



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: More than two-thirds of visually impaired adults in the United States are over sixty-five years of age, and the prevalence of blindness increases rapidly in later years, particularly after age seventy-five; and

WHEREAS: Nearly 20.5 million Americans age forty and older are afflicted with cataracts, which is the leading cause of blindness in the United States; and

WHEREAS: The number of Americans with age-related eye disease is expected to double within the next three decades, according to EyeCare America, the public service foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology; and

WHEREAS: Approximately 37 million people are blind and 124 million severely visually impaired worldwide, and it is estimated that a child goes blind every minute; and

WHEREAS: The World Health Organization estimates that seventy-five percent of all blindness can be treated, cured, or prevented by highly cost-effective means.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of October, 2011 as:

BLINDNESS AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Minnesota, and encourage citizens to take the precautions necessary to prevent the causes of blindness and assist those who are affected by it.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 20th day of September.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Dayton", written over a horizontal line.

GOVERNOR

Mark Ritchie

SECRETARY OF STATE