

2019

Annual Report

Focus on the Future



A message from our President/CEO, Sara Peperno

As you can imagine, reflecting back on 2019 has been surreal. Another truly great year for the organization—it featured a mix of doing what we’ve always done well and building the foundation of creating new and innovative programs and experiences for those with new and existing vision loss.

Simple, everyday occurrences—like increased traffic in our Vision Resource Center and screening the vision of thousands of children throughout the year at Day Cares, Kindergarten Registrations and Preschools—had become so routine, yet continued to be so impactful to those we serve.

Those things that we had come to take for granted don’t even begin to give the full picture of 2019, as we were able to do and be so much more than ever this year. From giving our older adult clients new experiences (a trip to Philadelphia) to enhancing our Camp Sight program to include more days and field trips for the kids, it was an incredibly rewarding year for all involved.

As we planned for 2020, we had expected to further expand our programs and services to the community—most importantly rolling out our Community Accessibility Campaign. We have worked so hard over the past 100 years to help those who are blind and visually impaired become more independent and now is the time for our community to follow. Obviously, 2020 has had different plans for us all, but we continue to be optimistic and inventive in what we’re able to offer our clients and region as we navigate our new reality.

We sincerely thank all of you, who have supported our organization, in whatever capacity you were able. And wish you a safe and healthy year ahead!

STAFF

Sara Peperno

President/CEO

Amy Marie Feldman

Director of Development

Mary Price

Social Service Coordinator

Gayle Blendick

Office Manager

Kristen Boyle

Vision Resource Manager

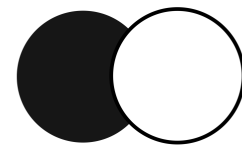
Denise Culver

Prevention of Blindness

Coordinator

Dr. Amy Olex

Gift of Sight Coordinator



**NORTHEAST
SIGHT SERVICES**

— Since 1918 —

OUR VISION IS CLEAR:
SIGHT LOSS SUPPORT & PREVENTION™

NORTHEAST SIGHT SERVICES

1825 Wyoming Avenue

Exeter, PA 18643

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www.northeastsight.org

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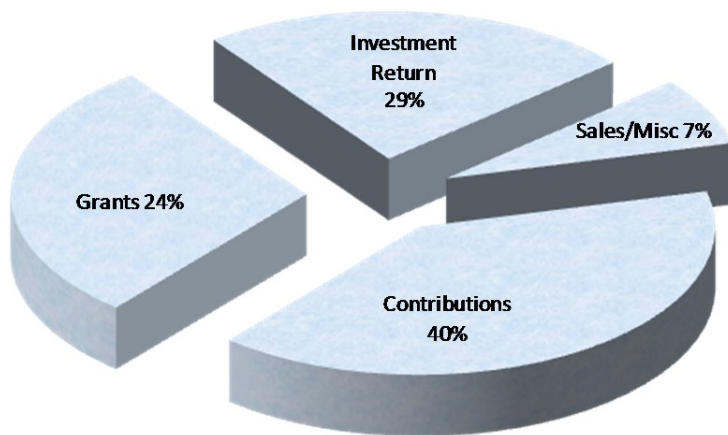
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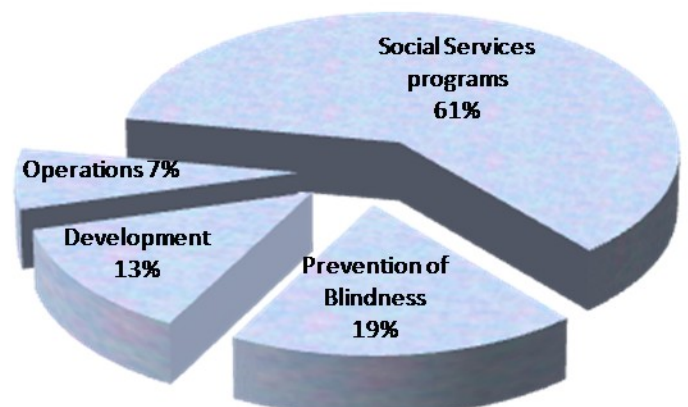
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2019 FINANCIALS

REVENUE 2019 \$622,486



EXPENSES 2019 \$616,480

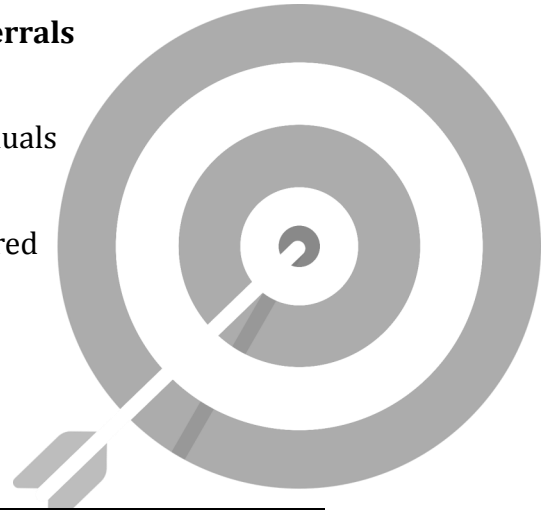


Always Adjusting our Aim

Adjustment to Vision Loss is the core of our work—we had **120 new referrals** to help those new to vision loss.

Nearly 180 referrals were made for blind and visually impaired individuals to local community agencies that might be of service to them.

Over 30 individuals took part in the **Support Group programs** offered to promote self-confidence, independence and success through peer support and practical information sharing.



We screened over **4,700 children** at over **145 different locations**, which resulted in **288 children** being referred for a comprehensive eye exam.

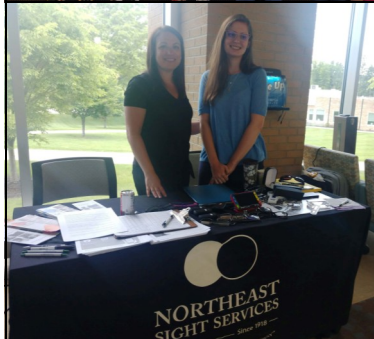
Over **240 Adults** were also screened for any potential vision issues at over **20 sites**.

Exactly **70 C. Well Bunny Eye Education Programs** taught almost **2,100 school aged children** about the importance of eye health and safety.



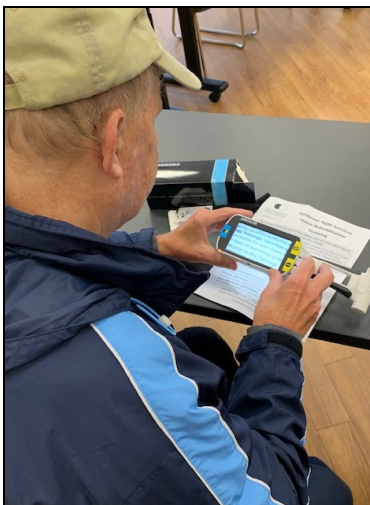
"For more than 20 years, Northeast Sight Services has been helping the students of Wyoming Valley Children's Association by providing free vision screenings each year. This is critical to our students' learning and development as some families unfortunately do not think to have their children screened so young or do not have the resources to do so. Some families even ask for all of the children in their family to be screened, which Northeast Sight Services is always happy to accommodate! I speak for so many children and families when I say we are so grateful for this partnership!"

- Nina Dei Tos Zanon, Executive Director, WVCA



Our **Vision Resource Center** still continues to be a valuable option, **we welcomed over 180 customers** through our doors last year.

Those customers took home **350 low vision and adaptive aid products** to help them adjust within their daily lives.



Originated in 2018, our **Eye Learn Program** was developed to provide both group and individual training in assistive technology, vision rehabilitation, basic orientation and mobility, and training on the use of low vision aids.

- **Eye Learn Group Trainings increased by 25% with the number of Group Training Participants more than doubling to over 40 people!**
- **We also held 35 Individual Trainings with over 30 Individual Clients who obtained the skills they need to succeed.**



"As a parent, I like the programs because my son, Byron, 'fits in' with his peers. The kids are all alike with varied visual impairments and there's no judgment. The kids also have opportunities to use and try out different types of assistive technologies. And they get to develop more independence by staff encouraging them and letting them do things on their own."

-Andrea Dissinger, InSight Kids Club Parent

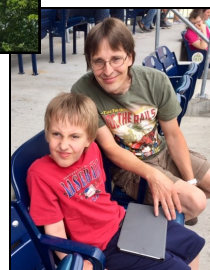
insight
kids club
of NEPA



Over 65 blind and visually impaired children participate in our InSight Kids Club of NEPA.

This year they enjoyed:

- **7 monthly programs**, which included a relaxing yoga class, a trip to the movies with audio descriptive headphones, a journey under water at the Electric City Aquarium & Reptile Den and more...
- **14 amazing days of Camp Sight spread out through the entire summer**—involving some major field trips - a Touch Tour of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Family Night at a Scranton Wilkes-Barre Railriders game and a fun, food and fantasy filled day at Knoebel's Amusement Resort!



7th Annual Chip in for Sight Golf Tournament

The 7th Annual Chip in for Sight Golf Tournament was held on Monday, June 3rd at Fox Hill Country Club. This tournament was once again a tremendous success, raising over \$47,000 for our organization! Thank you to all of our golfers, sponsors, volunteers and staff who made this such an amazing day!



Thanks so much to our Golf Committee!

William F. Burke	Jeffrey Mutchler
Patrick Doyle, Co-Chair	Whitney Pollock
Chelsea English	Brian Stahl
Lindsay Griffin	Mike Sowinski
Joshua Katyl, Co-Chair	Mallory Strubeck
Cathy McHugh	Cheryl Summa
Matthew McNelis	Alison Zurawski
Megan Millo	

Annual Awards Dinner—October 10, 2019



**Ginger Banks and
The Joseph B. & Virginia H. Banks Foundation
Benefactor Award**

Sponsored by Jacobi Capital Management



THANK YOU so much to our auction and dinner committee members. Because of you, this event was truly a wonderful evening honoring those who not only make an impact on Northeast Sight Service, but on the local community.

Donna Diltz	Joshua Katyl	Denise Ogurkis
Lois Gelb	Katie Kemmerer	Linda Tessier
Lindsay Griffin	Taly Kornfeld	April Vinciarelli
Tiffany Harm	Susan Magnotta	Malcolm Williams
Danielle Hawley	Cathy McHugh	Joell Yarmel
Kristyn Howell	Matthew McNelis	Alison Zurawski



**Mary Erwine
Golden Anna Cervenak
Community Impact Award**
Sponsored by Max Bartikowsky



**Community Bank, NA
Community Partnership Award**
Sponsored by McCarthy Tire



**Kristen Boyle
Arline Phillips Achievement Award**
Sponsored by Eye Care Specialists



Community Accessibility Campaign

For over 100 years, our goal has been to ensure our blind and visually impaired clients are capable, independent and able to do anything they want. Now, we want to make sure our local community is accessible for them.

Our **Community Accessibility Campaign** will ensure local locations (such as restaurants, stores, entertainment venues, etc.) are able to meet the needs of their visually impaired customers.

Launching in 2019—the campaign began with training agents from local Allstate locations in order to prepare them to assist clients at our Annual Client Picnic. Through support from the Allstate Foundation and The Luzerne Foundation, we have been able to continue these trainings and expand our reach in 2020.

Social isolation is a real thing for those who are blind or visually impaired and our first step has been to empower the individual in an effort to combat that isolation. Through our programs, our agency works daily with hundreds of people throughout Luzerne County to learn:

- *skills and techniques to live independently*
- *to use the local transportation systems to get wherever they need to go*
 - *to advocate for help when it's needed*
- *to use other tactile senses to find what vision cannot*
- *and to have access to magnifiers and other needed low vision aides.*

But even once independence is gained, barriers still remain locally. Northeast Sight Services is trying to take down these barriers with our Community Accessibility Campaign. We are proud to be providing trainings to places such as LCTA, Geisinger 65 Forward, Trehab, Eye Care Specialists, and New Era Eye Care, to name a few, in order to educate their staff on proper techniques to assist visually impaired customers. These businesses have also received a Toolkit – full of adaptive items that they can use to make their business fully accessible. On a long-term basis, we'll be available as a resource for any needs that may arise.

These trainings are also so important to our clients – because we'll be able to give them a list of the places in our community that are accessible to them. So that they won't feel isolated and will have even more confidence getting out there and enjoying their lives!

2020

V I S I O N

Focus on the Future





Spotlight on our Supporters

January 1—December 31, 2019

Diamond Circle (\$10,000 +)

The Allstate Foundation
Mr. Max Bartikowsky
The Luzerne Foundation
The Maslow Family Foundation
NEPA Lions Service Foundation
Allen Producers
Wyoming County United Way

Gold Circle (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Anonymous
Eye Care Specialists
Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield
Ken Pollock Auto Group
Lou Goeringer Family Fund of
The Luzerne Foundation
Moses Taylor Foundation
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New Era Eye Care
Shep Pawling

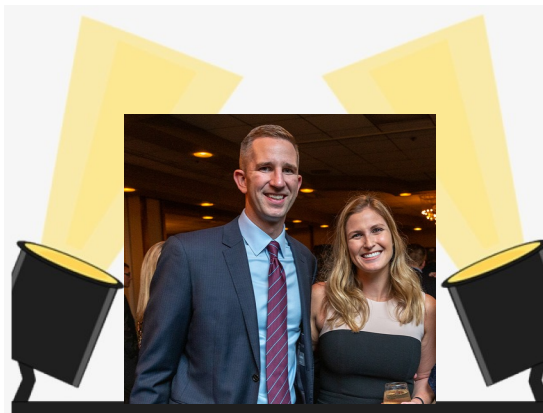
Silver Circle (\$2,500-\$4,999)

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Community Bank N.A.
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Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Koehl, III
Katie and Gary Lambert
Luzerne Cty. Council of the Blind
Sara and Rob Peperno
Red Leaf Salad Company
April and Baldino Vinciarelli
Wells Fargo
Wyoming County Community
Health Foundation

Bronze Circle (\$1,000-\$2,499)

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Clayton & Theresa Karambelas
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Colin and Karen Keefer
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Marion Pollock
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Mr. Matthew T. Pugh
Jill Schwartz
Connie and Durelle Scott
SOVA, INC
Top of the 80's
Trade Eastern Inc.
UNICO National -Wilkes-Barre
Paul D. Wasserott Foundation



Mallory and Bill Burke
Wilkes-Barre

"It only took one trip to the Annual Dinner for our own eyes to be opened as to how important this cause is to our community. Six years later, having heard so many touching stories from those who've overcome sight impairment - many of them children - we're deeply moved by the organization's mission and are proud to continue supporting it. The worthiness of its efforts, and the need for them, are undeniable."

Richard Saul Circle (\$500-\$999)

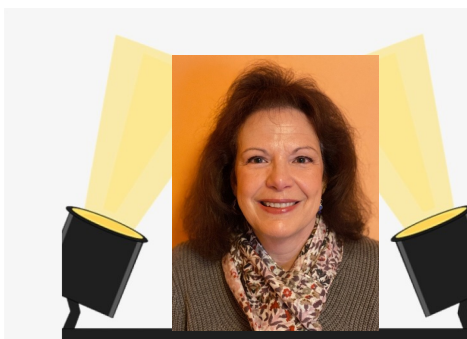
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Chamber of Commerce

Rocco Haertter and
 Josianne Aboutanos
 The Lita and Leonard Insalaco Family
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 The Luzerne Foundation
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 Wyoming Rotary Club



**Gerri Vickers, RN, CRNP, Exec. Dir.,
 Independent Life Home Care**

*"Having the relationship with Northeast
 Sight Services has allowed our agency the
 resources available to provide more
 options to our clients which allows them
 a better quality of life and more
 independence in their home and
 community."*

Century Circle (\$100-\$249)

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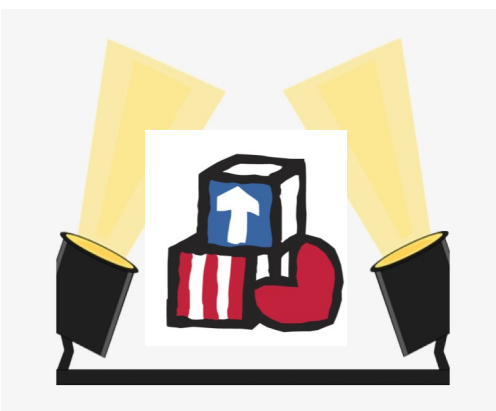
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 Mrs. Melanie Maslow-Kern
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 Ms. Mayclaire McCarthy
 Mr. George McDaniels
 Dr. Ann McDonough
 Mr. Brian McNelis
 Medico Industries
 In Loving Memory of
 Francis "Yogi" Michael
 Mr. and Mrs. Clifford A. Melberger
 Mr. and Mrs. Clifford K. Melberger
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mericle

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 Joseph Moore
 (M.E. Moore & Son Realtors)
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 Jennifer Pugh and Barrie Pilgrim



**Lynn Evans Biga, Exec. Dir.
 Luzerne County Head Start, Inc.**

"Luzerne County Head Start has had the great privilege of working in partnership with Northeast Sight Services for more than 3 decades. Each year at the beginning of our school term, we can always count on the wonderful staff from Northeast Sight Services to provide vision screening to all of our preschool children. This partnership allows nearly 1,000 children within the first 45 days of school to receive a vision screening that will help them to be successful throughout their year. Our partnership is successful and one that we hope continues for many years to come."

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 Phil and Penny Reid
 Brian and Lisa Rinker
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 Mr. Bill Santaniello

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 Mr. and Mrs. Henry Zelinski
 Alison and Brian Zurawski



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Claudia Piczak
Linda and Guy Pilosi
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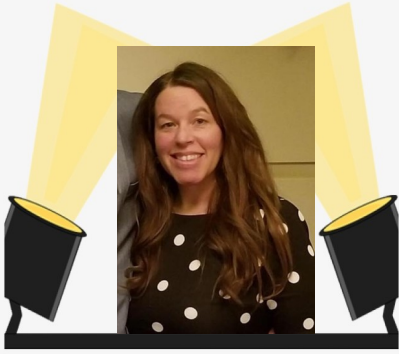


Ms. Elizabeth Poedehl

Tom Popko

Bobbi Potter

(Bobbi Potter Photography)



**Bobbi Potter
Plains**

"I proudly give to Northeast Sight Services because their support of the visually impaired is inspiring and innovative!"

Jane Pugh

Mr. and Mrs. Martin F. Quinn

Ms. Mary Razawich

Ms. Maire Reggie

Cheryl and Frank Reginski

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Reid

Ms. Marion V. Riefler

Ms. Carol Rocklin

Mr. James A. Rooney

Paul and Marion Rose

David and Carol Royer

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Ms. Thelma G. Russ

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Ms. Rose Salansky

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Trucksville Early Childhood

Education Center

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Lt. Col. Ty T. Williams

Jack and Jeanine Williamson

Ms. Susan Yeninas

Mr. Anthony Zaino

Dennis and Karen Zeveney, Jr.

John C. Zoranski

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Zubko



Client Impact

"My involvement with Northeast Sight Services for the past three years has made a huge difference in accepting my Age Related Macular Degeneration diagnosis. The Blueprint programs, directed by Kristen Boyle, have been very informative and helpful with the many problems associated with low vision. We were helped with self-protective techniques, transportation, and the many different items available at Northeast Sight Services' facility. We visited a mall and were shown how to maneuver through stores, crowds and escalators. We also viewed a movie locally and were able to use the headsets for the visually impaired."

Northeast Sight Services offers the opportunity to meet different social services agents who talk to the caregiver as well as the person with vision loss. They offer sessions for use of the many different computer and iPhone/iPad devices, as well as a library for books on tape or audio reading online for books, magazines and newspapers.

My experience with Northeast Sight Services has been very rewarding and has made me realize there are many options and resources available to help guide us now and be made aware of future discoveries."

-Marianne Williams, Client



Showcasing our In Kind Contributors

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**Coal Creative
Wilkes-Barre**

"Northeast Sight Services' commitment and care provided to our community is the easiest thing to support. As an organization made up of an incredibly caring team, they are making a true difference in the lives of the visually impaired throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania."

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Ruth's Chris Steak House



**Ruth's Chris Steakhouse
Wilkes-Barre**

"Our Ruth's Chris team is proud to support Northeast Sight Services because we see the benefits our community is gaining through the Education and Awareness this organization is providing."

Salerno's Café
Salon Nouvea
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Woodhouse Day Spa
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Mr. and Mrs. Derek Zambino



Northeast Sight Services makes every possible attempt to recognize our donors with the utmost accuracy, but no one is perfect. We apologize for any errors or omissions that might have occurred in acknowledging our priceless donors. If for some reason there is an error, omission or you would simply like to be listed differently, please contact Amy Feldman at 570-693-3555 x223 or at amy@northeastsight.org.

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**Alycia and Malcolm Williams
 Wyoming**

"It is an honor to support Northeast Sight Services and their Mission to provide assistance to the blind and visually impaired. The staff and all involved provide essential and positive life changing services to their clients! "

**Thank
 You!**

The Second Sight Legacy Society has been established to ensure that the programs and services provided by Northeast Sight Services will continue in perpetuity in Northeastern Pennsylvania. A gift through the Legacy Society will be invested with Northeast Sight Services' professionally managed endowment.

The greatest benefit of belonging to the Legacy Society is the satisfaction in knowing that your long-range plans will help future generations that may require Northeast Sight Services' life-changing services. We are so proud to list all of those contributors, along with those who have intended to follow in their footsteps.



Vision Forever

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To become a member of the Legacy Society or to obtain more information, please contact us at (570) 693-3555 ext. 223 or at amy@northeastsight.org.

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The mission of Northeast Sight Services is to help blind and visually impaired individuals achieve the best possible quality of life by providing compassionate services and to prevent vision loss through education and early detection for people of all ages.



**Stay focused on our mission by visiting
northeastsight.org or calling 877-693-3555.**

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