



### **FACTS ABOUT BLINDNESS:**

- Across the globe, a child goes blind every single minute, and some 37 million people are blind and 124 million severely visually impaired.
- The World Health Organization estimates that 75% of all blindness can be treated, cured, or prevented by highly cost-effective means.
- The prevalence of blindness increases rapidly in later years, particularly after age 75; and the number of Americans with age-related eye disease is expected to double within the next three decades unless something is done to reverse the trend, according to EyeCare America, which is the public service foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology
- More than two-thirds of visually impaired adults in the United States are over 65 years of age.
- Nearly 20.5 million Americans age 40 and older are afflicted with cataracts, which is the leading cause of blindness in the United States
- The New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, in the Department of Human Services, provides services in the area of education, employment, independence, and eye health; and its prevention services program screens more than 45,000 people annually in all 21 counties, including diabetic eye screenings, adult eye screenings, school screenings, and migrant worker screening.