

2015 Community Report

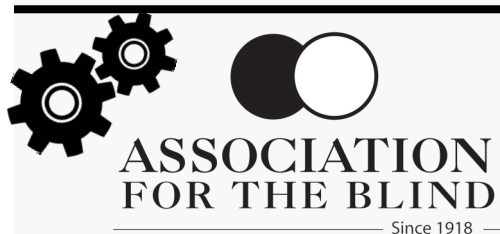
-A year of insight and inspiration



**ASSOCIATION
FOR THE BLIND**

— Since 1918 —

OUR VISION IS CLEAR:
SERVICE, PREVENTION & COMPASSION™



ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

Since 1918

OUR VISION IS CLEAR:
SERVICE, PREVENTION & COMPASSION™

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A Message from President/CEO, Sara Peperno

Dear Friends,

2015 has been yet another tremendous year, filled with growth and opportunity. Volunteers and staff have shown the insight and inspiration necessary to try new things, to grow as an organization and to help those who need it in our community.

Our Low Vision Clinic and Low Vision Store continue to exceed our expectations in providing the essential tools to allow people to live independently—and with purpose. Reading the newspaper and watching television are taken for granted by most of us, but when dealing with low vision, they can be true barriers to leading a typical lifestyle.

Our children's program—InSight Kids Club of NEPA—is another really exciting new initiative that is being provided in partnership with other local agencies. We are proud to have so many new children and families experiencing an array of opportunity, knowledge and support.

These expanding services—along with all of our core programming, such as Adjustment to Vision Loss, In-Home Support, Independent Living and Social Events, Prevention of Blindness Screenings and Education and the Marilyn Moore Maslow Vision Resource Center services—are here because of YOU.

And even though you don't see it every day like we do, YOU should be proud and feel a deep sense of accomplishment for the hope you provide, the independence you give and the innovation and expansion that you support through your donations and volunteerism.

And we look forward to another exciting year in 2016!



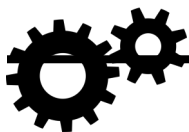
Association for the Blind

1825 Wyoming Avenue

Exeter, PA 18643

570.693.3555

www.wilkesbarreblind.com



Awards Dinner and Gala—October 8, 2015



The Pugh Family
Distinguished Community Service Award
Sponsored by Erwine Home Health and Hospice



Rodney Shemory
Arline Phillips Achievement Award
Sponsored by Eye Care Specialists



Commonwealth Health
Community Partnership Award
Sponsored by InterMountain Medical Group



Max Bartikowsky
Inaugural Golden Anna Cervenak
Community Impact Award

A special thank you to all of our hard-working dinner and auction committee members. We could never thank you all enough for the amazing work you did to ensure this event's success!

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Kristie Ceruti
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Donna Diltz
Kathy Dunsmuir
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Kathi Banks
Dinner Chair



**Megan Millo and
Josh Katyl**
Auction Co-Chairs



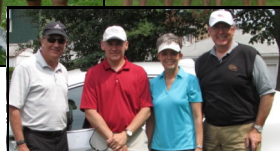
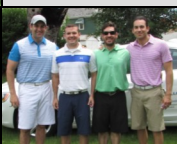
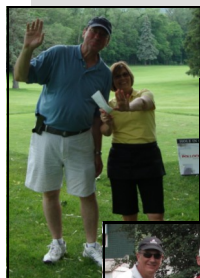
**A huge thank you Rabbi Kaplan for helping us
raise nearly \$30,000 for our InSight Kids Club of
NEPA children's program!!**



Third Annual "Chip in for Sight" Golf Tournament June 8, 2015

Thank you to all who participated in our 3rd Annual Golf Tournament at Fox Hill Country Club, both golfers and sponsors—you helped make this event the most successful to date! We were able to raise nearly \$40,000, which is a 30% increase over last year!

**Save the Date for the 4th Annual
Tourney on June 6, 2016!**



**Thank you to our Presenting
Sponsor- Ken Pollock Auto Group**



Thanks to our Golf Tournament Committee

Joe Aiello
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Josh Katyl
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Our Impact - Prevention of Blindness

*Dear Association for the Blind-
Thank you so much for your
screening program at my
daughter's school. Without your
help I never would have known
she needed help. Thank you for
early detection.*

ANDREW and AVALINE
-dad and daughter

Eye Health and Safety Education Programs

We conducted nearly **100 C. Well Bunny** programs attended by **2,906 children**.

We conducted **27 Making Vision a Health Priority** programs attended by **580 older adults**.



Vision Screening

4,782 children were screened at **151 sites**.
314 referrals were made for professional
follow-up eye examinations.

501 older adults were screened at **13 sites**.
35 referrals were made for professional
follow-up eye examinations.

*Thanks so much for taking the
time to come to our center for
vision screening and to talk
to us about vision issues for
seniors. It's always a pleasure to
have you visit.*
TWILA-Falls Senior Center

Marilyn Moore Maslow Vision Resource Center

Low Vision Clinic & Low Vision Store

73 patients were evaluated through our **Low Vision Clinic**,
resulting in just about **200 low vision aids** being provided.

Almost 50 individuals visited our **Low Vision Store**, resulting
in the purchase of **149 adaptive aids products**.



Low Cost Prescription Eyeglasses & Gift of Sight Program

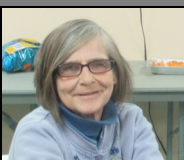
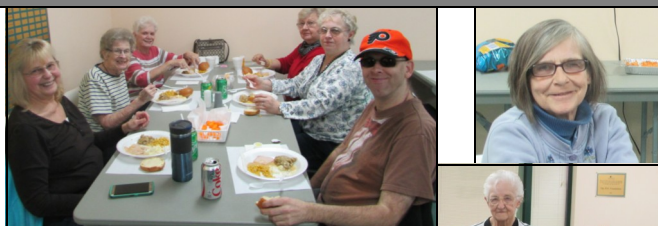
79 low-income individuals received
Low Cost Prescription Eyeglasses.

**4 uninsured or underinsured
individuals** were referred for
Gift of Sight: Basic Eye Exams.

Our Impact-Social Services

In-Home Support

Just over 1,000 visits were made to provide **In-Home Support** services, giving over **100 community members** the opportunity to live independently.



My dad's mother lost her sight when he was a little boy which tremendously affected his life as well as his siblings. This is what created my interest in supporting the wonderful programs the Association provides.
JOANN- Supporter



Adjustment to Vision Loss

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

129 new referrals were received by our agency.

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

10 Sight Loss Support Group meetings were held.



I love the Book Club. I go online and download the books. And what I do is research and find out what the sighted people are reading. So that when we go out, we can talk about the same books.

LINDA-Client

Independent Living and Social Events

12 Life Skills Education sessions were held.

During the past year, we hosted:

12 Book Club Discussions

9 BINGO Dinners

Summer Client Picnic in June

Bloomsburg Fair Bus Trip in September

Transportation to and from Beacon Lodge

Holiday Client Party in December

Our Impact- InSight Kids Club of NEPA



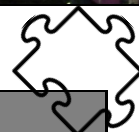
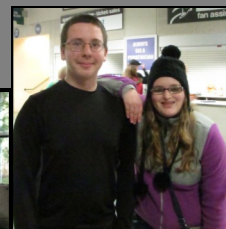
This year, thanks to your amazing support, we were able to launch a brand new all encompassing children's program, the **InSight Kids Club of NEPA**.

InSight Kids Club of NEPA is a program organized in partnership with Community Services for Sight in Hazelton for blind and visually impaired children to enjoy both recreational and instructional opportunities as a group. Our InSight Kids Club of NEPA is an amazing combination of both, ensuring a well rounded experience for all participating kids. We are so proud to be able to offer these wonderful kids a network of support from peers who are living with some of the same challenges.

In addition to the structured, educational programs that you may be familiar with such as, Camp Sight Junior/ Camp Sight and Transition Assistance, we are organizing family parties, technology trainings, family support groups, field trips and are continuing with our monthly programs which have included trips to Wilkes-Barre Scranton Rail Riders and Penguins games, art classes, fun at Knocherrball, bowling and much more!

Our InSight Kids Club of NEPA is now offering:

- New Technology Training Courses
- Family Parties
- Family Support Group
- Fun Field Trips



Monthly Programs

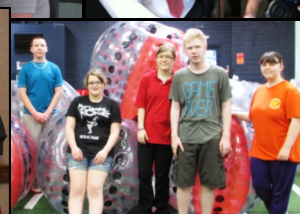
There were **8 monthly programs** held with a total of **29 children** attending the various activities.



Camp Sight

21 children participated in Camp Sight/Camp Sight Junior for a total of **15 days** of fun.

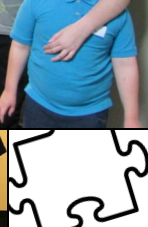
Camp showed me that I am not the only visually impaired person going through something. Camp also showed me that I can do anything I dream of no matter how much or how little vision I have. Camp was the best two weeks of my summer.
KAYLA-Camper



Transition Assistance

5 young adults, ages 14-19, who will be transitioning from high school into the workplace/secondary education, participated in the week long program.

One participant was even offered a summer job, which she proudly accepted!



A History of Giving Jan. 1—Dec. 31, 2015– Thank You

Diamond Circle \$10,000 +

The Appleseed Partnership
Foundation
Estate of Elizabeth Kovach
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Dolores Troskoski Trust
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Gold Circle \$5,000-\$9,999

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CHRIS AND TOM PUGH
Hunlock Creek

"The Association is an efficient, professional organization saving the eyesight of area children as well as meeting the needs of the adult, non sighted community."

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

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**DREW AND DANIELLE
HAWLEY**
Forty Fort

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Forty Fort

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 the Blind and its vision screening
 programs that help detect sight-threatening
 problems in our children."*

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"Our support for the Association of the Blind is how we show our appreciation for their dedication and commitment to supporting and prompting the best interests of their clients."

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"I give because I have a close friend who is affected by blindness and I value the services, education and support the Association for the Blind makes possible for the community."

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"Just knowing how much the Association for the Blind does for so many children in our area is amazing—you can't help but want to support their work."

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"Helping others is paramount to preserving a civil and loving society. I am happy to help out."

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PEG MORECK

Susquehanna Preparatory School

"I give to the Association for the Blind as they do important work in eye screening of young children. It is so important to find problems as early as possible. This agency provides an invaluable service to our school every year. We appreciate their dedication."

Ted and Patricia
 Ms. Lorella A. Thomas
 Ms. Roberta Thompson
 Ceil Toloczko and Sandy
 Miss Marjorie Trethaway
 Trinity Learning Center
 Trucksville Early Childhood
 Education Center



MARJORIE ADAMS

Trucksville Early Childhood Education Center

"We support because several of our children with vision problems have been identified through the screenings the Association for the Blind does here every year, preventing more serious issues down the road."

John Turon
 Mr. and Mrs. Vichit Uathavikul
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Did you know?

- 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.



THANK YOU—FOR BEING YOU AND FOR BELIEVING IN US!

**A special, heartfelt acknowledgement to all of our first time givers
who made a contribution in 2015!**

Every single gift we receive is equally cherished and just as important.

We appreciate your support more than you will ever know!

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***"It's not how much
we give, but how
much love we put
into giving."***

— Mother Theresa



In-Kind Donations ...THANK YOU!

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*"Living with a visually impaired person allows
me to really see the amazing support the
Association gives....it is a donation you know is
going to the right place!"*

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***The willingness to share does
not make one
charitable;
It makes one free.
— Robert Brault***

Update on Tyler Cavill

Last year, we introduced you to young Tyler Cavill who had his vision screened by our organization at his Pre-School. It was first discovered at that screening he had no vision at all in his right eye. After several appointments with specialists and a MRI scan, it was determined that Tyler's loss of vision was caused by a tumor on his optic nerve. So many of you were touched by his story, we wanted to share with you how he is doing today.

His mom, Jonelle, gave us a great update on Tyler:



"After returning home from his hospital stay following brain surgery in the Spring of 2015, Tyler worked diligently to get back to normal life. He attended physical therapy to regain strength. He practiced his letters outside of preschool to catch up. He was screened and registered for kindergarten. He graduated from Trinity Learning Center and was looking forward to a great summer. Unfortunately, a follow up MRI scan in May showed that Tyler's tumor had begun to grow again. Only this time, it was inoperable because it was extremely close to the good optic nerve.

Upon completion of Tyler's unforgettable Make-A-Wish trip to Disney, he began chemotherapy treatments to stop the growth of the tumor and protect the left optic nerve. The once a week treatment for ten straight weeks were tough on Tyler, but it was all worth it when we found that the next MRI showed shrinkage of the tumor. Then, the next day, Tyler had an allergic reaction to one of the chemo drugs and the whole plan had to be changed. Needless to say, we were disappointed.



In retrospect, this was a blessing in disguise. The new chemotherapy plan has been tolerated much better. Tyler has barely missed any school and most days has lots of energy to do pretty much anything he wants to do! And, an MRI in December showed the tumor was not growing, so we continue with this plan through August 2016.

Tyler loves school and learning to read. He also enjoys playing on his mini iPad that he got from Santa. Building Legos is another one of his favorite things to do."

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. This year we added three new members to the Legacy Society.

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.



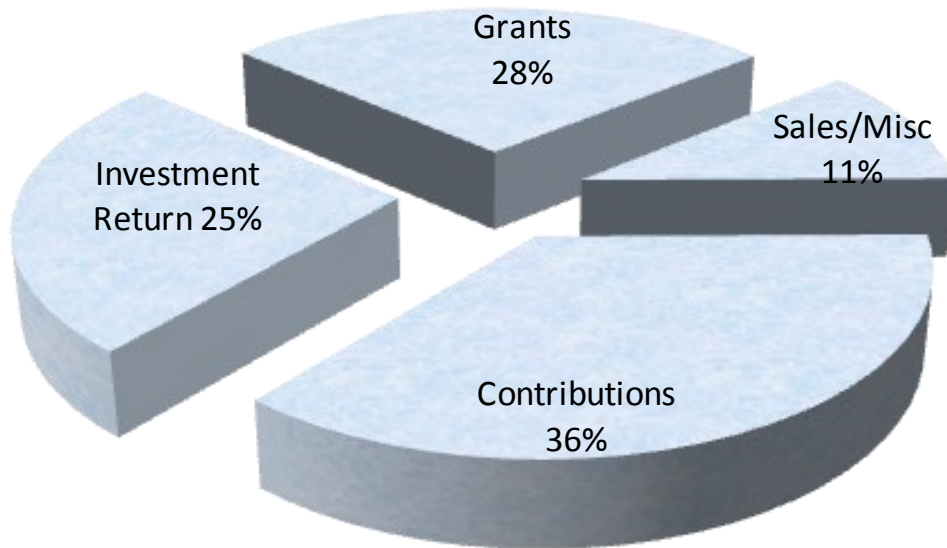
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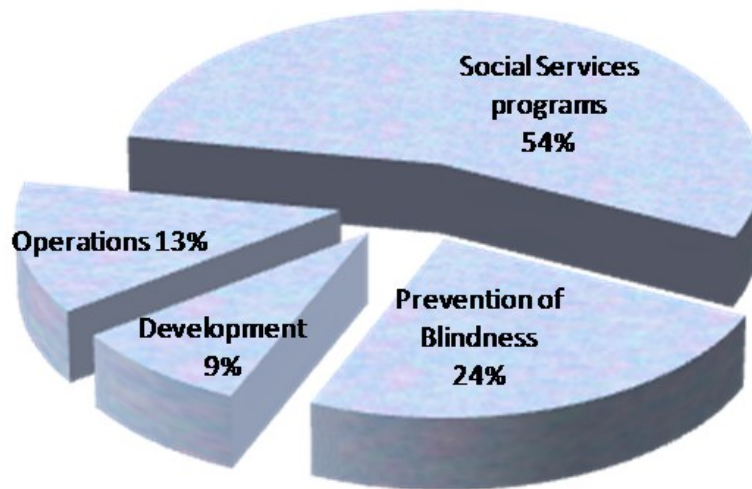
REVENUE 2015

\$566,931

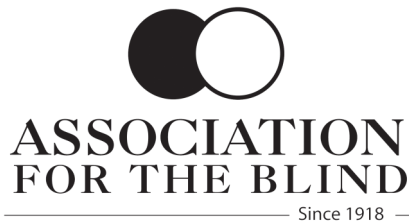


EXPENSES 2015

\$575,006



Revenue and Expenses estimated, pending 2015 Year-End Audit*



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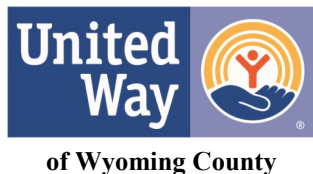
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The mission of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Association for the Blind is to help blind and visually impaired individuals achieve the best possible quality of life by providing compassionate services and to prevent vision loss through education and early detection for people of all ages.



Stay connected to our mission by visiting
wilkesbarreblind.com or calling 877-693-3555.

Be sure to "like" us on Facebook —
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