

# Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



## Governor's Office

### PROCLAMATION

#### BLINDNESS AWARENESS MONTH

October 2009

*WHEREAS, More than two-thirds of visually impaired adults in the United States are over 65 years of age and the prevalence of blindness increases rapidly in later years, particularly after age 75; and*

*WHEREAS, nearly 20.5 million Americans age 40 and older are afflicted with cataracts, which is the leading cause of blindness in the United States; and*

*WHEREAS, the number of Americans with age-related eye disease is expected to double within the next three decades, according to EyeCare America, which is the public service foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology; and*

*WHEREAS, approximately 37 million people are blind and 124 million severely visually impaired worldwide, and it is estimated that a child goes blind every minute; and*

*WHEREAS, the World Health Organization estimates that 75 percent of all blindness can be treated, cured or prevented by highly cost-effective means; and*

*WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, through a prevention program funded in part by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services provides vision screens and eye health information to over 128,000 Pennsylvanians annually.*

*THEREFORE, In recognition of the need to educate citizens about the prevention and treatment of blindness, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim October 2009 as BLINDNESS AWARENESS MONTH in Pennsylvania. I encourage the citizens of this Commonwealth to take the necessary precautions to prevent the causes of blindness and assist those who are affected by it.*

*GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this twenty-sixth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and nine, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and thirty-fourth.*

*Edward G. Rendell*

EDWARD G. RENDELL  
Governor

