

THE VISION AWARDS™

LEADING THE WAY IN THE INTERNATIONAL "STOP BLINDNESS" CAMPAIGN™

June 2, 2008

Dearest Friends:



Close your eyes. Keep them closed for a minute or two. Forget the things you take for granted; moving through a world you can see, watching your favorite television shows, reading a good book, gazing at the loving faces of your family. Don't even consider driving yourself anywhere, ever again. Welcome to my world, a world I share with millions more in this country with lost or failing vision due to degenerative blindness. We live in darkness, but there is hope. **Retinitis Pigmentosa International** is committed to turning the lights back on. To do this, we need your help.

RP International will be hosting the **35th Annual Vision Awards®** on June 12th to tell the world there is hope; perhaps the best (and only) hope for this nation's children, teens and adults stricken with degenerative blindness. The research funded through the awards has miraculously restored sight to the blind. Thirty years ago, this would have been the stuff of fiction, but today it is real. The doctors and even the patients themselves have been brought on stage at the **Vision Awards®** and testified to the tremendous success of these procedures.

In the past two years alone on the Vision Awards stage, we were introduced to three miracles. First, two young people joined us – the sister had donated her own adult stem cells to her brother who had not seen in twenty-two years, he can now see his wife, three children, the ocean and the sunrise. Second, a new drug was introduced that is now available to help alleviate the effects of macular degeneration. A child in a fight for his life against Batten Disease, a neurological disorder which includes degenerative blindness, loss of motor function and eventually death, made medical history after receiving the first neural cell transplant in the world. That was over a year and a half ago and I'm proud to say he is still alive and well. Today, he is not only happily attending school, but serves as an official AAA little league batboy.

Imagine we've had the reversal of blindness in our lifetime. **It's true**. Several of our clinical trials have restored vision to previously blind children and seniors. Without the funding the Vision Awards provides, these miracles would never have been possible. We truly believe we have found a cure! Now we only need to fund it.

Thank you for your kindness. I look forward to **seeing** you at the 35th Annual Vision Awards!

Yours very sincerely and respectfully,



Helen J. Harris
President RP International

P.S. Advertising Journal Deadline has been extended to June 3rd, 2008 !!!

We've found the cure, now we need to fund it!



So much yet to see..
Please, help.

Blindness steals more than vision..

It robs our children, parents and family of
a lifetime of hopes and dreams.

With your support, RP International stands
Between the darkness and those we love,
by funding these critically needed programs.

Retinitis Pigmentosa International
(800) Fight-RP

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