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SEATTLE AND TACOMA-AREA OPTOMETRISTS PARTNER WITH SEN. MURRAY IN IMPROVING INFANT EYE AND VISION CARE

No-cost, comprehensive eye and vision assessments provided by InfantSEE® Program

Seattle (May 5, 2009) – Due to the overwhelming number of children with eye and vision problems across the United States, Seattle and Tacoma-area optometrists are devoting appointments to no-cost, comprehensive eye and vision assessments for infants between six to 12 months of age through InfantSEE®. InfantSEE®, a public health program developed by Optometry’s Charity™ - The AOA Foundation in partnership with The Vision Care Institute™, LLC a Johnson & Johnson company, was designed to provide professional eye care for infants nationwide at no-cost, regardless of family income or number of eligible children.

“Prevention and early detection of potential risk factors in children is critically important to ensuring a lifetime of vision health,” said Senator Patty Murray (D-Wash.). “I am proud to support the efforts of InfantSEE® to provide these services, and to educate parents about the importance of vision care for their children.”

To encourage parents to take advantage of the InfantSEE® program and to help protect infant vision and eye health, Governor Christine Gregoire has officially declared Monday, May 11 through Friday, May 15 InfantSEE® Week in the Seattle and Tacoma-area.

One in 10 children are at risk from undiagnosed eye and vision problems, which, if undetected, could lead to permanent vision impairment, and in rare cases, life-threatening health risks. However, only 14 percent of children from infancy to age six have had a comprehensive eye assessment from an eye care professional. In the Seattle and Tacoma-area, great strides are being made to ensure that potential eye and vision problems are detected early. Infant eye assessments have been available in Washington since the InfantSEE® program launched in 2005.

“Many parents are surprised to learn that the first year of life is one of the most critical stages of a child’s visual development,” said Dr. Karen Preston, a Seattle-area optometrist and InfantSEE® provider. “It’s the ideal time to detect eye and vision problems before these conditions worsen or cause developmental delays.”

The program launched in 2005 with support from former President Jimmy Carter, honorary national chair. Nearly 8,000 optometrists nationwide volunteer their time to provide assessments to babies in their communities. The majority of vision problems detected included retinoblastoma (eye cancer), severe hyperopia (farsightedness), myopia (nearsightedness), congenital glaucoma and congenital cataract.

"As a parent, one of my biggest responsibilities is making sure my children's development is on track", said Sam Ames, local mother of Zach, age 7 and Trevor, age 4. "When I learned about the InfantSEE® program in 2005, it was the obvious decision to take Trevor for an assessment. Knowing his vision is healthy gives me peace of mind that he is seeing his world correctly and that I am making a beneficial health decision for my child."

To continue to improve infant eye assessment rates in the Seattle and Tacoma-area, the following eye care providers will offer no-cost InfantSEE® eye assessments from May 11 to 15, by appointment:

Bellevue

Dr. Chris Barry
Dr. William Prothero
1837 156th Ave NE #201
(425) 643-2020

Dr. Charles Clayton
Dr. Robert Glaze
13401 NE Bel-Red Rd., #A4
(425) 747-2020

Dr. Ted Kadet
12301 NE 10th Pl., #302
(425) 462-7800

Dr. Curtis Ono
1515 116th Ave. NE., #104
(425) 454-0200

Dr. Karen Preston
Dr. Joanna Haws
14645 Bel-red Road
(425) 732-6056

Dr. Sarbjit Virk
1808 Richards Rd., #110
(425) 283-0440

Burien

Dr. Manwai Lau
16110 8th Ave. SW, #B2
(206) 248-6151

Duvall

Dr. Bradford Grimm
Dr. Suzan Grimm
14610 Main St. NE, #101
(425) 788-2990

Edmonds

Dr. Kathleen Solum
402 Main St.
(425) 771-7772

Federal Way

Dr. Curtis Baxstrom
1705 S. 324th Pl.
(253) 661-6005

Gig Harbor

Dr. Charles Dale
3002 Harborview Dr.
(206) 851-2050

Dr. Stacy Tovarek
Dr. Ed Worthen
3220 Uddenberg Ln.
(253) 851-2020

Dr. Sharon Williams
6401 Kimball Dr. NW
253-858-4307

Kent

Dr. Chi Wong
26019 104th Ave. SE, #101
(253) 520-0390

Dr. Alexandra Gelt
8009 S.180th St., Ste. 104
(425) 251-9200

Kirkland

Dr. David Kading
Dr. Kristi Kading
11830 NE 128th St., #1
(425) 821-8900

Lynnwood

Dr. Kristi Jensen
Dr. Willow Thompson
Dr. Nancy Torgerson
16006 Ash Way, #101
(425) 787-5200

Dr. Jeffrey Sutro
5017 196th SW., #204
(425) 778-1588

Maple Valley

Dr. Ryan Bennion
Dr. Scott Bennion
22126 SE 237th St.
(425) 432-1206

Mountlake Terrace

Dr. John Clavadetscher
21005 44th Ave W, #102
(425) 775-7144

Puyallup

Dr. Anne Barber
312 4th St. SE, #C
(253) 435-9005

Dr. John Corliss
Dr. Kenneth Corliss
312 4th St. SE
(253) 845-0585

Redmond

Dr. Steven Eriksen
16528 Cleveland St., Ste. I
(425) 885-1974

Sammamish

Dr. Kerry Moscovitz
22741 SE 29th St.
(425) 392-2196

Seattle

Dr. Jennifer Andrews
Third & Pine
(206) 344-2020

Dr. Manwai Lau
1229 Madison St., #1250
(206) 622-2020

Dr. Michael Matsunami
301A E. Pike St.
(206) 464-0472

Dr. Hong Nguyen
1536 N. 115th St., #110
(206) 363-6003

Dr. Curtis Ono
2501 N. 45th St.
(206) 526-5222

Dr. Cynthia Rugeiro
1906 Pike Pl., Ste. 8
(206) 448-7739

Tacoma

Dr. A. Chous
6720 Regents Blvd.
(253) 565-9403

Dr. Erick Hartman
6314 19th St. W, #1
(253) 566-2020

Dr. Barry Huse
2913 38th St S #B3
(253) 473-1050

Dr. Shelby Robinson
1314 72nd St. E, #K
(253) 531-5535

Dr. David Williams
9101 Bridgeport Way SW, #1
(253) 588-2254

Dr. Paul Williams
112 131st St S.
(253) 537-7544

University Place

Dr. Kim Eckroth
8204 27th St. W
(253) 564-9262

Woodinville

Dr. Kim Eng
17601 140th Ave. NE, #200
(425) 483-8000

Dr. Sarbjit Virk
13317 NE 175, Ste. U
(425) 486-3937

InfantSEE[®] assessments are complementary to the routine well-care exams a baby receives from a pediatrician or family physician. Optometrists have the training to identify areas of risk that are critical to vision development and the skills to identify conditions that might not be detected in a routine pediatric wellness exam. In some cases, conditions may need to be monitored, immediately treated or referred to a pediatric eye specialist.

To learn more about InfantSEE[®], visit www.InfantSEE.org or call 888-396-3937.

About InfantSEE[®]

InfantSEE® is a public health program managed by Optometry's Charity™ — The AOA Foundation. Designed to ensure that eye and vision care become an integral part of infant wellness and improve a child's quality of life, doctors of optometry provide one eye and vision assessment to infants free-of-charge regardless of socioeconomic status. For more information visit infantsee.org.

About the American Optometric Association

American Optometric Association doctors of optometry are highly qualified, trained doctors, on the frontline of eye health and vision care, who examine, diagnose, treat, and manage diseases and disorders of the eye. In addition to providing eye and vision care, optometrists play a major role in an individual's overall health and well-being by detecting systemic diseases. Doctors of optometry have the skills and training to provide more than two-thirds of all primary eye care in the United States. The American Optometric Association represents more than 36,000 doctors of optometry, optometry students and paraoptometric assistants and technicians in nearly 6,500 communities across the country. For more information, visit www.aoa.org.

About The Vision Care Institute

The Vision Care Institute of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Inc. is an innovative educational resource created to prepare optometry students for a successful transition into the real world of delivering quality eye care, as well as to assist practicing Eye Care Professionals in the growth and development of their practice. The state-of-the-art facility gives participants a rare opportunity to gain first-hand experience with the latest in vision diagnostic and treatment technologies through hands-on contact lens instruction. Besides clinical training, participants also concentrate on communication skills. The curriculum, taught by leading eye care practitioners from around the country, gives participants the skills and confidence necessary to excel in today's professional practice. The Vision Care Institute has hosted students from all 19 of the schools and colleges of optometry throughout North America at its headquarters in Jacksonville, Florida.

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