



CHILDSIGHT® New Jersey

Bringing Education into Focus™

Who We Are

ChildSight®, the domestic program of Helen Keller International, is a cost-effective, school-based program whose mission is to improve the vision and academic potential of children living in poverty. We provide free, in-school vision screenings, prescription eyeglasses, and ophthalmic referrals for low-income middle-school students, many of whom lack access to basic health or vision care. In New Jersey, we deliver this vital health service to students in Newark, Jersey City, Irvington, Passaic, Plainfield, Orange, East Orange and Perth Amboy public schools.

ChildSight® detects and treats refractive error – also known as near-sightedness, far-sightedness and astigmatism – as well as potentially severe vision problems such as amblyopia (lazy eye), eye injury or disease. We screen children between ages 10-15, the age range when refractive error typically manifests.

How We Do It

ChildSight® is designed to eclipse the economic, social and transportation barriers that prevent many poor children from obtaining the care they need. Our skilled staff, including a licensed optometrist, conducts on-site vision screenings and refraction for students, and tests for potential eye pathology, injury or disease. Within 1-2 weeks of the screening, we return to the school to deliver the eyeglasses to students who need them. ChildSight® New Jersey 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 its inception in 1996, ChildSight® New Jersey has screened a total of 142,705 children in and delivered 56,293 pairs of eyeglasses to children who needed them. The need for ChildSight® services in New Jersey is more critical than ever as families contend with rising unemployment, lost health benefits and rising health care costs. In the 2011-2012 academic year, ChildSight® New Jersey screened 12,264 students and provided 2,592 students with free eyeglasses needed to focus in school and to build their potential for success.

The impact of ChildSight® is clear. Of the students we surveyed in 2012, 75% stated that they wear their ChildSight® glasses “sometimes” to “all the time”; 82% reported that their ChildSight® glasses “help them with their schoolwork”; and 83% affirmed that they liked their ChildSight® glasses.

Who Helps Us Make It Possible

ChildSight® New Jersey receives the support of local school districts, as well as from local donors such as the Lydia Collins deForest Charitable Trust, the Turrell Fund, the Victoria Foundation, the Community Foundation of New Jersey, the George Link Jr. Foundation, and the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey.

Contact Us

ChildSight® New Jersey
Kindal Beckley, Program Manager
Harold Wilson Middle School
190 Muhammed Ali Avenue
Newark, NJ 07108-2141
P: 973.242.1619; F: 973.242.5005
Email : kbeckley@hki.org ; Web : www.hki.org



“Improved self-esteem- -Mary felt embarrassed about her poor vision- -Now that she can see better and participate more- she seems more outgoing.” --Teacher– Ridge Street School – Newark