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October 14, 2015

Lee County Legislative Delegation  
c/o The Honorable Matt Caldwell  
15191 Homestead Road, Bldg A  
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

State Legislators Serving Lee County:

There are over 926 children, ages 5 – 14, living in Florida with major visual impairment/blindness. Seventeen agencies throughout Florida, such as The Lighthouse of SWFL, Inc., recognized that these children need vision rehabilitation services in order to be able to compete with their peers in school, and have a chance at graduating from high school with more than a Certificate of Completion. These children then could move on to college and then into a career! Vision rehabilitation for children results in the child being able to live, learn, and work competitively with others. The ultimate goal is that the child will become an adult with a career and full life that is not 100% dependent upon support from the government and other sources.

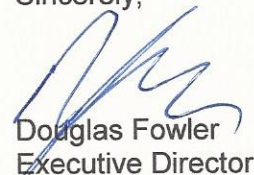
The Florida Association of Agencies Serving the Blind (FAASB) was allocated \$500,000 recurrent, plus \$500,000 in one-time funds, by the Florida Legislature last year to get the Children's Vision Rehabilitation Programs either started or moving forward.

FAASB requested \$3 million in recurrent funding to be able to adequately begin serving top-quality vision rehabilitation services to one-third of the 926 identified children in Florida. Through fundraising and grants, FAASB agencies average matching State of Florida funding dollar for dollar. Any funding provided by the legislature will go farther towards serving our children since we are able to match the amount through private funding. So, your support would actually wind up impacting over two-thirds of the total population of children in need.

We are looking for you! FAASB needs legislators who will advocate for this statewide-need in the upcoming Legislative Session!

If you are interested, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Douglas Fowler  
Executive Director

Member of the Florida Association of Agencies Serving the Blind

