

Seeing is Learning

WHEN CHILDREN can't see well, they can't learn. When children can't learn, they can't succeed in life.

We know statistically that vision problems most often occur in middle school. In some schools, as many as 20% of the children need prescription glasses. Uncorrected vision is a major public health problem with huge consequences.

Yet in our poorest schools, childrens' vision problems often go undetected and uncorrected. The family simply can't afford eye exams and/or glasses.

QueensCare addressed this need nine years ago by creating the Mobile Vision Program. Growing each year, it visits 25 middle schools in the L.A. Unified School District where 75% or more students qualify for the Federal Lunch Program.

QueensCare's Mobile Vision Program screens all the students in the school with the help of LAUSD retired nurses, testing for a variety of vision problems. Students who need further attention are sent that day for a free on-site optometric exam with an optometrist, and if necessary, prescription glasses are ordered. A few weeks later the optometric team returns to dispense and fit the free prescription glasses.

It's Cool

Since all students receive their glasses on the same day, they often become a "cool" thing to wear, rather than an unwanted accessory that makes kids stand out.

In 2006 alone, nurses screened 15,625 students; QueensCare optometrists provided 3,273 eye examinations and dispensed 3,017 pairs of glasses – all at no charge to the school, the student or the district.

As a faith-based organization, QueensCare strives to provide, directly and with others, accessible healthcare for the uninsured and low-income individuals and families living in Los Angeles County.



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