

# Community Service Association Newsletter

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[www.sandi.net/csa](http://www.sandi.net/csa)

## Message from the CSA Board of Directors

Happy New Year! This month the newsletter spotlights an organization which provides healthcare services throughout San Diego County--the UCSD EyeMobile for Children.

Thank you, CSA members, for your generous donations which help to make possible this service to our community.

## Profile of UCSD EyeMobile for Children



The UCSD EyeMobile for Children gives low-income children 3-6 years of age the vision they need to succeed in school and life by identifying, treating and preventing vision disorders. Besides the vehicle that gives the program its name, the keys to the program's success are its multilingual, dedicated staff, its student and community volunteers, its use of the latest information technology, and the grants and donations that make the program and all services possible.

The program was launched at Shiley Eye Center in 2000 by Stuart Brown, M.D. in response to the alarming statistics that 40 – 67% of children who fail a vision screening do not receive the recommended follow-up care by an eye doctor, and that up to 50% of cases of childhood blindness could have been avoided with comprehensive eye healthcare.

The EyeMobile visits over 200 preschools and childcare programs throughout San Diego county targeting the region's most vulnerable populations.

At each preschool the EyeMobile staff provides information to families and teachers about eye health and early childhood vision care. Each child at the preschool receives a preliminary vision screening. Children who fail to pass the screening are seen on board the EyeMobile, where licensed pediatric optometrists perform complete, dilated eye exams and prescribe eyeglasses as needed. When eyeglasses are prescribed, the family selects the frames on board and within two weeks receives the glasses with case and strap at no cost. Follow up calls are made with parents and teachers for all students wearing glasses.

In the 2012-13 school year, 15,300 children were screened by EyeMobile staff. Of those children 2,042 received a fully-dilated eye exam and 1,249 pairs of glasses were provided.

The vision care has a profound impact on the lives of many of the children. Oralia, a preschool teacher in San Ysidro, described the effect on one of her students: "Jacqueline couldn't even write a letter. After she got her glasses, she would write her name and also make pictures with lots of details."

Children identified as having other serious eye conditions are referred to a pediatric ophthalmologist. This past year 24 children were identified as having an urgent need to see the ophthalmologist to save their sight. In one case the child was found to have a brain tumor; fortunately the discovery was made early enough that his sight was saved by surgery.

The UCSD EyeMobile for Children appreciates their partnership with the Community Service Association and looks forward to furthering their reach to more communities across San Diego.

To learn more about the UCSD EyeMobile for Children please visit [eyemobile.ucsd.edu](http://eyemobile.ucsd.edu).

## CSA Mission Statement

*The Community Service Association of San Diego Unified School District is a nonprofit association organized to solicit contributions from district employees for recognized charitable agencies in San Diego County which support the arts, education, health, and human services.*