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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **'Vision Education Station' Visits The DeHoff Memorial Branch Library**

COLUMBUS (*December 2007*) - The Realeyes Vision Education Station, a free-standing kiosk simulating vision disorders and promoting eye health education, will be at the Stark County District Library DeHoff Memorial Branch from now through the end of December. This is the second year the library has hosted this display.

Realeyes is a unique educational program designed to connect classrooms with eye doctors in the community. Now in its sixth year, the Realeyes Classroom Initiative has been presented to 300,000 students in schools throughout Ohio. Three age-appropriate, standardized and interactive curricula, created by the Ohio Optometric Association through a grant from the Ohio Department of Health Save Our Sight fund, are offered at no charge to schools. Funds are generated through donations given at license and registration renewal at the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

"Vision is important in childhood learning, and vision care is critical to the academic development of Ohio's children," said Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD of The Ohio State University College of Optometry.

The Vision Education Station is an additional component of the Realeyes program, detailing each of the four major eye diseases that affect Americans: glaucoma, cataracts, macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy. The kiosk also brings into play the outer space themed "Vision World" interactive computer game to demonstrate how light passes through the eye and communicates the message of eye care, health and safety.

To schedule a Realeyes presentation for your school, a Vision Education Station visit for your mall, library, museum or community gathering place or for more information on Realeyes, contact Sarah Platine at (614) 781-0708 or at [sos@ooa.org](mailto:sos@ooa.org), or visit [www.ooa.org/RealeyesHome.html](http://www.ooa.org/RealeyesHome.html).

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### **About the Library:**

The Stark County District Library is one of the best 100 libraries in the United States, ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in its population category. Its Main Library, 10 Branch Libraries, and two bookmobiles

and two Kidmobiles serve 143,000 library card holders. More than 1.4 million people visited the Main Library or its Branches and Bookmobiles last year. Holdings number more than 925,000 items, and annual circulation is 3.8 million items. The collection includes books, audio visual materials, and periodicals for all ages. In addition, the Library provides programs and classes for adults, teens, and children, computer and Internet access, inter-library loans, reference and genealogy services, and traveling collections on two Bookmobiles and two Kidmobiles, as well as Outreach services to shut-ins, nursing homes, and housing units. It is one of the nine largest library systems in the state of Ohio, serving 12 local school districts. For more information, call 330.452.0665 or visit [www.starklibrary.org](http://www.starklibrary.org).

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