



2012 Sapphire Award Honorable Mention (\$30,000) Excellence in Community Health—Program

Cared Vision Program

Vision is Priceless Council



The Cared Vision Program provides eye care to adults and children who have been identified as having a vision problem or signs of eye disease and do not have access to quality health care. Some patients may be eligible to receive part or all of these services at no cost, as a part of the Cared Vision Network. The program is a special cooperative effort between the Vision Is Priceless Council (VIP) and a growing network of local eye care professionals who've agreed to serve qualified clients free of charge.

Notable Achievements:

- Without the Cared Vision Program, the only program of its kind in Northeast Florida, individuals with no access to eye care would simply forgo vision care, and many would eventually lose their sight.
- In 2011, VIP formed partnerships with two corporations, Vistakon and Marco Ophthalmic, to offer free eye clinics in Jacksonville. Each business provides volunteer medical professionals and eye lanes with the most advanced equipment available at their facilities.
- The program serves uninsured patients needing more advanced care, like cataract surgery and laser treatments for retinal issues, at the Florida Retina Institute, Baptist Healthcare and St. Vincent's Healthcare.
- In 2012, VIP expects to provide services through the Cared Vision Program for approximately 800 individuals, including 900 exams and 800 pairs of glasses.

"In four years, VIP has more than tripled the number of clients it has been able to serve, without increasing its budget, through developing partnerships; first by individual providers, then small nonprofit partners and now large global corporations."

Susan Mattox, Executive Director, Vision is Priceless Council

Services Provided:

- Free or low-cost eye examinations to those who qualify
- Free or low-cost eyeglasses based on need
- Encourage medical volunteers to use their facilities throughout Northeast Florida to offer convenient access to eye care for underserved individuals in the community
- Work with at-risk groups in the region to ensure eye care is a priority, as well as provide services in a linguistically sensitive manner

For more information about this program visit www.visionispriceless.org or call (904) 308-2020.