



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VSP's Sight for Students Program Helps 500,000th Child

Rancho Cordova, Calif., March 9, 2009 – Today, VSP[®]'s charitable Sight for Students[®] program announced it helped the 500,000th child since its inception in 1997. The program has funded almost \$100 million in free eyecare and eyewear for low-income, uninsured and underinsured children.

Sight for Students started as part of VSP's commitment to America's Promise Alliance, the nation's largest partnership network working to improve the lives of America's young people founded by General Colin Powell in 1997. VSP's Sight for Students program offers qualified families with vouchers to visit one of their 25,000 network doctors who provide comprehensive eye exams, identify vision issues and prescribe glasses during their visit.

"This is a significant milestone for us because investing in the community is at the heart of VSP's mission as a company," said VSP President and CEO Rob Lynch. "More than 94 percent of the children who have these exams need and receive free prescription glasses. This underscores the important role that Sight for Students serves for children who lack access to eyecare."

According to a recent nationwide study, more than 76 percent of American children under the age of five have never received a comprehensive eye exam and one in four kids in every classroom has vision problems.

"My son began struggling in Kindergarten and complaining of headaches to the school nurse," said Raul Alfaro's father of Fort Wayne, Ind. "His eyesight began affecting his performance in the classroom, and my wife and I knew we had to do something about it despite the financial hardships we were experiencing at the time. We signed-up for VSP's Sight for Students program and had Raul's eyes examined. Shortly after his exam, Raul picked out a new pair of glasses and moved to the head of his class."

VSP works with non-profit community organizations to deliver Sight for Students eyecare including Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Communities in Schools, Head Start, National Association of School Nurses, and Prevent Blindness America. "The National Association of School Nurses is pleased to be able to partner with VSP," states President Donna Mazyck. "Good vision is essential for a child to achieve academic success."



In 2008, VSP's Charitable Programs provided 171,420 vouchers for Sight for Students, Mobile Clinic Exams/Vouchers, and American Red Cross vouchers. More than half of VSP's charitable efforts support the Sight for Students program.

For more information about Sight for Students, including Spanish translated materials, please visit www.vsp.com/community.

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About the VSP Family of Companies

VSP®'s family of companies includes the largest not-for-profit vision benefits and services company in the United States with 55 million members; VSP Labs, industry leaders in new technologies, production processes, service and logistics; Marchon® Eyewear Inc., one of the world's largest manufacturers, designers and distributors of quality fashion and technologically-advanced eyewear and sunwear, distributing its products to more than 100,000 customer locations in more than 100 countries; Eyefinity®/Officemate® which offer innovative solutions and the premier management software and technology to improve overall practice management and the patient experience.