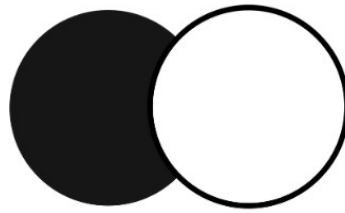


# Against All Odds



## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



### NORTHEAST SIGHT SERVICES

————— Since 1918 —————

OUR VISION IS CLEAR:  
SIGHT LOSS SUPPORT & PREVENTION™

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[www.northeastsight.org](http://www.northeastsight.org)

570-693-3555

1825 Wyoming Ave.

Exeter, PA 18643

# A message from our President/CEO, Sara Peperno



Transformative. That's the word I often use to describe 2020. We all seemed to have lost so much – from family members to friends to time spent doing the things we enjoy and being with the people we love. But at the same time, we quite possibly gained a little more. We gained more time doing new things with the people we love and, if we're lucky, found a new perspective on what truly matters most in life.

The same was true at Northeast Sight Services. 2020 started very much like every other year, excited for planning new and engaging endeavors. And while we started off strong, we then came to a screeching halt in March. We knew from the beginning that our challenges were very different from those of most companies and organizations – we had hundreds of people and thousands of community members counting on us to provide essential services to them. Our question was, how do we provide this in a way that keeps both them and us safe through a Global Pandemic?

Against all odds, that's what we did. Luckily, we have an amazing Staff and an incredible Board of Directors that made all the decisions to come easy ones. Our first act of business was to ensure that all of our clients' basic needs were met and remained that way. If there was a need for mail to be read, checks to be written or some items at the grocery store to be picked up, we made sure that we were there to provide those vital services in the safest and most contact-less way possible.

We also knew that we needed to BE there to ensure our clients were not living in total isolation – since they were at the highest risk of that happening having a visual impairment. And, as we saw others do all over the world, we went virtual. Holding events and support groups with our clients on a weekly basis, we knew we were having a lasting impact on the way they were able to handle this most unprecedented year.

And eventually we got back to a relatively normal state of operations at Northeast Sight Services. We knew just how important it was to continue all our services at their highest quality and quantity – while also staying safe and steadfast through a continued Pandemic. We continue this to today.

And while we can look back at 2020 as having lost so much. I think the true take-away is, how against all odds, we found a way to take care of each other and be stronger for it.



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**NORTHEAST  
SIGHT SERVICES**

Since 1918

OUR VISION IS CLEAR:  
SIGHT LOSS SUPPORT & PREVENTION™



*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.*



# OUR PERFORMANCE

2020 was a year like no other. It was a year of challenges and changes. As an organization we had a duty to continue to provide the critical services our clients needed. We found ways to do just that. Our staff was innovative in implementing new virtual programs and smart about providing services in the safest way possible. And while this year will forever look different than that of any other—we will always be able to reflect upon it and know what we are capable of accomplishing, even during the most difficult of times.

*"Thank you so much for screening (my son) Seth at school and making us aware of a problem we never would've noticed otherwise. He has some pretty bad astigmatism and is slightly far sighted. Who knows how long we would've went until we realized it, so thank you again for your help and getting us to the optometrist for glasses!"*

**Nicole Kronenwetter**  
Dallas

Our **Children's Vision Screening Program** was unfortunately halted when schools closed and daycares limited access in March, but once we received the green light to start back up—we got right back into it.

This program is so critical and so beneficial to the children who are screened. We are thrilled to be safely screening kids again at their pre-schools, day cares and Kindergarten registrations and we know the teachers and parents are too!

*"We thank Northeast Sight Services so much for examining the students' eyes at our school. They truly did a wonderful job and interacted with the students in such a professional and kind manner. Everyone enjoyed the experience. We really appreciate them coming to our school during these difficult times."*

**Brenda Strutko, Principal**  
**Trucksville Early Childhood Education Center**



*\*some photos were taken pre COVID-19*



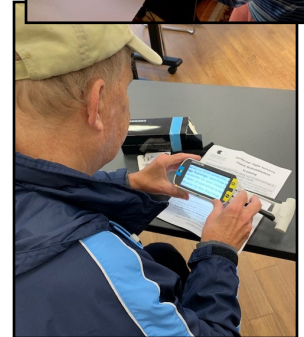
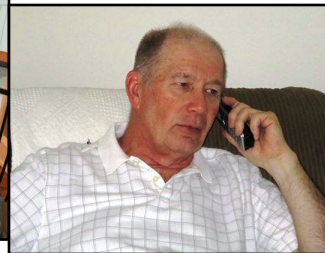
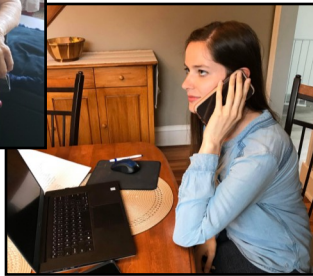
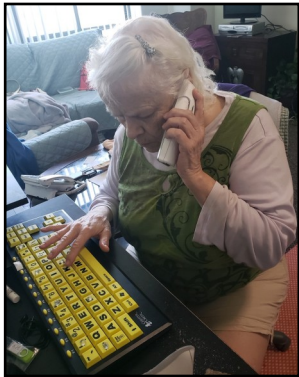
*"I've received excellent support from Northeast Sight Services this past year! Times have been crazy, but the staff has always made me feel like they're here for me. I've loved calling in for the virtual support groups and trivia games and am so thankful they were offered to help keep us connected throughout 2020. "*

**Michele G.  
Wilkes-Barre**

**BINGO Dinners, Lunch and Learn Sessions, Book Clubs and Support Groups** are some of our favorite activities to host here. We love nothing more than to interact with our clients, but more importantly have them gather to talk, share and enjoy each other's company.

When we could no longer host in-person events, we quickly pivoted to **offering Virtual Events—giving our clients the chance to still connect with each other during some truly difficult times.**

We were able to offer a gamut of different virtual programs: support groups, trivia nights, guided meditations, yoga classes, book clubs and more!



Our **Vision Resource Center** had to close its doors to in-person appointments during quarantine-but luckily our Vision Rehabilitation Therapist, Kristen, was still able to order and ship adaptive aides, magnifiers and more to those who needed them to assist in daily life with low vision.

We are also proud to announce that visitors are now welcome again—by appointment only!

**In Home Support Services** is the heart and soul of our programming and COVID-19 made us question our ability to provide this vital service. But again, with total safety in mind for both our staff and our clients, we never had to stop offering the most critical services of mail reading, check writing, bill paying and grocery shopping for our clients.



*"As a new client with Northeast Sight Services, I am so pleased with the services and support I've been shown this past year. The in-home support Mary provides is helping me stay organized with my records and Kristen is helping me learn to use my computer again with some adaptations through her Vision Rehab Therapy program. I also saw the low vision doctor this year and am excited to start using the electronic magnifier he recommended for me to make my daily life easier."*

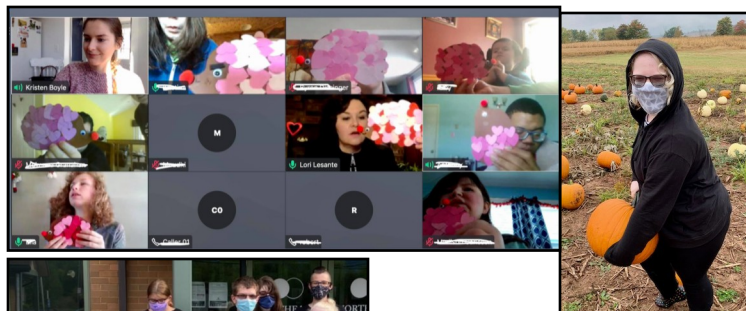
**Nancy K.  
Harvey's Lake**





It is so important for children with visual impairments to have a network of friends with similar challenges and that's just what our **InSight Kids Club of NEPA** provides.

Once we were able to host programming for our kids—we did just that in a safe, socially distanced way. We also were able to keep them connected by offering multiple virtual programs as well.



Despite the challenges 2020 handed us, we are proud to note that we did expand our offerings to those new to vision loss.

Our new **Vision Rehabilitation Therapy (VRT)** and **Orientation & Mobility (O&M)** programs have been a tremendous success already.

The VRT training focuses on teaching those with vision loss adaptive ways to live independently within their home, school, or workplace. O&M teaches concepts, skills, and techniques necessary for a person with a visual impairment to travel safely and efficiently through any environment and under all environmental conditions.

## Against All Odds



*\*some photos were taken pre COVID-19*



# NO SHOW AWARDS DINNER

## The Non-Event Event of the Season



**NORTHEAST  
SIGHT SERVICES**

Since 1918

OUR VISION IS CLEAR.  
SIGHT LOSS SUPPORT & PREVENTION™

### CELEBRATE AND SUPPORT FROM HOME!

We are super proud of some of the new ideas that sprouted up during these challenging times—one in particular was our No Show Awards Dinner.

Clearly, COVID-19 upended our plan to host our usual in-person Annual Awards Dinner, as gathering together in such a large group was just not possible. It unfortunately forced us to cancel our Annual Chip in for Sight Golf Tournament as well.

But programs and services at Northeast Sight Services never stopped - because the needs of the blind and visually impaired in our local community certainly did not decrease during this pandemic.

So, we simply asked you to celebrate and support from home safely through our No Show Awards Dinner and Online Silent Auction.

And that's exactly what you did! We can't thank everyone enough who purchased tickets, bid on auction items, sponsored, donated, volunteered or supported in anyway.

You truly helped to make this the  
Non-Event Event of the Season!

*Be sure to check out all of the amazing videos on our website that we created for the No Show Awards Dinner with our friends at Coal Creative!*

### Thank you to the No Show Awards Dinner Committee

|                      |                 |                   |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Ahmad Ali            | Joshua Katyl    | Whitney Pollock   |
| Brandi Bartush       | Katie Lambert   | Denise Ogurkis    |
| Michaela Benczkowski | Camaryn Lokuta  | Alana Roberts     |
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### Special Thanks to:



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The Maslow Family Foundation  
NE PA Lions Service Foundation  
Mr. Shep Pawling  
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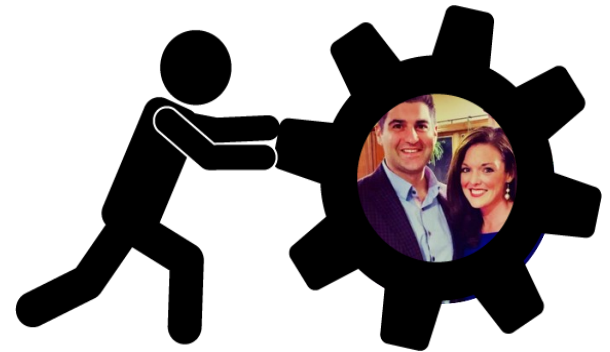
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*"We take such pride in supporting  
Northeast Sight Services because the  
organization ensures that the visually  
impaired are given the opportunity to  
reach their potential. The programs help  
children and adults achieve personal and  
professional success with dignity."*

**Colleen and Pat Doyle  
Shavertown**



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*"I am proud to support Northeast Sight Services and their efforts to aid the blind and visually impaired in our community. The unwavering efforts of its staff are a testament to what can be accomplished through hard work and dedication."*

**Anthony Baldo  
Lafin**

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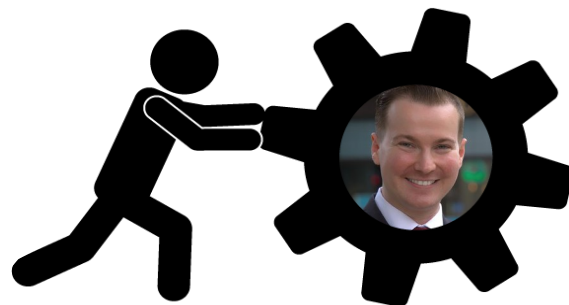
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*"I am proud to support Northeast Sight Services. They provide daily, life-changing, support services to the blind and visually impaired members of our community by significantly improving their quality of life and creating opportunities for them to maintain their independence.*

*As someone who has experienced my own vision challenges, their team's work to ensure everyone has the gift of sight is inspiring. Whether it be through their vision resource center or early detection and education programs, their team prevents vision loss and provides hope for a brighter future for those whose realities have been dimmed by fear of the unknown."*

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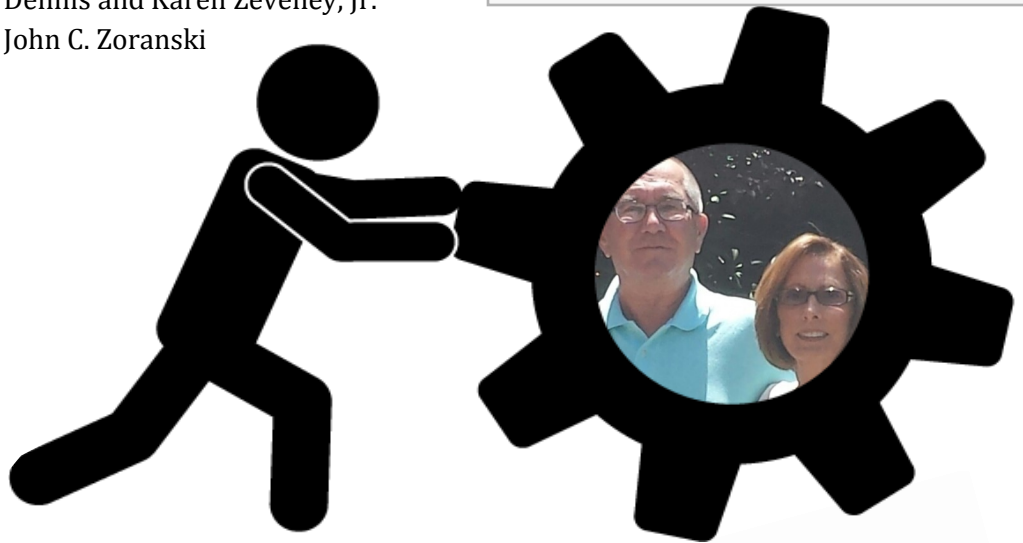


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 John C. Zoranski

*"I am very impressed by the concern, compassion and camaraderie that exists among the clients, staff and volunteers at Northeast Sight Services. Having volunteered there the last several years, I have seen first hand the consistent quality of care, innovative technology, and willingness to educate the community to the services they provide. Northeast Sight Services is truly an asset to our area, and I am proud to be involved with this organization."*

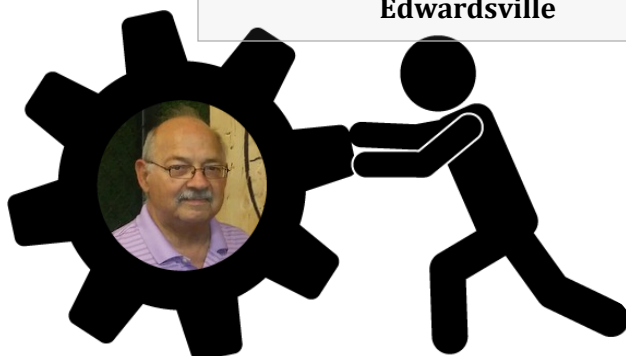
**Ginny and Vince Zdanowicz  
 Plains**



*Thank  
 You*

*"I am impressed with the leadership of the organization, which provides Northeast Sight Services with wonderful ideas for serving individuals with vision difficulties."*

**Garry VanScoy  
 Edwardsville**





## A Bright Light in 2020

During some dark times this year, Kristen Boyle was always shining. Kristen is an inspiration to everyone who meets her. Legally blind, she has become an integral part of the design and creation of many programs for us here at Northeast Sight Services. She is committed to the development and improvement of programs that help other members of the community who suffer from vision loss.

In recognition of PPL's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, the PPL Foundation awarded a total of \$100,000 in grants to help illuminate the outstanding contributions of individuals working in the nonprofit sector. Ten Bright Lights grants of \$10,000 were awarded in recognition of the honorees to the nonprofit agencies they support and Kristen was one of those honorees.

"I am so excited to put this funding toward continuing the great programming Northeast Sight Services provides to the blind and visually impaired members of our community. This funding will help us continue providing virtual programming to our clients, giving them support and connection during these trying times," Kristen said. "It will also allow us to continue our In-Home support and Vision Rehabilitation Therapy, helping people to adapt their homes and learn the skills to live independently following vision loss."

"I am so grateful to PPL for giving back to the community in this way and am especially humbled to have been named as a Bright Lights winner for my organization."

Kristen is proud of the work that she's been able to accomplish through the organization and is excited to get more done.

"I think it shows that you can do anything you set your mind to," she said. "I really just wanted to help people and working here has allowed me to do that."





# Showcasing our In Kind Contributors

## Allied Services

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Liz and Joshua D. Katyl  
Ken Pollock Auto Group  
Kingston Amusement Company  
Lamar Outdoor Advertising  
Susan and Marc Magnotta  
Main Optical  
Ellen Meehan (Beauty Counter)  
Mr. Larry Melf  
Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza/SMG  
Nearme Yoga/Café  
North Branch Land Trust  
Ollie's Restaurant  
Osterhout Free Library  
Sara and Robert Peperno  
Bobbi Potter Photography  
Red Leaf Salad Company  
Revello's

*"I support and volunteer for Northeast Sight Services because they provide such valuable and much needed services to visually impaired people of all ages. My mother has Macular Degeneration, so their mission is near and dear to my heart.*

*Through my volunteer experience with Northeast Sight Services, I have personally witnessed how they help children, teens, and everyone up through seniors to reach their true potential. It is my pleasure to work with their clients and their dedicated staff to provide the very best services to the people of our area.*

*For me, it's a true blessing."*

**Donna Diltz**  
**Allied Services**



Alana and Jay Roberts  
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Dr. Stephen Rudnick  
Sallavanti Aesthetic Medicine  
Simon & Co Jewelers  
Sip N Silk  
Something Special  
studio BE  
Sugar Plum Chocolates  
Suraci's Italian Café  
Susquehanna Brewing Company  
Sweet Tea Boutique  
TGI Friday's  
Times Leader  
Union and Main  
Vincenzo's Pizza & Catering  
Mr. and Mrs. Baldino Vinciarelli  
Woodhouse Day Spa



Woodlands Resort  
Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce  
Wyoming Valley Country Club  
Ali and Brian Zurawski

*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](mailto:amy@northeastsight.org).*

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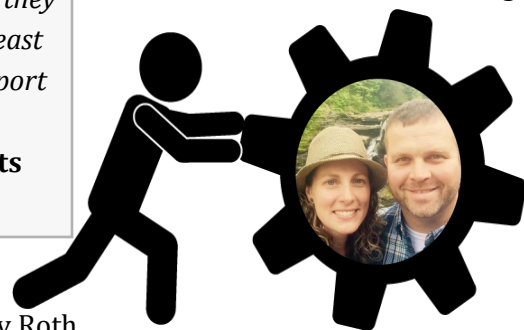
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*"Northeast Sight Services is an incredible mission-driven organization with dedicated staff that provides one of a kind services and improves quality of life. We have seen the impact their programs make in the communities they serve throughout Northeast PA and are proud to support those efforts."*

**Alana and Jay Roberts  
Olyphant**

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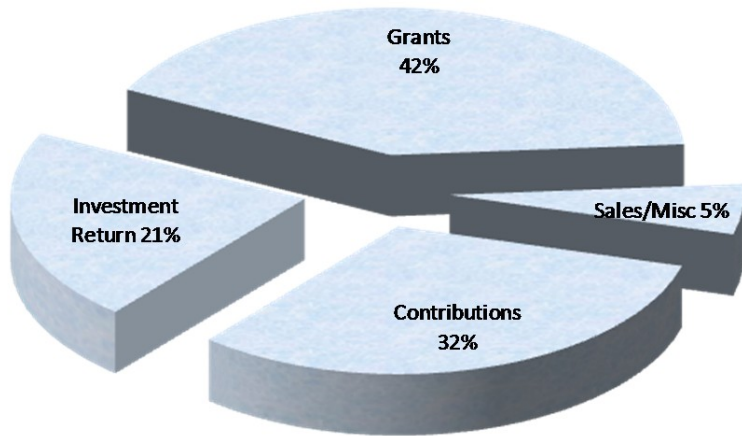


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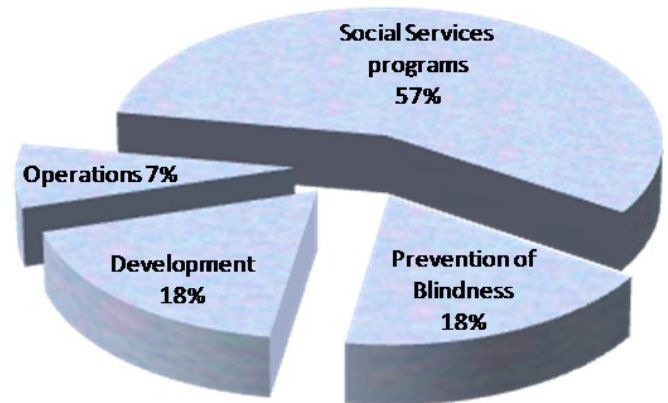


# 2020 FINANCIALS

## Revenue 2020 \$549,368



## EXPENSES 2020 \$527,390



*\*Revenues and Expenses estimated, pending 2020 Year-End Audit*

**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

### Second Sight Members

|                     |                   |                     |                     |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
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| Elizabeth Fowler    | Lillian Lottman   | Isabel Voeste       |                     |

*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](mailto:amy@northeastsight.org).*

### Second Sight Promises

|                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
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| Mary Caverly              | Ron Petrilla             |
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| Mary Erwine               | Bessie Renowden          |
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| Margaret Monforte         |                          |
| Brian and Marcy O'Donnell |                          |
| Leigh Pawling             |                          |



## NORTHEAST SIGHT SERVICES

— Since 1918 —

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