



Since 1918 —

OUR VISION IS CLEAR: SIGHT LOSS SUPPORT & PREVENTION $^{\text{\tiny TM}}$ 

2017 Community Report -Past, Present and Future



— Since 1918 —

OUR VISION IS CLEAR: SIGHT LOSS SUPPORT & PREVENTION"

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SIGHT SERVICES

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## A Message from President/CEO, Sara Peperno

On behalf of our volunteers and staff, we are humbled to act as representatives in honoring the great work of the last 100 years during Northeast Sight Services' Centennial.

Beginning in 1918 as the Greater Wilkes-Barre Association for the Blind through the dream of one woman, who also happened to be blind, this organization has transformed itself year after year to meet the most pressing needs of those with vision impairments.

So much has happened in the last 100 years – like expanding our service area to include Wyoming, Wayne, and Pike Counties, but also learning lessons on how to better serve the people in our community, as we KNOW that so many people are unaware of the true scope of our services.

It was evident that many people were not seeking out our services when they heard the term "blind" or did not think to call us because they live beyond the Greater Wilkes-Barre Area.

Because of this, we were so very excited to announce in January that the organization changed its name and will enter its next century of service as "Northeast Sight Services."

We believe this name is a better indicator of the good work our organization does for local community residents. We believe that this name will encourage people who are adjusting to low vision to seek services to help them live more independently – and to most importantly, thrive!

Obviously, this is a huge undertaking. And we hope that you will join us in spreading the word about this change, as well as advance our work into 2018 and beyond.

We also ask that you participate in our Challenge Grant—to help us raise \$100,000 in 2018 to be here for the next 100!

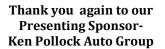


Northeast Sight Services 1825 Wyoming Avenue Exeter, PA 18643 570.693.3555 www.northeastsight.org

## Fifth Annual "Chip in for Sight" Golf Tournament June 5, 2017

Thank you to everyone who played in our 5th Annual Golf Tournament at Fox Hill Country Club! Thank you to all the golfers and sponsors. Because of you we were able to raise over \$42,000!

Be sure to Save the Date for the 6th ANNUAL TOURNAMENT on June 4, 2018!





Thanks to our Golf Tournament Committee

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## Annual Awards Dinner —October 19, 2017



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THANK YOU to all of our auction and dinner committee members.

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



## Past, Present and Future-

Where it all began...

On November 8, 1918, a small group of concerned citizens met in downtown Wilkes-Barre at the request of a young, **totally blind woman named Arline Phillips**. Her mission was to help other "blind persons help themselves." And so, the Wilkes-Barre Association for the Blind was born.

Arline pioneered the concept of free services to the blind in our region. Traveling the area, she visited blind and visually impaired persons in their homes, teaching them Braille and skills they needed to live independently.

A mission we are proud to continue to this very day!

"The blind need opportunity, not sympathy."

-Arline Phillips







It would be amazing for Arline to see where we are at today.

She would be thrilled with the fact that nearly 50 years ago another amazing, inventive woman developed our Prevention of Blindness program. Eilene Kaska realized the need for vision screenings in children entering kindergarten. Between both our children and adult vision screening programs, we are so proud that **we screened over 5,200** individuals in 2017.







"Thank you so much for the screening at WVCA (Wyoming Valley Children's Association). My husband and I had no idea Naomi needed glasses. Now that she has been examined and given a prescription for glasses her world will look so much clearer and brighter. Thanks again for all the work your Association does with our kids."

Laura M.

# -Always Moving Forward

There is also no doubt that Arline would be incredibly impressed by the fact her concept of free services to the visually impaired touched the lives of nearly 250 individuals this year with either an Initial Assessment for Adjustment to Vision Loss or for any range of In Home Support.

The way technology is changing the lives of the blind and visually impaired is probably something she could have never imagined.

Our brand new Vision Resource Center is full of amazing tools that enhance work, home life and leisure for people with vision loss.

In 2017, over 40 patients were evaluated through our Low Vision Clinic, resulting in just over 120 low vision aids being provided.

And 74 individuals visited our Low Vision Store, resulting in

the purchase of over

180 adaptive aid products.



"I absolutely love this machine, it's the only way I can read anymore. Thank you for being beyond nice and helping me not only obtain this device, but know it existed. I use it at least five days a week to read my mail and other information. I can't thank Gayle, Sara, Dr. Amy and Dr. Silvetti enough."

James H.



She also would surely be proud to see that our **InSight Kids Club of NEPA** has grown to include **60 absolutely amazing young people** in only two short years!!

Plus, the growth of our **Transition Assistance program** held during the 2016-2017 school year now includes **13 students** who will soon be ready for life after high school!

And she would have absolutely loved our Inaugural



kids club of NEPA





"I appreciate your programs from the bottom of my heart. They have made a huge difference in my son, Justin. Giving him peer support and others he can relate to has helped him both socially and mentally. He's now a part of something—something good for him and something he really enjoys!

Lauri—InSight Kids Club Parent

# Where we are going...

Early into our Centennial year, we've already developed and implemented new programming for our clients:

- The BluePrint: An Introduction to Orientation and Mobility and Vision Rehab Training—a 6 week session for those new to vision loss
- An 8-week Wellness and Fitness Challenge will also begin for interested clients in June
- Our Young Adult Program will kickoff for the first time in early May—an entirely new population that we are excited to engage
  - And so much more is planned!



2018

As we continue pursuing Arline's mission into the next Century, we need your continued support. Please continue to support us on this amazingly fulfilling journey!

Onto the next 100!



Celebrate

100

with a gift today!

Not many organizations can say they have been around for 100 years – but because of your support, we can.

We invite you to share in all our good work by joining us in our Centennial Challenge!!

We ask that you continue on this journey with us as we enter into the next century and help us reach our goal of \$100,000 with a gift today.

Learn more at northeastsight.org/centennial-challenge/

# How you can help!

**CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE** 

A shared vision for the future

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"We support Northeast Sight Services and the wonderful assistance they provide to those who are visually impaired. We are most proud of the fact that they help our local children and offer a vision screening to more than 5,000 kids each year at the surrounding daycares and pre-schools. We will continue to support Northeast Sight Services for years to come."

## Richard Saul Circle \$500-\$999

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"We support Northeast Sight Services because we can see our donation impacting our local community. The number of programs and services they provide is very impressive. We appreciate their passion for helping others and their dedication to improving the lives of our neighbors."



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"My father was a WWI Veteran and was passionate about supporting the Jewish Braille Assoc. in NYC. In addition, growing up I shared a room with my grandfather, who became totally blind during the last four years of his life. These experiences generated my desire to help provide assistance to the blind and visually impaired in my own community. It is extremely rewarding to know that your philanthropy and support of Northeast Sight Services has a very meaningful impact on the lives of many families in NEPA."

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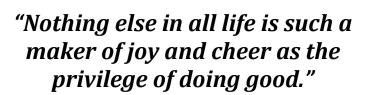
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"We support Northeast Sight Services because of their dedication and commitment to helping both blind and visually impaired children and members of the community."



- James Russell Miller



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"Degas said 'art is not about what you see, but what you make others see.' Having our program's photographers and Northeast Sight Services transition students work together has been a great collaboration. It has been an inspirational and educational experience to witness everyone working together."

A short stroll down memory lane...













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

## A special, heartfelt acknowledgement to all of our <u>first time givers</u>

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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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"I support to first give back to the community that has aided my family and second, to honor a young relative that is considered legally blind, but not blind."

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## GIFT OF SIGHT

The Gift of Sight program through the Marilyn Moore Maslow Vision Resource Center ensures that individuals in our local community have access to a basic eye exam, regardless of family income or insurance coverage.

Consistent with our goal of Preventing Blindness, this program provides improved vision that empowers adults and children to pursue a better quality of life for themselves and their communities. Local eye care professionals (ophthalmologists and optometrists) partner with the us in the Gift of Sight program by agreeing to waive their examination fee for qualifying patients.

In 2017, we were proud to partner with the following eye care professionals who were willing to provide basic eye exams for individuals in need.



Some of the participating optometrists and ophthalmologists were recognized on Sun., March 26, 2017 during the Annual Optometric Educational Conference held at Eye Care Specialists Rutter Avenue location in Kingston.

Robert Blasé, OD James Bozzuto, OD Patricia Butler, OD Carrie Cardillo, OD Adam Coffee, OD Diane DelRegno, OD Jeffrey Empfield, OD Shelley Eskin, OD David Evans, OD Darrell Evans, OD Gail Evans, OD Tara Farrell, OD Alan Frank, OD

Frank Gazda, OD Christina Gillow, OD Mark Grohol, OD Michael Havrilla, OD Joshua Hedaya, MD Bethany Jones, OD Erik Kruger, MD Robert Lloyd, OD Joseph Lombardi, OD Daniel Lutz, MD Patrick McGraw, MD Brian O'Donnell, OD

Amy Olex, OD Thomas Piccirilli. OD Harvey Reiser, MD Richard Roth, MD Patricia Russo, OD Donald Savage, MD Thomas Sharkey, MD Martha Shipe, OD Michael Soltysiak, OD Nina Taggert, MD Carl Urbanski, OD Donna McLaughlin, OD Tammy Warmouth, OD Michele Wasilauski, OD

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. In 2017, 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@northeastsight.org.

#### **Second Sight Legacy Society**

Anonymous(2)\* Marian D. Antellocv Michael Bibak Estate of Tom Bigler Nancy S. Brown\* Estate of Phyllis Canterini Estate of Anna Mae Carswell **Estate of Mary Caverly** Anna Cervenak\*

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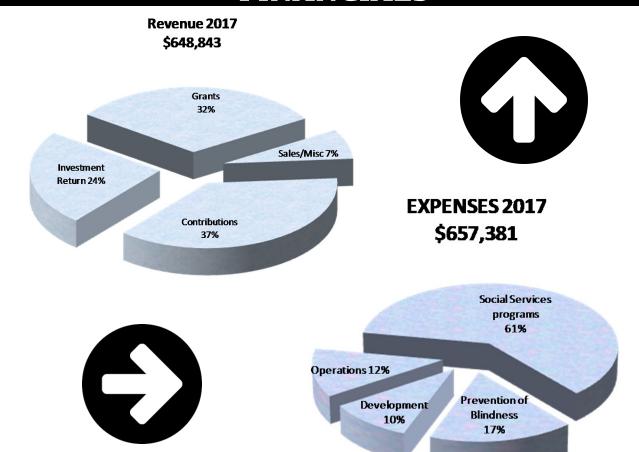
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\*founding members

## **FINANCIALS**



## VISION RESOURCE CENTER

Although the Vision Resource Center was officially unveiled in 2018, concept and construction began in 2017. Our revamped Vision Resource Center is a one-stop shop for practical tools that enhance work, home life and leisure for people with vision loss. We offer products designed to make everyday tasks easier such as:

- state-of-the-art reading magnifiers
- writing aids and computer programs
- specialized kitchen tools
- talking watches and clocks
- distance and high powered reading glasses
- and so much more!

Our staff can help you select the best aids for your needs. Choose from a number of unique items for all ages. We strongly suggest making an appointment to check out our store, so our Vision Resource Manager or Low Vision Doctor can help you select the best items to meet your needs.





— Since 1918 —

OUR VISION IS CLEAR: SIGHT LOSS SUPPORT & PREVENTION™

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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 connected to our mission by visiting northeastsight.org or calling 877-693-3555.

Be sure to "like" us on Facebook —

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