

# FOUNDATION UPDATE

## With Sight for Soldiers, Army reservist has one less worry



*Beth and Daniel Nelson*

As Army reservist Daniel Nelson prepared for a Middle East deployment earlier this spring, one thing he didn't have to worry about was how many pairs of glasses or contact lenses to pack.

For the first time since third grade, Nelson can see perfectly without corrective lenses, thanks to Phillips Eye Institute Foundation's Sight for Soldiers program. The program provides financial assistance for troops serving in the National Guard and Reserves to obtain laser vision correction surgery at Phillips Eye Institute.

Neal Sher, MD, has donated his services to help about 500 soldiers since the program started, and the Sight for Soldiers fund allows Phillips Eye Institute to discount or waive its

hospital fees for the procedure. It also helps with lodging costs if needed.

Nelson, who is a truck driver in civilian life, is married with a young daughter and lives in Moorhead, Minn. Sight for Soldiers paid for his lodging in Minneapolis so Nelson could be seen by Sher the day after surgery for a routine post-operative examination.

"My vision was terrible before the surgery. If I looked at an eye chart, I could not even make out the first big E on the chart," said Nelson. After the surgery, he noticed an immediate improvement. "It's a great feeling to know you don't have to rely on something else to be able to see."

Having good vision is even more important when you are halfway around the world on a military mission. Not having to depend on glasses means one less thing to worry about when you are in a hazardous, unpredictable environment, Nelson explained. "I did not want to deal with inserts for safety glasses and other equipment issues. It's not only an inconvenience – if you don't have it when you need it, it can be a hazard to you or others," said Nelson.

Dear friend of Phillips Eye Institute Foundation,

In May, I took over as executive director from Bev Fritz, who retired after serving the Phillips Eye Institute Foundation diligently for six years. I am excited to support the Phillips Eye Institute team as they provide exceptional care to our patients with the latest technology, the latest techniques and best vision outcomes. I am also privileged to help carry on the tradition of community outreach through our Early Youth Eye Care Initiative, the Kirby Puckett Eye Mobile and Sight for Soldiers Program. We're poised for greatness and I am grateful to be part of it all.

Warmly,

*Laurie M. Hennen*  
executive director  
Phillips Eye Institute  
Foundation

## Support Sight for Soldiers

Our Sight for Soldiers fund helps Phillips Eye Institute provide laser vision correction surgery to troops in the National Guard and Reserves. Give the gift of sight to those who serve our country. Donate at [allinahealth.org/donate-phillipseye](http://allinahealth.org/donate-phillipseye).

# A great match: Ogi Eyewear frames and E.Y.E. kids

When Phillips Eye Institute's award-winning Early Youth Eyecare (E.Y.E.) Community Initiative expanded to serve St. Paul Public Schools in 2014, the number of students it served doubled within a year.

Fortunately, dedicated vendors like Ogi Eyewear were up to the challenge. The Minneapolis-based company had donated eyeglass frames to the E.Y.E. program since it began serving Minneapolis Public Schools in 2008. When approached about the expansion to St. Paul, Ogi Eyewear founder and designer David Spencer had no hesitation.

"Every year as the need has grown, our participation has grown along with the program," said Shelley Jacobs, director of Business Affairs.

The company has donated thousands of frames over the years. "We closely work with the program to make sure they have a good selection of frames, and we do our best to accommodate the variety of needs – with styles for boys and girls, and also some young adult frames," explained Sheri Sherling, director of Merchandising.



*Ogi Eyewear staff at the 2015 Urban Cocktail Party.*

"It's important for us to provide high-quality frames to our kids and that's one of the reasons our partnership with Ogi Eyewear is invaluable," said Cody Engelhaupt, Community Programs coordinator for Phillips Eye Institute. "The frames can withstand activities like playing at recess or horsing around with siblings – and the kids love the frames they receive. They are always excited to put on their new Ogi Eyewear frames."

According to Jacobs, the Ogi Eyewear team values the relationship it has developed with Phillips Eye Institute Foundation. "The desire to help others is part of our culture at Ogi Eyewear. This has been a fruitful relationship in so many ways."

## Your chance to make a difference



**INVESTING IN SIGHT**  
**CHANGING LIVES**  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR PHILLIPS EYE INSTITUTE

Phillips Eye Institute Foundation is nearing completion of its Investing in Sight, Changing Lives Campaign. We're aiming to close the gap on our \$4 million dollar goal for the Early Youth Eyecare (E.Y.E.) Community Initiative, with \$300,000 left to raise by the end of this year. We need your help to finish strong and ensure that Minneapolis and St. Paul Public School children have access to the vision care services they deserve.

Please give today at  
[allinahealth.org/donate-phillipseye](http://allinahealth.org/donate-phillipseye).



## See Saint Paul campaign ensures quality vision care for St. Paul kids

Caring partners make great things happen in our community – that is why the See Saint Paul campaign was a huge success. A group of 30 donors, along with a matching gift from the Otto Bremer Trust, helped See Saint Paul raise \$583,300 to benefit the Phillips Eye Institute’s Early Youth Eyecare (E.Y.E.) Community Initiative. This allows Phillips Eye Institute to continue providing vision screening and follow-up care to elementary and middle school students in St. Paul Public Schools. Thanks to these generous donors, many children will benefit from the gift of quality vision care, which is essential to achieving success in the classroom as well as in life.

## Technology grant funds new glaucoma laser treatment

With overwhelming support from the Patient Care Committee, the Phillips Eye Institute Foundation Board of Directors recently approved a grant to the hospital to acquire the Cyclo G6 Laser System for glaucoma treatment. This new laser technology received Food and Drug Administration approval in February 2015 and has delivered promising early results. The Cyclo G6 Laser will allow Phillips Eye Institute ophthalmologists to provide better glaucoma care to their patients using technology that is not widely available in the Twin Cities.



2215 Park Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

[allinahealth.org/peifoundation](http://allinahealth.org/peifoundation)

### ABOUT PHILLIPS EYE INSTITUTE

Phillips Eye Institute, part of Allina Health, is the second largest eye specialty hospital (in patient volume) in the United States. Dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of eye diseases and disorders, Phillips Eye Institute's 137 credentialed ophthalmologists offer an extensive array of specialty services from diagnostic tests and low vision evaluations to laser eye treatments and specialized eye surgery.

The Phillips Eye Institute Foundation plays a vital role in providing vision services for patients and the community. We fund essential hospital programs and services, including transportation to and from the hospital, vision correction for our military through the Sight for Soldiers program, and advanced technology through the Irving and Janet Shapiro Innovative Technology Fund. We also support vision care for children in Minneapolis and St. Paul Public Schools through the Early Youth Eyecare Community Initiative and the Kirby Puckett Eye Mobile.

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### MISSION

To further Phillip Eye Institute's commitment to eye care excellence, education, research and community involvement while honoring the legacy of Mount Sinai Hospital.

Laurie Hennen, Executive Director  
Phillips Eye Institute Foundation  
612-775-8758 | [Laurie.Hennen@allina.com](mailto:Laurie.Hennen@allina.com)

## SAVE THE DATE

### The Urban Cocktail Party

Don't miss this opportunity to support Phillips Eye Institute and experience the newest sports venue in town, U.S. Bank Stadium.

**SATURDAY, NOV. 5**

**6 – 10:30 p.m.**

U.S. Bank Stadium  
Emcee: Jason DeRusha

Online registration begins in September. Watch for event and registration details at:

[allinahealth.org/urbancocktailparty](http://allinahealth.org/urbancocktailparty)

