2016 Community Report -A year of engagement and enrichment



OUR VISION IS CLEAR: SERVICE, PREVENTION & COMPASSION



Since 1918 —

OUR VISION IS CLEAR: SERVICE, PREVENTION & COMPASSION

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A Message from President/CEO, Sara Peperno

As we look back on 2016, it is with such incredible pride and sincere awe in all the Association accomplished. It was with both specific purpose and incredible drive, from staff and volunteers, to increase the services offered to our local community and one of its most vulnerable populations.

We set out last year to create a broader impact and to grow; to more deeply engage and truly enrich the experiences our clients have when they work with us in every capacity.

And I think our numbers speak for themselves. To increase our Sight Loss Support Group participation by 160% —and to now offer that service, along with Life Skill Education sessions in all four counties served-awesome! To increase our In-Home Evaluations by 36% in just one year- absolutely phenomenal! For our Annual Holiday Party's attendance to increase by 142%? No small feat.

We are also so especially proud of the growth of our InSight Kids Club of NEPA program. Growing from only 15 children in 2014 to over 50 amazing young people this year was not by chance. Our organization felt strongly about serving this population of young people. Extremely well-attended Family Support Groups and an expanded year-round Transition Assistance program have been the result of our passion for these children and their families.

But most profound are the lives we are able to touch every single day through your collaboration. We fully intend for our services to grow as we progress in 2017, but can only do so with your generous support of our organization.

So please accept our sincere appreciation for all that you do for the Association for the Blind and for all that you will continue to do! None of this happens without you!

Association for the Blind

1825 Wyoming Avenue Exeter, PA 18643 570.693.3555 www.wilkesbarreblind.com



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

Fourth Annual "Chip in for Sight" Golf Tournament June 6, 2016

Thank you to everyone who played in our 4th Annual Golf Tournament at Fox Hill Country Club! Thank you to all the golfers and sponsors—you helped make this event the most successful to date! We were able to raise OVER \$47,000!

> Be sure to Save the Date for the 5th ANNUAL TOURNAMENT on June 5, 2017!



Thanks to our Golf Tournament Committee



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Annual Awards Dinner and Auction—October 13, 2016





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Matthew T. Pugh Linda Rowe Allison Samanas Lynn Segars Alison Zurawski

A special thank you to all of our hard-working dinner and auction committee members. We simply could not have this event without you.

We can't thank you enough for the amazing work you did to ensure this event's success!





Golden Anna Cervellak Impact Awar



Special thanks to Dr. Brian O'Donnell, Dinner Chair and to Denise Ogurkis, Auction Chair. You two made an amazing team!

Our Impact

Prevention of Blindness Vision 6

5,220 children were screened at **151 sites**. **352 referrals** were made for professional follow-up eye examinations.

405 older adults were screened at 32 sites. **6 referrals** were made for professional follow-up eye examinations.

"I just wanted to thank you for the wonderful service you provided to our school. Your gentle, caring way shows how much you enjoy what you do. We have always known the importance of this service, but after your screening of Tyler (Cavill), it was truly realized. We look forward to seeing you at our screenings next year."

Diane - Trinity Learning Center

ASSOC FOR TH

OUR VISION IS CLE SERVICE, PREVENTI

Eve Health and Safety Education Programs

We conducted **over 90 C. Well Bunny** programs attended by 2,399 children.

We conducted 18 Making Vision a Health Priority programs attended by 408 older adults.





Low Cost Prescription Eveglasses & Gift of Sight Program

52 low-income individuals received Low Cost Prescription Eyeglasses.

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

Low Vision Clinic & Low Vision Store

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

Almost 70 individuals visited our Low Vision Store, resulting in the purchase of 155 adaptive aids products.





& Our Growth



AR: ON & COMPASSION

"I love the different variety of speakers that come to speak at our lunch and learns. I also like that the client's suggestions are listened to so that we are able to grow and not stay the same. I also like that we have more volunteers coming in to help with the activities. I especially liked the Christmas party this past year. I hope we have one like that again."

Peggy-Client



The expansion of programming has been simply incredible:

- Pike, Wayne and Wyoming Counties have grown to include Lunch and Learns, Support Groups and a Holiday Party!
 - Sight Loss Support Groups increased 160% from last year
 - In-Home Evaluations increased 36%
- The Annual Holiday Party attendance for clients increased 142%!!

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.

Adjustment to Vision Loss

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

149 new referrals were received by our agency.

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

26 Sight Loss Support Group meetings were held.

Independent Living and Social Events

14 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



The Growth of the InSight Kids Club of NEPA

kids club

Camp

20 children participated in Camp Sight/Camp Sight Junior for a total of 20 days of fun and learning opportunities. Monthly Programs

Family Party

We held **1 Family Party** to celebrate the season of love for Valentine's Day with **17 clients and 35 family members attending!**



We held **9 awesome**monthly programs
with a total of **41**children attending the
painting, cooking,
volunteering,
gardening, etc...
events



We were able to hold 2
extremely beneficial and
much needed Family Support
Groups with 15 family
members participating.

8 students attended our first ever 2 day Technology Training session



"The InSight Kids Club has been a wonderful program for our family. Our son, Byron, gets lots of opportunities to learn, grow and achieve many goals. He has made new friends and the family support group is great for parents and other family members to share their stories and information."

Andrea —InSight Kids Club Parent

Transition Assistance

8 young adults, ages 14-18, who will be transitioning from high school into the workplace/secondary education, **participated in 4 sessions** in what is now a school year long program.

There are 6 more sessions planned for 2017.

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 has grown to include **50 absolutely amazing young people**.

Our goal is to ensure a well-rounded experience for all participating kids and to provide invaluable resources for their families. 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.



"Nothing you ever do for children is wasted."

-Garrison Keillor





A History of Giving Jan. 1—Dec. 31, 2016- Thank You

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MEGAN MILLO Ken Pollock Auto Group

"We're passionate about helping those within our communities. We've been a proud supporter of the Association for many years and can't explain how humbled we are to be a part of an organization that has enriched so many lives. Working with the Camp Sight children, we've had the opportunity to experience first hand that their abilities are much stronger than their disabilities where nothing can hold them back. The Assoc. gives them that confidence and for that we continue to offer our greatest support, each and every year."

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JEFFREY MUTCHLER Forty Fort

"My grandmother is legally blind and has really benefitted from the amazing services provided by the Association for the Blind. It's an honor to help grow and support such a noble program that has unselfishly given so much to those in need."

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SHARON ARONOVITZ Mountaintop

"Over the years the Association has impressed me with the availability of new programs, resources and essential services that they provide to the community. As someone living with a vision impairment, I feel that it's important to donate and support an organization that empowers those affected, to live life to the fullest."

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JILL SCHWARTZ Kingston

"The Association for the Blind was very special to my mother. When she no longer was able to serve and I was asked to join the board, I jumped at the chance to carry on the good work the agency provides. Since I've been involved, the services have multiplied and continue to enrich peoples lives.

'If I take, I alone gain. If I give or share, then two at least are enriched.' This quote is behind my giving to support the Association.

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RACHEL A. PUGH Hanover Twp.

"I first became involved with the Assoc. for the Blind as a volunteer at their Bingo held at the Kirby Health Center. Since then, I've seen the Assoc. grow, both program-wise and quite literally, into their state-of the-art building, designed specifically in mind for the visually impaired. I continue to contribute to the Assoc. because they continue to contribute to NEPA by providing resources for the blind and towards prevention of blindness. I personally know a young girl who is a member of the InSight Kids Club of NEPA, and to watch her develop new skills through the program is proof of the impact this organization has on our Mr. and Mrs. Martin F. Quinn Ralmark Company Mr. Howard Ransom Mr. Stanley Ray Bernard and Mary Razawich Cheryl and Frank Reginski Phil & Penny Reid Mrs. Stephanie Remakus Brian and Lisa Rinker Dr. and Mrs. John Rogers Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Rokita Mr. James A. Roonev Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rose Ms. Linda Rowe David and Carol Rover Dr. and Mrs. William Rusin Ms. Thelma Russ Janet M. Rygiel Mrs. L. I. Savelli **Betty Iane Schultz** Ms. Eleanor Sebolka Todd C. Serafin **Dorothy Serbin** Bobbie Shurnicki Ms. Gertrude Skibinski Mr. Bruce F. Slocum Bill and Dianna Smith George Snyder Annette Soltysiak Inez Stefanko Ms. Mary Ann Stogoski Mrs. Mallory Strubeck Mrs. Dolores Takarewski Ms. Roberta Thompson Ms. Sandra Toloczko L. Joyce Tremayne Center

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"Real generosity is doing something nice for someone who will never find out."

- Frank A. Clark



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

A special, heartfelt acknowledgement to all of our first time givers



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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"We support the Association for the Blind based on the excellent job it has done in growing the services and support that it provides to the visually impaired community, including the expansion of recreational activities and educational opportunities offered to children through programs such as the Insight Kids Club of NEPA."

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UPDATE ON MADISON CARLSSON



Last summer, we introduced you to Madison "Madi" Carlsson, whom many of you had met months before when her local community raised funds for her to get a pair of electronic glasses. The esight glasses literally changed the way she looks at the world and have allowed her to see things in ways that weren't possible beforehand. Madison is also an absolutely awesome addition to our InSight Kids Club of NEPA. She participates enthusiastically at every event she attends. She joined the Kids Club for the December trip to New York City where she enjoyed Aladdin on Broadway with the help of those esight glasses.

We caught up with her mom, Alison, to get an update on Madi:

"Madison is enjoying all new adventures with her esight glasses. Many things have changed for her, things that we take for granted every day.

She loves to see the stars in the night sky, something she couldn't see before. They have also allowed her to see both presentations and the blackboard at school.

She also loves going to the movies now and seeing fireworks.

Madison loves being a part of the InSight Kids Club of NEPA. She is always asking when the next monthly get together is and loves trying new adventures with this group of new friends. She is counting down the weeks until Camp Sight. We can't thank everyone enough for everything that you have made available to these children."



The Second Sight Legacy Society has been established to ensure 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. In 2016, we added two 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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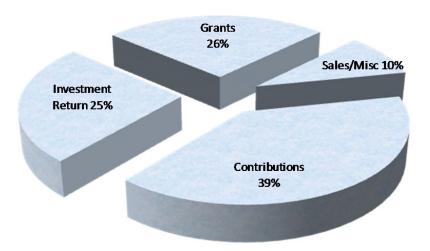
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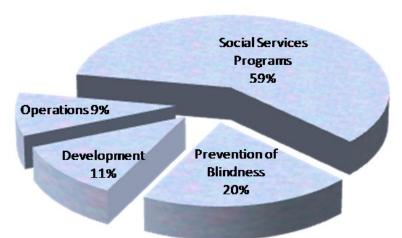
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The mission of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Association for the Blind is to help blind and visually impaired individuals achieve the best possible quality of life by providing compassionate services and to prevent vision loss through education and early 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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