

Message from the Executive Director

BCABVI is here to serve the needs of our community. As we have been developing our next Long Range Plan, we recognized that there is a significant gap in services for children with visual impairments in Bucks County. The Bucks County Intermediary Unit and the PA Bureau for Blindness and Visual Impairments have been doing a great job in meeting the needs of our younger residents, whereas BCABVI has offered limited children's services in the past few years. We want to change that.

To determine where the gaps in service exist, we started with a Community Needs Assessment and followed up with a focus group including parents and children with visual impairments at our Newtown facility. We learned several key items including:

- Parents often have difficulty identifying available resources and navigating the complex systems designed to support their children's success.
- Technology can play a key role in education and daily living, however families need more information about options that are best for their child's challenges due to their vision loss.
- There are limited social and recreational activities in Bucks County for children with blindness and visual impairments.

BCABVI is committed to supplementing services for children that will encourage their success both in school and in life. We are exploring several solutions - some short term and others that require more planning and resources to implement.

The first item we are working on is a **full resource guide for students and families** that gives an overview of technology, resources, processes and people who are available to help. It is designed to encourage families to advocate for themselves while offering needed information and support. We expect the student resource guide to be completed and available to the public by July 1, 2016 .

BCABVI is also offering a **Children and Student Low Vision Day** in August 2016. At our Low Vision Clinic in Newtown, children and families can learn about all the latest technology and receive a hands on demonstration of applications. Knowledgeable staff will be available to answer questions, discuss funding options and make recommendations based on each individual's needs.

These are just the first steps towards our goal of serving Bucks County kids. Yet, as we know "A journey of 1,000 miles starts with the first step." *If you would like to be added to our email list and receive regular updates regarding children's services at BCABVI, please contact Anne Marie at ahyer@bucksblind.org.*

Anne Marie Hyer, Executive Director

Notes from the Social Work Corner



As you may have noticed, our support groups and social activities are growing in numbers, as new clients are joining programs. Here are some important reminders for group guidelines and etiquette:

- Everything shared and learned in the group will be treated with respect for the client's privacy.
- Silence is acceptable.
- The group is supportive rather than judgmental.
- The group offers respect for individual choice, opinion and experiences.
- Only one person talks at a time.
- Limit distractions. Turn off mobile phones and all devices.
- No one is allowed to dominate the conversation.
- Begin and end the meeting on time.
- Although the results of going to group can be therapeutic, the group is not meant to replace individual therapy.
- Every effort should be made within the group to resolve conflict arising from or during group interaction.
- Remember volunteers assisting with programs and activities are giving their time freely and should be treated with the same respect as staff.

Let's keep our groups a safe forum to share feelings and to obtain peer support, information and encouragement. Please make a considerable effort to follow these guidelines so everyone feels accepted and safe to share their experiences, thoughts and concerns during support groups and activities. Failure to comply with these group guidelines may result in suspension from the group or activity.

As always, any questions or concerns please contact us.

Sheryl and Ellen

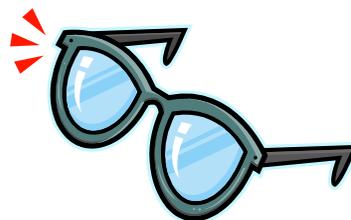


From the Lion's Den

BCABVI LIONS CLUB BASKET RAFFLE 2016 WINNERS

1. PIGGY BANK – Kristen, (c/o of Mary McPeak)
2. MONEY TREE – Debbie Portnoy, (c/o Bill Stetler)
3. GIFT CARD BONANZA – Cathy Miller, (c/o Carol Miller)
4. COZY CAT – Frances Devlin
5. DOG DELIGHTS – Shari Chorba, (c/o Amy VanDenburgh)
6. ITALIAN FEAST – Tina Rogers, (c/o Pat Capparella)
7. CHOCOLATE LOVERS – Karen Strohecker, (c/o thrift shop)
8. WINE & CHEESE – Joy Ellis
9. NIGHT AT THE MOVIES – Jean Krotz, (c/o thrift shop)
10. KUERIG COFFEE BREWER – Marc Winokur

We appreciate the support of all who purchased tickets and joined the fun to raise money for vision services. Special mention and thanks to: Anne Marie Hyer, Duane Buck, Heidrun Malone, Ken Moore, Ted Kristiniak, and Bill Stetler, for their extra sales efforts.



Remember, our Lions Club continues to collect aluminum can tabs, baseball hats, and used eyeglasses. Donations can be dropped off at the front desk of BCABVI.

Center Closings

Monday May 30, 2016 - Memorial Day office closed

Sign Ups

Wednesday May 11, 2016 *Empire Beauty School Trip*

Be your best you with a new haircut, manicure or wash and set as we enter into the spring season! You must select one of the above services at the time of sign up.

Cost: \$12 includes tip

Wednesday May 18, 2016 *Thrift Shop Volunteer Training Session #1*

The first of three training sessions for clients who are interested in volunteering at Second Look Newtown thrift Shop. Note: You must plan to attend all three sessions

Cost: There is no cost for this program

Wednesday May 18, 2016 *NEW* *Men's Breakfast Club*

Get together with the guys at a local diner to have coffee and hang out. Discuss whatever you want - it's your group!

Cost: Bring money to cover the cost of your breakfast and a tip

Thursday June 9, 2016 *Wine Tasting Trip*

Enjoy a wine tasting including a variety of six wines accompanied by cheese and crackers. Trip includes a tour of the Rose Bank Winery in Newtown and three tickets to taste additional wines of your choice.

Cost: \$15

Wednesday June 15, 2016 *Thrift Shop Volunteer Training Session #2*

The second of three training sessions for clients who are interested in volunteering at Second Look Newtown thrift Shop. Note: You must plan to attend all three sessions

Cost: There is no cost for this program

Wednesday June 15, 2016 *Men's Breakfast Club*

This monthly (or so) group is just for the guys. Food and friends - what could be better?

Cost: Bring money to cover the cost of your breakfast and a tip

REMINDER - Music Appreciation will be held on Wednesday June 8th due to the Wine Tasting trip. Please check your calendar!

Client of the Month



Sue Santucci March 2016

Sue always focuses on helping others. At BCABVI, she interacts with clients of all ages and assists them with whatever they need. She volunteers at the association, is an active member of client committees and shares her story with the community at outreach events.

On a personal level, she is a wife and mother. Sue is active with her local Girl Scout Troop and is involved with her church. She also cares for her parents and works at the local Giant grocery store.

Sue was nominated by Dolly who says “Sue is an amazing person who really reflects our theme at the center. She really does lead a rich vibrant independent life”.



Jane Verducci April 2016

Jane is constantly growing and pushing herself outside her comfort zone. She started in the Low Vision Support group then expanded her involvement to include the Biography group. Jane became active in Life Sharing and with her confidence building, decided she wanted to volunteer with us.

She completed a series of volunteer training workshops and is now an active volunteer in Second Look Newtown Thrift Shop. Recently, Jane even took on a leadership role and facilitated a grooming workshop for her peers. With so much success already, we can't wait to see what Jane will do next!

Congratulations to both our winners! If you know of a client who should be recognized as Client of the Month, please contact Sheryl at sfitzgerald@bucksblind.org.

Taking Medications with Confidence

Each year, more than 700,000 people are treated in emergency rooms across the country due to adverse drug events. Examples of these events include taking the wrong medication, taking the wrong dosage, or not taking medications when they are prescribed. For the blind and visually impaired, taking the correct medication can be challenging.

ScripAbility from Envision-America is able to provide medication labeling to assist the visually impaired person in taking medications with confidence. They provide three different forms of labeling for medications:

- *ScripView* is a large print booklet style label attached to the medication bottle. It carries all the information on an original label but in large print. It also has a barcode which can be read audibly by scanning with an iOS device (smart phones and tablets).
- Braille Labels can be affixed to medication bottles using Braille label tape.
- *ScripTalk* labels are embedded with a microchip which can be read aloud by placing the medication bottle on a hand-held ScripTalk reader. These readers are provided for visually impaired users at no cost for as long as needed.

There are a number of participating pharmacies to choose from if you are interested in using one of these systems for medication labeling. To obtain a list of current pharmacies using the labeling, please check with Sue. If you are using a pharmacy which does not currently use the system, you can discuss these options with your pharmacist. The pharmacist can then contact En-Vision America at 800-890-1180 for information about obtaining *ScripAbility* equipment.

If you would like to have a demonstration of the *ScripTalk*, please make an appointment in the Low Vision Clinic by calling 215-968-1035. Sue Stubbs, our Low Vision Services Coordinator, will be happy to work with you to see which form of *ScripAbility* is the best option to manage your medications.