2010 was a successful year for the Opportunity Foundation of America (OFOA). There are currently 62 EagleEyes systems in use across the country and three international locations. They are located in individual homes as well as schools and organizations including:

- Boston College-MA
- Brigham Young University
- Jordan Valley School-UT
- Kaunt Sue Hamilton-UT
- Oakridge School-UT
- Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind-UT
- Roy Elementary-UT
- Weber Sch District-UT
- Ogden Sch District-UT
- Educ Service Center-TX
- Fall River School-MA
- Hogan Regional Center-MA
- Trinity Services-IL & NV
- Keller Williams So Valley Realty-Riverton, UT
- Keller Williams Success Realty-So Ogden, UT
- School of the Devine Child Cork, Ireland

EagleEyes Training is facilitated by OFOA and the Boston College Campus School.

In March of 2010, Randy Mather, jazz saxophonist and System Engineer at Nationwide Insurance in Columbus, Ohio recorded an outstanding jazz CD titled “Valentine’s Day”. Randy and his wife Susan, who are also OFOA volunteers, made the decision to donate 100% of the CD sales to benefit the EagleEyes Project. Through the generosity of family, friends and OFOA supporters the Foundation has received $5,170. The “Valentine’s Day” CD can still be purchased at www.ofoa.net.

The Tavernacle Social Club in downtown Salt Lake City was the location for the annual OFOA Fund Raiser in August. 175 guest were treated to a delicious dinner from Goodwood BBQ. Special guest Randy Mather and the Tavernacle’s Dueling Pianos provided spectacular music and fun all evening. The Silent and Live Auctions were a great success and provided the opportunity for guests to support OFOA with very generous contributions. The highlight of the evening was Tracy Torghele’s heartfelt presentation relating to her son Ty. With the help and support of his friends and volunteers from Keller Williams Success Realty in So Ogden, Ty is able to use EagleEyes weekly.

In October, Dr. Tina Dyches, from Brigham Young University McKay School of Education, invited OFOA to facilitate an EagleEyes Training for 24 Special Education Teacher Candidates. The students were given the opportunity to use the technology themselves as well as facilitating for one of their peers. Training was presented by OFOA EE Trainer Brandon Roper, Dr. Richard Kay, Oakridge School, Principal, and Debbie Inkley, OFOA Executive Director. These BYU students now have the opportunity to help students at Oakridge School use EagleEyes.

Last fall, OFOA initiated the first EagleEyes “Tribe” Meeting. The Tribe’s goal is to provide opportunities for parents, teachers and EagleEyes volunteers to network and share best practices. This outstanding group meets monthly in Bountiful, Utah to support each other and share their passion for improving the lives of our children.

OFOA extends a very heartfelt thank you to our incredible EagleEyes volunteers who work with and make a difference in the lives of our kids.

- Sandi & Art Rice
- Mike Carmody
- Brandon Roper
- Matt Dimock
- Sean Caldwell
- Lene & Luke Blaster
- Mary Murphy
- Maddy Murphy
- Olga Sandoval
- Karla Pacheco
- Ruby Benson
- Esteban Boldi
- Shirlee Benson
- Coleen Bonathan
- Bonnie Banks
- Cathy Hammond
Special Thanks to Maureen Gates

Boston College Campus School EagleEyes Specialist Maureen Gates visited Utah January 18th - 21st. In true Maureen style, she “wowed” everyone with new ideas, suggestions, and approaches to the use of EagleEyes and related software programs. Five demonstrations and training sessions were held in Salt Lake and Ogden, with 36 EagleEyes volunteers, parents and teachers invited to practice their skills and ask questions.

Watch for some of these Best Practices to be posted to our EagleEyes and OFOA Facebook Page!

It Takes A Whole Village to Raise a Child

“It does take a whole village to raise a child, and we actually know a little bit about how to do that. What we seem not to know how to do in modern America is to raise the village, to promote communal values that insure that all children will prosper. We need to face the fact that our whole society needs to be held accountable for providing healthy children ready to learn, as our schools are for delivering quality instruction.”
David C. Berliner (Aug. 2, 2005)

The administrative philosophy of Oakridge School finds wisdom in this statement by Berliner and seeks to involve people from the community in helping to prepare our students for their adult lives. Oakridge School provides service for students 6-22 years of age who have severe developmental disabilities. The students at Oakridge School require assistance in developing life skills. They also require socialization with their peers and others to help them develop social skills, feelings of belonging, and feelings of positive personal worth. It is our belief that ALL people in the community have the potential to provide some type of assistance and encouragement for these students with disabilities and others like them.

In the years that Oakridge School has operated in Nebo School District, we have received strong support from an assortment of businesses, non-profit foundations, public and private educational institutions, and individuals in the community. We have developed a very productive relationship with the Opportunity Foundation of America (OFOA) and the Department of Counseling and Special Education at Brigham Young University. The University program provides training for special education teachers to work with students of all disabilities. OFOA is the non-profit organization that manufactures and distributes the EagleEyes technology for schools and agencies. Oakridge School provides the context and opportunities for people in the community to help young people with disabilities. EagleEyes has been a valuable tool for helping us meet the specific needs of some of our students. Our partnership with Brigham Young University and their special education program provides additional opportunity for our students to experience the benefits from EagleEyes. The partnership also provides opportunities for the students in the special education program to come to our school and work with our students. This ‘hands-on’ type of experience is a great opportunity for these future teachers to learn about and gain expertise in working with young people with disabilities.

I believe that young people with disabilities do not have ‘special needs’. They have the same life-long needs as all young people with or without disabilities. What these young people with disabilities need are ‘special methods’ to accommodate and mitigate their disabilities. EagleEyes is a perfect example of the type of methodologies needed to help these young people learn and develop. These young people need to be able to do things for themselves. They need to be able to make choices and pursue things they enjoy. They need to feel valued and know that they belong with people who care about them. Yes, it does take the whole village to raise a child and that is our goal—to involve the village and raise the child with disabilities.

Dr. Richard Kay,
Principal, Oakridge School
Opportunity Foundation of America

Board Members:
Howard Sharpley — Board President
Debbie Inkley—Founder & Executive Director
Scott Allen, Mary Murphy, Steve Aston, Steve Bayans, Jim Finn, Ken Margetts, Lonnie Adams, Sean Caldwell, Linda Eller, Sarah McElwee & Mike Schlappi

Volunteers:
Boston College: Professor Jim Gips, Professor Bill Ames,
Maureen Gates and Dr. Don Rickard
Kaurie Sue Hamilton:
Rita Bouillon and Jenny Eyr
Jordan Valley School:
Mark Riding, Linda Eller and Kar Wining
Brigham Young University:
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