

## ABOUT PENNY MISHKIN



Penny Mishkin grew up knowing what it is like to have a severe visual impairment. Born with degenerative myopia, she was so nearsighted she couldn't read what was written on the blackboard even when seated in the first row of the classroom. She couldn't make out her reflection in the mirror unless she was wearing her thick coke-bottle eyeglasses. That all changed when she got contact lenses on her 12th birthday.

She considers herself lucky to have been born into a family that could afford the best medical care and treatment for her visual impairment. Her mother was her biggest advocate, tirelessly researching treatment options, eventually persuading her ophthalmologist to give her contact lenses, something that was unheard of for a 12-year-old in 1961. Her ongoing mission is to share her "luck" with as many people with severe visual impairments as she can.

Ms. Mishkin first heard about the Envision Foundation at a conference on visual impairment. The more she learned about Envision, the more confident she became it was the best-suited organization to execute her wishes beyond expectations.

A gift made by Ms. Mishkin in 2008 created the Jeanne and Penny Mishkin Legacy Fund for the Visually Impaired, named in part to honor her mother, Jeanne. It was established to cover any patient in need, regardless of age, with the purpose of not only providing contact lenses to improve functional vision, but also other assistive and corrective devices (upon request and approval).

Ms. Mishkin's generous contributions make it possible for people of all ages to receive the priceless gift of sight. The Envision Foundation is extremely thankful for her caring support.



610 N. Main | Wichita, KS | [www.envisionus.com](http://www.envisionus.com)   

To improve the quality of life and provide inspiration for the blind and visually impaired through employment, outreach, rehabilitation, education and research.

# JEANNE AND PENNY *Mishkin* LEGACY FUND FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

*Contact lenses  
for those  
in need*





The **Jeanne and Penny Mishkin Legacy Fund for the Visually Impaired** at the Envision Foundation is opening up a lifetime of opportunities for people with severe visual impairments who need contact lenses.

The fund breaks down the barriers that often stand between individuals with financial limitations and the eye care they require, allowing them to focus on their well-being and the joy associated with seeing the world in a new way.

The need for contact lenses is ongoing. That is why the Jeanne and Penny Mishkin Legacy Fund for the Visually Impaired provides lifetime benefits to qualifying patients.

“*I really didn't know how much I wasn't seeing (before I received my contact lenses and glasses), because it was all I ever knew. I remember when I received my contact lenses provided by the Jeanne and Penny Mishkin Legacy Fund how much clearer things were. I remember seeing individual leaves on trees. This was amazing to me.*

*Because of my contact lenses and increased vision, I have read notes on sheet music and learned how to play the guitar and am now able to drive. I graduated high school and am now in college. I see a future ahead of me and know that I will be able to be independent. I am happy to see myself now as just a normal teen doing normal things – who just happens to be legally blind.*”

*Ashley, 19*

## WHO MAY APPLY

Funds are available to patients of optometrists practicing within the State of Kansas and at these NIB affiliated agencies:

- Alphapointe Association for the Blind (Kansas City, Mo.)
- NewView Oklahoma (Tulsa and Oklahoma City)
- Outlook Nebraska, Inc. (Omaha, Neb.)

Contact lenses may be provided to individuals diagnosed with:

- Severe visual impairment based on visual acuity or visual field loss and/or the optometrist's decision based on other circumstances related to the patient's vision.
- Decreased visual function and performance due to ocular disease and/or ocular anatomical abnormality (Keratoconus, cone dystrophy, aniridia and very high refractive error).

When need extends beyond contact lenses, additional funds are available upon special request and approval for corrective glasses, bioptics, assistive technology devices/adaptive aids.

Each patient's overall financial situation must meet Poverty Guidelines established by the Department of Health and Human Services to be eligible for assistance.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications for the Jeanne and Penny Mishkin Legacy Fund for the Visually Impaired are submitted to the Envision Foundation through participating optometrists or other authorized practitioners. Applications may be downloaded online at [Envisionus.com](http://Envisionus.com). A response from the Envision Foundation will be received within three business days.

For more information contact the Envision Foundation

EMAIL: [development@envisionus.com](mailto:development@envisionus.com)

PHONE: 316-440-1517

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LEGACY FUND