



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Community Partnership School Model brings the Gift of Vision to Students**  
***C.A. Weis Elementary offers vision screening and free glasses to children***

**WHAT:** C.A. Weis Elementary, A Community Partnership School is giving the *gift of vision* this holiday season by providing vision screening and glasses to students in need.

Good vision is essential for students of all ages to reach their full academic potential, yet 1 in 4 school-aged children has a vision problem needing the attention of an eye-care professional.

With the Weis Eyes Program, Dr. Mary Charbonneau and the Community Health Northwest Florida Optometry team provide vision screenings to Weis students each Friday. Children whose exams indicate they need additional care are then scheduled for full examinations. If eyeglasses are needed, they get to pick out their own FREE pair.

The Weis Eyes Program is made possible through the community partnership schools™ model, which focuses on removing tough barriers to learning – including poor vision. Children’s Home Society of Florida, along with core partners Community Health Northwest Florida, Escambia County School District, University of West Florida, partners with parents to help families build and maintain healthy opportunities. With more families focused on success instead of survival, more children have the opportunity to engage in their education and reach their full potential.

**INTERVIEWS:**

John Sherman, Children’s Home Society of Florida Regional Director of Community Partnership Schools

Ann Papadelias, Community Health Northwest Florida

Kim Stefansson, Escambia County School District

**WHEN:** Friday, December 13, 2019  
8:45 am - 12 pm

**VISUALS:**

- C.A. Weis students participating in vision screening
- C.A. Weis students receiving free prescription glasses

- Community Partners available for interview
- Weis students and teachers available for interview

**WHERE:** C.A. Weis Elementary, A Community Partnership School  
2701 North Q Street, Pensacola, FL 32505

**WHY:** Through the Community Partnership School™ model, core partners – in collaboration with local nonprofits, businesses, the faith community and more – work within the school to address the spectrum of socio-economic barriers affecting students’ educational advancement, including poverty, food insecurity, lack of affordable health care, behavioral health services, and elevated rates of violence and crime, in addition to other issues as identified.

First implemented in Florida in 2010, the Community Partnership School™ model has demonstrated to improve outcomes for children and families. Specific successes include increased graduation rates, reduced disciplinary actions, improved attendance, and increased parental involvement.

***About Children's Home Society of Florida***

*On the front lines since 1902, Children’s Home Society of Florida is the oldest and largest statewide organization devoted to helping children and families. Children’s Home Society of Florida serves more than 50,000 children and family members throughout the state each year. More: [www.chsfl.org](http://www.chsfl.org).*

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