WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT **STARGARDT DISEASE**

WHAT IS STARGARDT DISEASE?

FACT: Stargardt disease is the most common form of inherited macular degeneration.

Often diagnosed in childhood or adolescence, Stargardt disease is an inherited form of macular degeneration causing central vision loss. The condition is sometimes referred to as juvenile or early onset macular degeneration.

The progressive vision loss associated with Stargardt disease is caused by the degeneration of photoreceptor cells in the central portion of the retina called the macula.

The retina is the delicate light-sensing tissue lining the inside wall of the back of the eye.

The macula, which is rich in cone photoreceptors, is responsible for sharp central vision.

> Photoreceptor cells in the retina convert light into electrical signals, which are sent to the brain.

HOW IS STARGARDT DISEASE INHERITED?

in the U.S.

30,000 (People affected

Stargardt disease is inherited when both parents have one mutated copy of the ABCA4 gene and a normal copy.



The child has a 25% chance of inheriting the two copies of ABCA4 (one from each parent) to cause the disease.

In a small percentage of cases, Stargardt disease is caused by mutations in the gene ELOVL4.



In these cases, the parent has the disease and has a 50% chance of passing it on to each child.

> **Cones** also provide vision in lighted settings and color perception.

The retinal pigment epithelium (RPE), a layer of cells supporting photoreceptors, is also affected in people with Stargardt disease.

WHAT TO EXPECT WITH STARGARDT DISEASE:



A loss or change in central vision (progression variable).

What someone with Stargardt disease may see.



Characteristic yellowish flecks in the retinal pigment epithelium.



Decreased ability to distinguish details and shape.



Some peripheral vision is usually maintained.



EFIGHTING BLINDNESS

To learn more about living with Stargardt disease, finding a retina specialist, genetic testing or clinical trials, visit FightingBlindness.org or call 888-332-3667.