

Prevent Blindness Holds 2025 Person of Vision Award Event, honoring Howard Purcell, O.D., New England College of Optometry, as Part of Vision Expo East in Orlando

CHICAGO (Feb. 20, 2025) [Prevent Blindness](#), the nation's leading eye health and safety nonprofit organization, presented the [2025 Prevent Blindness Person of Vision Award](#), to Howard Purcell, O.D., F.A.A.O., president and CEO, [New England College of Optometry \(NECO\)](#), as part of its annual Person of Vision gala on February 19, in conjunction with [Vision Expo East](#) in Orlando, Fla.

The Prevent Blindness Person of Vision Award recognizes an individual, corporation and/or organization whose inspired outlook champions healthy vision and its importance for a healthy life. The gala raised more than \$300,000. All proceeds go to support the sight-saving programs of Prevent Blindness.

“All of us at Prevent Blindness extend our deepest gratitude to all of our sponsors and attendees for their roles in helping to make our 2025 Person of Vision gala, honoring Dr. Howard Purcell, another tremendous success,” said Jim McGrann, CEO of Advancing Eyecare, and Prevent Blindness Board of Directors Chair. “And special recognition to our all-volunteer committee, led by our tireless leader, Maureen Cavanaugh, for their tremendous efforts to plan a fabulous evening and raise funds for our important programs.”

EssilorLuxottica served as the Platinum sponsor. Jobson Optical Group was the Silver sponsor. Bronze sponsors were Advancing Eyecare, Bausch + Lomb, Keplr Vision, MyEyeDr., Vision Expo, and VSP Vision. Table+ sponsors included ABB Optical Group, AEG Vision, Amgen, CooperVision, EyeMed Vision Care, Johnson & Johnson Vision, MacuHealth, National Vision, Neurolens, NECO, Ocuco, Safilo USA, Silhouette, Vision Source, and Zeiss. Table sponsors were the 2024 Person of Vision Award recipient Mr. Ed Buffington, DigitalOptometrics, Europa Eyewear, Friends of Essilor, Optical Women's Association, PECAA, Shamir, and The Vision Council. Zyloware was once again the Nightcap Reception sponsor.

During the gala, the first \$10,000 in donations made to Prevent Blindness were matched by the Marco Family Foundation, David and Julie Marco. For those who would still like to contribute to Prevent Blindness, gifts may be made at <https://bycell.co/cywna>, or by texting SIGHT to 1-833-711-1621 (message and data rates may apply).

The 2025 Person of Vision Committee was chaired by Maureen Cavanagh, Advancing Eyecare. Additional committee members included Marge Axelrad, editorial director emeritus, *Vision Monday* (VM); Deb Bulken, Luxottica Wholesale; Dr. Gary Chu, NECO; 2021 Person of Vision Award recipient Marc Ferrara, Jobson Medical Information; 2022 Person of Vision Award recipient Rick Gadd, Catalyst Health Group; Dr. Peter Kehoe, EyeMed; Jim McGrann, Advancing Eyecare; Dr. Millicent Knight, Integrated Eye and Wellness; and Jamie Shyer, Zyloware.

For more information on the 2025 Prevent Blindness Person of Vision Award event, please contact Albert Muci at amuci@preventblindness.org, or visit <https://preventblindness.org/personofvision>.

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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