



CHILDSIGHT®

Bringing Education into Focus™

Los Angeles

Who We Are

ChildSight®, a program of Helen Keller International, is a cost-effective, school-based program that seeks to improve the vision and academic potential of children living in urban and rural poverty. We provide in-school vision screenings, prescription eyeglasses, and ophthalmologic referrals for low-income middle school students, free of charge. In California, ChildSight® delivers this vital health service to disadvantaged public school children throughout Los Angeles County.

The focus of ChildSight® is the detection and treatment of refractive error – also known as near-sightedness, far-sightedness and astigmatism – as well as potentially severe eye conditions such as amblyopia (“lazy eye”), eye injury or disease. We target children between ages 10 and 15, the age range when refractive error typically manifests.

How We Do It

ChildSight® is designed to eliminate the traditional barriers that prevent many poor children from obtaining the vision care they need. We bring our skilled staff, including a licensed consulting optometrist, into schools to screen students for refractive error. Students who fail the screening receive a refraction and/or referral as needed to determine the extent of their vision needs. Within 1-2 weeks, we return to the school to deliver eyeglasses to students who need them. ChildSight® partners with local ophthalmic and optometric clinics to acquire their services at a reduced fee or as a charitable donation.

Who We've Helped

Since 1998, ChildSight® Los Angeles has provided over 200,000 screenings and over 20,000 pairs of eyeglasses to underserved children in Los Angeles County. The program serves students in the Los Angeles, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lennox, and Montebello public school districts. In the summer, ChildSight® serves children within the Boys & Girls Clubs of East Los Angeles, Watts, Whittier, Venice and Long Beach.

In the 2010-2011 school year, ChildSight® Los Angeles screened 14,834 children and provided 1,633 children with the corrective eyeglasses they needed, at no cost to their families. Among the many obstacles that low-income children must overcome, poor vision is one that can be easily treated. ChildSight® continues to meet this need for children who would otherwise be left with untreated vision problems – and lost opportunities.

Who Helps Us Make It Possible

ChildSight® Los Angeles receives the support of local school districts, the U.S. Department of Education, and private funders including Crail-Johnson Foundation, Eisner Foundation, Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation, Karl Kirchgessner Foundation, Ralph M. Parson Foundation, UniHealth Foundation, Rose Hills Foundation and Weingart Foundation.

Contact Us

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“Before getting my new glasses I was having a hard time seeing. I only saw blurry letters. Now I can see.” – Jonathan Cardona, 6th grader, Lennox Middle School