

**2013 Community Report**  
—A year of growth and change



# ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

— Since 1918 —

OUR VISION IS CLEAR:  
SERVICE, PREVENTION & COMPASSION™

*The mission of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Association for the Blind 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.*



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## A Message from President/CEO, Sara Peperno

It has been a year of growth and change for the Greater Wilkes-Barre Association for the Blind.

2013 has been an exciting year, with many opportunities arising to better enhance and develop our programs and services.

Just this year alone, we had 64% growth in new referrals for our Social Services programs. Clearly, the need for our services continues to grow, and we are doing everything possible to expand in order to meet that increased need.

We were also able to enhance our services in 2013 to include a Transition Assistance Program that served eight high school students who are blind and visually impaired. This program, which included an overnight stay at King's College, helped students gain the skills and knowledge in order to successfully transition from high school to college, trade school, or employment.

Our fundraising efforts have been incredibly successful, as well. Combined, our Inaugural Golf Tournament and Annual Awards Event raised nearly \$200,000 for the organization. We thank all of our participants and attendees, as well as again congratulate our honorees for their support to our community. Our Second Sight Legacy Society continued to grow this year and now includes 22 founding members, with the goal of insuring programs and services provided by the Association will continue for years to come.

The Association has also seen much change in 2013, as we welcomed new members to the team and said farewell to some long-standing colleagues.

Saying our good-byes to Dr. Ron Petrilla, Bobbie Steever, and Tom Robinson was certainly bittersweet, but filled with great memories that acknowledged the indelible mark they left on both the organization and our clients.

Even with the changes and growth that have occurred this year, we have maintained a continuity of staff, volunteers, donors, and programs that have made our organization what it is today. We cannot thank those who support us enough for their continued partnership.

As we reflect on this past year and the 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our organization, we are eager for the potential of what lies ahead. We welcome you to visit our newly designed website often, to keep updated on our progress in 2014. Thank you!

### Association for the Blind

1825 Wyoming Avenue  
Exeter, PA 18643  
570.693.3555  
Toll free 877.693.3555  
[www.wilkesbarreblind.com](http://www.wilkesbarreblind.com)



# 95th Anniversary and Awards Gala



Cynthia Kennelly, D.C.  
Arline Phillips Achievement Award Recipient



John C. Metz Family, Recipients of the  
Distinguished Community Service Award

***"Tomorrow is  
Tonight"***

**October 9, 2013**  
Presented by PNC Bank  
and Mohegan Sun at  
Pocono Downs



Peter J. Dancheck  
Community Partnership Award Recipient

**A special thank you goes out to all of our hard-working dinner  
and auction committees members. This event was a tremendous  
success thanks to all your efforts!**

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## Inaugural "Chip in for Sight" Golf Tournament In Memory of Robert A. Fortinsky—June 2, 2013



Thank you to our Presenting  
Sponsor- Ken Pollock Auto  
Group



Thanks to our Golf Tournament Committee



Thank you to all who participated in our  
first ever Golf Tournament at Fox Hill  
Country Club, both golfers and  
sponsors—you helped make this day a  
true success.

Save the Date for the 2nd Annual  
Tourney on June 9, 2014!

Jim Brozena  
Tina Dolgash  
Patrick Doyle, Co-Chair  
Josh Kaytl  
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Tom Robinson  
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# Prevention of Blindness

## Vision Screening

**5,013 children** were screened at **187 sites**.  
**176 referrals** were made for professional follow-up eye examinations.

**363 older adults** were screened at **24 sites**.  
**6 referrals** were made for professional follow-up eye examinations.



## Eye Health and Safety Education Programs

We conducted **84 C. Well Bunny** programs attended by **2,413 children**.

We conducted **21 Making Vision a Health Priority** programs attended by **575 older adults**.



## Marilyn Moore Maslow Vision Resource Center

**73** low-income individuals received **Low Cost Prescription Eyeglasses**.

**6** uninsured or underinsured individuals received **Gift of Sight: Basic Eye Exams**.



## Learn More About our Vision Screening and Education Programs!

- Vision screenings help detect potential vision and eye health problems, often before symptoms are noticed.
- We provide age-appropriate education on preventing blindness through early detection and eye health and safety programs.
- All of our screenings and education programs are free of charge.
- We provide screenings for children in pre-schools and daycares, and for adults at senior centers and health fairs.



# Social Services

Our Case Manager conducted 232 new referrals



## Adjustment to Vision Loss

102 blind and visually impaired individuals received an **Initial Assessment and Referral & Advocacy Services**.

771 **Adaptive Aids for Daily Living** were dispensed to newly blind and visually impaired individuals.

12 **Sight Loss Support Group** meetings were held.

## Children's Programs

20 children attended our 4-week **Camp Sight**.

8 high school students attended the **Transition Assistance Program**.



## Independent Living

11 **Life Skills Education** sessions were held.

89 individuals received **Vision Rehabilitation Therapy**.

44 individuals received a **Low Vision Assessment**.

## In-Home Support

1,012 visits were made to provide **In-Home Support** services.



## Social/Recreational Events

We hosted 36 **Social/Recreational Events** including **Bingo Dinners, Book Club, Annual Picnic, Bus Trips** and **Arline Phillips Holiday Party**.

*"When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed."- Maya Angelou*



## Our Thanks to You

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Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs  
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*"We make a  
living by what we  
get. We make a life  
by what we give."*  
-Winston S. Churchill

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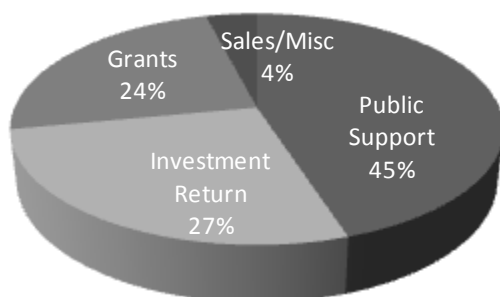
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Bold Gold Media Group  
Ms. Mary Brostoski  
CBI  
Anna Cervenak  
Citizens' Voice  
City Tobacco  
Cork Bar & Restaurant  
Costello's  
Danko's All American  
Fitness  
Eastern Insurance Group  
Ed Troy Insurance  
Agency Inc.  
El Humidor  
Lee Eckert  
Mr. Darren Elias  
F.M. Kirby Center for the  
Performing Arts  
Ms. Frances Falkowski  
Floral Designs  
Floristry By Carmen Bolin  
FOX 56 WOLF-TV  
Fox Hill Country Club  
Frederick Stegmaier  
Mansion  
Grant's Martial Arts  
Great Gifts 900  
Greater Pittston YMCA  
Green Valley Landscaping

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher  
Hackett  
Theresa L. Hahn  
Helfran Glass  
Isabella Restaurant and Bar  
Ken Pollock Auto Group  
King's College  
Kingston Amusement Co.  
Lamar Outdoor Advertising  
Leggio's Restaurant  
Marquis Art & Frame  
Mattern's Floral  
Mattioli Foundation  
Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs  
NEPA CrossFit  
Nexstar Broadcasting Group  
WBRE/WYOU  
North East Vending  
Northeastern Pennsylvania  
Philharmonic  
Ochman's Coins & Jewelry  
O'Donnell Family Eye Care  
Oyster Restaurant  
Leigh Pawling  
Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Petrilla  
Philadelphia Eagles  
PNC  
Pocono Manor Golf Course  
Marion Pollock  
Resource Media Inc.  
Tom Robinson  
Salonick's Photo Artistry  
Shakti  
Shep Pawling  
Showroom 56 Inc.  
Simon & Co Jewelers  
Frederick P. Smith, M.D.,  
FACP  
Sorella Hair Salon  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Stanley  
Bobbie and Chuck Steever  
Susquehanna Brewing  
Company  
Telecom Pioneers #7  
The Independent  
Thrifty Beverage  
Times Leader  
Top of the 80's  
Tovan & Company  
Tribal Media  
Voitek TV & Appliances, Inc  
Watkins & Medura  
Westmoreland Club  
WNEP-TV  
Yoga with Corrine

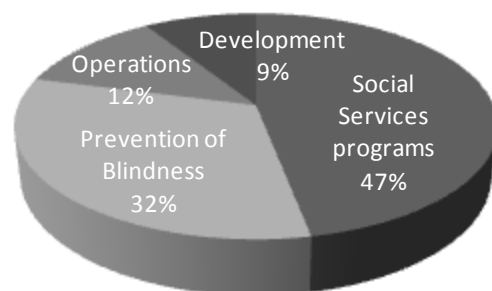


## Financials

### Revenue \$585,075



### Expenses \$582,173



\*Revenue and Expenses estimated,  
pending 2013 Year-End Audit

*The Second Sight Legacy Society* has been established to insure that the programs and services provided by the Association for the Blind will continue in perpetuity in Northeastern Pennsylvania. A gift through the Legacy Society will be invested with the Association for the Blind's 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 the Association for the Blind's life-changing services.

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@wilkesbarreblind.com](mailto:amy@wilkesbarreblind.com)



### Second Sight Legacy Society

Michael J. Bibak\*  
Nancy S. Brown\*  
Anna Cervenak\*  
Ann Coughlin\*  
Mary Erwine\*  
Louis F. Goeringer\*  
Dick Goldberg\*  
Homer and Melinda Graham\*

Chris and Ramah Hackett\*  
Colin Keefer\*  
Melanie Maslow Lumia\*  
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## **SOCIAL SERVICES**

### **Adjustment to Vision Loss**

- Initial Assessment
- Adaptive Aids for Daily Living
- Referral & Advocacy Services
- Sight Loss Support Group

### **In-Home Support**

- Mail Reading
- Check Writing

### **Children's Programs**

- Camp Sight
- Transition Assistance Program

### **Social/Recreation Events**

- Bingo Dinners
- Book Club
- Annual Arline Phillips Holiday Party
- Annual Picnic
- Bloomsburg Fair & Beacon Lodge Bus Trips

### **Independent Living**

- Life Skills Education
- Vision Rehabilitation Therapy
- Low Vision Assessment

## **PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS**

### **Vision Screening**

- Children's Vision Screening
- Adult Vision Screening

### **Eye Health & Safety Education Programs**

- C. Well Bunny
- Wild About Healthy Vision
- Making Vision a Health Priority

### **Marilyn Moore Maslow Vision Resource Center**

- Gift of Sight: Basic Eye Exams
- Low Cost Prescription Eyeglasses
- Affordable Magnifiers

