

# THRIVING TOGETHER

**2023  
Impact  
Report**



# Our Vision

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## RICH, VIBRANT AND INDEPENDENT LIVES FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

There are five key milestones our clients experience along their vision loss journey. We help our clients every step of the way:



- 1. Understand Your Vision Loss**  
We empower clients to make informed decisions about their vision care
- 2. Assess Your Vision Impact**  
We offer clients solutions to daily challenges from their vision loss
- 3. Build Your Foundational Skills & Support**  
We provide clients flexible resources, learning opportunities, and support
- 4. Develop Your Advanced Skills**  
We teach clients to live safely and independently in their home
- 5. Promote Your Wellness**  
We encourage clients to care for their mind, body, and spirit

# Letter From Our Executive Director

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Dear Friends,

Each person's journey towards the rich, vibrant and independent lives we envision for our clients begins with a basic foundation of education, support and skills. These were our key focus areas in 2022-2023.

We refined our team structure and intake process which resulted in an improved understanding of vision loss and the range of services available to help.

We added resources that increased our individualized in home support by 125%.

A second low vision clinic in Doylestown was opened so patients across the county could access care. We expanded rehabilitation services by 316% and gave away over \$4,000 of visual devices to people in need.

In their own words, our clients best summarized last year's impact:

**“This organization is life changing. I have learned things that I didn't even know existed.” M.R.**

**“When I was at my absolute worst, you inspired me to keep getting better. My quality of life has certainly improved.” P.B.**

We are proud of what we have accomplished, but we didn't do it alone. Our partnerships with other community organizations, volunteers, foundations, individual supporters and our clients themselves played a critical role in our success.

With established foundational services in place, we look towards the future. We are confident that by working together, we can create new opportunities for each person experiencing vision loss to thrive.

*Anne Marie Hyer*

Anne Marie Hyer MPA, MS



# Our Impact

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**“Losing my sight was a tremendous disability at first. The training I’ve received from BCABVI has had a profound effect. Now I feel like a different person. I can do a lot of the things I used to do because of the help I’ve gotten.” - Mark Z.**

In retirement, Mark maintains an active social life through his involvement in several clubs with his friends. His background in engineering made Mark a natural fit to be the groups’ main organizer and planner. When he had a stroke of the optic nerve in both his eyes, Mark wasn’t sure he would be able to continue to bring people together.

Mark started looking for solutions and found BCABVI. Emily, one of our Certified Low Vision Specialists, took the time to understand Mark’s unique situation and identified accessible technology options that would work for him. She taught Mark to navigate screen reader programs including VoiceOver for the iPad, Windows Narrator for emails, and ZoomText for Excel. He learned to use Alexa to manage calendar appointments. By using these assistive technology tools, Mark can still do the things that are meaningful to him.

**“Emily is knowledgeable and extremely motivated to help. I’m a different person because of the help I’ve gotten from her.”  
- Mark Z.**

Mark takes pride in his accomplishments, and with his role as social director secure, he is expanding his outreach by mentoring new clients at BCABVI.

## **2022-2023 Rehabilitation Services Highlights**

**748 Hours**  
Assistive Technology &  
Occupational Services

**102 Hours**  
Orientation &  
Mobility Services

**4**  
New Referrals  
Per Week

90 Clients  
Technology Support  
Services

# Our Impact

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**“The great team at BCABVI help me understand what I’m able to do with low vision. They go above and beyond to support and help make me feel safe and secure.” - Mary F.**



Mary values her independence. When a stroke left her with worsening eyesight, she didn’t know what to do or where to turn. Living alone without any family nearby, Mary worried that she wouldn’t be able to stay in her home. A close friend saw her daily struggles and called BCABVI.

We listened to Mary’s concerns and helped identify what supports she needed to remain in her home. Deb, our Case Aide, works with Mary to pay her bills and complete paperwork. She makes sure Mary always has food in her house by preparing shopping lists and arranging trips to the grocery store with our drivers. Deb also helps Mary stay on top of her healthcare by scheduling her doctor appointments and coordinating our drivers so she can get there safely and on time.

**“With Deb I feel a lot more independent. She has made things much easier for me. I couldn’t live independently without her help.” - Mary F.**

Mary is confident that she can live independently knowing that she has Deb for support. Now she’s able to focus her attention on the things that bring her joy.

## 2022-2023 Individual Support Highlights

**330 Hours**  
Individual Supports  
Mail Reading/Bill Paying

**197 Trips**  
Grocery Shopping

**288 Clients**  
In-Person Social  
Programs

# Partner Highlights

We select strategic partners based on shared goals, demonstrated expertise and commitment to work collaboratively for the benefit of our community.



## Bucks County Intermediate Unit

**“BCABVI has been able to identify vision difficulties that neither the child nor the parents were aware of and that were impacting the child’s ability to see and to learn.” - Deidre DiStefano, BCIU**

BCIU is a K-12 education service agency that supports the needs of students, their families, and school districts in our area. The goal of BCABVI’s preschool screening program is to identify and access treatment for undiagnosed vision problems in young children. Both organizations share the goal of encouraging student success.

Working together, we were able to reach a more diverse population of students from across Bucks County. Our joint efforts resulted in **22% of participating preschoolers** at BCIU sponsored sites being recommended for a follow-up visit with an eye care professional.



## Salus University

**“The educational component of educating Optometric and Blindness and Low Vision Studies students with BCABVI resources while also providing clinical care to low vision patients is unique and beneficial to both groups.” - Dr. Erin Kenny, Feinbloom Vision Rehabilitation Center**

Salus University’s William Feinbloom Vision Rehabilitation Center and BCABVI’s Low Vision Clinic share a common goal of providing the highest quality of clinical services for people with visual impairments.

Salus helped us see more patients at our Low Vision Clinic by bringing their mobile clinic to our Newtown facility. We developed an internship program for Salus University students, offering them practical experience in rehabilitation services. BCABVI employs several Salus graduates who contribute their expertise to our team.

Through our partnership, we’re able to provide our community with greater access to quality low vision services.

## 2022-2023 Partner Highlights

**3,907**  
Preschool Vision  
Screenings

**109**  
Number of Sites

**217**  
Internship Hours

# Volunteer Highlight

## Meet Geri and Dale

After retiring, Dale started volunteering at local thrift shops as a way to keep busy. She met Geri at one of the shops and they immediately hit it off. Now, 15 years later, they volunteer together at Second Look Newtown Thrift Shop.



Staff and volunteers affectionately call the duo by their nickname, Chip and Dale because of the way they light up the shop with their positive energy and animated personalities. Dale says, **“It’s a lot of fun volunteering at Second Look Newtown. It feels like a community.”**

The women enjoy volunteering together and spending time with our customers. Geri adds, **“It’s nice talking with everyone. Hopefully when our customers enter the shop, we can help make their day.”**

Second Look Newtown Thrift Shop is thriving because of volunteers like Geri and Dale. They provide every day support to keep the store operations running smoothly.

When customers shop at our thrift shop, they are helping provide services and programs for people with vision loss in Bucks County, PA. Dale feels, **“It’s great that all the money from purchases go to a good cause.”**

The impact of Second Look Newtown Thrift Shop volunteers on our work with the blind and visually impaired community is **priceless**.

### 2022-2023 Thrift Shop Highlights

**\$477,829**

Income Generated

**1,697**

Volunteer Hours

**\$53,964.60**

Volunteer Hours Value

# Donors

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WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR DONORS AND THEIR SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION TO SERVE THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED COMMUNITY IN BUCKS COUNTY, PA.

## FOUNDATION SUPPORT

### **\$15,000**

Bookin' For Lookin'

## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION SUPPORT

### **\$1,000 - \$5,000**

BCABVI Lions Club  
Bensalem Lions Club  
CarMax Foundation  
First National Bank & Trust  
of Newtown  
Janney Montgomery Scott LLC  
NAC Have-A-Heart Foundation  
Priolo Family Foundation  
Sherwood Steel, Inc.  
Trumbauersville Lions Club  
Warrington Township Lions Club

### **\$500-\$999**

Bomba Newtown LLC  
Feasterville-Treose Lions Club  
Langhorne Lions Club  
Lions Club International of Newtown  
Springfield Township Lions Club  
The Morlock Foundation

### **\$100-\$499**

Philadelphia Law Enforcement  
Lions Club  
Quakertown Lions Club  
Yardley Singles Club

### **\$0-\$99**

Corporate Visions, Inc.  
Lower Makefield Womans Club

## INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

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with matching gift from  
Bristol Meyers Squibb Foundation

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BCABVI Lions Club

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## **In Memory Of Dorothy Host Wagner**

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Mr. Randall Sands

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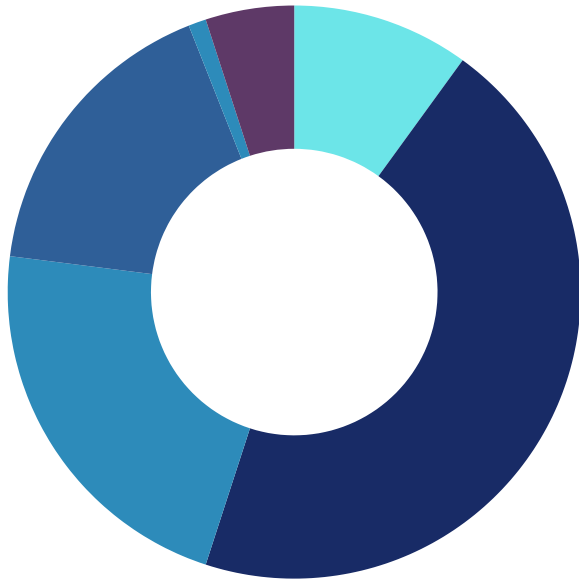
**Glenn Beasley**  
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# 2022-2023 Finances

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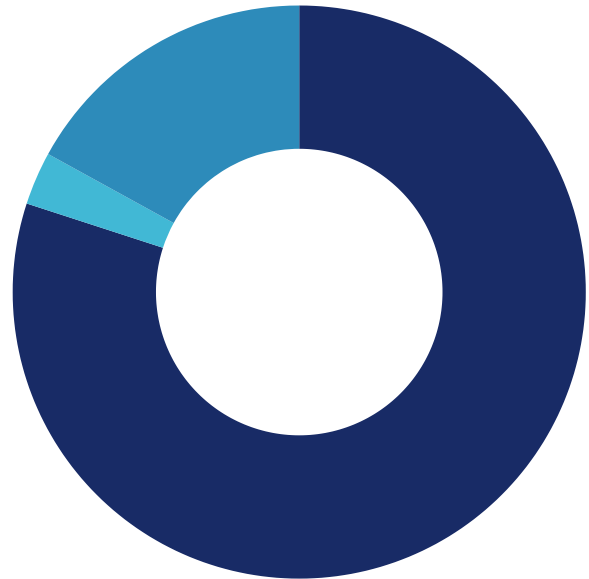
## REVENUE

\$1,062,460



## EXPENSES

\$1,062,460



- Private Gifts 10%
- Thrift Shop 45%
- Public Support 22%
- Investments 17%
- Program Support 1%
- Vision Services 5%

- Program Services 80%
- Fundraising 3%
- Management & Administration 17%

All donations and financials reflect the time period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.  
To review BCABVI's audited financial statements, visit our website at [www.bucksblind.org](http://www.bucksblind.org).

# Looking Ahead to the Future

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For 2023-2024, BCABVI has targeted three key areas to help our clients thrive:

## 1) Low Vision Clinic Services

Last year's successful expansion of our clinic increased the availability of low vision evaluations and rehabilitation training. This growth created more awareness of, and demand for, these specialized services within our community. We are exploring sustainable, cost effective models to increase our service capacity.

## 2) Mental Health Services

Each person adjusts to vision loss differently. Anxiety, depression and stress are common among people with visual impairments. We are developing partnerships with mental health professionals to offer services to help with the adjustment process.

## 3) Communications

A revised communication plan allowed us to more effectively engage current supporters and encourage new relationships. Our investment in new technology will allow us to reach more people by offering varied and customized communications. A new website in 2024 will help increase awareness of our services and provide a better forum to share our impact with our community.

*Our Mission is to provide resources, answers and support for people with blindness or other visual impairment that maximize their ability to meet life's daily challenges and realize their continued self-worth and value to our community.*

**Keep your support local. To make a donation, visit [bucksblind.org](https://bucksblind.org) or scan the QR code:  
Our online giving page now accepts PayPal and Venmo!**

