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**MICHIGAN FOUNDATION FOR VISION AWARENESS**

**2023**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**THEMFVA.ORG**



# PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

The Michigan Foundation for Vision Awareness Board is proud to report to you our activities and continued support of optometry in 2023. Over the past year, our outreach to new optometric non-profits and community health clinics has broadened. We congratulate these non-profit centers in their mission to provide access to eye health care to communities in Michigan. We are also looking to continue to expand our outreach, so if you are aware of a non-profit that is in need of a grant to support their optometric clinic, education to the public on eye health, or vision related research, please direct them to our website: [TheMFVA.org](http://TheMFVA.org).

In the same way, our Board has grown with new members joining our team over the past couple years. We are excited for the new ideas and energy to continue our mission. Our public outreach on social media continues to grow. Our Facebook page and new Instagram account are where you can see regular updates on our activities, Board member information, and project support. The pictures showing the individuals blessed by the optometric services provided by these projects are what I enjoy seeing most.

With our growth, the programs we have loyally supported for many years continue to flourish and we are proud to remain their supporters. With your help, the MFVA has been able to support Special Olympics Opening Eyes for 24 years, student optometric mission trips for 26 years, low vision and the visually impaired community through several organizations for 27 years. These are just a few of the amazing organizations that work to support eye health care throughout Michigan.

There are 3 pillars to our mission:

- Support public education on eye health and vision
- Provide scholarships to optometric students
- Help fund grants to vision-related research and to organizations helping the underserved regarding eye health

The MFVA works to ensure the grants, scholarships, and actions of our Board fulfill and support these mission points. If you're looking for a way to help support MFVA, I'd encourage you to:

- Refer colleagues or non-profit organizations to our website to learn how they can apply for a grant
- Donate funds to help support optometric scholarships or grants for research and vision-related projects
- Third, and the biggest support of all, is to join our Board! Join in the fun by supporting and promoting optometry and the importance of eye health.

Thank you for your continued support of the MFVA. I look forward to what MFVA can offer to the eye health needs and vision related projects throughout the state of Michigan in 2024.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia Geneva, OD, FAAO  
MFVA President

# 2023 MFVA Activities

## 2023 Scholarships

A total of \$46,000 was given to MCO, SCO and OSU for 3rd year optometry student scholarships!

\$42,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Michigan College of Optometry (14 students)	Southern College of Optometry (1 student)	The Ohio State University College of Optometry (1 student)



An additional \$10,000 was invested into MFVA's Endowed Scholarship, which is used to recruit outstanding incoming 1st year MCO students.

The MFVA has donated **\$708,000 in scholarships**, \$654,525 to MCO, since 1958!

Please support us by posting how MFVA has supported an organization close to your heart or an optometry student you know!



[Facebook.com/MichiganFoundationForVisionAwareness](https://www.facebook.com/MichiganFoundationForVisionAwareness)

[Instagram.com/MIFoundation4VisionAwareness](https://www.instagram.com/MIFoundation4VisionAwareness)

[Linkedin.com/company/michigan-foundation-for-vision-awareness](https://www.linkedin.com/company/michigan-foundation-for-vision-awareness)

# 2023 MFVA Activities

2023 Grant Recipients

A total of **\$145,575** was given in Grants in 2023!



- SVOSH (Dan Wrubel/Emma Kain): \$3,100 and \$22,100 for SVOSH trips
- ABVI (Laura Dulay): \$9,130 for low vision computer software to use in their low vision employment initiative program
- Jackson District Library (Diane Anderson): \$24,200 for an AbleEyes virtual tour for 12 of JDL's branches
- Eversight (Becky Harris): \$50,000 for a research-quality (Theia T1 SS-OCT Investigational unit) OCT, which allows for donated corneas to be evaluated before being recommended for transplantation
- Baldwin Family Health Care (Julie Tatko): \$37,695 for a Zeiss visual field machine for the optometry clinic in their community health center

# MFVA Board News



## Sarah Sharrard-Boughton, OD, New Trustee

I am a graduate of the Ferris State University Michigan College of Optometry with both a bachelor degree in Vision Science and Doctorate of Optometry. During my education I found a love for Low Vision, focusing on those who are visually impaired or legally blind, and pursued an Ocular Disease and Low Vision residency at the Connecticut VA Health Care System. I am honored to continue to serve our country's veterans here in Michigan at the Saginaw VA.



I am very much looking forward to volunteering as a Trustee for the MFVA. During my time as a MCO student, I was lucky enough to be the MFVA Student Liaison and also a recipient of a MFVA scholarship. I love what this foundation stands for and can't wait to give back to its important mission.

- The MFVA was awarded **Silver Medal Partner & Opening Eyes Partner** recognition by the Special Olympics Michigan. MFVA has partnered with Special Olympics for 24 years, providing grants to support their amazing event and the athletes they serve.
- Jim Burns has retired from the MFVA Board. Jim served on the Grants Committee, and will be greatly missed!



Our 2024 Annual Meeting will be held in Kalamazoo; watch MFVA social media for details!

# MFVA 2023 Financial Report

- \$201,575 in Grants and Scholarships
- \$1,375 in donor contributions.
- \$62,375.34 operating expenses

The 2024 budget guidance is \$195,000

MFVA is Michigan's only  
optometric foundation;  
**MFVA is YOUR Foundation!**

Please consider contributing to  
the MFVA with a generous tax  
deductible contribution today!

Contributions may be made by  
mailing a check to:  
MFVA c/o Treasure  
Micah Taylor  
19320 Golfview Drive  
Big Rapids, MI 49307

The MFVA held its Annual Meeting at the beautiful Amway Grand in Grand Rapids. Per usual, it was wonderful to spend time with fellow Board members, their families and MFVA supporters, and it was a productive meeting, as well. MOA President Mike Pack and Executive Director Jeff Towns shared some of the MOA's activities and ideas with the MFVA Board and we continue to appreciate the MOA's support and advocacy.



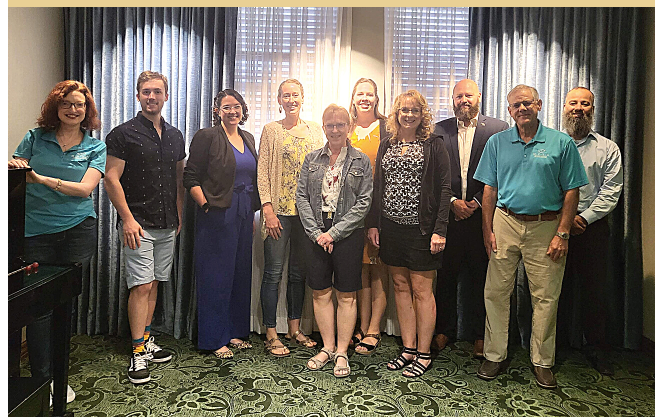
## The 2023-2024 MFVA Trustees and Executive Committee are:

Cynthia Geneva, OD, President  
Mitch Dobrzelewski, OD, Vice President  
Micah Taylor, Treasurer  
Sara Weidmayer, OD, Secretary

### Trustees:

Brice Edmonds  
Sulman Hans, OD  
Julia Holmes, OD  
Julie McMullen, OD  
Sarah Sharrard-Boughton, OD

Are you involved in a project  
or research that fits the  
mission of the MFVA?  
Apply for a grant today!  
Information and application  
can be found on our  
website, **[themfva.org](http://themfva.org)**



# 2023 MFVA Contributors

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Dr. Elizabeth & Mike Becker  
Mrs. Rosemary Blaszkievicz  
Dr. Mitch Dobrzelewski

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Mr. Brice Edmonds  
Dr. Cynthia Geneva  
Dr. Sulman Hans

Y

Dr. Julia & Bob Holmes  
Drs. Matt Klein and Nancy Peterson-Klein  
Dr. Julie & John McMullen  
Dr. Sarah Sharrard-Boughton

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Dr. Daniel & Micah Taylor  
Dr. Sara & Nick Weidmayer

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The MFVA extends our sincere thanks to our contributors, and would like to highlight Rosemary Blaszkievicz, who made a special contribution in memory of **Phillip Raznik, OD**. Dr. Raznik had been a long-time supporter of the MFVA and will be greatly missed in the optometric community.

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If you would like to promote the mission of the MFVA, please consider donating your resources by contributing and by volunteering your time as a Trustee on the Board. MFVA is a 501c3 non-profit organization; contributions to MFVA are tax deductible! Contributions may be given by individuals, businesses or organizations. Please also consider future planned giving as you prepare your will or estate plan. Contributions can be made by visiting our website: **[themfva.org/donate](https://themfva.org/donate)**

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