



FOUR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ROTARY CLUBS JOIN FORCES TO HELP JUNIOR BLIND PROVIDE MORE CHILDREN WITH VISION SCREENINGS

Crenshaw-Watts, Inglewood, Hermosa Beach and Southwest L.A. Rotary Clubs Present \$8,000 Grant to Junior Blind in Support of Vision Screening Program

Los Angeles, CA, March 3, 2011—Junior Blind of America, a non-profit dedicated to helping children and adults who are blind, visually impaired or multi-disabled achieve independence, received an \$8,000 community service grant in support of its Vision Screening Program from Rotary Club District 5280.

Junior Blind's Vision Screening Program provides thousands of low-income children, ages three to nine, with free vision screenings at health fairs, day care centers, public schools and charter schools. Junior Blind also helps children with follow up care, including free glasses when deemed necessary by a doctor and assistance with follow up medical care for families in need. The program was launched in 2008 to address growing concern about preschool and elementary school age children at risk for undetected vision impairments.

Dr. Cresie M. Page, Founder and Executive Director of Page Learning Academy and President of the Crenshaw-Watts Rotary Club, spearheaded the community service grant application process after students of the Page Learning Academy received vision screenings through Junior Blind. She and Regina Sweeney, President of the Hermosa Beach Rotary Club, collaborated with the Inglewood and Southwest L.A. Rotary Clubs to submit the application on Junior Blind's behalf.

"Junior Blind conducted vision screenings at Page Learning Academy because my students—like all children—need access to vision care," said Dr. Page. "It was important to collaborate with other Rotary Clubs in District 5280 and maximize the impact of the funding in the community," she continued. "All the participating clubs were pleased to work together in support of Junior Blind and its important work."

"Junior Blind is honored to receive this grant from the Rotary Club," said Miki Jordan, President and CEO of Junior Blind. "With this generous gift, we will be able to provide more children with critical vision screenings, helping to identify and prevent potential vision problems earlier—all at no cost to their families."

Local Rotary Clubs have long supported Junior Blind through gifts and volunteerism, and have been especially involved with Junior Blind's Vision Screening Program. Last year, sixteen Rotarians from these four clubs were trained and certified to help conduct vision screenings in the community, helping Junior Blind expand the reach of the program. Junior Blind is currently accepting applications for volunteers interested in becoming trained and certified to help provide vision screenings. For more information, please contact Lisa Rueda, Junior Blind's Director of Program Development, at (323) 295-4555 or lrueda@juniorblind.org.

ABOUT JUNIOR BLIND OF AMERICA

Since 1953, Junior Blind has helped people of all ages who are blind, visually impaired or multi-disabled achieve independence. Each year, Junior Blind provides services to thousands of individuals and their families through programs that offer innovative and individualized methods of education, recreation, training and rehabilitation. These life-changing programs are designed to empower infants, children, teens and adults to reach their highest level of potential, independence and self-esteem. To learn more, please visit www.juniorblind.org.

ABOUT ROTARY CLUB INTERNATIONAL:

Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Rotary's global membership is approximately 1.2 million men and women who belong to more than 33,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. Learn more at www.rotary.org.

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