Bascom Palmer Eye Institute is deeply grateful to William and Norma Horvitz of Ft. Lauderdale for their recent most generous and insightful gift establishing and endowing the "William and Norma Horvitz Retinal Degeneration Center." The new, fully integrated clinical/research service will be dedicated to the ongoing development of knowledge to help determine the cause, improve the care, and ultimately prevent retinal degenerative diseases and disorders which could lead to blindness.

"Bill and Norma Horvitz personify the true meaning of the word philanthropy (a love or benevolence toward mankind)," says Dr. Richard Parrish, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute's chairman. "As long-standing benefactors of the Institute's sight-saving work, the Horvitzes have once again demonstrated their commitment to enhancing the quality of life in the South Florida community and beyond. Their endowment will not only launch a trans-generational commitment to retinal degeneration studies here at the Institute, but will provide a legacy of hope for future generations threatened by retinal degenerative disorders."

With this as its goal, Bascom Palmer's newly funded service for retinal degenerative diseases will combine the expertise of the Institute's recognized scientists in molecular biology, molecular genetic research, electrophysiology and biophysics with the clinical investigations of faculty physicians specializing in vitreoretinal diseases, as well as the skills of the Institute's director of optometric services.

William and Norma Horvitz have been generous and well-known philanthropists throughout South Florida, including Boca Raton, Ft. Lauderdale and Miami for many years. Their contributions to healthcare, education, children's services and the arts continue to have a meaningful impact on the quality of life South Floridians enjoy. Their long and significant relationship with Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at the University of Miami School of Medicine is recognized by their memberships in the University's Merrick Society and in the Institute's Bascom Palmer Society, the highest level of donor recognition.

"As one who has suffered poor eyesight since birth," Mr. Horvitz has said, "I value good vision as one of mankind's most precious assets, and its preservation as one of mankind's highest priorities. Our eyes are our gateway to the world and it is only through further advances in research that we will be able to gain a better understanding of vision disorders. Norma and I are honored to contribute to those advances. Physicians and scientists may not have all the answers today, but with perpetual and diligent research, future generations may be able to claim their birthright of lifelong good vision."