



Toronto Foundation for Student Success



THE GIFT OF SIGHT AND SOUND

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WHAT WE DO

The Gift of Sight and Sound Program provides school-based vision and hearing checks for children in underserved communities, as well as appointments with optometrists and opticians at in-school follow-up clinics, and free glasses when needed. Working with our partners, we provide these school-based clinics because we know that if children can't see the chalkboard or hear their teacher, it is difficult for them to learn.

KEY FACTS

- » During a regular school year, almost 16,000 children receive vision and hearing checks in the school-based clinics.
- » Children from 150 schools are helped.
- » More than 1,800 pairs of free glasses are provided to children annually.
- » We check:
 - the vision of students in grades 5 & 7
 - the vision and hearing of students who have been identified for special needs assessments
 - the vision and hearing of any other child referred by the school, including students who are new to Canada.
- » Students who need to see an optometrist or an optician are referred to our follow-up school-based clinics.
- » Initial checks are done by highly skilled, multi-lingual International Medical Graduates who are able to interact with students and their families in culturally sensitive ways.
- » All professional services are provided by accredited optometrists and opticians.

THE IMPACT

A new student enrolled in our school. The family had just arrived in Canada. English skills were at a minimum and learning issues were evident. The clinic was held within the child's first few weeks at school and the student was fast tracked through the health care process. A hearing loss was diagnosed for the first time, free devices secured, and this young life was changed for the better!

A group of young students giggled outside the room where they had just received their glasses. One ran to the end of the hall and began reading the words that were painted on the wall. He read our school name, our school spirit slogan, and laughed as he read it again out loud, stopping and laughing and reading it again and again. I wiped away my tears as I watched the joy that these young people could not contain!

For more information please call 416-394-6880 or email info@tfss.ca