Milwaukee Chapter Education in General

Vision Screening Program Reading/Literacy

**Timing, duration, frequency of program**

It depends on the number of students to be screened. Each session usually is anywhere from 1 1/2 hours to 3 hours long, during the months of October, November and early December, resuming in March, April and May.

**Fiscal Information**

Budgeted expense total for program last year: $0

Value of in-kind donations (estimated total): Prevent Blindness Wisconsin provides us all the materials to conduct vision screenings.

**Partnerships**

Prevent Blindness Wisconsin, Principals or staff members at various parochial schools

What role does your partner(s) have in the program? Prevent Blindness Wisconsin trains and certifies the volunteers as certified vision screeners and they follow their protocol. A result form is sent home for every child who is screened. If a child fails the screening, Prevent Blindness Wisconsin follows up and answer questions the parents may have. For children who qualify at or below 200% of the poverty level, Prevent Blindness Wisconsin will provide free eye examinations and free glasses for children.

School principals who allow us to conduct vision screenings at their school provided that all our volunteers have taken the Safeguarding All God’s Family Class required by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

**Clients**

Number of children/families served your last fiscal year: 477 children received vision screenings. (400 in Fall and 77 in Spring) 47 students were referred for possible vision problems (interrupted by pandemic).

Age range of clients served: K-8th grade

**Volunteers**

How many volunteers participate in this program (planning and working): 26

What roles do the volunteers have in this program? 2 schedulers who contact parochial schools and arrange to have vision screenings conducted for preschool students and older identified students with suspected vision problems.

● A person who recruits volunteers through Sign Up Genius to sign up for vision screenings held in the morning or afternoon.

● A Cart person who oversees restocking the vision screening cart with supplies.

● A person who covers the child’s eye and directs him or her to identify shapes

● A person who controls the wheel with shapes and keeps track of any errors the child makes.

● A record keeper who fills out all the registration forms that are sent to Prevent Blindness Wisconsin and result forms that are sent home by the school to the child’s parents

**Program Description**

Overall goal of this program: The goal of our Vision Screening Program is to identify children who have vision problems so that they can get glasses and be able to read and learn.

What service/materials do you provide to your clients? vison screeners who are trained and certified by Prevent Blindness Wisconsin to conduct vision screening which will identify children who have vision problems. We conduct screenings on K3, K4 and K5 students as well as students who have been identified by the school as having suspected vision problems. We want these students to get the help they need so that they can see and do well in school. It is estimated that 1 in 4 children have a vision problem. They, however, rarely complain. because they assume everyone sees things as they do.

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Starting in August and again in January, the schedulers will contact 6-8 parochial schools and set up vision screenings. Vision screening sessions occur in the morning and in the afternoon. Each session requires 4 volunteers.

● A person who will entertain the children, observe the child’s eyes and teach them the name of certain shapes.

● A person who covers the child’s eye with special glasses and directs the child to identify a shape on a revolving wheel

● A person who turns the wheel and keeps track of the child’s results

● A record keeper who fills out the result forms which are sent home to the child’s parents and the registration forms and referral forms which are given to Prevent Blindness Wisconsin for follow up.

In addition, volunteers are needed to:

● Stock the vision screening cart with forms and other supplies provided by Prevent Blindness Wisconsin.

● Pick up the cart and delivers it to the school for the vision screening.

● Return the cart with the registration and referral form back to the Cart person who stocks the cart.

● The Vison Screening Chairmen picks up all the referral form, volunteer hour forms and registration forms from the Cart Person and delivers them to Prevent Blindness Wisconsin for follow up.

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