

CHRYSALIS AWARD DINNER FALLS VICTIM TO MOTHER NATURE

An unexpected snowstorm forced the Center for Vision Loss to cancel its Chrysalis Award Dinner on Saturday, October 29, 2011. However, agency staff did get to meet honoree Dr. Amy Bower, a legally blind Physical Oceanographer from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Fortunately she and Kate Fraser, a science teacher from Perkins School for the Blind, had arrived in the Lehigh Valley on Friday afternoon. They managed to travel to the Allentown office on Saturday morning to present Ocean InSight, a much anticipated interactive workshop for our middle and high school student customers, before weather conditions worsened.

Five students chatted animatedly with Dr. Bower about her career, her adventures on the high seas and her use of adaptive technology to carry out her research. Then Ms. Fraser invited the students to become scientists and conduct their own experiments to measure the temperature and salinity of water samples and test theories of buoyancy using adaptive technology (and a few eggs!). While the students worked with Dr. Bower and Ms. Fraser, their adult companions took part in a workshop conducted by counselor James Van Horn. Finally, everyone enjoyed a pizza party before venturing home.



The Center for Vision Loss is not rescheduling the 2011 Chrysalis Award Dinner. We wish to thank our Sponsors, Friends and Patrons for their support this year and hope to see everyone next year for the 2012 event:

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AGENCY RECEIVES NAC ACCREDITATION

In June, 2011, the Center for Vision Loss received a five-year accreditation from the National Accreditation Council for Blind and Low Vision Services (NAC), the only independent accrediting agency in its category. NAC develops standards to promote effective, sound and publicly accountable programs of service that help blind and visually impaired children and adults achieve their full potential.

NAC officials wrote: "This important achievement is an indication of your agency's dedication and commitment to improving the quality of life for people with vision loss. We hope that the individuals you serve, the governing body and your staff take pride and comfort in displaying the certificate representing your compliance with the NAC standards of performance."

Doug Yingling, as Director of Vision Services, headed the staff team which prepared the agency for the NAC review in March, 2011. Now Executive Director, Doug states that the Center for Vision Loss values the accreditation process because it leads to improved programs for clients and strengthens professional relationships within the field.

OUR MISSION

To provide a comprehensive set of preventative, rehabilitative, support and social services enabling blind and visually impaired clients to achieve their personal goals and restore quality of life consistent with those goals. Programs will provide a balance of independent living skills and social services to meet individual needs across a diverse client base and also help reduce the incidence of vision loss in the community through prevention of blindness and remedial eye care services.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

Inspiration-while we all need it occasionally, you almost never know where it might come from. My latest inspiration came from the Ocean Insight workshop for our kids who are blind or visually impaired. It was presented at our center by Dr. Amy Bower, our 2011 Chrysalis Award winner, and Kate Fraser, a science teacher from Perkins School for the Blind, as part of our recent fundraising event. This opportunity for kids to meet and learn from a renowned Physical Oceanographer was unusual. For students with a visual impairment to be taught firsthand about scientific work by someone who is legally blind was exceptional and inspirational. The kids responded so enthusiastically that I knew they were learning a lot, and I don't remember having that much fun in my science classes!

At the Center for Vision Loss, we believe we provide inspiration, too- by helping our customers accept, adapt, move on, learn, support each other, have fun and continue their journey towards independence. Our Fall calendar has been filled with great programs that do just that. And, in turn, those of you that have supported our agency in so many ways throughout the year play a big part in inspiring us. Thank you for being a partner in the inspiration that is Center for Vision Loss.

Now, since this year is almost over, I'll still need lots of inspiration to keep up with my 2012 New Year's resolution list! Let's see...which page should I start on first...?



Douglas A. Yingling, Executive Director

SPOTLIGHT ON CLIENT ACTIVITIES



On October 25, The Three Blind Mice scampered into the customer Halloween party sponsored by the Alton Park Lions with help from the Lehigh Valley Saturday AM Lions.

On September 29, Sage Vision Technology's workshop featured some of the latest low vision and blindness products for customers to see and try.



On August 23, Lehigh, Northampton and Monroe Counties customers celebrated summer together at a picnic at beautiful Camp Brainerd, Stroudsburg.



On July 31, Boat rides on the Lehigh River highlighted the annual Boat Club Picnic for customers courtesy of the Alton Park Lions Club with help from other local Lions Clubs.



MEET OUR INTERNS

During the past few months, the Center for Vision Loss hosted three student interns from local educational institutions who experienced various aspects of our agency's operation. They added a fresh outlook to our work, and we wanted our readers to meet them, too. The Center for Vision Loss welcomes interns. Interested high school and higher education students can contact Doug Yingling, Executive Director, at **610.433.6018, x. 223** or doug.yingling@centerforvisionloss.org for more information.



This summer, Matthew Snyder, a Northwestern Lehigh High School junior, chose the Center for Vision Loss to help him meet the requirements for his "Senior Project." Matt was introduced to various aspects of nonprofit operations and assisted our customers with outings including the Camp Brainerd picnic in Monroe County, a flower arranging class, and the trip to the Martin Guitar Factory in Nazareth. Matt quickly became so popular that our customers are requesting his quick return! Matt reports that his project has been a great learning experience so far, and because he has more hours to complete, he is looking forward to returning to work at Center for Vision Loss.

Alexandra Blair, Ally for short, joined the social services team. Ally is a Moravian College senior majoring in Psychology and minoring in Education and English. On campus she is the captain of the Women's Basketball Team, vice president of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee and treasurer for Kappa Delta Pi. She has also spent the past two years mentoring a student through an organization called The Learning Connection. Ally is considering a few different options for life after graduation such as furthering her education, but she can say confidently she has a passion for helping people and believes strongly in the importance of a nonprofit organization.



Ally's internship provided her with overall exposure to the operations of a nonprofit organization, specifically one serving a population with vision loss. Some of her duties included working with agency caseworkers to conduct home visits and perform intake assessments. Ally also observed support groups while working towards co-facilitating the sessions. Besides her main responsibilities, Ally was introduced to other branches of the organization such as activity planning and fundraising. Ally stated, "I am extremely grateful for this opportunity and thankful for the support I have received from each staff member as well as the experiences with memorable clients."

MEET OUR INTERNS

Our third intern was Ana Bennett, a Kutztown University senior who worked in the Development Department. As part of her final assignment, we asked her to share her internship experiences in her own words.



August 23 marked the beginning of an exciting and promising opportunity – it was my first day as an intern with the Development Department at Center for Vision Loss. Naturally, I was incredibly nervous. Though I had a passion for nonprofit work, I had very little experience with blind or visually impaired individuals. I wasn't sure what to expect. Within a few short days, however, I came to realize that an internship with Center for Vision Loss wouldn't simply be a professional learning experience – it would be a time of personal growth as well.

My name is Ana, and I'm a senior at Kutztown University with a major in Professional Writing and a minor in Public Relations. Over the past couple of months, I have had the pleasure of working for Development Director Karen Huetter. Together, we have been promoting agency events such as the Chrysalis Award Dinner, working with the media, and developing new promotional and fundraising materials.

I am grateful for Karen's guidance, and I have learned quite a bit during my time with her.

In addition to helping promote events, I was also fortunate enough to participate in a few. On September 13, I headed to Bethlehem to take part in the Special Fall Outdoor Walk organized by Dr. Christie Gilson, agency board member and Moravian College professor, which brought together Center for Vision Loss customers and the students in her freshman writing seminar. Beautiful weather and pleasant company made the trip exciting and enjoyable for all. The group shopped, dined, and had a wonderful time on Main Street.

The following week, Blue Cross volunteers went shopping with Center for Vision Loss customers at the Lehigh Valley Mall as part of the United Way's "Day of Caring." It was during this trip that I realized just how valuable these outings can be for everyone involved. The volunteers had a fun and positive experience, and the customers were happy to have company and a helping hand. One customer said, "I got so much done today that I just wouldn't have been able to do if Nancy wasn't here. I wanted a birthday card for my daughter, but I couldn't pick one out. But Nancy found one that was just beautiful!"

The time I spent with customers, staff, and volunteers has truly transformed the way I view the world, and my experiences have inspired and educated me beyond my expectations. My work with Center for Vision Loss has sparked a new passion, and I hope I can continue to advocate for the blind and visually impaired in the future. To all I have met on this journey, you have my most sincere and heartfelt thanks. You have changed my life, my goals, and I am a better person because I met you.

CUSTOMERS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE 2012 EYES CALENDAR

Agency customers Rudy Cordero and Tony Swartz are featured in the 2012 EYES Calendar published by the Susquehanna Association for the Blind and Vision Impaired. The subject for this very popular large print calendar is "Entrepreneurs," and both of these gentlemen show the entrepreneurial spirit by owning their own businesses. Rudy owns Cordero Painting and Staining while Tony owns Versatile Voicing, a sound production and voice over business. Learn more about these two gentlemen by purchasing a calendar for yourself or a loved one. 2012 EYES Calendars cost \$6 each. They will be available at both Center for Vision Loss offices in early December but you can call **610.433.6018** now to reserve your copy.

LIONS AND LIONESSES ROAR AT NEEDS NIGHT

Tuesday, September 27, 2011, marked the first consolidated Needs Night for Lions Clubs in District 14-K, Northampton and Lehigh Counties. This year's dinner event was celebrated at the Northampton Memorial Community Hall. Dignitaries at the head table included Brad Ott, agency board member; Doug Yingling, Executive Director, Joseph Chunko, District Governor; Dennis Butz, 2nd Vice District Governor; and Lowell Hawk, District 14-K liaison with the Center for Vision Loss.

The Center for Vision Loss presented each club with a thank you card and special "Knights of the Blind" patch for their contributions to the agency totaling more than \$72,000 in 2010-2011. Doug Yingling then reported on the "state of the agency," and Ruthie Asmus, Prevention of Blindness Coordinator, discussed the PediaVision Assessment Solution equipment which the agency now uses to vision screen children.

The event closed with the clubs making pledges to the agency for 2011-2012. In all over \$47,000 was raised from gifts and pledges. The Center for Vision Loss applauds the efforts of the Lions and Lionesses of District 14-K and thanks all club members for their continued interest in serving the residents of the Lehigh Valley who are blind and visually impaired.



Left to right: Lowell Hawk, Doug Yingling, Joe Chunko, Brad Ott and Dennis Butz

RAFFLE UPDATE

2011-2012 Raffle tickets are still available at \$10 each or six for \$50. Call Stephanie Houck at **610.433.6018, x. 244** to purchase them. Winning tickets are drawn monthly through June, 2012. Raffle proceeds support the agency's programs and services.

List of Winners: *June, 2011:* Zoila Pedraza, Marilyn Filozof, Kenneth Lupole, Stanley Glass, Gloria Smith, Rob Kilpatrick; *July, 2011:* Dorothy Brotzman, Byron Young, Barbara Reimert, Martha Lutz, Dennis Heller, Thomas Holben; *August, 2011:* Diane Hulko, James Wirth, William & Dina Terwilliger, Staley Hause, Fred Van Anden, Fred Ressler; *September, 2011:* Madelyn Stortz, Jayne Merkle, Roger Duggan, Mr. & Mrs. A. Abraham, Dorothy Fink, Frank Tomko; *October, 2011:* Esther Wallitsch, Lower Lehigh Lionesses, Regina Heeney, Barb Moyer, George Matyus, Barbara Reimert; *November, 2011:* Lois Frederick, Tony Yezerki, Dawn Reinhard, M. Stivers, Kay Dilliard, Sandra Lovett.

GIVING PAGE

The Center for Vision Loss is the region's only non-profit agency dedicated to improving the lives of people affected by vision loss. In 2009-2010, our programs and services touched the lives of 17,820 residents of Lehigh, Northampton and Monroe Counties. Help us continue our programs and services through a tax-deductible gift today. **Enclosed please find my gift in the amount of \$_____.**

Name _____

Address _____

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Please check here if you give us permission to add your e-mail address to our electronic mailing list. We will never share your e-mail address with any other group.

This gift is a tribute **In Honor Of** **In Memory Of**

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Please notify the following person regarding this tribute gift:

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Make checks payable to: Center for Vision Loss

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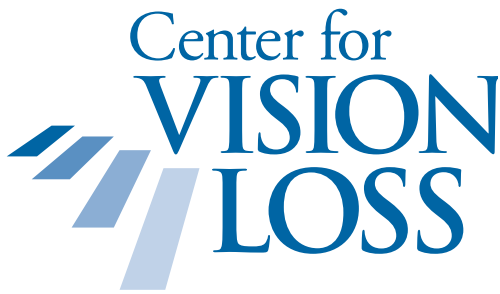
HELPING TO ASSURE OUR AGENCY'S FUTURE

Friends and supporters of the Center for Vision Loss play an important role in ensuring the agency's future and financial health. A Bequest (Gift by Will) is one of the easiest gift options to choose. Bequests may be restricted or unrestricted. Contact your tax and/or legal advisor with respect to your personal circumstances and remember that everyone needs a will regardless of the amount of their assets.

**Please detach and
send with your contribution to:
Center for Vision Loss
845 West Wyoming St.
Allentown, PA 18103**

All gifts to Center for Vision Loss are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. The official registration and financial information of the Center for Vision Loss may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

**Questions?
Contact the Development Office
at 610-433-6018, x. 241.**



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Looking for the perfect holiday gift for someone experiencing vision loss?

Shop the *Low Vision Aids Store* in our Allentown office for large print items, talking clocks and watches, magnifiers, and much more.

BRING ALONG THIS AD
Offer good only
Nov 28 - Dec 29, 2011.

Call 610.433.6018
for more information.

20% OFF*

the price of one item

*Magnifiers, Yard Sale items and CCTVS, excluded

SAVE THE DATES!

Basket Bingo & Brunch

Sunday, April 22, 2012 - 1-5 pm - Historic Hotel Bethlehem
Larger Room, More Seats, Same Wonderful Sunday Brunch!

Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community

Saturday, June 2, 2012 - New Location: SteelStacks in Bethlehem

Please let us know if you would rather receive this newsletter electronically by calling **610.433.6018, x 241** or go to our website at **www.centerforvisionloss.org**. Also let us know if your mailing address has changed or if you wish to be removed from our list.

VISION is published three times a year by the Center for Vision Loss for our donors, volunteers and friends in the community.

Douglas A. Yingling
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Karen Z. Huetter
Editor



SERVING LEHIGH, NORTHAMPTON AND MONROE COUNTIES



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