed a new baby into their family. When Kelly has the time, she enjoys spending time outdoors running, cycling, swimming, resistance training, practicing yoga, hiking, camping, and fishing.

Thank you to the entire 2017-2018 Vision Is Priceless Board of Directors for serving and for furthering our mission.

WORLD SIGHT DAY

World Sight Day is an annual day of awareness held on the second Thursday of October, to focus global attention on blindness and vision impairment. The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness estimates that nearly 1.1 billion people around the world have vision impairments simply because they do not own a pair of glasses. According to IAPB, 80% of blindness is avoidable (i.e. preventable and/or treatable) - 4 out of 5 people have avoidable visual impairment.

Although we work throughout the year to provide programs and services to help people in our community improve their vision health, we also participate in specific activities in October to support World Sight Day. October 17, we collaborated with doctors and volunteers from Johnson & Johnson Vision to host a day long vision clinic for over 80 people. October 25, we are collaborating with the Arlington Lions Club and J&J to provide a public vision screening event to help hundreds of people. October 23 through October 25, we are working with Forking Amazing Restaurants (Il Desco, Bistro Aix, and Cowford Chop House) to raise awareness and funds to support Vision Is Priceless' mission. Through the Collaborate & Give program, 5% of the food sales from the restaurants these 3-days will be given to Vision Is Priceless. Please consider dining out while helping us raise funds to support our free sight saving programs!

Our mission is to serve as the premier community resource for improving the vision health of First Coast children and adults through screening, referral, and education.

Vision Is Priceless (VIP) was founded in 1996 to provide outreach vision services, including vision screenings, eye exams, and education for the community. Our programs are unduplicated in Northeast Florida, serving Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns Counties. Funding for the organization primarily comes through private donations, grants, and fundraising events.

Children's Program

- Annually screens more than 39,000 children 3 – 18 years old.
- Travels to nearly 480 schools and child care centers each year.
- Screens for early detection of vision issues, such as signs of eye diseases like amblyopia.



Adult Program

- Annually screens over 3,300 adults.
- Provides free vision screenings at social service agencies, medical clinics, and community health fairs.
- Distributes more than 1,500 pairs of free reading glasses each year.



Vision Care

- Provides access to vision care for underinsured and underserved individuals.
- Over 60 vision professionals donate their services each year.
- Last year, we provided 944 eye exams, 797 prescription glasses, and 244 specialty care services for those in need.



Did You Know?

- Based on health studies in Northeast Florida, the most delayed health exam is an eye exam.
- Studies confirm that 80% of knowledge and experience are acquired through visual applications.
- About 50% of all cases of blindness are preventable.
- Only 9% of parents take their children for eye examinations.
- One in four children has a vision issue significant enough to affect learning.
- Vision Is Priceless is the only organization providing all of these free, sight saving services in Northeast Florida.

If you would like to donate to support our programs, visit VisionIsPriceless.org

Thank you for your generosity!



Please make plans to join us Saturday, April 21, 2018 for the 35th Annual Vision Is Priceless BBQ & Western at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds. Each year, volunteers create amazing BBQ ribs and chicken and delicious sides. This year, there will be country music, dancing, silent auction, full bar, and fun activities.

This event is Vision Is Priceless' largest fundraiser. Money raised at this event supports our vision care staff, programs, services, free glasses, clinic supplies, screening equipment, and operations. Last year, we raised over \$90,000.



Individual tickets are \$75 with open bar or \$50 without. We have sponsorship opportunities that range from \$250-\$5,000. For more information, contact Jami Bueker at 904-308-2020 or jami@visionispriceless.org.





PROJECT "SEE"



Each summer, Vision Is Priceless partners with Johnson and Johnson Vision to organize a day-long vision clinic called Project SEE. As one of our largest clinics, it serves close to eighty uninsured and underserved people by providing free, comprehensive eye exams and low-cost glasses.

While most clients who participated in Project SEE live in Jacksonville, there were several that traveled from Duval's outlying counties. Larry Walker drove from Yulee to get to his eye exam appointment. He was screened at Barnabas, a comprehensive service center in Nassau County. "With my vision be[ing] the way it is, I couldn't help but come," says Walker. His last eye exam was over eight years ago. When asked where he would have gone had it not been for VIP, he replied: "I don't know. In fact, that was the reason I waited so long, I couldn't afford to go anywhere else." He would like to thank Vision is Priceless and J&J staff for helping him re-gain his independence.



(L-R) Ashlee Brown, Larry Walker

For some, receiving an eye exam at J&J changes their entire quality of life. This was the case for Bonnie Alexandrini, a VIP client screened at Operation New Hope (ONH). "When I was 12 I had prescription glasses and I lost them, and I never got more," said Alexandrini. "I don't have health insurance or anything like that so I probably wouldn't have. I would've just kept doing what I was doing." She remarked, "I just want to thank you guys for your time and for doing this, because honestly if you hadn't I wouldn't be here...I'm scheduled for an interview today! I'm just trying to better my life."



Bonnie Alexandrini

Thanks to the incredible partnership between VIP and J&J, we are one step closer to improving the vision health of our community. Through collaboration and service, we can make a real difference in the lives of underserved individuals in Northeast Florida.



Enjoy an afternoon at Everbank Field supporting our Jacksonville Jaguars and Vision Is Priceless. We have tickets available for **December 3** against the **Indianapolis Colts** and **December 10** against the **Seattle Seahawks**. For every ticket you purchase, VIP will receive a donation for up to \$30 per ticket sold!

Call **(904) 308-2020** or email jami@visionispriceless.org to reserve your tickets today!

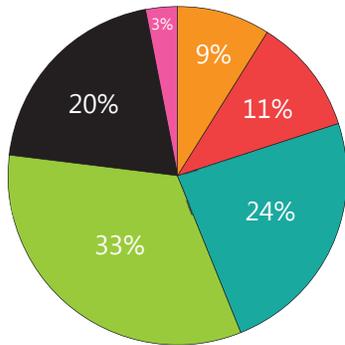
Vision Is Priceless

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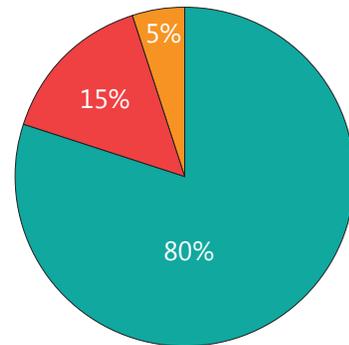
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2016-17 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

VIP Revenues from Contributions
 from July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017



VIP Functional Expenses
 from July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017



- Foundations
- Government
- Special Events
- Corporations
- Program Services Expenses
- Management and General
- Individuals
- Program Services Donations
- Fundraising

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