

Sight Savers Alabama Health & Vision Screenings



Students at Stemley Road Elementary School (Talladega County School System) were provided health and vision screenings this week by Sight Savers Alabama. Visiting during these screening were ACJF Board Member Darla Hall and Executive Director Sue McMinnish. ACJF provided a \$25,000 grant to Sight Savers in 2016 to support the expansion of their KidCheck Plus screen in schools where there is an average free and reduced lunch rate of 75% in the 37 Northern most Alabama counties. The ACJF grant also served as a match for an Appalachian Regional Commission grant doubling the amount available and enabling an additional 70 screening events.

The screenings are conducted by a team of Sight Savers personnel, nursing students and local dental professionals, according to Chad Nichols with Sight Savers. “Use of an electronic database to store the results and strong follow-up components maximize the potential for success.”

Nichols explained that the most common health issues identified at SSA KidCheck Plus events are related to vision, dental, and BMI. “Unmet eye and vision care needs among children correlate to learning difficulties, poor school performance, and social problems,” Nichols said. “Oral health is a vital part of overall health and a window into a patient’s general health. And obese children and adolescents are a risk for health problems during their youth and as adults.”

“The ACJF and ARC grants are enabling us to hold approximately 70 screenings that will reach close to 17,000 children.” Nichols added.