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### Children's Low Vision Resource Center

By Appointment Only

Paula Korelitz  
*Outreach Director*

Rosemary Blaszkiecwz  
*Parent Advisor*

4000 W. 13 Mile Rd., Apt. #22  
Royal Oak, Michigan 48073  
1-800-788-2020  
ropard@yahoo.com

## Parent & Educator Seminar Video Produced by ROPARD

In May of 2001, ROPARD sponsored a seminar for parents and teachers of the visually impaired. A video of this presentation will be available in January, 2002 from ROPARD. This video includes the most recent information on ROP and pediatric retinal research and treatment.

*The presenters are:*

**John D. Baker, M.D.**

**Patrick Droste, M.D.**

**Michael Trese, M.D.**

This videotape was produced by ROPARD- the Association for Retinopathy of Prematurity. This 1-1/2 hour videotape contains segments on:

- Stages, Zones and Clock Hours of ROP
- Related Disorders
- Treatment Modalities
- Long Term Considerations Research

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**ROPARD is an association dedicated to eliminating the problems of low vision and blindness in children caused by premature birth and retinal diseases.**

### Your Donation Can Make A Difference!!!

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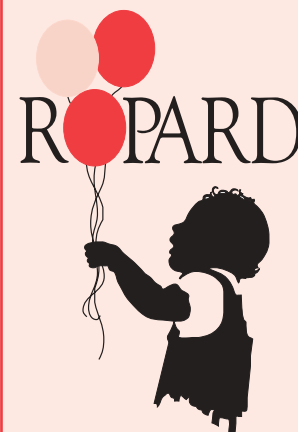
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Your tax deductible contribution will be used to support the highest levels of clinically relevant research.



Bonnie Lockwood,  
*Editor*  
Paula Korelitz,  
*Web Site Administrator*

Should you have any questions regarding this issue please contact ROPARD at 1-800-788-2020 or visit our website at <http://www.ropard.org> or e-mail us at [ropard.org@juno.com](mailto:ropard.org@juno.com)

## The Newsletter of ROPARD Basic Science research may lead to cure for Retinopathy of prematurity and other pediatric retinal vascular diseases

Since its founding in 1990, ROPARD has focused primarily on funding basic science research into the causes of retinal vascular diseases such as retinopathy of prematurity and familial exudative vitreoretinopathy. One goal of this research is to develop treatments in the form of a medicine that may be given easily to a child, eliminating the severe vascular complications of retinal disease. The World Health Organization recently identified pediatric retinal disease as the focus of a twenty-year initiative. As survival rates for premature babies rise due to advances in neonatal care, the incidence of retinal disease in childhood or later in life also increases. Particularly in developing nations, an easily administered medicine could make an incredible difference for thousands of people otherwise subject to devastating blindness or low vision because technological or surgical interventions are not available.

ROPARD continues to support the research of investigators who are actively pursuing new medical, surgical, and genetic therapies and interventions. In order to focus personnel and funds effectively on the most promising lines of research, ROPARD and The Beaumont Foundation are establishing The Pediatric Retinal Center at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan. This center will be the first of its kind—

offering comprehensive clinical, diagnostic, and treatment facilities, as well as research laboratories. It is our hope that an intense and organized approach will lead to less invasive therapies and, eventually, to the elimination of these diseases.

In August of this year, ROPARD also opened the Children's Low Vision Resource Center in Royal Oak, Michigan, to provide services for visually impaired children and their families. (See related story) We continue to fund the Photo ROP study, the first international, internet-based, photographic screening project. Eleven sites in England, Ireland, Canada, Brazil, and the United States are connected on the internet and serving as reading centers to improve screening for pediatric retinal disease. This will lead to better patient management and facilitate physician education. We are very excited about these projects, and we greatly appreciate the generosity of the concerned donors who are making this vital work possible.



# Sightlines

## ROPARD Opens The Children's Low Vision Resource Center



■ Delta Gamma members Jan Hankins and Penny Junk hang colorful artwork in the Low Vision Resource Center.

In August of 2001, ROPARD realized a major part of its mission, establishing the Children's Low Vision Resource Center in Royal Oak, Michigan to provide parents and educators of visually impaired children with practical information and support services. Located just west of the William Beaumont Hospital campus, the Center houses a book and video library for parents, and displays of toys and low vision educational equipment. Paula Korelitz and Rosemary Blaszkiewicz, both experienced teachers of visually impaired children, are available to assist families with suggestions for vision stimulation activities and appropriate toys and low vision aids. They also help direct parents to resources in the child's home area and on the Internet.

ROPARD'S ability to provide these services in a comfortable and homelike setting was made possible in great part by the generosity and assistance of the women of the Delta Gamma Fraternity Southeast Michigan Alumnae. They have formed a steering committee to help furnish and equip the Center. We are very grateful for the support of Delta Gamma and all of the concerned people who have contributed to making The Children's Low Vision Resource Center a reality.



■ Mary Grace Brandt and Mary Couninan of Delta Gamma, and ROPARD Outreach Director Paula Korelitz.

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*Located just west of the William Beaumont Hospital campus, the Center houses a book and video library for parents, and displays of toys and low vision educational equipment.*

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■ Paula Korelitz explains low vision educational material to Delta Gamma Low Vision Resource Center Steering Committee members Jan Hankins, Penny Junk, Carol Greenisen and Mary Couninan.

## The Second Children's Vision Award



Jack Baker, M.D.

In April of 2002, the second Children's Vision Award will be presented to Dr. John D. Baker, Chief of the Department of Ophthalmology at Children's Hospital of Michigan, and a founding member of ROPARD. A graduate of the University of Michigan and Wayne State University School of Medicine, Dr. Baker has devoted his professional career to pediatric eye disease and vision problems. He has also had an important role in the education of other medical professionals and educators, serving on the faculty of the Wayne State University School of Medicine since 1973, and receiving the Best Teacher Award from Senior Residents in 1998. Dr. Baker was appointed Clinical Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology in 1999.

Dr. Baker has been an active member of many professional societies including the Costenbader Alumni Society and the Association for Research in Strabismus (The Squint Club). He was elected president of the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus in 1995. In addition to his practice, his responsibilities at Children's Hospital, and teaching, this busy physician has served on many administrative and editorial boards and authored sixty-one papers and seven book chapters.

In the community and to the hundreds of volunteers at Children's Hospital, Dr. Baker and his wife Susan are better known as Jack and Susie, the tireless and devoted organizers and hands-on workers for Festival of Trees.

This huge project has raised millions of dollars for the Evergreen Endowment Fund, and the Bakers have played major roles—moving mountains of boxes, organizing meetings and volunteers, decorating trees, and documenting the event with photos.

A dinner, sponsored by ROPARD and the Michigan Ophthalmological Society, will be held on April 18, 2002 to honor Dr. Baker. The directors and volunteers of ROPARD will be pleased to add the Children's Vision Award to the list of honors and professional recognitions duly earned by John D. Baker, M.D. for a distinguished record of lifelong service, working to improve the lives of visually impaired children.



■ Jack and Susie Baker spruce up the decorations for Festival of Trees.