

### **Message from the Executive Director**

It has been a busy few months behind the scenes at BCABVI. Here are a few updates on we have accomplished as an organization:

- 1) BCABVI received a five year accreditation (the highest level possible) from the National Accreditation Council for Blind and Low Vision Services. This was a tremendous effort which included staff, volunteers, the Board of Directors and clients. This accreditation demonstrates our commitment to quality services and client involvement in every aspect of the agency.
- 2) We also received a charity accreditation from the Better Business Bureau. BCABVI met or exceeded all 20 Standards for Charity Accountability and now has the BBB seal verifying our dedication to transparency and effective program management.
- 3) Our long-anticipated building expansion is ready to start! The 2,500 sq foot expansion will house our new low vision clinic, provide additional storage for the thrift shop and allow for a new high end boutique in the store. We will also be adding 13 parking spaces to improve traffic flow for our customers. It has been an involved process to receive the necessary approvals, so many thanks to our Operations Committee for helping to make it happen!
- 4) Based on client requests, we have added new programs starting in July. Adjustment to Blindness is a support group for individuals who are blind and/or have only light perception. This group will focus on the unique challenges faced by group members with no sight. We also added volunteer opportunities for our clients in our Second Look Newtown Thrift Shop. Clients will learn skills and build confidence to prepare for future volunteering in our community.
- 5) We have expanded our community outreach efforts to include new venues to reach our target populations for services. While out in the community, our clients volunteer to share their stories as part of our presentations to help the public understand BCABVI's mission and services.

These are a few highlights, but things move quickly around BCABVI. We have many new projects in the works, so be sure to keep updated with what's new through our website [www.bucksblind.org](http://www.bucksblind.org) and our facebook page. You don't want to miss anything! *Anne Marie Hyer*

### Notes from the Social Work Corner



BCABVI Client Policies are established to insure safety and promote full participation in services offered at BCABVI. A full outline of our policies is available in the Client Manual provided by the social worker at the time of client intake. Please take a minute to reacquaint yourself with the policies listed below.

#### **Assistive Devices and Mobility Equipment**

“We expect you to bring with you assistive devices that have been prescribed for you by a doctor or rehabilitation professional. If your doctor has recommended that you use a support cane, walker, or wheelchair, we expect you to bring it with you and to use it. If you have had orientation and mobility training, we expect you to bring your mobility cane with you and to use it. If you use a hand-held magnifier, please bring it with you.”

#### **Program Attendance**

“If you are experiencing health or personal issues that are preventing you from being able to participate in programs, please call and let us know. We will work with you to make sure your services remain active for up to a 90 day period or until you are able to return. If you do not attend a program for three consecutive meetings and do not contact us, you may be removed from the program and your space may be offered to another individual.”

We will be asking all clients who participate in facility based programs to sign off on these policies as a reminder.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Sheryl and Ellen



### From the Lion's Den

In June, BCABVI Lions Club budgets for our annual charitable distribution. As so many of you have contributed to our fundraisers, we would like to say again how much your support is appreciated by the Lions and also by the following organizations:

Beacon Lodge  
Bookin' for Lookin' (Run for Sight)  
Bucks County Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
Delaware Valley Eye Bank  
Diabetes Awareness  
Leader Dogs  
NJ CURE Eyeglasses  
Special Olympics  
St. Lucy Day School

We recognize these groups for the essential services they provide to the community and wish them continued success with their dedicated efforts.

### 2015 Produce Vouchers Are Here

Every year, BCABVI partners with The PA Department of Agriculture and the Bucks County Area Agency on Aging to offer Farmer's Market Produce Vouchers to low income seniors. Eligible seniors receive \$20 worth of vouchers to purchase fresh produce grown by PA farmers.

#### **Eligibility Guidelines are:**

- 1) You must be a resident of Bucks County
- 2) Be at least 60 years of age
- 3) Have an annual income of not more than \$21,775 for one person or \$29,471 for a couple
- 4) You may not reside in a facility where meals are served

Anyone who meets the above eligibility requirements may pick up their produce vouchers at BCABVI Mon- Fri between 8 am- 4pm. Please bring a valid form of identification with you (ie. driver's license, photo ID verifying age). Any questions, please give us a call at 215-968-9400.

### Center Closings

Friday July 3, 2015 - office closed

### Sign Ups

#### **Wednesday July 8, 2015** *Empire Beauty School Trip*

Look your best for less! Select from manicure, wash and set or a haircut (selection must be made when you sign up).

**Cost: \$16 includes service, tip and transportation.**

NOTE: We will be going to lunch after, so either bring money or a lunch

#### **Wednesday July 15, 2015** *Volunteer Training for Thrift Shop #2*

This is the second training of the four part series in preparation for clients volunteering in our Second Look Newtown Thrift Shop.

Focuses on defining volunteer roles and responsibilities.

**Cost: There is no cost for this training**

#### **Thursday July 30, 2015** *Vision Bowl 2015*

This fundraising event is the local chapter of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind statewide bowling tournament. Register as an individual or in teams of four for your chance to win the Vision Bowl trophy! Tournament being held at Penndel Lanes. Transportation, lunch, 2 games of bowling, shoes and Tshirt included as part of registration fee.

**Please see Anne Marie or Shelley for registration packet/fees**

#### **Wednesday August 12, 2015** *Summer Picnic*

Join us for our Annual Cookout as we celebrate the summer weather!

**Cost: \$15 includes transportation**

#### **Wednesday August 19, 2015** *Volunteer Training for Thrift Shop #3*

This is the third training of the four part series in preparation for clients volunteering in our Second Look Newtown Thrift Shop.

Focuses on Thrift Shop operations and customer service.

**Cost: There is no cost for this training**

## Client of the Month

**May 2015**

Congratulations to *Gaye Vile Elborn*, our May Client of the Month! Gaye was nominated by Sue Davidson, another BCABVI client. "We all appreciate Gaye donating her time to teach us the iPhone and Ipad. She has incredible patience and the skills we are learning are so helpful in our everyday lives." In addition to teaching the TECH groups, Gaye facilitates several support groups at BCABVI. She is active on the Client Advisory Committee and crochets baby sweaters, donating the proceeds to BCABVI. These are just a few of the ways Gaye embodies our vision of a rich, vibrant and independent life!



**June 2015**

*MaryAnn Godown* has been selected as June's Client of the Month!

MaryAnn is actively involved at BCABVI and in her community. As a Past president and current member of the BCABVI Lion's Club, MaryAnn participates in fundraising to support other charitable organizations and schedules speakers to share community resources with the group. She has utilized the services of the Veteran's Administration in Connecticut to receive intensive training allowing her to live independently. She uses the skills she learned to give back to the community; coordinating the donation of afghans for the VA, collecting food items for the Bucks County Housing Group and even making monetary donations as needed to help others. MaryAnn is eager to learn additional skills, is open to new ideas and promotes BCABVI at every opportunity.



Congratulations MaryAnn, you are an inspiration to us all!

\*nomination submitted by Paula McNally

If you know of a client who embodies BCABVI's mission and uses their skills to support others and enhance our community, please submit your nomination to Sheryl Fitzgerald at [sfitzgerald@bucksblind.org](mailto:sfitzgerald@bucksblind.org). They could be our next client of the month!

## **Overview of Distance Magnification Devices**

When most of us think about magnifying devices to help us maximize our remaining vision, we tend to think about our near vision needs such as reading mail, seeing food labels, etc. We should however also consider distance vision needs.

Distance needs may include issues such as seeing a computer, setting the appropriate temperature on your oven, and being able to see your TV. Further distance needs might include seeing aisle signs in the supermarket and signage in fast food restaurants. For students, this would certainly involve being able to see a black or whiteboard in the classroom. Anyone who travels independently understands the need to see arrival/departure signs in a train or bus station as well as in the airport.

Just as there are many options for near vision tasks, there are numerous devices which can aid in distance vision. Some examples include monocular lenses, computer glasses and TV glasses. Sport-scopes are ideal for many people as they offer a wide range for distance viewing. Some of the newer CCTV's and portable video magnifiers now come equipped with a camera mount to allow for both near and distance vision needs.

BCABVI's Low Vision Services can help you recognize distance vision challenges that affect your everyday life and identify the right device for your needs. We can demonstrate devices from our inventory and provide hands on training on their use.

If you feel that your distance vision needs have gone unmet, please contact Sue Stubbs, Low Vision Services Coordinator at 215-968-1035 to schedule an appointment.