



Vision To Learn, Provident Bank Foundation and Jersey City Public Schools partnership helps students succeed.

National Nonprofit Provides Students In Need, Free Eye Exams and Glasses

Jersey City, NJ — Vision To Learn is pleased to announce our partnership with Jersey City Public Schools, thanks to a generous investment from The Provident Bank Foundation— helping hundreds of Jersey City students succeed in school, and in life.

Vision To Learn (VTL) secured a \$15,000 Major Grant in support for this project provided by The Provident Bank Foundation. A check presentation has been scheduled for June 8, 2021, at 10:30am in the Jersey City Board of Education facility. Their generous investment will facilitate vision screenings for over 400 students, to be completed in school year 2021-2022. As a result, 100 students will receive vision exams and approximately 80 will receive new prescription glasses. Vision To Learn's trained eye care professionals help students using a mobile eye clinic that travels to school sites and community organizations.

"The Provident Bank Foundation is committed to helping youth reach their full potential. Through the simple yet impactful act of providing free eye exams and glasses to Jersey City Public Schools students, our partnership with Vision To Learn will help improve quality of life and educational experiences for more than 400 students," said Samantha Plotino, Executive Director of The Provident Bank Foundation.

Vision To Learn provided exams to all Pre-k to 3rd grade students in Jersey City Schools during the 2019-2020 school year. In total Vision To Learn completed over 9,500 screenings, over 2,500 exams and more than 1,900 prescriptions to students in need. The Provident Bank Foundation has now facilitated our return to Jersey City and continue services to students. In

addition to serving schools throughout NJ, Vision To Learn has helped students in 12 states, from Honolulu to Baltimore.

Giovanni Restrepo, New Jersey Regional Director said, "Covid-19 has presented many challenges that have caused us to create an innovative approach to our process of screenings and exams while incorporating new safety protocols and guidelines. However, our goals and mission remain the same; Provide students with the glasses they need to succeed in school and life. We are very grateful to The Provident Bank Foundation for their belief in the well-being of children in Hudson County and to the Jersey City Public Schools for placing student's vision health as a priority. Together we will bring critical vision care services to students in Jersey City who would otherwise go without glasses to see, to read and to learn during these life-changing times."

Approximately one in four students has an untreated vision issue, according to the American Optometric Association and Vision To Learn's own vision screening data. This issue is particularly prevalent among students in low-income communities. A recent study by Johns Hopkins University found that **VTL's service provides the equivalent to an additional month of learning** for the average student requiring glasses. For students in the bottom 25% - those most likely to be disconnected during COVID shut downs – the benefit is equivalent to **an additional three months of learning**. The Hopkins study also demonstrated that VTL's service has a greater impact than other common educational interventions, such as charter schools, computers in classrooms, and extending the learning day.

About The Provident Bank Foundation

The Provident Bank Foundation was established in 2003 by Provident Bank to enhance the quality of life in the region through support of not-for-profit groups, institutions, schools and other 501(c)(3) organizations that provide services in communities served by the Bank. Since inception, the Foundation has granted more than \$27 million to not-for-profit organizations and institutions working toward stronger communities. For more information, visit www.the Provident Bank Foundation.org or call (862) 260-3990.

About Jersey City Schools

The Jersey City Public Schools is a district of more than 25,000 students. Of which approximately 11,000 are in grades pre-k to third. Our vision of preparing the students to be academically competitive in a global society is aided by generous efforts and contributions as shown by Vision to Learn and the Provident Bank Foundation. Services such as Vision to Learn, allow the district to support families of our younger students in meeting the needs of their children. The benefit and convenience to our families of receiving these services at their schools are immense. We are

more than pleased to be partnered again with Vision to Learn in the continued efforts in equipping our students to become successful and productive citizens.

About Vision To Learn

Vision To Learn, a non-profit charity, started with one van in Los Angeles in 2012 and now helps kids in low-income communities in over 330 cities in 13 states. Vision To Learn serves the needs of the hardest-to-reach children; about 90% of kids served by Vision To Learn live in poverty and about 85% are kids of color. Since its inception, Vision To Learn has helped provide vision screenings to over 1,000,000 kids, provided over 225,000 kids with eye exams and over 190,000 with glasses, all free of charge to students and their families. For more information on Vision To Learn, please visit www.visiontolearn.org.