



OFVA

Newsletter

Silent Auction Donations Needed!

Support the Oregon Foundation of Vision Awareness (OFVA) by donating an item to our 2026 Silent Auction! The auction will be held virtually for one week leading up to the GWCO Congress, with featured auction items showcased on-screen during the **OOPA Social Event on Friday, October 16, from 9:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.**

Attendees will be encouraged to browse the auction and place bids throughout the evening, while bidding remains open online.

We're seeking donations such as themed gift baskets, vacation home stays, local experiences, sporting event tickets, artwork, gift cards, and unique services—but we welcome creative ideas of all kinds.

Every donation helps fund OFVA's mission of expanding access to vision care and education for underserved Oregonians.



Auction

To ensure your donation can be included, please submit all items by **September 18th**. If you would like to donate or have any questions, please reach out to **Dr. Mary Avisado** at avisado@pacificu.edu or **Dr. Laura Ozuna** at drlauraozuna@gmail.com.

Powerful Partnerships Conquer Barriers to Vision Care

June 5, 2026

The Pacific University College of Optometry (PUCO) Community Outreach Program, in collaboration with the Oregon Foundation for Vision Awareness (OFVA) and the Sheridan School District (SSD), delivered a full day of no-cost vision care to K–12 students on June 5, 2026. Held in the Sheridan High School gym, the event brought essential eye-care services directly to children identified through school screenings as needing further evaluation.

The SSD had previously identified approximately 120 students facing significant barriers to accessing timely eye care.



These challenges included the absence of local providers who accept vision coverage, transportation limitations, and language barriers. By bringing the Mobile Vision Clinic directly to the school, these barriers were reduced, making it easier for students to receive the care they needed.

During the event, 35 students received comprehensive dilated eye exams. 23 were prescribed glasses at no cost, and eight were referred for additional follow-up care, including one student requiring medical evaluation for cataracts. Nearly every available appointment was filled, reflecting the strong need for

vision services within the community. The clinic addressed a significant need within the community, providing more than \$28,000 worth of eye care services and eyewear.

A robust interprofessional team powered the event. 16 PUCO optometry interns gained valuable hands-on clinical experience under the supervision of faculty optometric physician Dr. John Lowery, pediatric



vision resident Dr. Amy Lazendorf, and regional optometrists Drs. Mila Ioussifova, Anna McCann, and Daniela Minnis. The clinic also benefited from nursing student volunteers from OHSU, who supported patient flow and care coordination, and 2 opticians who assisted students with frame selection and glasses ordering through SWEEP Optical and Essilor's Changing Lives Through Lenses program.

Rebecca Boris, BSN, RN, PCCN, who coordinated the event for the district, served as a passionate advocate for her community. She shared, "I slept like a baby last night. It was an emotional day yesterday and draining in some aspects. Students had gone years without an exam."



This event highlights the impact that can be achieved when schools, community organizations, and healthcare professionals work together. Through the partnership between PUCO, OFVA, and the SSD, students gained access to vision care that



Check out our [Instagram post](#) highlighting the event!

Call for Volunteers: Join us on Friday, October 23, as the Oregon Foundation for Vision Awareness (OFVA) and the Pacific University College of Optometry (PUCO) Community Outreach Program once again partner with the Sheridan School District to provide comprehensive eye exams for students who face barriers to accessing vision care in this underserved Oregon community.

If you're interested in volunteering for a half or full day, please contact **Dr. Carol Rymer** at rymercz@pacificu.edu.

Opening Eyes Brings Clearer Vision to Special Olympics Oregon Athletes

July 11, 2026

As part of the 2026 Special Olympics Oregon Summer State Games, the Opening Eyes program provided vision screenings for athletes on Saturday, July 11, inside Reser Stadium in Corvallis. The Summer State Games brought athletes from across Oregon together for a weekend of competition, celebration, and community, featuring events in track and field, bocce, golf, and softball.



Opening Eyes is a Special Olympics Healthy Athletes program dedicated to improving the vision and eye health of athletes with intellectual disabilities. Through vision screenings, volunteer eye care professionals identify vision problems that might otherwise go undetected, helping address gaps in access to care. While some athletes receive regular comprehensive eye care, others have not had an eye exam in years. Opening Eyes provides an opportunity to identify unmet vision needs, offer referrals for follow-up care, and connect athletes requiring vision correction with prescription eyewear, helping remove barriers to participation in sports and everyday life.



This year's event was made possible by 11 volunteer optometrists, 4 volunteer opticians, 28 Pacific University College of Optometry student volunteers, and PUCO faculty. Together, they provided vision screenings, educated athletes about eye health, and assisted those needing eyewear. A total of 101 athletes were screened, with 26 identified as needing updated prescription glasses. Athletes who did not require prescription eyewear selected a complimentary pair of non-prescription sunglasses, ensuring everyone left with quality eye protection.



The event also provided Pacific University College of Optometry students with valuable hands-on clinical experience while reinforcing the importance of community service and accessible eye care. Participating in Opening Eyes allowed students to apply their skills in a meaningful setting while seeing firsthand the impact that vision care can have on an athlete's health, confidence, and quality of life.

Events like Opening Eyes are made possible through the dedication of volunteer optometrists, opticians, faculty, students, and support staff who generously donate their time and expertise. Their commitment helps make vision care more accessible while supporting the broader mission of Special Olympics: promoting inclusion, health, and opportunity for all athletes.



STUDENT MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Anna Shewaye – OFVA Student Liaison

Anna Shewaye is a fourth-year student at Pacific University College of Optometry and served as OFVA's first-ever Student Liaison 2025-2026. Originally from Oregon, Anna plans to continue serving her home state after graduation and is passionate about expanding access to quality vision care for all Oregonians.

Why OFVA?

"I was drawn to OFVA because of its mission to serve individuals in need. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to an organization that promotes equitable healthcare for those who may otherwise have difficulty accessing these services. I am driven by the goal of ensuring that every Oregonian has access to high-quality vision care, allowing them to lead healthy, fulfilling lives."

What is the OFVA Student Liason?

The OFVA Student Liaison serves as the connection between OFVA and the student body at Pacific University College of Optometry, helping engage future optometrists in public health initiatives and vision care advocacy throughout Oregon.



Thank you, Anna, for your leadership and for representing the student voice on the OFVA Board!



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Victoria Spence, OD, FAAO

Dr. Victoria Spence is an Assistant Professor at Pacific University College of Optometry with a passion for pediatric eye care and community-based vision care. She joined OFVA because she believes access to quality eye care should never depend on income, insurance status, or where someone lives.

Why OFVA?

"Vision plays a critical role not only in physical health, but in learning, independence, and mental wellbeing. Helping remove even one barrier to care can make a meaningful difference in someone's quality of life. As a board member, I hope to expand awareness of services and build partnerships that improve access to comprehensive eye care."



Current Role

Assistant Professor, Pacific University College of Optometry
OFVA Board Member

Become an OFVA Participating Provider

The Oregon Foundation of Vision Awareness (OFVA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving access to eye care for Oregonians in need. We connect doctors who are members of OOPA and AOA to provide eye care and vision assistance to underserved individuals throughout Oregon

Participating is easy:

1. Patients apply for assistance through OFVA at www.ofva.org.
2. OFVA reviews each application for financial eligibility.
3. Approved patients are referred to a participating provider.
4. Your office schedules the exam and bills insurance when applicable. If the exam cannot be billed to insurance, participating providers may choose to donate the exam pro bono. In some cases, OFVA can also provide a VSP Eyes of Hope® voucher to cover the examination.
5. If the patient needs glasses, you can order them through the LEAP Lab, with the cost of the eyewear covered by OFVA. Or glasses may be covered by the VSP voucher.

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When needed, participating offices can be provided with a starter set of LEAP Lab frames to help care for future OFVA patients.

Join our growing network of providers and help ensure every Oregonian has access to the vision care they deserve.

There Are Many Ways to Get Involved

Providing patient care is just one way to support OFVA. You can also:

- Host a Day of Service at your office.
- Volunteer at a local health or wellness fair.
- Partner with local Lions Clubs or community organizations.
- Serve on the OFVA Board.
- Share the community service work you're already doing—we'd love to highlight your efforts and help connect you with additional opportunities.

Whether you volunteer a few hours a year, become a participating provider, or support OFVA with a donation, every contribution helps bridge the gap between patients and the eye care they need.