Dear Eye Center,

I want to thank you for this opportunity to recommend Stacy Walsingham for this amazing surgery! There are several reasons I am thankful to recommend Stacy. First, Stacy is my good friend. We became good friends during the time she and I taught together at Lynn Haven Elementary School. During that time, we shared many amazing experiences. However, one (not so amazing….not even pleasant) experience that we shared was the frustration of always misplacing our reading glasses! Stacy wears contacts but on days when the contacts were irritating her eyes (which was quite often) she was forced to wear her glasses and after wearing her glasses for most of the day she would develop a terrible headache. As a teacher, it is extremely challenging to have 20 or so 5 year olds waiting on you for instruction, and your instruction must be delayed because you can’t locate your glasses! Glasses are just frustrating when you are a teacher, especially if you are like Stacy and the glasses cause severe headaches. The LASIK surgery would eliminate the necessity of contacts and glasses for Stacy, therefore, eliminating a great amount of frustration, and pain, during her days of teaching.

Secondly, after being an elementary educator for 38 years, I retired from teaching two years ago. During the 2013-14 school year, I had the pleasure of volunteering in Stacy’s Kindergarten class when my granddaughter was one of her students. I volunteered many hours in her wonderful classroom. She is a loving, compassionate, energetic, innovative teacher. She is loved and respected by her students. During my volunteering time, on many days, Stacy expressed to me that her contacts were bothering her and she would have to remove them and wear her glasses. As I stated earlier, glasses and not being able to locate them, is a constant problem for teachers! I wish all teachers could receive the LASIK surgery, but since Stacy is such an outstanding teacher, I recommend her because she absolutely deserves it!

Finally, Stacy and I are not merely “school friends” …….she and I have a very strong friendship that extends way beyond the walls of a school building, and because of that fact she shares the joys of being a new mom with me to her 6 month old son, Griffin. Along with all the joys, she also shares her fears about being almost blind without her glasses. As a mom, she wants to meet Griffin’s needs immediately. She has expressed to me many times that it scares her and she panics when she is awaken by Griffin in the middle of the pitch black night, and she has to scramble around to get her glasses on, which usually only takes a few minutes, but to her ……it seems like a lifetime because her baby is screaming, needing her right away and she has to get her glasses on and get her eyes focused before she can meet his needs. The LASIK surgery would take away Stacy’s fear of not being able to take care of her son immediately.

In my opinion, Stacy would be a perfect candidate for the free LASIK surgery. Thank you very much for making this possible for a deserving teacher.

Sincerley,

Susan D. Thrasher