



Lee County Students Receive NO COST Vision Services Thanks to Suncoast Credit Union Foundation Grant to Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program

May 2, 2025 — More than 160 Lee County students will receive no-cost comprehensive eye exams and prescription glasses, if needed, during the week of May 5, thanks to a generous grant of \$31,500 from the Suncoast Credit Union Foundation to the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program, a division of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

According to the American Optometric Association, 1-in-4 children face vision problems which may contribute to poor school performance. To help fill this need, the [Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program](#), a subsidiary of [Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#), is utilizing their mobile eye care units and statewide network of optometrists to provide comprehensive eye examinations and prescription glasses if needed at no cost. In addition to improving academics, these exams help detect underlying medical conditions such as amblyopia, torn retina, glaucoma, and others that if left untreated, could cause uncorrectable vision loss for children.

The Heiken Children's Vision program offers comprehensive eye exams and prescription glasses at no cost to low income students from Pre-K through high school. As a subsidiary of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, they also support students with advanced vision conditions to help them get the vision care they need.

“This program sees to a very basic medical need of children and we believe that this program epitomizes what our mission seeks to do,” says Jeff Kunberger, Executive Director of Suncoast Credit Foundations. “Having essential eye care exams can set a child up for success in the classroom and in life and we are proud to support this meaningful program,” he added.

The program will visit five schools across the county: Colonial Elementary, Dunbar High School, Lemuel Teal Middle School, East Lee High School, and Veterans Park Academy. The Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program ensures that all children in need across Florida have access to comprehensive eye care—including dilation and glasses—at no cost to students or families, giving them the best chance at academic success.

WHO: Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program

Stephanie Goldberg, Nurse

WHEN: Tuesday, May 6, 2025, starting at noon

WHERE: Lemuel Teal Middle School (104 Arthur Ave, Lehigh Acres)

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:

Media is invited to cover the delivery of no-cost vision care to Lee County students — made possible by the Suncoast Credit Union Foundation grant – at Lemuel Teal Middle School.

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About Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program

The mission of the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program is to make sure that all financially disadvantaged school children who fail the State-mandated vision screening have access to a comprehensive eye examination including dilation and prescription glasses, if required, to give them the best chance at academic success. The Heiken Children's Vision Fund was created in 1992 by the Dade County Optometric Association and merged with Miami Lighthouse in 2007. In 2010, the Statewide Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program, LLC, a division of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc., was registered with the State of Florida, expanding vision health services to low-income children statewide. For more information, visit www.floridaheiken.org.

About Suncoast Credit Union

Suncoast Credit Union is the largest credit union in the state of Florida, the 8th largest in the United States based on membership, and the 10th largest in the United States based on its \$18.5 billion in assets. Chartered in 1934 as Hillsborough County Teachers Credit Union, Suncoast Credit Union currently operates 78 full-service branches and serves more than 1.2 million members across Florida. As a community credit union, anyone who lives, works, attends school, or worships in Suncoast Credit Union's service area is eligible for membership. In 2021, Suncoast Credit Union's field of membership was expanded to include public K-12 teachers, college educators, and educational support staff from all of Florida's 67 counties. Suncoast is passionate about community support. Since its founding in 1990, the Suncoast Credit Union Foundation has raised and donated more than \$45 million to organizations and initiatives that support the health, education, and emotional well-being of children in the communities that the credit union serves. For more information, visit suncoast.com or follow us on social media: Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and Instagram.