



CHILD

New Mexico

Bringing Education into Focus™

Who We Are

ChildSight® is the domestic program of Helen Keller International. Its mission is to improve the vision and academic potential of children living in poverty. ChildSight® provides free, in-school vision screenings, prescription eyeglasses, and ophthalmic referrals for low-income children. We screen children ages 10-15, the age when refractive error (near- and far-sightedness and astigmatism) typically manifests. In most cases, refractive error is easily fixed with a pair of corrective eyeglasses. However, for many families living below the poverty level, a pair of corrective eyeglasses is simply unaffordable.

ChildSight® bridges this gap using a direct, school-based model. In New Mexico, we serve middle- and high-school students within the Gallup-McKinley County School District, the Eastern and Northern Navajo Bureau of Indian Affairs Schools, and the Central Consolidated School District.

How We Do It

ChildSight® eliminates the economic, social and transportation barriers that prevent many poor children from obtaining the care they need. Our skilled staff, including a licensed optometrist, screens students to identify refractive error and potential eye pathology. Within one week, we return to the school to deliver glasses to students who need them. ChildSight® New Mexico partners with local ophthalmic and optometric clinics to acquire their services at a reduced fee or as a charitable donation.

Who We've Helped

Since its launch in 2004, ChildSight® New Mexico has screened more than 40,000 students and has delivered more than 12,000 pairs of free eyeglasses to children in need. We continue to witness a dramatic need for eyeglasses among the children we screen, due in large part to the prevalence of astigmatism in many Native American children, limited access to health care professionals, and widening economic disparities amid the economic downturn.

In the 2012-2013 academic year, ChildSight® New Mexico screened 5,209 children and provided 1,501 children (33%) with the eyeglasses they needed to fully focus and excel in the classroom.

Who Helps Us Make It Possible

ChildSight® collaborates with local school districts, business owners, and health care providers. We receive support from the Reader's Digest Partners for Sight Foundation, and from private funders including Crail-Johnson Foundation, Tommy Hilfiger Foundation, Delta Gamma Foundation, BHP Billiton, Seva Foundation and L'Occitane Foundation.

Contact Us

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I strongly agree ChildSight® program has helped in the classroom by giving eyeglasses to students. "Reading time and cognition have improved. Filling out forms such as ACT registration was easier for them. Thank you for helping. One of my students who received glasses this year was not financially able to purchase them for herself." --Stuckey, Navajo Preparatory High School

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