



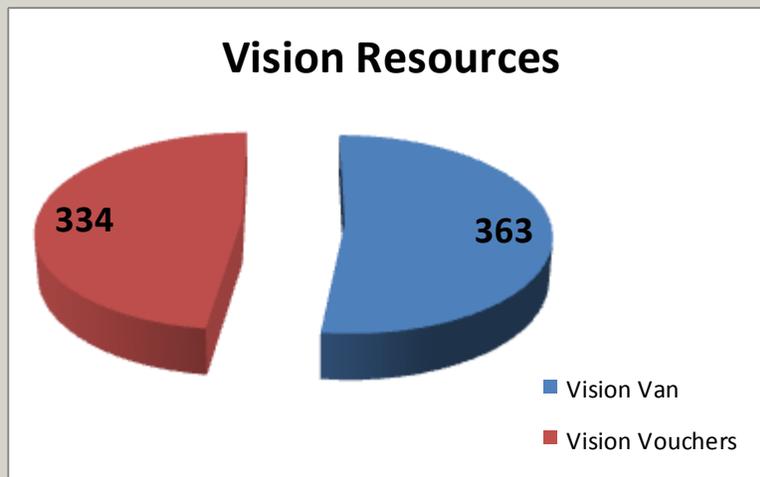
## 2015 – 2016 VISION INITIATIVES

### SUMMARY

According to the CDC, vision disability is the most prevalent disabling condition among children in the United States, and one out of four children will have an undiagnosed vision problem. For too many children, poor vision results in poor academic performance, low self esteem and unrealized potential. Using a population based health approach, students in the Lehigh Valley are connected to care through the St. Luke's Vision Van, Vision Vouchers, and transportation services to Vision Providers. The goal of the Vision Initiative is to assist students and families in overcoming obstacles that prevent them from obtaining vision care. Often school age children who are in need of glasses do not have vision insurance and their families are unable to afford vision care. Through grants, donations, and participating vision providers volunteering their time and resources, the Vision Initiative is able to help meet the needs of these students.

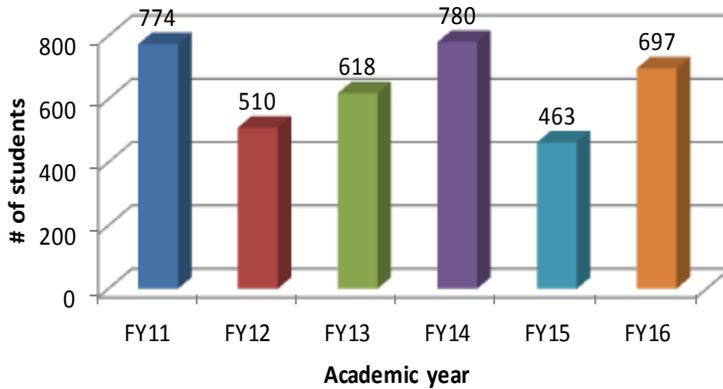
### HIGHLIGHTS

- Through a generous donation from the Auxiliary of St. Luke's, we were able to purchase an auto ref-keratometer for the Mobile Vision van. This important donation provided the funds to replace this vital device that contains hundreds of combinations of lenses, and is necessary to determine the need for prescription glasses.
- We also received funds from an anonymous donor to support the purchase of a slit lamp, applanation tonometer, small aspheric lenses and a computerized visual acuity system to provide a thorough full eye exam on the Mobile Vision van.
- Obtaining the above vision equipment to provide adult comprehensive exams on the Mobile Vision Van.



## SUCCESSSES

### Students Served by Vision Services



In FY 16 the St. Luke's Vision Initiative put 697 pairs of glasses on the faces of students in the Lehigh Valley. The Mobile Vision Van served students in five school districts (Allentown, Bangor, Bethlehem, Easton, and Panther Valley).

- 334 vision vouchers were redeemed
- In only 13 days: 363 students were seen on the Vision Van & 18 bus trips were provided by St. Luke's to Vision provider offices to 180 students, who faced transportation barriers, to receive vision services

## CHALLENGES

- Vision screenings by School RN's are not completed until mid-year which delays referral for vision services.
- Obtaining signed consent forms from parents/guardians to provide services on the vision van or transportation to the vision provider still remains a barrier in providing services.
- Currently we have one Optometrist who volunteers his time, twice monthly, to provide full eye exams on the van.

## NEXT STEPS

- Partnerships with the area school district and a local college to pilot a Marathon State Mandated Screening program are underway.
- Student nurses, public health interns, faculty, and staff will facilitate the marathon vision screenings to be held over two days, completing screenings in the first weeks of school.
- Referrals for failed screenings, and follow up for connection and completion of vision services will increase the number of students receiving glasses at the beginning of the academic year.
- Opportunities to work directly with the school principals, guidance counselors, school nurses, and community school coordinators will provide trusted communication with parents/guardians will help to increase the return of consent forms.
- Recruitment of additional optometrists to provide full eye-exams on the Mobile Van
- Work to obtain the funds to pilot an adult vision program, targeting underinsured diabetic individuals that have not completed their diabetic retinal eye exam.

