Dear Friend of the PRRF,

Each year, the Pediatric Retina Service at Associated Retinal Consultants (ARC) operates on more than 1,000 pediatric retina patients at William Beaumont Hospital, making it one of the busiest such practices in the world. Parents travel from all over the U.S. and abroad to ensure their children benefit from the advanced and specialized care they can't get anywhere else.

It was an extremely scary time...

Not long after Declan was born, we began to notice something was wrong with his eyes. While our local medical experts were able to narrow the problem to a retinal issue, they couldn't tell us exactly what was wrong. And knowing that something was wrong with our child, but not knowing what it was or how to fix it, was absolutely devastating to us as new parents.

~Kristin, mother

After finding their way to our team, Declan was diagnosed with congenital x-linked retinoschisis (CXRS) – an uncurable disease which has required multiple surgeries and has left the 6-year-old legally blind. Despite our expertise and experience, the evaluation and care of Declan and his two younger brothers - Caleb, 3 and Grayson, 2 – has been limited by available technology.

Historically, a device to perform Optical Coherence Tomography, or OCT for short, has been used to diagnose retinal diseases. OCT isn't practical for infants and children as it requires them to sit upright, leaning forward, with their chin resting on a strap and eyes fixated on a visual target. As any parent knows, this awkward position and the need to sit completely still is an absolute deal breaker for kids!

But there is hope!

The OCT instrument is now available as a hand-held device. This innovation allows for use of OCT's advanced technology while kids are laying down and asleep under anesthesia – a game changer in the evaluation and management of pediatric retinal diseases! Additionally, the new device allows for noninvasive evaluation of the anatomy of the eye over time, and most importantly, allows us to make more informed decisions regarding the need for surgery.

Having to wait until the boys are 7 or 8 years-old – the recommended age for traditional OCT imaging – means that we are missing years of valuable information that could better guide decisions regarding their treatment. Having access to the hand-held device would ensure we have better and more timely information. It would give us peace of mind!
To bring this device to William Beaumont Hospital so that it could be used on all patients in need, the Pediatric Retinal Research Foundation (PRRF) has launched a campaign to raise the necessary funds. With a price tag of nearly $100,000, it will take all of us working together!

**Can we count on your support?**

Can we count on you to help Declan, Caleb and Grayson – and the hundreds of other children we see each year? Can we count on you to help provide parents with peace of mind knowing their child is able to take advantage of the very best technology available? I hope so.

**We simply can't do it without you!**

So please, during this season of giving, consider making a gift in support of the PRRF’s purchase of the hand-held OCT device. There are a number of ways you can help, click the button below to donate. Every dollar gets us closer to helping more children!

Gratefully,

![Signature]

Dr. Antonio Capone, Jr.
President, The Pediatric Retinal Research Foundation (PRRF)

To learn more about PRRF and the latest in pediatric retinal research, visit: [www.pediatricrrf.org](http://www.pediatricrrf.org).