

# FOUNDATION UPDATE

## Eye emergency: retinal detachment

There was a time when Richard Jones brushed aside some occasional changes he had noticed in his vision – tiny black specs floating in his field of vision, or flashes of light when he moved his eyes rapidly.

That's something he's not likely to do again. He has since learned that floaters and flashes are early signs of a serious problem: retinal detachment.

While in a business meeting in June 2014, Jones suddenly lost vision in his left eye. It was 30 minutes before he could get away. He went immediately to his eye clinic, and they referred him to VitreoRetinal Surgery, PA. Jones had a detached retina, and treatment was needed quickly to prevent permanent vision loss. His eye surgeon, retina specialist Ed Ryan, MD, scheduled him for surgery the next day at Phillips Eye Institute, which has the highest volume of retina surgeries in the U.S.

In the meantime, he was advised to curtail activities and minimize eye movement.

"It's very scary to lose your vision," said Jones. But today, he's able to look back on the experience with much gratitude. It started with his eye clinic, who quickly referred him to a retina specialist. "Then I met with Dr. Ryan, who was very reassuring and told me I was going to be fine."



*Richard Jones, owner of a specialty lumber wholesale business, is grateful for the care he received at Phillips Eye Institute to treat a retinal detachment.*

When he arrived at Phillips Eye Institute, "the person who greeted me was one of the nicest people I've ever met," continued Jones. And each person he met throughout the day treated him with great professionalism as well as great kindness. His surgery, which involved introducing a gas bubble into the eye to press against the detached retina, was successful. "With a change in my lens prescription, my vision is close to 20/20," said Jones.

"It was probably the best health care experience I've had in my 67 years," said Jones.

## Phillips Eye Institute Foundation helps fund retinal detachment study

With support from Phillips Eye Institute Foundation, Phillips Eye Institute is participating in a major study to compare outcomes of different methods of retinal detachment repair. Five other nationally known eye centers are participating including: VitreoRetinal Surgery, PA, Wills Eye Institute, Bascom Palmer, The Retina Center in St. Louis, and Associated Retina Consultants in Detroit.

"Retinal detachment repair techniques have evolved significantly in recent years, and there are opportunities to improve care by gaining a better understanding of which techniques are best suited for various forms and clinical presentations of retinal detachment," said Edwin Ryan Jr, MD, VitreoRetinal Surgery, and lead investigator.

The study will involve several retrospective case control reviews using a large data set of retinal detachment cases.

"Phillips Eye Institute has the highest volume of retina cases in the country, and we are excited for this opportunity to improve patient care here as well as nationally and internationally," said Dan Conrad, MD, MBA, president, Phillips Eye Institute.

# Urban Cocktail Party: Our most successful yet

The 10th Annual Urban Cocktail Party on November 5 was our *most successful fundraiser to date*. A huge thank you to our supporters, volunteers and everyone who had a hand in this important event. We enjoyed honoring Emmett Carpel, MD, who has practiced ophthalmology in the Twin Cities since 1975 and served as chief of staff and medical director at Phillips Eye Institute for nine years. It was an evening filled with beautiful views of US Bank Stadium, delicious food, exciting auction items and humbling generosity. Together, we raised nearly \$148K to support key programs that provide life-changing vision care. YOU had the power to support the programs that YOU care about most, including Early Youth Eye Care (E.Y.E.) Community Initiative, Transportation, Technology, and Sight for Soldiers.



## SAVE THE DATE

Join us at  
US Bank Stadium  
on Saturday, Oct. 28  
for the 2017 Urban  
Cocktail Party.



## Retinal detachment symptoms

What is a retinal detachment? It is when the retina, the thin layer of light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye, pulls away from the underlying wall of the eye. Symptoms of retinal detachment might include:

**Seeing more floaters.** Most people can see floaters, which are clumps of protein and part of the natural breakdown process of the vitreous, a gel-like substance that fills most of the eye. But an increase in floaters suggests that the retina has torn and the retina could be pulling away from the wall of the eye.

**Seeing flashes of light.** The retina does not feel pain or pressure. But anything that stimulates the retina creates flashes of light. Quick flashes of light in the outer edges of the field of vision indicate a retinal tear or detachment could be forming.

**Seeing a curtain or shade across the visual field.** If the vitreous fluid leaks through a tear and gathers under the retina, a curtain or shade can cross the visual field. This is a dangerous sign and indicates that the condition needs immediate attention.

– M. Vaughn Emerson, MD,  
Retina Center of Minnesota

During the 2015-16 school year, we provided a  
**FULL RANGE OF VISION CARE SERVICES**  
in Minneapolis and St. Paul Public Schools, including:



vision screening for  
**30,000**  
**STUDENTS**  
through the  
Early Youth Eyecare  
(E.Y.E.) Community  
Initiative



**61**  
**SCHOOL VISITS**  
by the Kirby Puckett  
Eye Mobile

where we  
provided  
**697**  
vision exams



and prescribed  
**454**  
pairs of glasses

**\$0**

at  
**NO COST**  
to families or  
school districts



**Thanks**  
to more than  
**300**  
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2215 Park Avenue  
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[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.

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**Changing lives through better vision care**

Through your continued generosity, the Phillips Eye Institute Foundation has funded programs, technologies and services that are changing lives in our community. But there is still work to be done.

Vision is a precious gift. Our goal is to eliminate the barriers that some face in accessing vision care, and to provide the best possible vision care to everyone who walks through our doors. Your support is key to allowing us to continue this mission.

Please consider Phillips Eye Institute Foundation in your annual giving plan. Donate today at [allinahealth.org/donate-phillipseye](http://allinahealth.org/donate-phillipseye), or send your donation to us using this form. **Thank you.**

**Make a donation**

Donate at [allinahealth.org/donate-phillipseye](http://allinahealth.org/donate-phillipseye) or enclose your check or credit card authorization with this form and send to:

Laurie Hennen - MR 43101  
 Phillips Eye Institute Foundation  
 2215 Park Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55404

Your gift will support our *Where the Need is Greatest* fund.

Gift amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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