



## **EyeCare America: Who We Are and What We Do**

Founded in 1985, EyeCare America, the public service program of the Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, is committed to the preservation of sight, accomplishing its mission through public service and education. EyeCare America's public service programs provide eye care services to the medically underserved and for those at increased risk for eye disease through its corps of 7,200 volunteer ophthalmologists dedicated to serving their communities. More than 90 percent of the care made available is provided with no out-of-pocket cost to the patients. EyeCare America runs programs for seniors, glaucoma, diabetes and children, and is the largest program of its kind in American medicine. Since its inception, EyeCare America has helped more than 860,000 people.

To supplement its award-winning referral program, EyeCare America has recently created a new website specifically designed to assist online users in learning more about eye problems such as cataracts.

The site, [eyecareamerica.org](http://eyecareamerica.org), contains up-to-date clinical information about cataracts reviewed by certified ophthalmologists (Eye M.D.s) with links to current treatments and even an interactive tour of the eye's anatomy. Visitors can share important health topics with family and friends through a convenient email forward function and order free pamphlets that give in-depth information on treatment, tests/diagnosis, causes and risks factors for a wide variety of common eye diseases.

Other easy to use functions include online tools such as a vision simulator, which allows users to see how vision would be affected from common eye diseases, and informative videos, created by the American Academy of Ophthalmology, that will provide visitors with a complete interactive experience.

EyeCare America is a non-profit organization whose success is made possible through charitable contributions from individuals, foundations and corporations.

**In 2006, EyeCare America provided services to more than 65,000 people and reached millions of households across the country with important eye health information.**