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Prevent Blindness Kicks Off Second Annual “Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) Awareness Week,” Feb. 24- March 2, 2025, as Part of its ROP Education and Support Program

-- Prevent Blindness Provides Free Retinopathy of Prematurity Educational Resources to Parents and Professionals, Including Updated Fact Sheets, Web pages, and a New Video Series with Medical Expert and Parent Testimonials --

CHICAGO (Feb. 18, 2025) – [Prevent Blindness](#), the nation’s leading eye health and safety nonprofit organization, has declared Feb. 24 to March 2, 2025, as the Second Annual Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) Awareness Week. The initiative supports the comprehensive “Prevent Blindness ROP Education and Support Program,” designed to provide education and support for families of children with ROP, promote the role of early intervention programs for these children, and explain how allied healthcare professionals assist in continuity of care.

During the awareness week, Prevent Blindness will be sharing a variety of free educational resources to the public and professionals, The ROP Education and Support Program and ROP Awareness Week is supported by funding from [Regeneron](#).

ROP is an eye disease that occurs in some babies who are born prematurely (earlier than 30 weeks of pregnancy); have low birth weight (less than 3 lb. 5 oz. or 1,500 g.); or have complications after they are born and receive extra oxygen for more than a few days. ROP affects the retina, the back part of the eye, including updated [fact sheets](#), [web pages](#), [social media graphics](#) in English and Spanish, and [a new video series](#). and occurs when the retinal blood vessels, which are not fully developed at birth, begin to grow abnormally and in the wrong direction.

Prevent Blindness is once again collaborating with leading parent and advocacy organizations, including [Hand to Hold](#), the [National Coalition for Infant Health](#), and the [SPAN Parent Advocacy Network](#), to enhance and expand the reach of the program.

“We had such a tremendous response from our Retinopathy of Prematurity Education and Support program launch last year that we are thrilled to build on and expand these resources,” said Jeff Todd, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness. “Our ultimate goal is to empower families and provide healthcare professionals with the information they need to help save children’s sight from ROP.”

This year, Prevent Blindness is offering new, condensed versions of its ROP fact sheets, including:

- What is Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP)?
- How is ROP Diagnosed and Treated?
- What Do I Need to Know About My Child's ROP and Lifelong Vision Health?

Prevent Blindness recently conducted a roundtable discussion, "Your Child and ROP-2025." As part of the conversation, medical experts, and parents of children with ROP shared experiences and helpful suggestions on accessing early intervention programs and the importance of adhering to follow-up treatment plans after leaving the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). This recorded session will soon be published as [a free video series](#) available on the Prevent Blindness ROP website and as part of the ROP-dedicated [Prevent Blindness YouTube playlist](#). These short-form videos will also be shared across Prevent Blindness social media platforms during ROP Awareness Week.

Participants in the 2025 roundtable included:

- R.V. Paul Chan, MD, MSC, MBA, FACS, Director, Pediatric Retina and ROP Services, Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Kristina Clark, BSN, RN Nurse, Care Coordinator, Lurie Children's Hospital
- Ali Huckins, LPC, BCBA, Developmental Psychology Consultant, Anchor Center for Blind Children
- Kelli Kelley, NICU parent and Founder and CEO, Hand to Hold
- Gigi Khonyongwa-Fernandez, parent of a child with ROP
- Nicole Pratt, MAT, BS, parent of child with ROP and Family and Professional Training Director, SPAN Parent Advocacy Network
- DeEtte Snyder, TVI, Outreach Director Birth – 3 Services, Blind and Visually Impaired, State of Washington

Prevent Blindness also offers the "[Retinopathy of Prematurity](#)" episode in its Focus on Eye Health Expert Series, featuring Dr. Chan, also a volunteer member of the [Prevent Blindness Board of Directors](#).

For more information on ROP, please visit PreventBlindness.org/retinopathy-of-prematurity-rop/, or contact Prevent Blindness at info@PreventBlindness.org.

About Prevent Blindness

Founded in 1908, Prevent Blindness is the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness and saving sight. Focused on promoting a continuum of vision care, Prevent Blindness touches the lives of millions of people each year through public and professional education, advocacy, certified vision screening and training, community and patient service programs and research. These services are made possible through the generous support of the American public. Together with a network of affiliates, Prevent Blindness is committed to

eliminating preventable blindness in America. For more information, visit us at PreventBlindness.org, and follow us on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), [Threads](#), [LinkedIn](#), [TikTok](#), and [YouTube](#).

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