



**Dallas, TX**

**Electronic Video Magnifier Delivery  
and Training Clinic**

**November 17, 2016**

*in partnership with*



**DALLAS SERVICES**  
Low Vision Clinic



## Electronic Video Magnifier Delivery and Training Clinic November 17, 2016

### Serving Children with Low Vision in Dallas

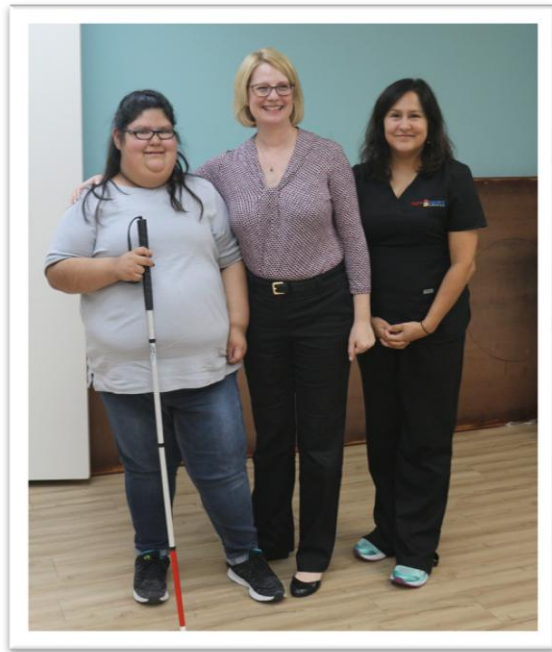
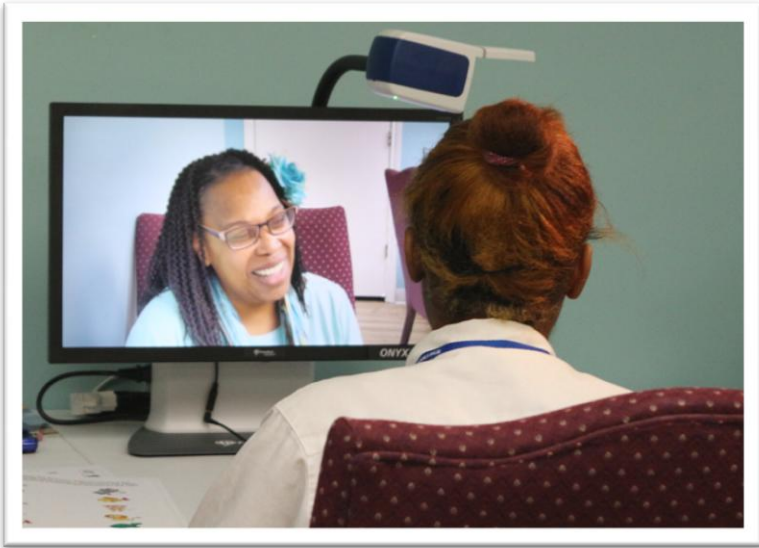
Sight Savers America received funding from the Reading Resource Fund of Communities Foundation of Texas, the Meadows Foundation, and VFO to provide Electronic Video Magnifiers (EVMs) to children with low vision living in the Dallas area. Thirty children received low vision assistive devices, including twenty-eight brand new VFO Onyx HD EVMs that were purchased and donated at this clinic. The children were evaluated by low vision doctors Dr. Stephanie Fleming and Dr. Brian Celico. The children attended the Sight Savers America delivery/training clinic at Dallas Services on November 17, 2016 to receive their equipment. The children were then trained on every function of their recommended equipment and were able to take it home the same day.

Sight Savers America provides a comprehensive follow-up program, contacting families twice a year with a commitment to repair or replace equipment until each child turns 19 years old. Our follow-up survey captures data in a statistical, scientific manner based on the Likert Scale, allowing us to evaluate the impact of the equipment immediately and over time. This survey covers use of the equipment and any problems with the equipment that need to be addressed. Parents/guardians are asked to rate improvements on a scale in the following categories: reading/identification of letters, writing/drawing, homework routine, grades, recreational activities, independence, confidence and self-esteem. The Sight Savers America team has already done an initial follow-up with the children to make sure that the equipment is working properly and that it is helping these children function more independently at home.

The following report includes a brief description of these children from the Dallas area, their diagnoses and the equipment they received at this clinic. We have also included several of the two week follow-up reports from our calls made to the families.

#### **Summary of the Trip:**

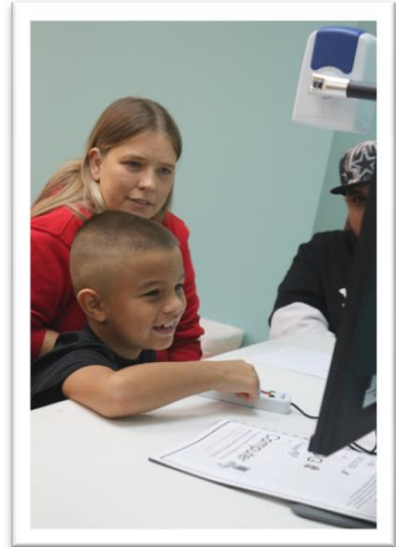
- 32 children referred to the low vision program
- 28 Onyx Desktop EVMs, 4 Ruby XL handheld EVMs, 19 monocular telescopes, 13 dome magnifiers, and 3 LED handheld stand magnifiers were distributed.



# THE CHILDREN

## ADRIAN

**Brief:** 8 year old Adrian has optic nerve hypoplasia and nystagmus. His visual acuities are 20/150 in his right eye and 20/150 in his left eye. At the low vision clinic, Adrian received an Onyx EVM and a monocular telescope. Adrian was very excited about his new EVM and learned the functions quickly. He most enjoyed using the white on black color contrast mode while reading and also said he was looking forward to using the equipment to play video games when he returned home. Adrian used the distance viewing mode to look at himself during the training and made a comment about how great his new haircut looked, as he was seeing it clearly for the first time. Adrian was anxious to take his new EVM home to begin using it on his own and gave his trainer, Kati, a big hug before heading home.



**Two Week Follow Up:** We spoke with Adrian's mom for the two week follow-up call and she reported that Adrian has been using his new EVM 4-5 nights a week. She said he is enjoying using it not only for his homework but also for reading books. His mother was very thankful to have vision assistance in the home for Adrian and stated that he loved using his new EVM.



## ALEX

**Brief:** Alex is 9 years old and was diagnosed with a vision impairment and cerebral palsy. Alex attended the clinic with his father, mother and younger sister and there he received an Onyx EVM for his home. Alex was eager to learn the function of his new EVM and found the zoom function very helpful with enlarging the letters for identification. His mother said he

is learning to read and she feels that this equipment will help him do so more easily. Alex also enjoyed practicing writing with his EVM and using the different color contrast modes.

**Two Week Follow-Up:** During the two week follow-up call, Alex's mom reported that they were able to set up his new EVM with ease and he has been using it almost every day since the clinic. She stated that Alex's writing has become more fluent and he has also had greater success identifying his letters.

## ALYSHA

**Brief:** 9 year old Alysha has been diagnosed with optic nerve hypoplasia. Her best corrected visual acuities are 20/250 in her right eye and 20/80 in her left eye. Alysha attended the low vision clinic with her mother and she was given an Onyx EVM, a dome magnifier and a monocular telescope. Alysha was joyful about the vision equipment and eager to take it home. She learned the functions of the EVM quickly despite never having used one before and enjoyed looking at the details on money under the camera. Alysha also liked using the distance viewing mode to look at herself and stated that fixing her hair on her own would now be easier. Alysha said she was looking forward to using her new EVM with her homework assignments and to build with Lego's when she returned home from the clinic.

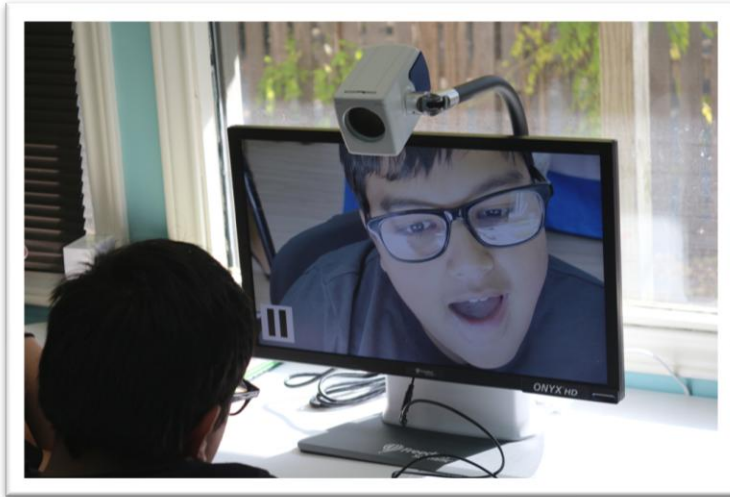


**Two Week Follow-Up:** Alysha's mom reported during the two week follow-up call that she has been using her new EVM most weeknights and even the weekends as well since returning home from the clinic. Alysha mainly uses the equipment to assist with completing her homework assignments but has also found other uses for it as well such as painting her nails and playing with toys.

## ANIYAH

**Brief:** Aniyah is 12 years old. She was diagnosed with coloboma, strabismus, and hyperopia. Aniyah attended the low vision clinic with her mother and there she received an Onyx EVM and an illuminated dome magnifier. Aniyah was an intelligent young lady and learned the functions of her new EVM quickly. She found that the white on black color contrast mode helped her see words more clearly when reading and she preferred using it for the remainder of the training. Aniyah also enjoyed using the line markers with the shading option while reading to focus on specific words and said she would be using this function often while reading at home.





## ARPIT

**Brief:** Arpit celebrated his 11<sup>th</sup> birthday along with his father at the low vision clinic, where he received an Onyx EVM and a dome magnifier. He has been diagnosed with cortical vision impairment, strabismus, and nystagmus. His best corrected visual acuities are 20/400 in his right eye and 20/150 in his left. During the training, Arpit enjoyed

using the distance viewing mode to look outside at the details on the leaves in the trees and on the nearby buildings, details he has never been able to see so clearly before. While reading, he preferred using the white on black color contrast mode. Before leaving the clinic, Arpit exclaimed that this was his “best birthday ever.”

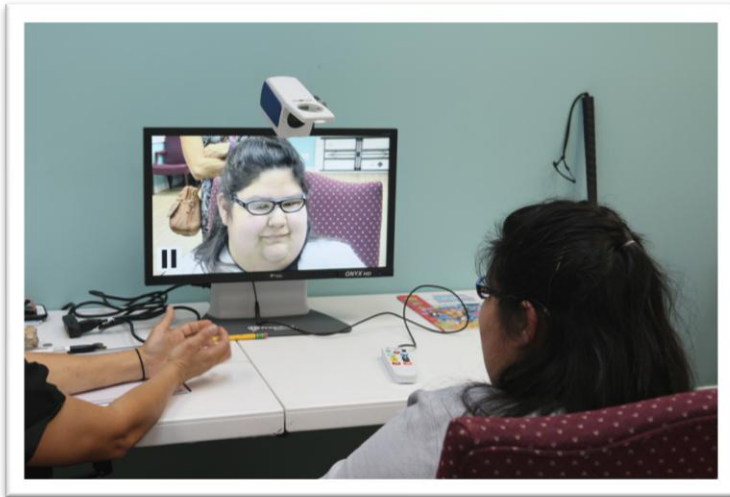
**Two Week Follow-Up:** We spoke to Arpit’s dad for the two week follow-up call and he reported that Arpit has been using the EVM regularly since returning home from the clinic. Arpit has been using the equipment mainly for reading and his dad said that it is especially helpful with small font books.

## AYDAN

**Brief:** 8 year old Aydan has been diagnosed with optic nerve hypoplasia and nystagmus. His best corrected visual acuities are 20/200 in both eyes. Aydan attended the clinic with his mother, father and little brother and there received an Onyx EVM for his home. Aydan enjoyed using the distance viewing mode to look outside the window at the nearby trees. He brought some toy cars to the training and was happy to learn that he could use his new EVM to zoom in on the details of the cars and see them clearly for the first time. When Aydan learned he would be taking the equipment home, he began to bounce up and down in his chair from excitement.



**Two Week Follow-Up:** We spoke to Aydan’s mom for the two week follow-up call and she reported that Aydan has been using his new EVM 5 days a week since returning home for the clinic. Aydan is mainly using the equipment while reading small print books. His mother was very thankful to now have vision assistance in their home for Aydan.



## BARBARA

**Brief:** 14 year old Barbara has been diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa and strabismus. She and her mother attended the low vision clinic where she received an Onyx EVM, a Ruby handheld EVM and a monocular telescope at the clinic. Although she was very shy at the beginning of the training, she began to open up as the training progressed and

she was able to see the difference an EVM could make for her. Barbara smiled when she was able to see her face clearly using the self viewing mode and was looking forward to painting her own nails when she returned home. She also said that the equipment would make reading easier for her.

**Two Week Follow-Up:** During the two week follow-up call, Barbara's mom reported that they were able to set the equipment up in their home with ease. She said Barbara is usually very shy but has blossomed and is very happy with her new EVM. Barbara is mainly using the equipment for assistance completing her homework assignments and her mom said she knows that Barbara's new EVM will be used often for years to come.

## BERNARDO

**Brief:** Bernardo is 8 years old and was diagnosed with retinopathy of prematurity, retinal detachment, and had cataracts. His best corrected visual acuities are 20/200 in both eyes. Bernardo and his mother attended the low vision clinic where he received an Onyx EVM, handheld stand magnifier and a dome magnifier. Bernardo was full of



personality and a joy to train at the clinic. He most enjoyed looking closely at the details of his and his mother's faces. Bernardo is a smart young man who learned the functions quickly and said it would really help with his homework assignments. Drawing is his favorite past time and he was able to draw a picture of the White House while learning to use his EVM. He was eager to take the equipment home to draw more on his own.

**Two Week Follow-Up:** Bernardo's mom reported during the two week follow-up call that they were able to set up the equipment with ease. Bernardo has been using his new EVM almost every day since returning home from the clinic.



## BRENDA

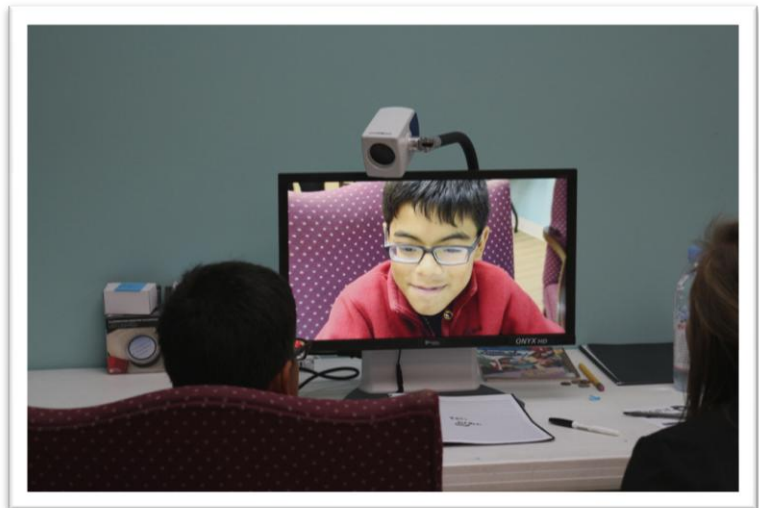
**Brief:** Brenda is 13 years old and has been diagnosed with an unknown retinal dysfunction. Her best corrected visual acuities are 20/400 in both eyes. She attended the low vision clinic with her parents, where she received an Onyx EVM and 2 monocular telescopes. Although Brenda was shy at the beginning of the training, she began to

smile as the training went on and she learned the different function of the EVM. Brenda was excited to learn she could not only use the equipment with her homework but also to paint her nails or fix her hair.

**Two Week Follow-Up:** During the two week follow-up call, Brenda's dad reported that the EVM set-up was easy. Brenda has not been able to use the EVM as much as she would like since the clinic due to an illness but her dad said she is looking forward to using it more now that she is feeling better.

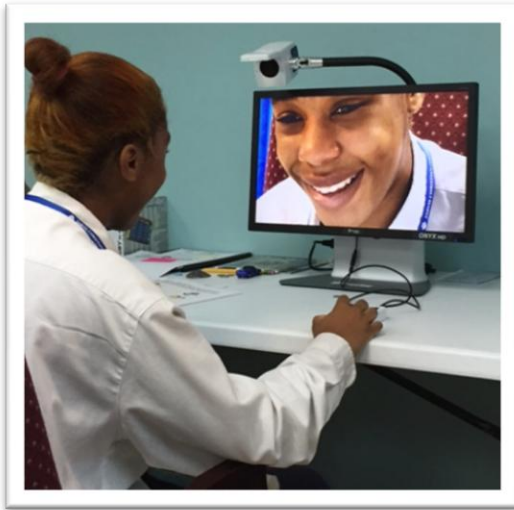
## BRYAN

**Brief:** Bryan is 12 years old and was diagnosed with amblyopia and myopic degeneration. He received an Onyx EVM, a monocular telescope and a dome magnifier at the clinic. He enjoyed using the different color contrast modes and also found the line markers helpful while reading. He also liked the distance viewing function and being able to look at himself and his parents. Bryan said he was looking forward to taking the equipment home so that he could read his books.



**Two Week Follow-Up:** Bryan's mom reported during the two week follow-up call that he has been using the EVM almost every day since the clinic mainly for reading. She said that she has noticed that Bryan has become more independent since receiving the equipment for their home.





## CHARITY

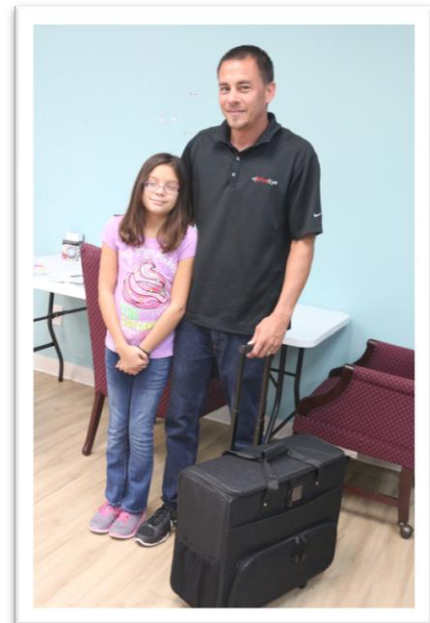
**Brief:** Charity is a bubbly 17 year old young woman who has been diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, cone rod dystrophy, and hemeralopia. She attended the clinic with her parents, and there received an Onyx EVM and a Ruby handheld EVM. Charity was overjoyed to be receiving her very own new vision equipment. During the training, Charity became emotional when reading the words on coins stating that she never even knew they had words. She went on to express that the equipment would help her to be just like

everyone else and be able to do many things without assistance. Charity viewed her mother's face clearly for the first time using her new EVM and exclaimed how beautiful she was through tears. She loves to read in her spare time and will now be able to do so with digitally enlarged print.

**Two Week Follow-Up:** We spoke to Charity's mom for the two week follow-up and she reported that Charity has been using her EVM every day since the clinic for her homework and for leisure. Charity likes using her EVM to look at recipes and her mom said she has been cooking more than ever. She is also currently using the EVM to put together a 1500 piece puzzle with her family.

## CHLOE

**Brief:** Chloe is 10 years old and was diagnosed with aniridia, nystagmus, and photophobia. Her best corrected visual acuities are 20/400 in her right eye and 20/300 in her left. Chloe and her dad attended the clinic where she received an Onyx EVM and extensive training on the equipment. Chloe is a bright young girl and learned the functions of the EVM rather quickly. She said she liked to read and the line markers would be very helpful with keeping her place in her chapter books. Chloe was happy to learn that she could use her new EVM to paint her nails and said several times that she intended to do so when she returned home.



**Two Week Follow-Up:** During the two week follow-up call, Chloe's mom reported that she was eager to teach her mother all of the function of her new EVM when she returned home. Chloe has been using the equipment every day, mainly while reading her library books and has even been reading longer than required. She has also used her new EVM to paint her nails and practice putting on make-up on her face.



## CORBIN

**Brief:** 8 year old Corbin was diagnosed with nystagmus and hyperopia. His best corrected visual acuities are 20/250 in both eyes. At the low vision clinic, which he attended with his grandmother, he received an Onyx EVM, an illuminated dome magnifier, and a monocular telescope. Corbin was eager to begin learning all of the functions

of the EVM and picked up on them very quickly. He liked reading in the yellow on blue color mode the best, as these are his two favorite colors. Corbin also enjoyed using the line markers while practicing reading with his new EVM and said he was looking forward to using them while reading his books when he returned home.

**Two Week Follow-Up:** We spoke to Corbin's mom during the two week follow-up call and she reported that they set up his EVM on his new desk at home and has used it several times since the clinic. His school will no longer be sending his work home in large print after the holidays so she anticipates he will be using the equipment much more at that time.

## CRYSTAL

**Brief:** Crystal is 11 years old and was diagnosed with optic atrophy secondary to malignant suprasellar germinoma. Her best corrected visual acuities are 20/40 in her right eye and 20/400 in her left. She received an Onyx EVM, a monocular telescope, and an illuminated dome magnifier at the clinic which she attended with her mother. Crystal did well learning all the functions of her new EVM and found the magnification very helpful in identifying her letters. She told her trainer that she loved to draw, especially cats, and would be using her new EVM often for drawing. Crystal is also learning to read and her mother said the equipment would be very helpful with practicing reading.



**Two Week Follow-Up:** During the two week follow-up call, Crystal's dad reported that they were able to set up the equipment in their home with ease. Crystal taught her dad all of the functions and has been using her new EVM every day since the clinic for reading practice and drawing in her free time.



## DAFFNE

**Brief:** Daffne is a 14-year-old young lady who has been diagnosed with cortical vision impairment, nystagmus and photophobia. Her best corrected visual acuities are 20/200 in her right eye and 20/400 in her left. She attended the clinic with her mother and there she received an Onyx EVM for her home. Daffne learned the functions of her new EVM while her

mother closely followed along as well. She really enjoyed using the distance viewing mode to look at herself and also liked drawing smiley faces while practicing her writing skills. Daffne's mother said the EVM would be very helpful along her journey of learning to read and write.

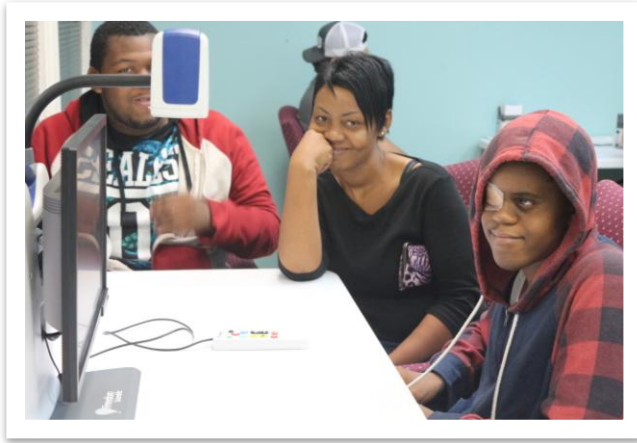
**Two Week Follow-Up:** Daffne's mom reported during the two week follow-up call that she has been using her new EVM almost every week night since returning home from the clinic. Daffne is mainly using the equipment to assist with completing her homework assignments and also for leisure reading. Her mother said the EVM has been very helpful and she was thankful to have the assistance in their home.

## DANE

**Brief:** 8 year old Dane has been diagnosed with nystagmus and his best corrected visual acuities are 20/80 in his right eye and 20/100 in his left eye. Dane and his mother attended the low vision clinic where he received a monocular telescope and an illuminated dome magnifier of his own. Dane quickly became familiar with his vision aids during the training and used them to read funny books he brought from home. Dane and his mother were looking forward to him being able to read menus on his own at restaurants and also to see more clearly when his family goes on outings to places like the zoo or the movies.



**Two Week Follow-Up:** During the two week follow-up Dane's mom reported that he is doing well with his new vision aids and said he has been using his magnifier every night to read his bedtime stories. Dane has also been using the vision aids on various outings such as eating at restaurants and looking at merchandise in the mall.



## ERIAS

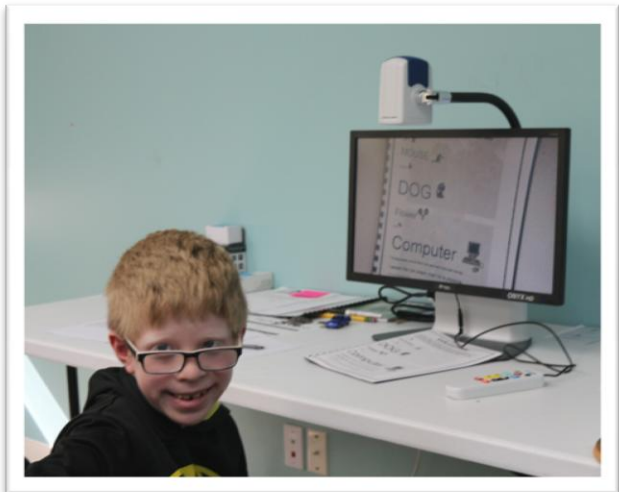
**Brief:** Erias is 14 years old and was diagnosed with retinoblastoma, nystagmus and is monocular, meaning he only retains the use of one eye. His best corrected visual acuity is 20/200 in his left eye. Erias, his mother and his brother were all present for his training at the low vision clinic where he received an Onyx EVM, a monocular telescope and an illuminated dome

magnifier. Erias was kind and soft spoken but eager to learn the functions of his new EVM. He most enjoyed using the white on black color contrast mode while reading and also found the line markers with the shading option helpful to keep his place. Erias said that he would use his EVM for his homework assignments and the horizontal line markers while reading at home. Eria's older brother is low vision as well and will be able to use the vision equipment as well to assist with his daily tasks.

**Two Week Follow-Up:** During the two week follow-up call, we spoke with Erias' mom who reported that Erias has been using his new EVM 2-3 times a week since returning home from the clinic. He finds the equipment helpful with completing his homework assignments and for ease when reading. Erias and his mother were very thankful for the vision assistance now in their home.

## ERIK

**Brief:** 8 year old Erik is a young boy who experiences vision impairment due to his diagnosis of ocular albinism, nystagmus, photophobia, and esotropia. His best corrected visual acuities are 20/100 in his right eye and 20/400 in his left eye. He received an Onyx EVM at the clinic that he attended with his grandmother. Erik has been using an EVM at school since the age of 3 and was familiar with many functions of his new EVM. He learned the few new functions of the EVM quickly and said he was happy to have his very own vision aid at home to help him with his homework. Erik said his two favorite colors are yellow and blue and he was excited to learn that there is a yellow on blue color contrast mode he can use for reading. The line markers with the shading option were new to him and he said they would help him keep his place in his book while reading. Both Erik and his grandmother thanked his trainer, Kelsey, several times and Erik even gave her a big hug before leaving.



**Two Week Follow-Up:** During the two week follow-up call, Erik's mom reported that he has used his new EVM a few times since returning home from the clinic. She has been encouraging him to use his EVM to read more for leisure in his free time.



## JASMINE

**Brief:** Jasmine is an intelligent 11 year old young girl who was diagnosed with retinal dystrophy and photophobia. Her best corrected visual acuities are 20/300 in her right eye and 20/400 in her left eye. Jasmine attended the clinic with her mom and her younger brother and there she received an Onyx EVM and a monocular telescope. Because Jasmine has experience working with an EVM at

school, she knew many functions of this model and was able to learn the new functions quickly. While showing her the line markers and shading, Jasmine began to smile and said that she would definitely be using those to read her books when she returned home. During the training, Jasmine discovered she could use the distance viewing mode together with the freeze frame option to take "selfies" and laughed as she took several of herself alone as well as with her family. Before leaving, she said the first thing she was going to do when she got home was paint her nails by herself for the first time ever.

## JEFFREY

**Brief:** Jeffrey is a happy 8 year old boy who experiences vision impairment due to optic atrophy, juvenile granthaloma, and exotropia. His best corrected visual acuities are 20/150 in his right eye and 20/400 in his left eye. Jeffrey excitedly attended the low vision clinic with his mother to receive his new Onyx EVM. Although Jeffrey has some experience working with an EVM, he has never used a model similar to the Onyx and had many new functions to master. He most enjoyed using the self viewing mode to look closely at his physical features and also to look at different objects from a distance in the training room. His trainer, Kati, put a toy truck under the camera and showed Jeffrey how to use the zoom function to magnify the small details. Jeffrey exclaimed he could now build with his Lego's on his own at home using his new EVM.



**Two Week Follow-Up:** We spoke to Jeffrey's mom on the two week follow-up call and she reported that Jeffrey is doing great with his new EVM and using the equipment daily. His mom said he is mainly using his EVM for help with homework assignments but has also found a new love for coloring.



## JIMMY

**Brief:** 11 year old Jimmy has been diagnosed with retinopathy of prematurity, a detached retina, nystagmus and he is aphakic. His best corrected visual acuities are 20/50 in both eyes. Jimmy and his mother attended the clinic to receive his handheld stand magnifier and a monocular telescope. He was trained on both vision aids at the clinic and said they would be helpful to him while reading both at home and at school. Jimmy said his favorite thing to do is read and he thanked his trainer several times for being able to do so now with ease.

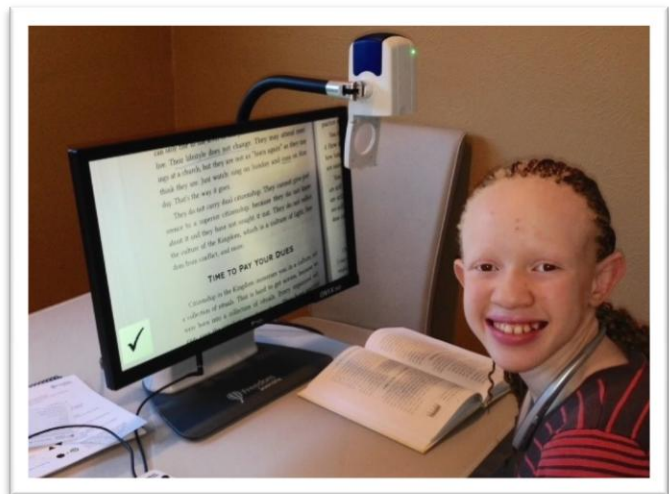
**Two Week Follow-Up:** During the two week follow-up call, Jimmy's mom reported that they were able to set up the equipment with ease and he is using it almost every day. Jimmy mainly

uses it for his homework and reading and his mother was very thankful for his new equipment.

## KATHY

**Brief:** Kathy is a bright 13 year old young lady who experiences low vision due to a diagnosis of oculocutaneous albinism and nystagmus. Her best corrected visual acuities are 20/200 in both eyes. Sight Savers provided her with an Onyx EVM, a monocular telescope, and a handheld stand magnifier for her home. Kathy was able to read small print books on her own using the magnification of her EVM.

She found that the different color contrast modes made the words bolder and easier for her to see while reading.



**Two Week Follow-Up:** Kathy's dad reported during the two week follow-up call that she is doing well with her new EVM and has been using it every day mainly while studying for her classes. Kathy also uses her new EVM with her homework assignments and is now able to see small print and pictures in her textbooks with ease.



## KHI'ANTE

**Brief:** 8 year old Khi'ante has been diagnosed with optic nerve hypoplasia, nystagmus and photophobia and her best corrected visual acuities are 20/200 in her right eye and 20/300 in her left eye. She received an Onyx EVM, a monocular telescope, and an illuminated dome magnifier at the clinic which she attended with her mother. Khi'ante is an intelligent young girl and learned the functions of her new EVM quickly

while her mother looked on to the training. She most enjoyed using the magnification function on her new EVM to look at details on small objects like coins, rocks and sea shells. She said her favorite color contrast mode to use while reading was the white on black and she also enjoyed using the distance viewing mode to look at the trees outside the window in the training room. Khi'Ante said she could not wait to get home to use her new EVM to read her books.

**Two Week Follow-Up:** During the two week follow-up, Khi'Ante's mom reported that they were able to set up the equipment with ease and she has been using it often. Khi'Ante's vision teacher comes over a few times a week to read with her and help her practice her writing skills. Her mother said Khi'Ante loves her new EVM.

## LAURIE

**Brief:** Laurie is 11 years old and was diagnosed with uveitis secondary to juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. Her best corrected visual acuities are 20/560 in her right eye and 20/700 in her left. Laurie and her mother attended the clinic where she received an Onyx EVM and a monocular telescope. She is a very intelligent young lady who learned the functions of her new EVM quickly. Laurie talked often throughout the training about using the equipment to help her with her homework assignments. She enjoyed drawing flowers for her trainer at the clinic using the EVM and also preferring using the white on black color contrast mode while reading.



**Two Week Follow-Up:** During the two week follow-up call, Laurie's mom reported that she loves her new EVM and has been using it daily since returning home from the clinic. Laurie has been using it to assist with her homework assignments and also to help teach her little sister how to read.



## MIHIKA

**Brief:** Mihika is 12 years old and experiences vision impairment due to retinopathy of prematurity. Her best corrected visual acuities are 20/70 in her right eye and 20/100 in her left eye. She received an Onyx EVM, a monocular telescope, and an illuminated dome magnifier at the clinic and was trained on every function while her dad followed along. She learned the functions with ease and enjoyed doing

the math problems in the training book, exclaiming that math is her favorite school subject. Mihika said the EVM would be very helpful for her at home and would help her finish her homework more quickly. Both Mihika and her father thanked the trainer, Gwen, several times before packing up to head home.

**Two Week Follow-Up:** We spoke to Mihika's mom for the two week follow-up and she reported that Mihika is using her new EVM daily to assist with completing her homework assignments. Mihika has also been using the equipment while reading and practicing her writing skills.

## NATHANIEL

**Brief:** Nathaniel is a quiet and kind 14 year old young man who has been diagnosed with keratoconus, myopia, and has anastigmatism. His best corrected visual acuities are 20/100 in both eyes. Nathaniel and his older brother attended the clinic where he received an Onyx EVM, a monocular telescope and an illuminated dome magnifier. He learned every function of the EVM



and was able to demonstrate all back to his trainer. Nathaniel found the white on black color mode helpful while reading and he did well practicing writing with the equipment as well. When he turned the camera towards his face he began to laugh and touch his face as he looked at his features closely. His brother said that Nathaniel had never been able to see his face so clearly before. Before leaving Nathaniel said his new EVM would not only help him with his homework but now he could shave his face on his own.

**Two Week Follow-Up:** During the two week follow-up call, Nathaniel's mom reported that he was able to set up the EVM in their home with no problems and he has enjoyed using it a few times a week since returning home from the clinic. He has found the EVM helpful with his homework and also personal grooming.





## ONIKA

**Brief:** 7 year old Onika's best corrected visual acuities are 20/200 in both eyes. Onika attended the clinic with her mother and there she received an Onyx EVM for her home. Onika enjoyed using the distance viewing mode to look at objects outside the window of the training room like trees and nearby buildings. She preferred using the white on black color contrast mode while reading and did well writing with her new EVM. Onika's excitement about having her very own EVM showed through the training as she talked about all the things she could do with her new EVM with a permanent smile on her face.

**Two Week Follow-Up:** We spoke to Onika's dad for the two week follow-up and he reported that she is enjoying her new EVM and has been using it daily since

returning home from the clinic. Onika uses her EVM for homework, reading and drawing.

## RAFAEL

**Brief:** Rafael is a 14 year old young man who was diagnosed with Stargardt's and optic atrophy and his best corrected visual acuities are 20/200 in both eyes. Rafael attended the clinic with his mother and sister and there he received an Onyx EVM and a Ruby handheld EVM. Despite never having used vision aids before, Rafael learned the functions of his new EVM and handheld EVM quickly during the training. He enjoyed the different color contrast modes while reading and said he planned to use the equipment often for reading when he returned home.



**Two Week Follow-Up:** During the two week follow-up call, Rafael's mom reported that he has been using both his EVM and his handheld Ruby daily. Rafael has been able to do his homework without a problem since receiving the equipment and his mother was very thankful for the vision assistance in their home.

## **AMINA** (photo not releasable)

**Brief:** Amina is 18 years old and has oculocutaneous albinism, nystagmus, and photophobia. Her best corrected visual acuities are 20/1400 in her right eye and 20/200 in her left. Sight Savers America provided her with an Onyx EVM, a Ruby handheld EVM, and a monocular for her home. Amina found the magnification of the EVM to be very helpful with enlarging small print and allow her to read. She also preferred using the white on black color contrast mode while reading.

**Two Week Follow-Up:** We spoke to Amina's guardian for the two week follow-up call and she reported that Amina has been using her new EVM every day since receiving the equipment. Amina has not only been using it to complete her homework assignments but has also been reading chapter books in her free time. She will be heading to college soon and her guardian said the EVM would be a huge help with her classes and allow her to be more independent. Both Amina and guardian were thankful for the assistance and Amina is even working on a thank you video to send Sight Savers America.

## **DANIEL** (photo not releasable)

**Brief:** Daniel is 8 years old and was diagnosed with ocular albinism, nystagmus, and photophobia. His best corrected visual acuities are 20/300 in his right eye and 20/200 in his left eye. Daniel attended the clinic with his dad and there he received an Onyx EVM, a monocular telescope and an illuminated dome magnifier for his home. Daniel has experience working with an EVM at school so he was able to learn the functions of the EVM quickly. During the training Daniel most enjoyed using the distance viewing mode to look at the leaves on the trees outside the window. His favorite color contrast mode to use while reading was the yellow on blue and he enjoyed using the line markers with the shading option as well. Daniel loves to draw and spent time at the clinic drawing pictures for his trainer. He said several times during the training that he was excited to take his new EVM home to do his homework and play his favorite games.

**Two Week Follow-Up:** We spoke to Daniel's dad for the two week follow-up call and he reported that Daniel loves using his new EVM and small vision aids. Daniel is using the equipment several times a week for assistance not only with his homework assignments and daily reading but also with drawing in his free time.

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**DALLAS SERVICES**  
Low Vision Clinic



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

Wednesday, November 9, 2016

### **30 Children with Severe Visual Impairment from the Dallas Area to Receive Donation of Life-Changing High-Tech Vision Aids**

**WHAT:** On Thursday, November 17, 30 children with severe visual impairment from the Dallas area will receive donated Onyx Electronic Video Magnifiers (EVMs) and other low vision aids from Sight Savers America, a nationally expanding nonprofit organization. All 30 children have severe visual impairment that cannot be corrected with eyeglasses, contact lenses, medical or surgical treatment.

Dr. Stephanie Fleming, OD, Dallas Services Low Vision Clinic Director and Dallas Low Vision Specialist, Dr. Brian M. Celico, OD PA, provided the low vision evaluations necessary to recommend the EVMs. Sight Savers America coordinated the program, determined each child's eligibility and provided the recommended equipment. The Low Vision Clinic of Dallas Services continues their 67-year history of providing services to those with vision impairments by hosting the event and partnering with Sight Savers America in bringing much needed technology to local students who would not otherwise have access to it.

The Onyx EVM will allow each child to make the most of their remaining vision. It can enhance contrast and magnify objects by 131 times and will open up a new world of opportunity for these children, allowing them to read, write, complete homework, groom themselves and even see their mother's face clearly.

EVMs are more expensive than the average family can afford and are not covered by any type of medical insurance. The donation of the EVMs was made possible thanks to generous funding from the Communities Foundation of Texas Reading Resource Fund, the Meadows Foundation, and VFO. They are provided to each child at no cost to their families. During the clinic, Sight Savers America's staff members will train each child and their families to use the EVM before they take it home with them that day. Sight Savers America will also provide extensive follow-up care and keep records of the child's progress with their vision equipment until the child reaches the age of 19.

**WHO:** Sight Savers America, Dallas Services Low Vision Clinic, the Communities Foundation of Texas Reading Resource Fund, the Meadows Foundation, and VFO.

**WHEN:** **Thursday, November 17, 2016, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**WHERE:** Dallas Services Low Vision Clinic  
5442 La Sierra Drive  
Dallas, TX 75231

**OVERVIEW:** Children with severe visual impairment receive life-changing assistive technology for their homes and the necessary training to enhance their vision. **Interview and photo opportunities will be provided.**

Sight Savers America is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) whose mission is to identify and secure treatment for unmet vision needs. Their Low Vision Program serves children in 11 states, including Texas.

**CONTACT:** Mickey Ashman, Sight Savers America  
205-862-8400 or 877-942-2627, ext. 238  
[mashman@sightsaversamerica.org](mailto:mashman@sightsaversamerica.org)

###

# MEDIA



## Technology Allows Dallas Visually Impaired Children To See World

November 17, 2016 4:55 PM



**DALLAS (CBS11)** – It is a brand new world for dozens of visually impaired children in Dallas Thursday. That's because technology is now helping them see it for themselves. "Breathtaking!" exclaimed Charity Crawford with an infectious laugh. "I'm so excited for this."

It didn't take much to take Crawford's breath away, just something that many of us take for granted: seeing words on a screen.

Perhaps the word was 'mouse' or maybe 'dog.' But the point was the visually impaired Dallas teen was seeing it for herself.

"Some of the teachers they give us hard copies of books," said Crawford. "I can never take them home to read them because I don't have the equipment, but now I can do that."

Crawford and dozens of other children are receiving EVMs, electronic video magnifiers from Sight Savers America, a national non-profit.

"It's going to really change their lives," said Michelle Littleton, Grants Manager. "A lot of them have very, very severe visual impairment. It's not correctable with contact lenses,

glasses or surgery, and so this technology is really a means for them to maximize the vision that they do have.”

The EVMs can magnify text– the TV– or whatever the children want to see more clearly.

“It’s actually like a closed circuit TV system,” explained Littleton. “It uses a camera and a display screen and it can magnify things up to 131 times.”

Dr. Stephanie Fleming, OD, Dallas Services Low Vision Clinic Director and Dallas Low Vision Specialist, Dr. Brian M. Celico, OD PA, provided the low vision evaluations necessary to recommend the EVMs. Sight Savers America coordinated the program, determined each child’s eligibility and provided the recommended equipment.

“I can’t explain because I’m so happy. said Miriam Hernandez.

Her daughter Daffne is getting one of the devices to take home.

“I know she will start learning more and more right now,” said Hernandez.

EVMs are more expensive than the average family can afford and are not covered by any type of medical insurance. The donation of the EVMs was made possible by funding from the Communities Foundation of Texas Reading Resource Fund, the Meadows Foundation, and VFO.

They are provided to each child at no cost to their families.

During the clinic, Sight Savers America’s staff members will train each child and their families to use the EVM before they take it home with them that day.

Sight Savers America will also provide extensive follow-up care and keep records of the child’s progress with their vision equipment until the child reaches the age of 19.

“I didn’t even know that this kind of thing existed,” added an enthusiastic Quargnilde Crawford, Charity’s mother. “And to know that she doesn’t have to depend on someone else so much... it’s awesome. I’m so happy.”

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# MEDIA

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