

Message from the Executive Director

BCABVI is constantly working to keep our programs relevant and valuable to our clients. The Board of Directors and Staff use several tools including our Program Effectiveness Report and client satisfaction surveys to determine the impact and costs of existing programs and to identify areas of unmet needs we should address going forward.

At the program level, we follow our clients' leads and make regular modifications to groups and services based on participants' feedback. Some examples of the client-driven endeavors that took place this summer include:

In June, the Life Sharing group enjoyed a fascinating, tactile tour of the Princeton University Art Museum (see photos at our agency website) and enjoyed lunch at a nearby diner. The new Adjustment to Blindness Support Group has launched and was recently engaged by two representatives from Vanda Pharmaceuticals, Inc. who gave an informative presentation on Non-24 Disorder. Participants in the Diabetic Support Group have been setting goals and making progress to reaching them for optimal health outcomes. The Advanced Tech Club recently focused on a new App (ShopShop) that allows users to create lists of all sorts with Voiceover.

As we head into the fall, we are focused on increased education and community awareness about blindness and visual impairment.

We are introducing a series of Educational Seminars designed to teach family, friends and caregivers best practices to support their loved one with a visual impairment while encouraging independence. The first one is scheduled for October 7, 2105 at 7:00 pm at BCABVI.

We will be holding our second annual White Cane Day poster contest on October 15, 2015. Kids from local elementary schools create a poster that demonstrates white canes being a valuable tool in promoting independence for individuals with blindness and visual impairments.

In November, look for BCABVI's open house to highlight our new Low Vision Clinic facility. It has been a long time in the planning, but the improvements to the building will be reflected in our ability to provide the highest quality services for our clients and the community.

There's always new things happening at BCABVI and that's how we like it! If you have other ideas about what else we should be doing to serve our community, please feel free to stop by or give me a call. We would love to hear from you.

Anne Marie Hyer, Executive Director

Notes from the Social Work Corner



Orientation and Mobility (O+M) Training is an extremely valuable tool that allows people who are blind and visually impaired to navigate safely and independently at home and in the community.

We are pleased to announce that we have an Orientation and Mobility Specialist (a certified professional who teaches travel skills to the blind/visually impaired individuals) who is available to provide individualized training to our clients.

Jennifer Dittrich recently completed her Masters Degree in O+M at Salus University and has extensive experience working with children and adults experiencing vision loss. Jennifer offers private O+M training for new clients and refresher sessions for people who have had some training in the past but require additional skills.

If you are interested in O+M training, please see your Caseworker and we will make a referral for you. Jennifer then will contact you directly to determine your specific goals, establish a fee schedule and arrange training sessions that match your needs and budget.

BCABVI encourages everyone to have Orientation and Mobility training as it maximizes safety, independence, indoor/outdoor travel, and confidence in both familiar and unfamiliar settings.

As always, please ask us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sheryl and Ellen

Designer Handbag Bingo



6:00 pm October 23, 2015

Doors open at 5:30

Bucks County Technical High School
610 Wistar Rd. Fairless Hills PA 19030

Tickets \$30

www.bucksblind.org or 215-968-9400

Big Prizes! (Some bags valued at \$598) Outside snacks allowed



From the Lion's Den

It has become our tradition each August, to remember club founder Frank Kolanko on his birthday. The Dogwood tree planted in his memory, has been moved to the front of the building, due to construction. As we gathered around the tree, we felt this prominent position, was an added tribute to Frank.

2015 marks 5 years since he passed. Lessons from Frank's continue to guide us. We know he would be proud that BCABVI Lions Club remains active and growing.



Over the Summer, the BCABVI Lions have been busy planning for 2 major events.



For September we have coordinated with the center to organize a breakfast in honor of the fantastic group of people who volunteer at the agency. They give so much of their time and talents to help us, we want to recognize their contributions that make BCABVI even better!



On October 1, 2015 our 3rd Annual Walk for Sight will take place here on the center grounds. Only club members will participate and each one will be looking for sponsors, so be sure to support your favorite Lion. For more information about the Lion's Walk, please contact Paula McNally at 215-968-9400

Center Closings

Monday September 7, 2015 closed for Labor Day

Sign Ups

Wednesday September 9, 2015 *Home Organization Workshop*

Learn room by room adaptations for low vision and tips for household organization to help eliminate clutter and confusion.

COST: There is no charge for this workshop

Wednesday September 16, 2015 *Client Volunteer Thrift Shop Training #4*

The final training session for clients before actively volunteering in Second Look Newton Thrift Shop. Topics covered include: Thrift Store Operations, use of low vision aids, Personal Growth Plan

COST: There is no charge for this program

Wednesday September 30, 2015 *Client Advisory Committee*

We want to hear from you! Give your feedback about BCABVI programs, operations and future plans at this meeting with the Executive Director.

COST: There is no charge for this program

Wednesday October 14, 2015 *Iphone/Ipad 101*

A panel of BCABVI clients will share information about the usefulness, learning curve and advantages of using an Iphone or Ipad to assist with independent living skills.

*Note: This session is tailored to clients who are actively seeking to purchase technology and are not currently involved in BCABVI's tech club

COST: There is no cost for this program

Wednesday October 21, 2015 *Halloween Bingo Party*

Grab your witches hats and black cats and come celebrate Halloween at BCABVI! It is sure to be a "Spooktacular" party you won't want to miss.

COST: \$20 includes transportation, bingo and lunch

Client of the Month

Our clients provide inspiration to others by demonstrating how they incorporate BCABVI's vision of Rich, Vibrant and Independent Lives in to their everyday activities.



July 2015 Client of the Month Pat Montgomery

Pat is one of the founding members of the BCABVI Lions Club. She is active in fundraising and assisting less fortunate members of the community.

Pat's desire to help others doesn't stop there.

At BCABVI, Pat is extremely conscious of other clients' challenges and offers assistance to enhance their experience at the association. She is always lending a hand during lunchtime and social activities. The staff appreciate her dedication and value Pat's help during the day. Congratulations Pat!



August 2015 Client of the Month Dick Lambert

Dick may have limited eyesight, but he doesn't let that stop him from pursuing his hobbies and interests. He has exceptional woodworking skills making intricate birdhouses and home décor items which he shares freely with his friends.

He enjoys technology and started with BCABVI's Tech Group as a participant to learn new skills. Dick has recently expanded his role and now volunteers helping other clients learn basic accessibility functions of the iphone.

He is an active member of the Doylestown Low Vision Support Group and the Veteran's Support group and contributes his life experiences to motivate others to achieve their goals regardless of their vision loss.

Dick's positive outlook, wonderful sense of humor and interest in learning embodies BCABVI's vision of a rich, vibrant and independent life. Congratulations Dick!

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. They could be our next client of the month!

Don't let your vision problems prevent you from enjoying your favorite movies and TV shows. Audio Description is a great tool that uses narratives to provide access to the visual elements (action, costumes, settings, gestures, facial expressions and other visually engaging images) of television/film, museum exhibitions, theater and a variety of events.

The Audio Description Project (an Initiative of the American Council of the Blind) provides an alphabetical listing of movie titles which have been released commercially in the USA with audio description tracks since 2001 on DVDs and/or Blu-ray discs, followed by the year in which they were released (on disc, not necessarily the year the movie itself was released). For the full list, go to <http://www.acb.org/adp/dvdsalpha.html>

Like YouTube videos? Many Youtube videos have captioning, but almost none have descriptive audio. Now thanks to a new tool from the Smith-Kettlewell Video Description Research and Development Center, anyone can add descriptive audio to a Youtube video. Learn how at <https://blindbargains.com/bargains.php?m=10698>

Comcast now offers a voice guidance feature that enables visually impaired customers the ability to explore thousands of TV shows and movies. With their **X1 talking remote**, what is on the TV screen is spoken aloud and includes details such as descriptions of shows. The remote control is easy to use and responds well to voice commands. For example, you can say "Go to Channel 13" or "Go to TNT" and the TV will change to the channel you requested.

These are just a few of the many options available to allow people who are blind and visually impaired access to visual media. For more information, please contact Sue at sstubbs@bucksblind.org or 215-968-1035. Happy viewing!