



The Midwest Sight Foundation



FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER



Meet the Team



John C. Lee, M.D.

Dr. John C. Lee is a graduate of the College of Medicine, Eye Residency, and Fellowship training in Glaucoma at the University of Iowa. He began his general private practice over 40 years ago. He has seen many patients with advanced eye disease who have arrived hoping to have their vision restored, but unfortunately could not grant their wishes. This led him to start the Midwest Sight



Foundation, NFP in May of 2014. Education of local community members about these blinding diseases is his mission to reduce the number of people who unnecessarily go blind.

Prior to medical training, Dr. Lee was a mechanical engineer for a major construction equipment company.



Lorrie J. Durbin, RN, BSN, COMT

Lorrie, a graduate of Quincy College and Southern Illinois University, is the practicing nurse as well as secretary and treasurer of the foundation. For over 35 years, she has worked closely with Dr. Lee and plays a crucial role in the education and screening of the general public.

Luka Lubecki

Luka is the current intern for the Midwest Sight Foundation and a senior at Millikin University. She is studying accounting and will be graduating in December of 2020. Luka is the 7th Midwest Sight Foundation intern from Millikin University.



Our Mission is to educate and screen the general public to determine those at risk for glaucoma and other potentially blinding diseases.

Children's Vision Program

Children do not always know what “normal” vision looks like, and are more likely not to complain of vision problems. However, it is crucial to get your children’s eye checked at a very early age. Eye examinations are important for normal vision development and to ensure that the child has good visual acuity they need to perform well in school as well as other activities. The doctor will evaluate the eye for glasses as well as look for potentially blinding diseases such as amblyopia (lazy eye).



Amblyopia (lazy eye) is the leading cause of visual impairment among children. It affects 2 to 3 out of every 100 children and unless it is successfully treated in early childhood it can persist for life. Early diagnosis and treatment, so vital, can help prevent any long-term problems with your child’s vision. Amblyopia (lazy eye) can usually be corrected with glasses or contact lenses, eye patches, and sometimes surgery. Occlusion is also a cause of amblyopia. If there is an opacity or clouding of the front structures of the eye, this can lead to lack of development or the weakening of one eye.

Through our Children’s Vision Program we screen the vision of children, free of charge. Along with a free screening, we present a program to train parents, teachers, and childcare providers the signs of amblyopia.

The Eye Model



In 2017, Dr. John Lee designed and introduced an innovative new project filled with promise. Prior to medical training, Dr. Lee was a mechanical engineer for a major construction equipment company.

With the help from a number of companies and Richland Community College's Welding classes, the Foundation constructed a Walk-In Eye Model for the Children's Museum of Illinois. This interactive display, "A Peek Inside," allows visitors to enter the model to learn more about the eye and diseases.



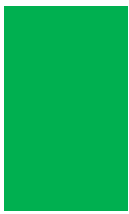
The seven foot diameter model has a four foot opening to allow visitors to enter. It is displayed in the Healthy Habits area of the museum. Both children and the adults that accompany them benefit from this learning experience.



**Stop by the
Children's Museum
to view our project!**

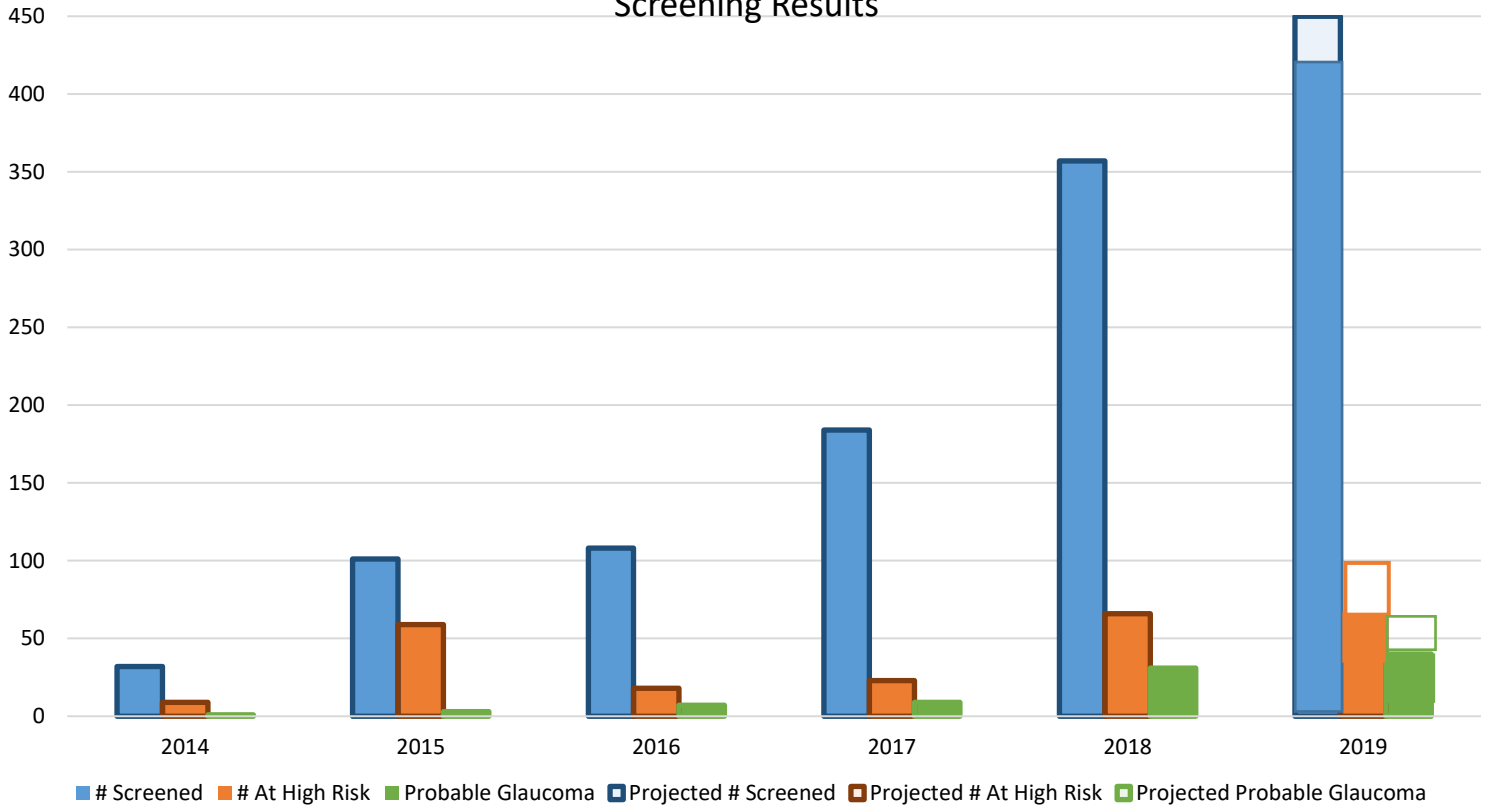


This project is partially supported by a grant from the John Ullrich Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Illinois Arts Council Agency, the Decatur Area Arts Council, and many private donations.



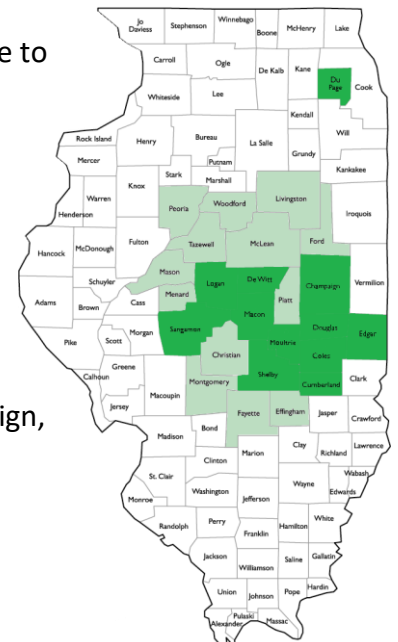
Serving Our Community

Midwest Sight Foundation NFP Screening Results



Over the last 5 years, The Midwest Sight Foundation has been able to greatly expand the number of free screenings it has been able to give. In 2018, the Foundation screened over 350 people for glaucoma.

On average, The Midwest Sight Foundation does 1-2 screening sessions a week, all around Illinois. Counties served include: Macon, Dewitt, DuPage, Sangamon, Coles, Douglas, Cumberland, Logan, Champaign, Moultrie, and Shelby. More counties are soon to come.



Statements at the Museum



“Wow. I am in a big eye.” -*Max, age 5*

“Oh, that looks like my eyeball.” -*Piper, age 5*

“This is kind of cool. Once I watched a video about how eyes work. Now, I can walk inside.” -*Bethany, age 8*

“Holy Moly!” -*Mason, age 3*

“The (eye model) exhibit will bring lots of information and curiosity to many who might not know the importance of good eye health.” -*Joyce*

“I am amazed at A Peek Inside. This new exhibit encourages both kids and parents to take more interest in eye health! Thanks so much for all of your hard work on this project.” -*anonymous*

A Special Thank you

Dr. & Mrs. Michael D. Bagby

Mr. Qamil Ballazhi

Mr. Dale E. Barnett

Rev. & Mrs. Vernie T. Barnett

Mr. Brett Bartlett, Plastics Guy

Mr. Dan Baughman – Business
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Bergner’s Department Store

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Grace A. Lee, M.D.	Richland Community College	
Kyung S. Lee, M.D.	Mr. Dean Rhodes	

Please note the above are gifts made up until August 31, 2019.


Glaucoma Risk Factors




50+ Years of Age




Diabetes




Family History of
Glaucoma or Blindness




Previous Eye Surgery




Wear or Need Glasses



Used Steroid Medication



High Blood Pressure



Previous Eye Injury

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