Vision To Learn Diligence Trip Report
Rosa Parks Learning Center Elementary School – North Hills (LA)
May 30, 2024

Program Visited
- Mobile vision clinic at Rosa Parks Learning Center Elementary School - North Hills (LA)

Focusing Philanthropy Staff
- Parnia Banki (PB)
- Pedro Kuroiwa (PK)

Vision To Learn (VTL) Staff
- Damian Carroll

Executive Summary
The goal of the visit was to observe the mobile clinic in action at a Los Angeles school for the first time. Rosa Parks Learning Center is a LAUSD school in North Hills (the valley).

Background
Vision To Learn is a national nonprofit providing vision screenings, eye exams, and glasses to children in low-income communities—at no cost to the children or their families. They use mobile vision clinics, staffed by licensed doctors, to deliver critical vision care services directly to students at schools. A recent Johns Hopkins study shows that children provided with glasses did much better in school, and the impacts were greater than more costly measures such as lengthening the school day, providing computers, or creating charter schools.

Key Observations
Program fidelity: the VTL program at this school was identical to the one PB observed in Washington, DC in 2023.

Rosa Parks Center, LAUSD
8855 Noble Ave, North Hills, CA 91343

There are 534 students at this LAUSD elementary school. New MOU contract with LAUSD was signed only 2 months ago. VTL has engaged with LAUSD in the past but this contract is new and improved. It includes “opt-out” provision and allows VTL to bill Medicaid.
98% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch. (512 for free lunch and 13 for reduced). The table below shows the income levels for eligibility in CA. Free lunch eligibility is usually equal to 135% of the poverty line.

<table>
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<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Twice Per Month</th>
<th>Every Two Weeks</th>
<th>Weekly</th>
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8 mobile clinics operate in LA covering hundreds of schools in a year. They can usually see 15 students at a time so they come back multiple times until all students are seen. VTL will go back to this school in 2 years.
**The Eye Exam**
Vision clinic - the converted sprinter van- is outfitted with the same equipment found at an optometry office i.e. auto refractor, fondus camera, phoropter, and spot screener.

*Converted sprinter - Mobile clinic - parked at the school*
Students were walked to the “clinic” by a school administrator. One student is admitted into the van at a time.

The student is first welcomed by the optician seated in front of the van. The optician tries to put the student at ease by making small talk and asking about brief family history. Questions include “does anyone in your family wear glasses”? “Do you have trouble seeing the board or your textbook”? The optician then uses the autorefractor machine to get a rough idea of the prescription. Next, the student looks through the Fundus camera as the optician photographs the back of the eye- this is an eye health check. The optician then hands a printout of the photograph and the RX estimate to the optometrist.

The student then moves to the back of the van which looks just like an optometrist’s office, complete with Phoreptor machine and reading charts. The student is seated and asked to read the vision charts. Next, they look through multiple lenses while being asked is #1 better or #2, #3 or #4 etc., until the precise prescription has been determined.
Student being examined by an optician

Student being examined by an optometrist in the back of the van
The student now returns to the optician and is shown multiple cases filled with fun, colorful and fashionable frames- primarily donated by Warby Parker. The student is encouraged to try on multiple pairs -guided by the optician- until they find their favorite. The optician inputs all students’ information into Sparta, VTL’s new health record database and medical billing system. The student is never asked for medical insurance information.

VTL returns to the school 3 weeks later to deliver the glasses, make sure the frames fit appropriately, and show students how to care for their new glasses. The teachers and parents are notified that the student now has glasses and needs to be reminded to wear them.

**News**

VTL is piloting a telemedicine program in Compton. Damian explained that they refer out 5% of students they exam but there has never been information or transparency on how/ if the parents address the issue. Every Child, CHLA and VTL are partnering to pilot Telemed in Compton. The technology will allow VTL clinician to connect with ophthalmologists at CHLA and share images as the clinician examines the issue in real time. The doctor can diagnose and determine next steps. VTL is working to identify the appropriate technology/ connection.