

HOW I SEE IT

SUCCESS STORY

SKILLED IN CARE

William A. Monaco, O.D., discusses the importance of comprehensive and quality eye care for individuals living in skilled care facilities.

WINDOW TO THE BODY

After working in skilled care facilities for more than 15 years, Dr. Monaco is currently rallying for updates in health policy for the elderly in nursing homes. "Most people in skilled care facilities are there for specific and very complex systemic conditions—stroke, diabetes, heart attacks. All of these problems are reflected in the eyes and can be translated into vision-threatening eye diseases."

PROTECTING QUALITY OF LIFE

"A lot of these individuals don't have mobility and sometimes the only contact they have with the outside world is being able to see. They want to be able to see their families, watch a TV show or read a book—something to make them feel like they are part of the world. A loss of vision is very isolating to the patient."

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION

"It's a wonderful platform for a new OD to learn a lot about the delivery of care to these complex patients and do it in an environment where they're participating as part of a professional health care delivery team."

