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**DALLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT PASSES RESOLUTION  
PRAISING ESSILOR VISION FOUNDATION FOR PROVIDING EYE CARE TO TROUBLED TEENS**

***Every teen in the Dallas County Juvenile Justice Center system  
receives free vision screenings, eye exams and glasses (if needed)***

**DALLAS (Aug. 25, 2009)** – Praising their efforts to help troubled and incarcerated teens, the Dallas County Commissioners Court recently passed a resolution recognizing Essilor Vision Foundation for providing free vision screenings, eye exams and glasses to youths of the Dallas County Juvenile Justice Center.

The resolution states that the Dallas County Commissioners Court “extends its sincere appreciation to Essilor Vision Foundation for its assistance in supporting youth and families in Dallas County and has our support for its efforts to address one of the issues that plague our schools and juvenile population.”

Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price introduced the resolution, which was submitted in conjunction with Commissioner Maurine Dickey. It recognized Essilor Vision Foundation for strides made in addressing vision problems in children – from increasing awareness about the importance of vision care to eliminating barriers that prevent children from receiving proper eye care, thus reducing the academic and social problems that affect children with undiagnosed vision problems.

As part of the *Kids Vision for Life program*, Essilor Vision Foundation has partnered with the Lions Sight and Tissue Foundation to conduct onsite vision screenings and exams on approximately 600 incarcerated and at-risk teens at the Youth Village, Medlock Center, the Henry Wade Detention Center and the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program. Essilor Vision Foundation expects to provide free eyeglasses, equipped with polycarbonate lenses, to approximately 300 teens before the end of September.

“Vision is critical to a young person’s success. Studies show that many juvenile offenders suffer from undiagnosed vision problems,” said Mike Griffiths, director of Dallas County Juvenile Services. “So far, we’ve screened about one-quarter of teens in the care of the Dallas County Juvenile Justice System and have found about 60 percent need glasses. I just wish these teens had been given the opportunity to have eyeglasses at a younger age ... it might have prevented some of the troubles they now face.”

According to Jacques Stoerr, chairman of the Essilor Vision Foundation, studies show that children with uncorrected vision are more likely to drop out of school and may go on to face lifelong struggles with literacy, low self-esteem, unemployment, poverty and crime. He adds that approximately 80 percent of what a child learns is acquired through their eyes.

“As a person who wears glasses, I know how difficult it is to operate without them and what a disadvantage it is when you can’t see,” said Commissioner Price. “Essilor Vision Foundation is providing a critical learning tool to Dallas County kids, and we greatly appreciate their dedication to helping our young people.”

To donate or learn more about the Essilor Vision Foundation, go to [www.essilorvisionfoundation.org](http://www.essilorvisionfoundation.org).

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### ***ABOUT ESSILOR VISION FOUNDATION***

Essilor Vision Foundation is a public non-profit charity established by Dallas-based Essilor of America, the leading manufacturer of optical lenses in the United States. The foundation's mission is to eliminate poor vision and its lifelong consequences.

We strive to give children a brighter future by helping them see the world more clearly. Our programs focus on improving the quality of school vision screenings so fewer children slip through the cracks, providing eye exams and eyeglasses to children who would not get them otherwise, and educating parents and communities about the importance of children's vision care and the role it plays in literacy, society, and the economy.

### ***ABOUT ESSILOR OF AMERICA, INC.***

Essilor is the leading manufacturer of optical lenses in the United States and is the market leader in progressive, high-index and anti-reflective coated lenses. A pioneer in the development and production of ophthalmic lenses, Essilor employs more than 8,500 people throughout North America. Essilor manufactures optical lenses under the Varilux®, Crizal®, DEFINITY®, Thin&Lite® and other Essilor brand names. Essilor Laboratories of America (ELOA) is the largest, and most trusted, optical lab network in the U.S. and offers a wide choice of services and lens brands, including Essilor premium lenses, to eye care professionals across the nation. Essilor of America, Inc. (Essilor) is a subsidiary of Paris-based Essilor International, S.A., a publicly held company traded on the Euronext Paris stock exchange (Reuters: ESSI.PA).

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