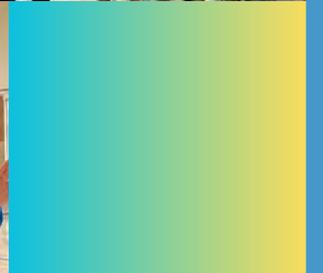




CASEY EYE  
*Institute*

COMMUNITY & GLOBAL  
OUTREACH PROGRAM

# 2025 Impact Report



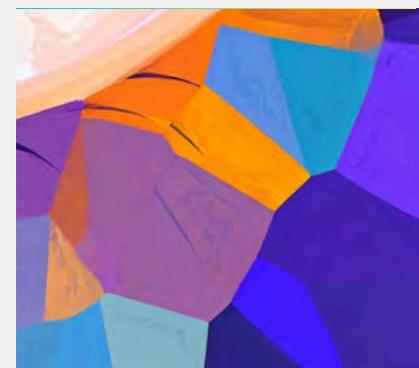
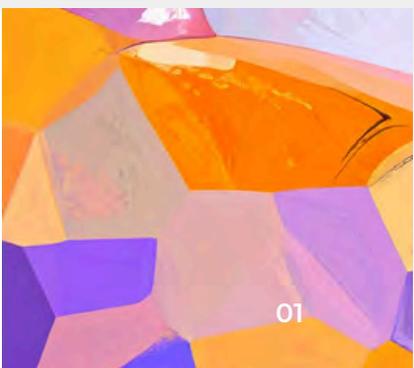
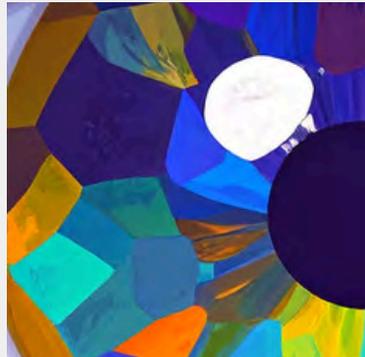
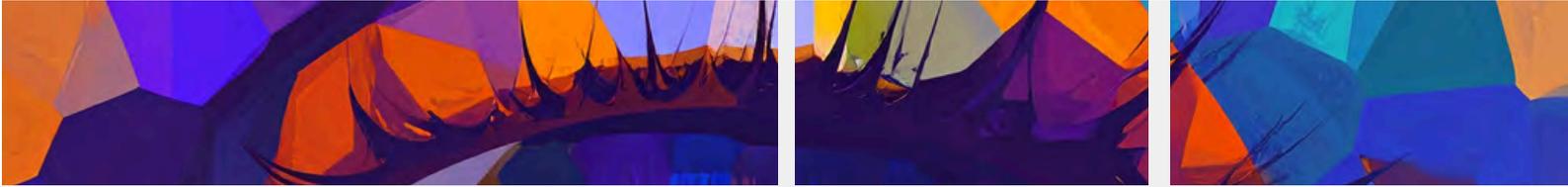
# EYE HEALTH IS PUBLIC HEALTH

Healthy vision shapes how children learn, how adults work, and how individuals maintain independence and overall health. At the OHSU Casey Eye Institute Community Outreach Program, we believe eye health is public health and that improving vision health requires more than treating symptoms. It requires early detection, expanded access points, coordinated care, and flexible systems designed to meet communities where they are.

By bringing the world-class expertise of the Casey Eye Institute directly to where people live, work, learn, and play, we advance vision health as a foundation for lifelong well-being across Oregon and beyond. Through the Oregon Vision Health Network, an expanding system of telehealth screening sites, mobile outreach clinics, and community health advocates trained as Vision Health Navigators, we are strengthening pathways to care, mile by mile and community by community.

In 2025, the program further deepened its public health impact with the launch of school-based mobile vision services through the Oregon Elks Childhood Vision Health Network. This innovative model reflects our commitment to flexible, community-informed solutions that support early detection and long-term vision health outcomes for children.

This impact report reflects the power of community-based partnerships, philanthropy, volunteerism, and the Casey Eye Institute's shared commitment to advancing eye health as public health across the world.



# EXPANDING ACCESS & EXTENDING IMPACT

Since 2010, the Casey Eye Institute Community Outreach Program has delivered essential vision services to individuals who face barriers to care demonstrating how innovative community-based models can strengthen public health systems and improve vision outcomes.

Over the past 15 years, the program has provided **free vision screenings to 14,983 individuals** through mobile and telehealth services and has trained **426 Vision Health Navigators** to extend eye health knowledge and access across Oregon’s rural, frontier, coastal, urban, and Native American communities.

**In 2025 alone**, the Outreach Program expanded both reach and impact by:

- Launching its **first school-based mobile vision clinic** to serve children
- Providing **1,493 free vision screening exams** to individuals with limited access to care
- Deploying the **state-of-the-art mobile eye clinic to 36 community sites** across Oregon
- Expanding the Oregon Vision Health Network with two new telehealth sites, for a total of seven
- Training **102 new Vision Health Navigators** statewide
- Providing **over 700 free pairs of high-quality prescription glasses**
- Establishing **eight new community partnerships**, strengthening local systems of care



**1,493**  
 1,493 vision screenings exams provided at no-cost through the program’s mobile outreach (1,068), telehealth outreach (384), and school-based mobile outreach services (41).



**1,231**  
 Of the 1,493 served 1,231 (82%) required a prescription for glasses and/or a vision care plan.

**698**  
 698 (47%) of those screened received a prescription and quality glasses at no cost.



**421**  
 421 (28%) of those screened were noted as needing additional follow-up, including 14 urgent referrals.



# TELEHEALTH OUTREACH

Telehealth is a powerful public health tool, especially for communities where geography, workforce shortages, or cost limit access to specialty care. Through the Oregon Vision Health Network, the Outreach Program’s telehealth vision screening services have brought preventive eye care to **732 individuals** at community sites across Klamath Falls, Roseburg, Burns, Hood River, Woodburn, Coos Bay, and Madras.

In 2025 alone, telehealth services identified **384 individuals at risk for vision loss** across seven rural, frontier, and Native American communities. Using a collaborative model, local primary care teams identify patients with known risk factors for eye disease and schedule vision screenings using Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT), a non-invasive imaging technology that produces high-resolution images of the retina and optic nerve. Dr. David Huang, Associate Director and Director of Research at Casey Eye Institute, co-invented OCT and was awarded the Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award for this groundbreaking work which is now even more accessible in communities across Oregon.

Images are captured locally and interpreted by ophthalmologists at the Casey Eye Institute, allowing for early detection and timely recommendations. Community-based care teams then coordinate next steps, including referrals to eye providers or, access to prescription glasses through local partners or the Outreach Program.

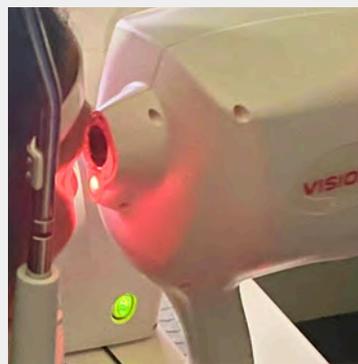
384

community members that have known risk factors for eye disease received a vision screening utilizing advanced imaging equipment.



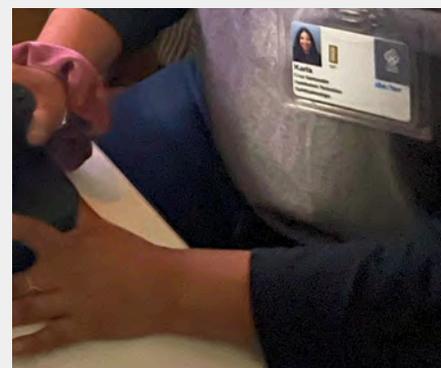
108

108 (28%) received a REFERRAL for additional evaluation or intervention for a condition that threatens their vision, including 8 urgent referrals.



264

264 (69%) received a recommendation for a ROUTINE eye exam to monitor an underlying risk factor for vision loss.



# MOBILE OUTREACH

The Casey Community Outreach Program’s mobile eye clinic is a cornerstone of its public health approach through its ability to bring free, high-quality vision screenings directly to people across Oregon who might otherwise go without care.

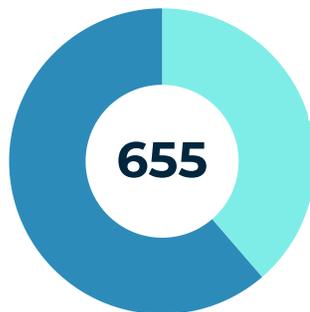
Through partnerships with trusted community-based organizations serving low-income, uninsured, and underinsured Oregonians, the mobile clinic delivers on-site vision screenings and provides prescription glasses at no cost. Clinics are volunteer-powered, mission-driven, and designed to reduce barriers to care while honoring each community’s unique needs.

This collaborative model ensures that individuals who require additional medical support are connected to follow-up care through existing community resources. By embedding vision services within familiar, accessible settings, the Outreach Program strengthens local systems and supports earlier detection, improved coordination, and better long-term outcomes.

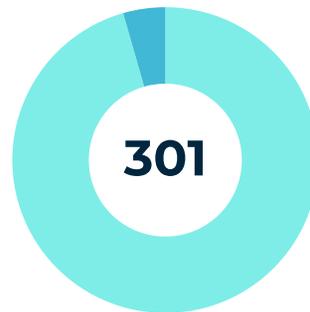
The mobile clinic exemplifies what is possible when flexibility, partnership, and generosity come together to advance eye health as public health.



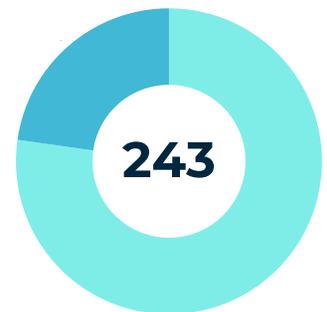
**1,068** vision screening exams provided at no-cost during 35 community-based mobile clinic events.



**655 (61%)** of those screened received a **PRESCRIPTION** and quality **GLASSES** at no cost.



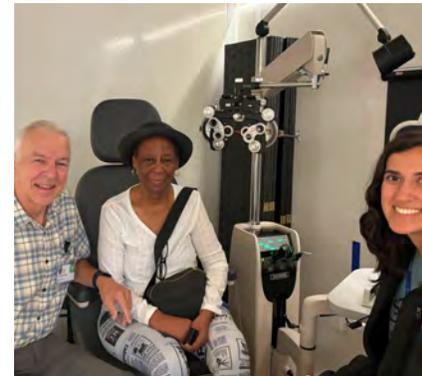
**301 (28%)** received a **REFERRAL** for additional evaluation or intervention for a condition that threatens their vision, including **14 (1%) URGENT REFERRALS**.



**243 (23%)** of those served received a recommendation for a **ROUTINE** annual exam to monitor an underlying risk factor, but no intervention is needed at this time.



**956** (89%) of those served required a prescription for glasses and/or a vision care plan.





# VISION HEALTH NAVIGATOR TRAINING

As an essential part of the Oregon Vision Health Network, the Vision Health Navigator Training equips local health advocates and certified Community Health Workers with the skills to identify those that may be at risk for vision loss, help educated local community members on risk factors for common eye disease, and connect individuals to eye care resources.

**In 2025, 102 individuals** from both clinical and community-based organizations across Oregon were **trained as Vision Health Navigators**, bringing the **total number trained to 426**. Together, these navigators extend vision health as public health through strengthening access, coordination, and educate within the communities in which they live across Oregon.

Approved by the Oregon Health Authority Office of Equity and Inclusion, the training builds on the Outreach Program’s deep experience, connecting Oregonians to essential eye care for over 15 years.



# GLOBAL OUTREACH EXPANDING ACCESS

From the remote U.S. Territory of American Samoa to the Republic of Kiribati, the Global Outreach Program continues to advance equitable access to eye care across the Pacific through partnership, training, and service.

In June, the Global team lead by Dr. Mitch Brinks partnered with local physicians and an ophthalmologist from American Samoa to complete **156 cataract surgeries in Tarawa, Kiribati**, restoring sight and independence for those with limited access to surgical care. One local teacher who was treated is looking forward to reading his students' papers once again now that his vision is 20/20 vision after cataract surgery. Another patient, a 15-year-old boy with Type 1 Diabetes and severe vision impairment, was unable to pursue an off-island referral due to costs and visa constraints, however Dr. Nathaniel Gebhard and a local ophthalmologist worked together to provide successful surgical care, ensuring they were able to receive care locally.

The program's fall efforts focused on strengthening vision care in American Samoa. In October, Dr. Kellyn Bellsmith and Jessy Lee provided **177 pediatric vision screenings**, supporting early detection and referrals for children. This was followed by a week-long clinical effort led by Dr. Gebhard and retina fellow Dr. Brandon Kennedy, addressing adult cataract and retinal conditions in the community.

During his first visit to American Samoa, Dr. Kennedy treated 40 retina patients using a laser generously donated by the Roundhouse Foundation and trained three local ophthalmologists in its use, an investment in sustainable, locally-delivered retina care that will benefit patients for years to come. Building upon these successes with trusted local partners, the team plans to return to extend services to patients in the outlying islands.

Fourth-year Casey resident Dr. Sarah Dugan was part of the November outreach trip to American Samoa, participating in cataract surgical skills exchange, an experience that relied on flexibility and adapting to different circumstances.

“The experience proved to be one of the most formative experiences of my residency training.”  
– Dr. Sarah Dugan



# GLOBAL OUTREACH EDUCATION FOR GLOBAL EYE HEALTH

Improving vision health worldwide depends on shared knowledge, collaboration, and capacity-building. The Global Outreach Program advances global eye health through education—hosting international scholars, supporting skills transfer with clinicians abroad, and creating meaningful training opportunities for OHSU residents and fellows.

In 2025, the program welcomed **Dr. Simaporn Setthawong**, a third-year resident from Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand for a four-week observership at the Casey Eye Institute focused on cornea and glaucoma care. Dr. Beth Edmunds served as her mentor, fostering cross-cultural learning and professional exchange.

Global outreach efforts in **American Samoa** provided trainees with hands-on experience in diverse clinical environments while strengthening local capacity. Pediatric outreach initiatives also opened the door to future collaboration with the Department of Education—an exciting step toward sustainable, systems-level impact.

By investing in education and partnership, the Global Outreach Program supports long-term improvements in eye health systems worldwide.

## Leadership

Dr. Mitchell Brinks, Medical Director of the Global Outreach Program and The Sterling H. and Anna Marie Tebbetts Professor of Global Ophthalmology, continues to champion equitable access to vision care through global collaboration and innovation.

In 2025, Dr. Brinks presented at the European Society of Ophthalmology and met with leaders from the World Health Organization, RANZCO, and the American Academy of Ophthalmology to explore new opportunities for collaboration across the Pacific region.



# REMEMBERING DR. JOSEPH ROBERTSON

2025 marked the passing of Dr. Joe Robertson, who spent more than four decades serving the people of Oregon as a retinal surgeon, and led OHSU as president for more than a decade of dramatic growth and change. Dr. Robertson was a tireless champion of equitable access to vision care across Oregon and the globe. He will be greatly missed.

“Joe Robertson was an exemplary leader and his vision for ensuring OHSU’s reach extends far beyond the Portland-metro area to every corner of the state remains our steadfast commitment today,” said OHSU President Dr. Shereef Elnahal.

As president of the university, Dr. Robertson focused on the needs of all Oregonians and ensured the state’s academic health center served the entirety of Oregon’s 98,000 square miles.

He was highly recognized for his leadership abilities, serving as director of the Casey Eye Institute and dean of the School of Medicine before being appointed president.

Dr. Robertson embodied the ideals of servant leadership, learning by listening and connecting with people to understand and address problems impacting individuals and communities.

As a leader, he empowered his teams to be creative and innovative in pursuit of practical solutions and meaningful change. Thank you Dr. Robertson for your visionary leadership that has inspired the Outreach Program's ongoing commitment to serving communities around the globe.



**“To build the new health systems that will solve blindness and other health care problems as we know them, you will have to look beyond the conventional brick and mortar halls of medicine.”**

**Mitchell V. Brinks MD, MPH  
The Sterling H. and Anna Marie Tebbetts Professor of Global Ophthalmology  
Casey Eye Institute**



# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS:

- **Stephen and Melissa Babson**
- **Oregon Elks Youth Eye Services, OSEA**
- **S. Page Evans**
- **Heather Killough**
- **Theodore R. Lilley**
- **Judith Ann Mogan Foundation**
- **The Roundhouse Foundation**

**We'd also like to thank all our  
volunteers, community partners,  
and other donors.**



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