The Eye Center of North Florida November 6, 2015

2500 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Panama City, FL 32405

To Dr. Bret Fisher and Staff,

I have been wearing glasses and contact lenses for over 25 years and it was always something to adapt to, whether it was dry eyes playing sports or falling asleep while watching television or reading and bending my glasses. The expense of contact lenses and glasses has always been a bit of an inconvenience, although I do see that the market for the cost has gone down a bit, it’s still tough to keep up with sometimes with a family. I’ve been married for almost 10 years and on my wedding day I was hired as a Firefighter/Paramedic. The toughest part of my job is waking up in the middle of the night and having to put contact lenses in if there was a fire, we can’t wear glasses under an SCBA mask. I’ve wanted LASIK for years now and when I first got married, we had nothing and were just starting out. Through hard work we came to a place where LASIK was more of a reality for me, but I have a daughter from my first marriage when I lived in Los Angeles and she decided that she wanted to come and live with us here, in Florida. An entire year of court battles, child psychological evaluations in Los Angeles and here – flying a psychologist back and forth was quite a draining process emotionally, physically, mentally and unfortunately fiscally. I’m still paying the $50,000 cost of it all, but I would do it all again right this second if I had to. This was another setback, but I’m not complaining because the outcomes of my hard work certainly outweigh any small things I’ve missed out on along the way. 2 years ago, my wife and I decided that it would be best for her to be home with our 4 children, so I have been working really hard as a Firefighter/Paramedic and a Medical Technician at an urgent care on my days off from fire. I really want to get LASIK now because my next plan is to advance my career and go to school to become a Physician’s Assistant and this program is going to be quite a demand on my eyes with classroom and clinical time. I think that what Dr. Bret Fisher is doing for first responders is nothing short of amazing, there are so many of us that could use this generous offer for LASIK surgery. If I were the one to be selected it would certainly change my life. Thank you for the chance to throw my name in the hat!

Sincerely,

Shawn P. Thurston