



*Congratulations to our Stars of the Month for September 2021 are the medical students of ViSION (Vision Screenings in Our Neighborhoods)! ViSION have been conducting free vision screenings for community members here in Baltimore in collaboration with community organizations.*

*We spoke with ViSION Co-President Christina Ambrosino about ViSION's mission and how to get involved. Read more below!*

**Could you tell us some background about VISION? What is your organization's mission?**

ViSION (Vision Screening In Our Neighborhoods, previously called the Student Sight Savers Program) is a medical student group that works with community organizations to hold vision screenings for Baltimore residents. ViSION was founded in 2012 based on a community-identified need for accessible vision care. To work towards the goal of increasing access to vision services in the Baltimore community, ViSION typically holds about 6 vision screening events per year.

**What events and service opportunities has VISION organized recently?**

ViSION was recently able to re-start screening events, with our first screening of 2021 held on August 7th in collaboration with the wonderful staff at Monument East public housing apartment building.

**What are some challenges that you've faced as a group during the pandemic? How has COVID-19 affected how you are able to serve Baltimore communities?**

Screenings were largely on-hold throughout most of 2020 and 2021. We're hopeful that we'll be able to continue to

hold screenings this fall to begin addressing the barriers to vision and health service access that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic (multiple clinical studies support this unfortunate fact).

**Are there any upcoming vision screening events which you are currently planning?**

Our next vision screening is scheduled for Saturday, October 23rd at Project PLASE. We'll be sending out a sign-up sheet to medical student list-servs soon!

**How can other students get involved?**

Students interested in helping ViSION to address social determinants of health during vision screenings can contact Christina Ambrosino at [cambros7@jhmi.edu](mailto:cambros7@jhmi.edu). Please also feel free to reach out with any other questions about the ViSION program!

**Thank you all for your tremendous service to Baltimore communities!**

