

Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.



AMERICAN ACADEMY™
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY
Protecting Sight. Empowering Lives.

EyeCare America®

A THANK YOU from EyeCare America

Dear Sir Knights,

EyeCare America (ECA) is tremendously grateful to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation for their more than two decades of ongoing partnership and support. This vital public service is one of the only programs in the U.S. providing direct access to medical eye care, often at no out-of-pocket cost, for underserved older Americans. If every Knight member referred or helped one person in need of medical eye care through ECA, this could potentially preserve sight for thousands more seniors across the U.S.

Eyes are the one place on the body to clearly view blood vessels and nerves, which can reveal health issues beyond sight, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, even brain tumors. In addition to preserving sight, a simple, painless medical eye exam can sometimes save lives.

One of EyeCare America's volunteers recently saw a patient who came to him with complaints of partial vision loss. Following a comprehensive medical eye exam, Michael Feilmeier, M.D. detected troubling signs of a blood clot. He immediately sent the patient to his primary care physician for an ultrasound, which revealed a large clot obstructing 95% of the patient's left carotid artery. *"Had this condition not been quickly diagnosed and treated, the patient would have had a major stroke."* Said Dr. Feilmeier, Omaha Nebraska.

EyeCare America offers two programs for which people may be eligible:

Seniors Program

- You are a U.S. Citizen or legal resident
- You are age 65 or older
- You do not belong to an HMO or have eye care benefits through the VA
- You have not seen an ophthalmologist in three or more years

Glaucoma Program

- You are a U.S. Citizen or legal resident
- You do not belong to an HMO or have eye care benefits through the VA
- You have not had an eye exam in 12 months or more.
- You are at increased risk for glaucoma, determined by age, race and family history of glaucoma.

Within minutes, Knight Templar members can see if you, your friends or loved ones are eligible by answering a few online referral questions at www.aao.org/eyecareamerica. EyeCare America also offers "partner packets" including: brochures, flyers, risk factor cards and Power Point presentations for anyone interested. If you wish to receive a partner packet or if you have ECA questions, email eyecareamerica@aao.org.

Thank you to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, and its members for helping underserved seniors access the medical eye care they so desperately need.

Sincerely,

C. Pat Wilkinson, M.D.
Chair, EyeCare America