



Message for Our Supporters, Partners, and Advocates:

I wanted to take a moment to discuss some important information about our non-profit organization. Our Foundation's mission is deeply rooted in our own personal experiences, inspiring us to make a real difference in diabetes care and vision health.

These past fifteen years that I have spent in the demanding environment of the remote villages of Alaska reminded me daily of the escalating incidence of diabetes within Native communities, impacting individuals across all age brackets and socio-economic backgrounds. Diabetes, a disease often seen as just a mild annoyance by patients, is instead a significant threat to vision and quality of life. It was through these direct interactions with patients experiencing vision loss (typically from poorly managed diabetes) that I began to understand the widespread nature of this issue. So many patients had neglected regular visits to their eye care provider due to resource constraints, lack of awareness, or a misconception that it was not an urgent concern. The harsh reality, as I discovered, can be devastatingly different.

But diabetes is not just a thief of sight. It also robs us of loved ones. I personally experienced this in a short span of just three years, where I lost three important people to diabetic complications: my former spouse, my younger brother, and my best friend. These deeply personal tragedies, coupled with my own Type 2 diabetes diagnosis, ignited an urgency within me to make a difference in this public health crisis.

After the sudden passing of Dr. Brian E Coe in 2022, I knew that action had to be taken. Brian was not just a mentor and friend to me, but a shining example of a skilled, compassionate physician who could connect genuinely with patients. His passing was a significant blow to his local community, to the optometry profession and, most importantly, to the patients whose lives he positively impacted. In naming the foundation after him, I seek to honor his memory and emulate his dedication—because I know he would have been firmly behind our cause.

Our objective at the Foundation extends beyond just safeguarding and enhancing the eyesight of diabetic patients. We aspire to improve their overall quality of life. It's about more than just preserving eyesight—it's about protecting lives. Our mission involves raising awareness, advocating for early detection and management, and providing vital resources and support to those living with diabetes.

As we forge ahead, your support becomes ever more crucial. Together, we can light up the lives of those affected by diabetes and its complications.

With sincerity and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Pedigo". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. David Pedigo, OD

Founder

Brian E Coe Diabetic Vision Foundation



Brian E Coe Diabetic Vision Foundation, Inc



Prism Cares

**Providing Remote
Indigenous Sight
Management**

PRISM CARES, an initiative of the Brian E. Coe Diabetic Vision Foundation, provides vision screenings, diabetic education, and community outreach to prevent diabetic vision loss. Our primary focus is on providing eye care to remote regions of Alaska, where diabetes is prevalent in Native Alaskan villages.



Our eponymous inspiration, Dr. Brian E. Coe (1973-2022), devoted his professional life to assisting individuals with vision problems. As someone who experienced the challenges of Type 2 diabetes firsthand, he understood the profound impact it had on his own eyesight and well-being. We are committed to embodying Dr. Coe's empathetic nature, unwavering compassion, and steadfast integrity in serving those in need, particularly in the realm of diabetic eye care.



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We provide Eye Care Services to rural and remote Alaskan communities, with a focus on finding and treating diabetic eye disease. Our foundation strives to model his caring attitude, compassion for others and ingrained integrity to serve those in need, especially as it relates to diabetic eye care. The primary activity of our non-profit organization is to provide comprehensive optometry services to underserved rural and remote communities in

Alaska, with a special focus on diabetic eye care. This includes eye examinations, diagnosis and treatment of eye diseases, vision correction through eyeglasses or contact lenses, and eye health education. Our goal is to improve access to eye care services for these communities and promote early detection and treatment of diabetic eye complications, as well as other sight-threatening diseases, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for residents.

HOW WE UTILIZE OUR RESOURCES

Approximately 80% of our organization's time and money will be dedicated to providing eye care services in rural and remote Alaskan communities.

The remaining 20% will be allocated to administrative tasks, fundraising efforts, community outreach, and education for our patients to prevent vision loss.

Our Executive Manager

- Kristen Fairchild

Community Outreach

- Chrissy Friberg

Our Board of Directors

- David J Pedigo, OD
- LesLee Hasenstab
- Anne Marie Barbon



**DONATE
NOW**

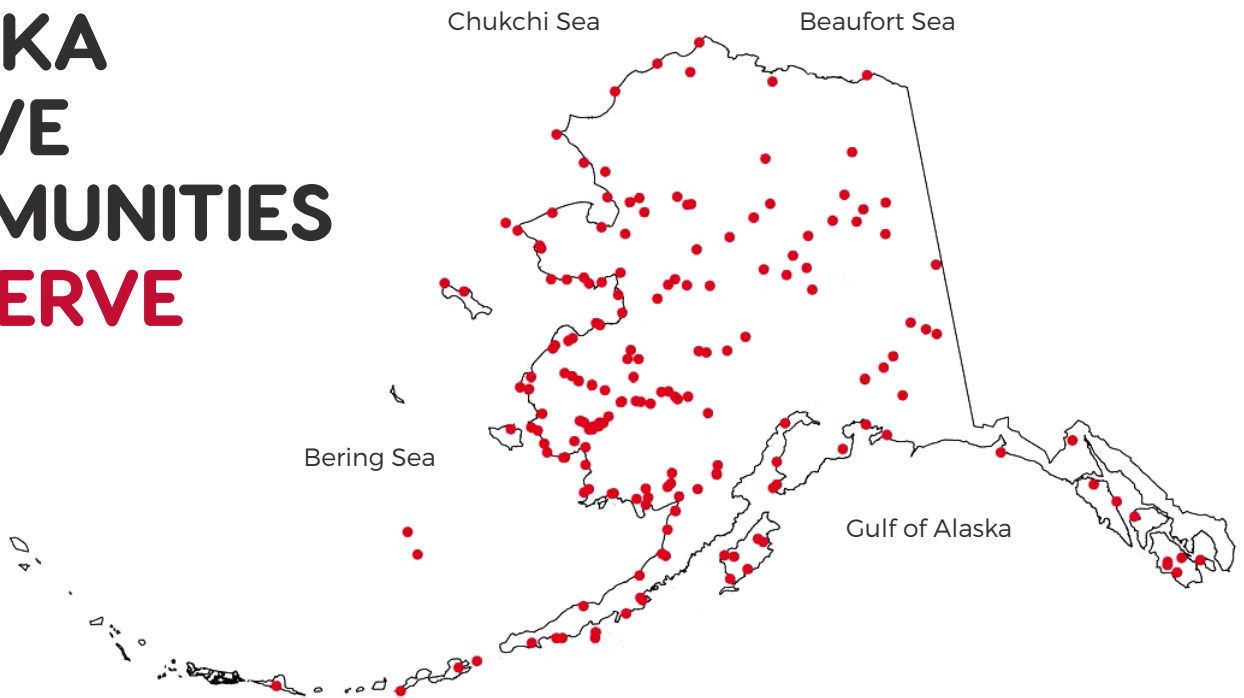
www.PrismCares.org

OUR TEAM

of licensed optometrists and trained support staff, including opticians, optometric technicians and administrative personnel, will conduct the activities. The optometrists will be responsible for

providing eye care services, while the support staff will assist in managing patient records, scheduling appointments, and facilitating communication with local community health centers.

ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE



- Akiachak
- Akiak
- Akhiok
- Aleknagik
- Allakaket
- Ambler
- Anchorage
- Anaktuvuk Pass
- Aniak
- Barrow (Utqiagvik)
- Brevig Mission
- Buckland
- Chevak
- Chefornak
- Chignik
- Copper Center
- Craig
- Deering
- Dillingham
- Eek
- Egegik
- Ekwok
- Elim
- Emmonak
- Fort Yukon
- Gambell
- Golovin
- Goodnews Bay
- Grayling
- Healy
- Holy Cross
- Hooper Bay
- Hoonah
- Huslia
- Igiugig
- Iliamna
- Kake
- Kaktovik
- Kalskag
- Kaltag
- Kasigluk
- Kiana
- King Cove
- Kipnuk
- Kivalina
- Kokhanok
- Klawock
- Kobuk
- Kotlik
- Kotzebue
- Koyuk
- Koyukuk
- Kwethluk
- Kwigillingok
- Larsen Bay
- Levelock
- Lower Kalskag
- McGrath
- Marshall
- Metlakatla
- Mountain Village
- Naknek
- Napakiak
- Napaskiak
- Nenana
- New Stuyahok
- Newhalen
- Newtonk
- Nightmute
- Noatak
- Nondalton
- Noorvik
- Nuiqsut
- Nulato
- Nunam
- Iqua
- Nunapitchuk
- Pelican
- Pilot Station
- Point Hope
- Point Lay
- Port Heiden
- Port Lions
- Quinhagak
- Ruby
- Russian Mission
- St. Mary's
- St. Michael
- St. Paul
- Sand Point
- Savoonga
- Scammon Bay
- Selawik
- Shaktoolik
- Shageluk
- Shishmaref
- Shungnak
- Sleetmute
- Stebbins
- Talkeetna
- Tanana
- Teller
- Tenakee Springs
- Thorne Bay
- Togiak
- Toksook Bay
- Tuluksak
- Tuntutuliak
- Tununak
- Twin Hills
- Unalakleet
- Unalaska (Dutch Harbor)
- Upper Kalskag
- Venetie
- Wainwright
- Wales
- White Mountain
- Yakutat

NATIVE ART INITIATIVE

Rural Alaskans hold a deep connection to the land and sea, relying on nature for their sustenance and embracing it as the cornerstone of their culture and spirituality. This interdependence ensures the preservation of the environment for future generations. In Native Alaskan communities, family elders impart time-honored cultural values to younger generations, guiding them in hunting, fishing, gathering, and understanding the powerful forces that shape the Arctic landscape. Through these lessons, they maintain a balance and respect for the Earth, essential for their survival and well-being in the harsh, yet awe-inspiring, Arctic environment. Our Foundation supports Native communities by



offering locally created and sourced art work for sale with 60% of the profits going directly to the Native artist. We use the remaining amounts to support Foundation outreach, education and clinical services in the same Native communities.



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Prism Cares

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ABOUT DIABETES IN REMOTE ALASKA

Diabetes is an insidious disease that can have a significant impact on vision, particularly in remote Native Alaskan villages. Diabetes is a common health problem in Native Alaskan communities, where the prevalence of the disease is higher than in the general population. People with diabetes are at a higher risk of developing eye problems, such as diabetic retinopathy, which is a condition that can damage the blood vessels in the retina and cause vision loss. In remote Alaskan villages, access to eye care services

is often limited, and people with diabetes may not receive regular eye exams or have access to treatment options such as laser surgery. This can lead to a higher incidence of vision loss and blindness in these communities. It is essential for healthcare providers to work with Native Alaskan communities to develop strategies for preventing and managing diabetes and its complications, including eye problems, to ensure that individuals have the best possible vision and quality of life.