

# NORTHEAST SIGHT SERVICES

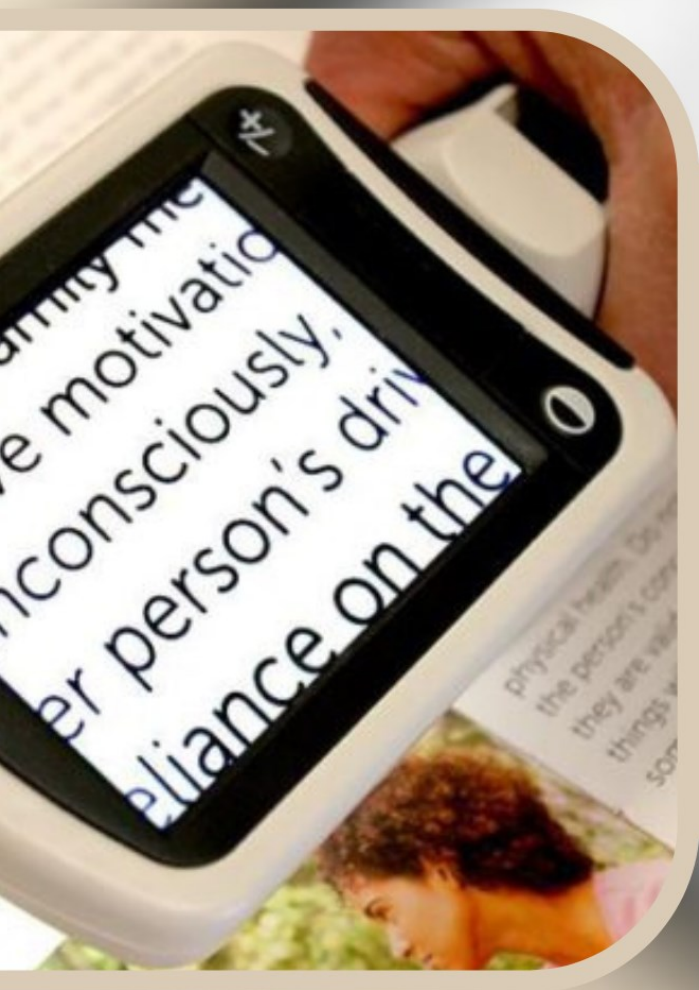
— Since 1918 —

OUR VISION IS CLEAR:  
SIGHT LOSS SUPPORT & PREVENTION™

# 2023

# ANNUAL REPORT

## ADJUSTING OUR FOCUS





# 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.*

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## Support Services

- Initial Evaluation and Referral
- In-Home Independent Living Support
- Educational and Social Events
- Vision Rehabilitation Therapy
- Assistive Technology
- Low Vision Clinic/Vision Resource Center

## Prevention of Blindness

- Children's Vision Screening
- Eye Health & Safety Education Programs
- Marilyn Moore Maslow Gift of Sight
  - Gift of Sight: Basic Eye Exam
  - Low Cost Prescription Eyeglasses

## InSight Kids' Club of NEPA

- Camp Sight
- Transitioning to Independence
- Monthly Children's Programs



Serving Luzerne, Wyoming, Wayne and Pike Counties

1825 Wyoming Ave., Exeter, PA 18643  
918 Church Road, Honesdale, PA 18431

[www.northeastsight.org](http://www.northeastsight.org)—[info@northeastsight.org](mailto:info@northeastsight.org)



# A Message from Our President/CEO

Dear Friends:

It is pretty remarkable that we're already reflecting back to 2023. Time certainly flies when you're having fun! And we have had the opportunity for so much fun this year—both with our clients and with our supporters.

2023 was getting “back to basics,” aligning ourselves again to the hallmarks and principles of what makes our organization great. This has allowed us to continue to impact our clients and the community in the way that Northeast Sight Services has done best for the past 100 years.

By focusing on our traditional programs, we have seen so many adults, children and families flourish, even with the challenges they face. Our current services have seen great growth and interest in 2023, and we are most especially excited for where that takes us in this new year.

We were also excited to offer different programs that attracted new partners and new clients to participate. A personal favorite of mine was the development of the MY Work program in our local area. This brought four high school students, who are visually impaired, together for the Summer to learn valuable workplace skills. Our partnership with the Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services and the City of Pittston was integral to the impact this experience had on these wonderful young adults.

We could not have done ANY of this without your support. And this is why we cannot thank you enough for all that you do for Northeast Sight Services and the local community.

We look forward to a successful 2024!



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Social Service Coordinator

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Director of Vision Resources  
and Programs

KRIS AHEARN

Youth Program Manager



# ADJUSTING OUR FOCUS

In 2023, we took some much needed time to readjust our focus on services and programs being offered to our blind and visually impaired clients.

The COVID 19 pandemic definitely hindered our vulnerable population from being part of group activities well after it was deemed safe. So we spent a lot of time in the past year developing programs to help us really feel connected again!

We were able to take clients to:

- participate in a walking group at Kirby Park
- find their zen through a series of yoga classes throughout the spring/summer
- shop the Wilkes-Barre Farmer’s Market and at Boscov’s Department Store
- jam out at the Rockin’ the River Concert Series along the Susquehanna River



We were especially excited about the growth in our Supper and Support Group. Clients meet once a month and prepare a meal together, utilizing Vision Rehabilitation skills, and share it over great conversation—typically disclosing things that are going on in their lives, things they need advice on or things they want to celebrate with their friends. It is a wonderfully unintimidating option for someone new to vision loss, and often new to our agency to meet peers in a casual, fun way.



**Northeast Sight Services proudly saw nearly 90 new clients this year. The opportunity to introduce them to quality services and programs was phenomenal.**

**We were also able to provide nearly 500 Independent In–Home Living Support Visits to clients in need.** Independent Living Support services are designed to assist clients with personal business that includes assistance with balancing checkbooks, handling correspondence, filing applications for benefits and other essential tasks. This allows our clients to remain living independently in their homes.

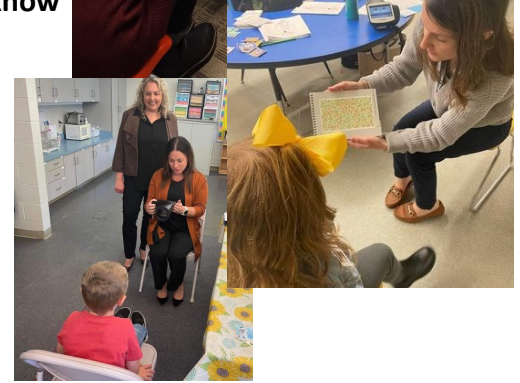


Learn more about how you or someone you know might benefit from Independent In–Home Support, by visiting [www.northeastsight.org](http://www.northeastsight.org).

One of our favorite programs year after year continues to thrive. Our Children's Vision Screenings help detect potential vision and eye health problems, often before symptoms are even noticed, for thousands of children in our service areas.

This year, we screened nearly 1,000 children for color blindness, which is a service most don't realize we provide with our screenings. And although there is no cure for color blindness, it is helpful for both parents and teachers to know in order to create visual cues for students to have a supportive learning environment.

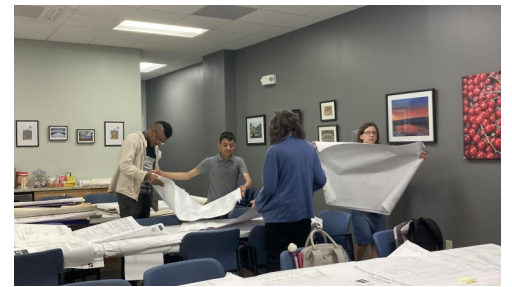
All of our Children's Vision Screenings are free of charge and have been for over 50 years due to the generosity of individuals, like you. You understand just how important this service is to the children who attend these daycares, pre-schools and Kindergarten Registrations where we have the privilege to complete these screenings.



A new program that we were able to partner on this year was MY Work. MY Work was a collaboration with the City of Pittston and the Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services.

We were so excited to help offer this incredible opportunity to four young local students who spent four weeks working at various jobs in Pittston City. The students got to experience different job locations including: Pittston City Hall, the Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce and the Pittston Memorial Library.

These young adults had an amazing summer meeting new people, working on a variety of different projects, and helping their community while participating in MY Work. We are thrilled to have the chance to replicate the program in Wilkes-Barre City in the Summer of 2024 and cannot wait to keep watching it grow!



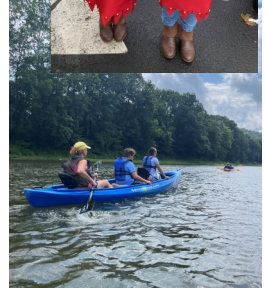
*"By working in this program, I got to show people that even if you are blind, you can do anything."*

Anthony Basilio  
Wilkes-Barre



Our Insight Kids Club of NEPA had another fantastic year helping children who are blind and visually impaired make connections, learn new things and most importantly, have fun!

Nearly 50 children participated again in 2023—enjoying so many fun activities, like our Beeping Egg Hunt, a Halloween costume Party, a Holiday Parade and lots of other fun activities.



Our **Summer with InSight** was another hit during the summer season for all who participated. We had a great kick off to the summer program with a trip to the DaVinci Science Center in Allentown. Camp Sight followed for two weeks in mid July where an energetic group of kids enjoyed goat yoga, art classes, kayaking, day trips to the Dietrich Theatre for pottery and music lessons and Hillside Farms to learn about animals and enjoy some ice cream, a scavenger hunt through

downtown Pittston and so much more!



Summer Day Camp for Blind and Visually Impaired Youth

# 10th Annual Chip in for Sight Golf Tournament

On Monday, June 12th, we hosted our 10th Annual Chip in for Sight Golf Tournament at Wyoming Valley Country Club. We proudly raised over \$45,000 to support our programs and services! Part of this amount was due to our 10th Anniversary Ball Drop—where we sold golf balls for a chance to win \$2,500 in cash—the sold golf balls were then dropped from atop a bucket truck with lucky #3 coming closest to the hole!! Congratulations to our winner, Holly Pilcavage!!

Thank you so much again to our Presenting Sponsor, Ken Pollock Auto Group, as well as all of our other incredible sponsors, volunteers, golfers and committee members who made this day so fantastic!

## 2023 Chip in for Sight Golf Committee

- |                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| William Beekman           | Matthew McNelis, CPA, Co-Chair |
| Christie Bonnice          | Jeffrey Mutchler               |
| Melissa Caprari           | Whitney Pollock                |
| Jessica Cronauer          | Mike Sowinski, Esq.            |
| Lindsay Griffin-Boylan    | Cheryl Summa                   |
| Joshua D. Katyl, Co-Chair | Mallory Strubeck               |
| Morgan Molesevich         | Alison Zurawski                |



# Annual Awards Dinner

We hosted our Annual Awards Dinner on Thursday, October 26th at the Woodlands Resort. As usual, this is one of the best nights of the year for our organization. We were able to incorporate all of our programming into this year's ceremony—highlighting all of the amazing work we are able to do because of your support!

The Annual Awards Dinner was a true testament to the life changing programs we are able to provide, as well as to the amazing individuals and organizations we honored:

## Building Blocks Learning Center

recipient of the Marion Pollock Community Partnership Award, sponsored by Community Bank, NA

## Regional Chambers of Commerce

(Back Mountain, Greater Pittston Area, Greater Wyoming Valley and Wyoming County)

recipient of the Distinguished Community Service Award, sponsored by McCarthy Tire

## Jill F. Schwartz

recipient of the Golden Anna Cervenak Community Impact Award, sponsored by Dr. Brian O'Donnell/New Era Eye Care

## Coleman Plecker

recipient of the Arline Phillips Achievement Award, sponsored by Eye Care Specialists

## 2023 Awards Dinner and Auction Committee

Christie Bonnice	Kathleen Lambert
Sarah Borland, Esq.	Amanda Murdock
Melissa Caprari	Lauren Pluskey McLain
Cheryl Connolly	Cheryl Summa
Angelo DeCesaris	Linda Tessier
Lois Gelb	April Vinciarelli
Lindsay Griffin-Boylan	
Danielle Hawley, CPA	
Joshua D. Katyl	



# Wyoming Valley Run

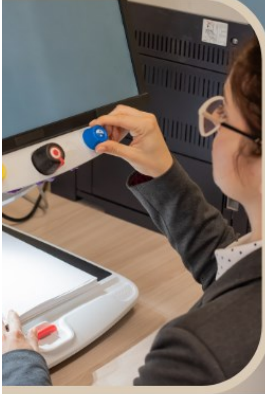
The Wyoming Valley Run has been in the works for years—planning to have their first race in 2020 when COVID-19 unfortunately had other plans. But they hit the road running, literally, in 2023—inviting Northeast Sight Services to be an integral part of the planning process—as well as to be one of the five beneficiaries of this incredible 10 mile inclusive road race.

Over 1,000 participants (including some of our very own staff) started in downtown Pittston on Sunday, September 3, 2023 and made their way running, walking or handcycling down Wyoming Avenue through Exeter (right past our building, which served as a water station thanks to some of our staff and volunteers), Wyoming, Forty Fort and Kingston before crossing the finish line on Public Square in Wilkes-Barre. It was such an incredible day!

Be sure to save the date for this year's race on Sunday, September 1, 2024!

We are so lucky to be a beneficiary again this year!!





# OUR SUPPORTERS KEEPING US IN THE CLEAR

## Diamond Circle (\$10,000 +)

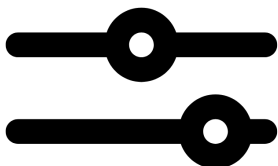
Joseph B. & Virginia H. Banks Foundation  
The Maslow Family Foundation  
United Way of Wyoming County  
Paul D. Wasserott Foundation

## Gold Circle (\$5,000-\$9,999)

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Community Bank N.A.  
Eye Care Specialists  
Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield  
Ken Pollock Auto Group  
McCarthy Tire Service  
New Era Eye Care  
Shep Pawling  
Allen Producers  
Chris and Tom Pugh

## Silver Circle (\$2,500-\$4,999)

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Building Blocks Learning Center  
Dyller & Solomon Law  
Danielle and Drew Hawley  
PPL Electric Utilities, Inc.  
Mr. Matthew T. Pugh  
April and Baldino Vinciarelli



## Bronze Circle (\$1,000-\$2,499)

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Gene Zablotney



*“Northeast Sight Services has made such a great impact on our students and families at Building Blocks Learning Center over the years. Through the Vision Screening program, I’ve seen the direct effect that this has on the children who need glasses and the positive outcomes that result from these early screenings. I can’t thank everyone enough at Northeast Sight Services for their dedication to these young children and helping them succeed as students in school.”*

**Allison Ritsick**  
Wilkes-Barre

**Marilyn Moore Maslow Circle**  
**(\$250-\$499)**

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Cheryl and David Summa

Mallory and Joe Strubeck

*“Northeast Sight Services empowers individuals with visual impairments by providing them with the necessary resources, skills, and support to lead independent and fulfilling lives. By assisting them, we enable personal growth, enhance inclusivity, and help break down barriers and we are honored to play a small part in helping bring their mission to light.”*

**Christie and Jesse Bonnice**  
Dallas



Trade Eastern Inc.

The Times Leader

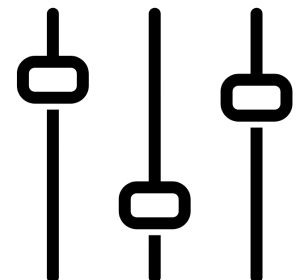
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## Century Circle (\$100-\$249)

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Ms. Sharon Yarowavich  
Atty. Sandor Yelen  
Ali and Brian Zurawski



*"Northeast Sight Services provides essential and effective services to the visually impaired people in our community-helping to brighten their days and advocate effectively for their needs. We are honored to support this most important organization in its work to help the visually impaired lead happy and productive lives."*

**Gerry O'Donnell**  
Shavertown

## Friends (Up to \$99)

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Ms. Bonnie Miner  
Miners Mills Triangle Club  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Nardone  
Mary Noble  
Ms. Christina Nordmark  
Mr. and Mrs. Terrance O'Brien  
Joanne Olejnick

*"We are so proud to support Northeast Sight Services in fulfilling their mission to positively impact the lives of Pennsylvanians with visual impairments. Their leadership, board members, and community are committed to fulfilling their mission and their impact is so greatly prevalent in hearing the stories of those whose lives have been changed from the services that Northeast Sight Services provides. It's an honor to be a part of a mission that is so important to the community and ensures that those impacted by their services are able to improve their quality of life."*

**Kristyn and Gary Howell**  
**North Abington Township**



OneHope  
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Bob and Sheryl Phillips  
Claudia Piczak  
Linda and Guy Pilosi  
Patricia Podesta  
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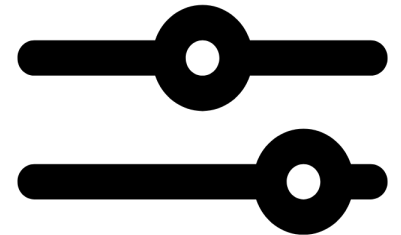
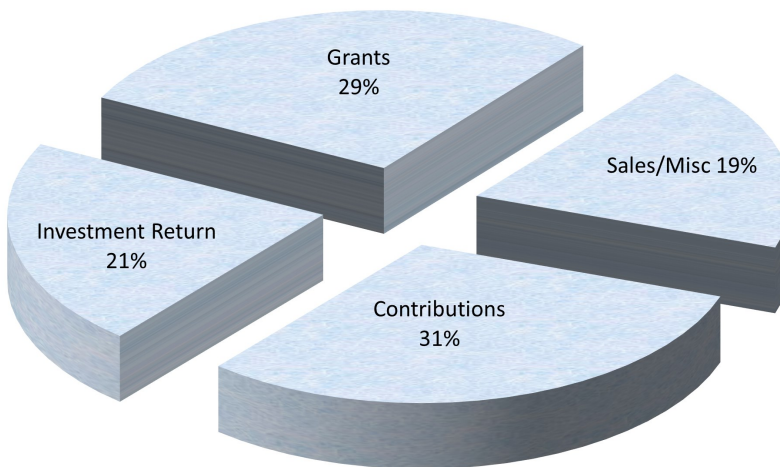
Ginny and Vincent Zdanowicz  
 Dennis and Karen Zeveney

*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.*

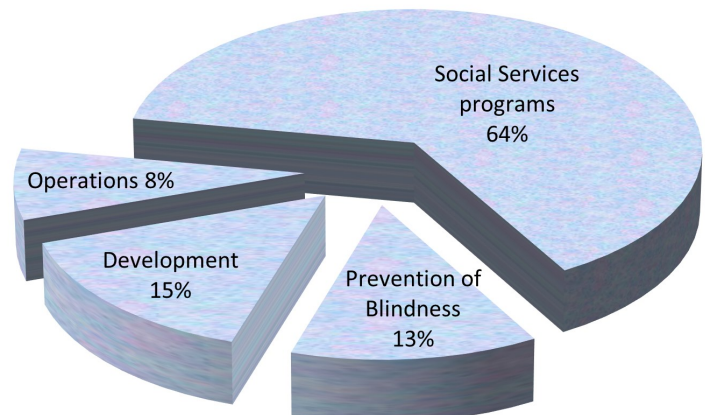
# 2023 FINANCIALS



## REVENUE 2023 \$776,277



## EXPENSES 2023 \$757,208



\*Revenues and Expenses estimated, pending 2023 Year-End Audit

Abide Coffeehouse  
 Age of Innocence  
 The Atrium Restaurant  
 AV Restaurant & Lounge  
 The Beekeeper's Daughter  
 Borland & Borland, LLP  
 Chef's Corner  
 Coal Creative Inc.  
 Dietrich Theater  
 DiscoverNEPA  
 Janelle Drach  
 Duchess Outlet  
 Eye Care Specialists  
 Amy George Feldman  
 The F.M. Kirby Center  
 for the Performing Arts  
 Fort Cafe  
 Geisinger Health Systems  
 Gemino's Handcrafted Jewelry  
 Greater Wyoming Valley  
 Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Wyoming Valley YMCA  
 Sarah Hennes  
 Humphrey's Bootery and Bags  
 J&L Coffeehouse  
 Lamar Outdoor Advertising  
 McCarthy Tire and  
 Automotive Service  
 Mia Bella's Gourmet Products  
 Matthew McNelis, CPA  
 In Loving Memory of  
 Francis "Yogi" Michael  
 NEPA StretchWorx  
 Osterhout Free Library

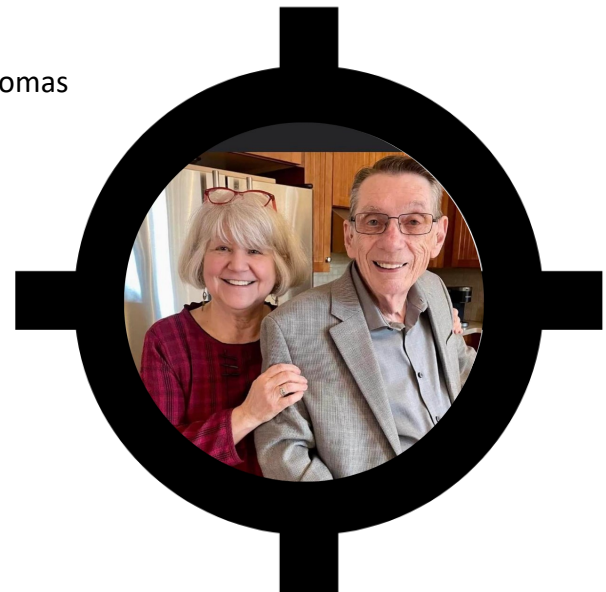
Darlene Pearson  
 Pennsylvania Harness Horsemen's  
 Association  
 Pennsylvania State University  
 Wilkes-Barre  
 Planterly Flowers  
 Pro Rehabilitation Services  
 Red Leaf Salad Company  
 River Grille  
 Rodano's  
 Rossi's Market  
 Salerno's Cafe  
 Sallavanti Aesthetic Medicine  
 Scranton Cultural Center  
 Shooze  
 Simon & Co Jewelers  
**Lissa Bryan and Dick Smith**  
 Sugar Plum Chocolates  
 Sundance Vacations  
 Susquehanna Brewing Company  
 The Times Leader  
 James Thomas and Marie Roke-Thomas  
 Union and Main  
 April and Baldino Vinciarelli  
 Wegmans  
 Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins  
 The Woodhouse Day Spa  
 Wyoming County  
 Chamber of Commerce  
 Wyoming Valley Country Club  
 Paul Yakimowicz  
 Ali and Brian Zurawski

*"When I moved to the Wyoming Valley in 2005, I thought the "Blind Association" was just that – a place for people that were blind or nearly blind. I attended their fundraisers because they had a dedicated Board that I respected but my commitment and attention span ended at that point. Then they changed their name to Northeast Sight Services and I wanted to know, 'why.'*

*Wow! I now know that they are so much more than I thought. They still are there 110% for people who are visually impaired but also for anyone who has vision loss which may hinder their quality of life. Game changer. They offer so much for those with low vision – not to mention all of their Prevention services.*

*We are so blessed to have this amazing organization in our Northeast community."*

**Lissa Bryan and Dick Smith  
 Wilkes-Barre**



**IN KIND DONORS  
 BRINGING BACK OUR FOCUS**

# A TRIBUTE TO LOU



Amongst all the wonderful things that happened in 2023, our hearts here at Northeast Sight Services broke a little when long time supporter, board member and volunteer Louis F. Goeringer passed away on November 21.

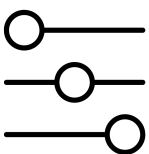
Lou graduated from Wyoming Seminary and Villanova University. After completing training in the Marine Corps, Lou was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant and promoted to 1st Lieutenant 18 months later.

In 1957, he started working full-time for Bertels Metalware Co. in Kingston, PA, eventually becoming President/CEO. During his 50-year tenure at Bertels, the company grew from a small metal ware business to an international can company manufacturing decorative cans for the snack food industry and industrial cans for the lard and shortening trade.

In addition to Lou's business interests, he was truly community-minded, serving for over 20 years on the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors and serving as Commissioner for 40 years on the Luzerne County Housing Authority. He served on the Board of the Luzerne Foundation for over 25 years. At Misericordia University, Lou had been a member of the President's Council, head of the Theatre 3 Campaign, chair of the Annual Fund, and was elected to serve on the Board of Trustees. He was the past vice president of the Wyoming Seminary Alumni Association and was a two-term Treasurer of the Bear Creek Village Association. He served on the Villanova University Alumni Board of Governors, was the past President of the Northeastern PA Alumni Society, and received the Alumni Medal for Outstanding Service.

Lou served for over 30 years on our Board of Directors, in each officer capacity, including Chairman, and served on the Board of Trustees since its inception. He adored our Camp Sight program, sponsoring it and attending the wrap-up festivities each year. He and his wife, Florence were honored by Northeast Sight Services in 2016 with the Distinguished Community Service Award. Lou received the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Northeastern PA's Lifetime Achievement Award just days before his passing – he had been nominated by our Vice President of Development and Planned Giving, Amy Feldman.

A lifetime of commitment, dedication, and support to this organization-there will never be another like Lou. We were blessed to have him be a part of our lives and support this agency so passionately. He is missed tremendously and we will never forget his legacy.





# Vision Forever

**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.

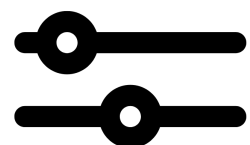
## Second Sight Members

Jeanette Akers	Arthur Evans	Joseph Hirsch	Bernadine Marich	Ariadne Sherrard
Mary Antellocy	Naomi Evans	Marie Jackson	Alice Marsh	Mary Silvinski
Audrey Atwater	I. Eric Feldman	Carolyn Jacob	Marie McCarthy	Susan Sinzduk
Anna Baker	Angeline Ferrugiari	Mildred Johnson	Eugene McGroarty	Jessie Smith
Tom Bigler	Dwight Fisher	Rachel Jones	Hannah Mendelssohn	Robert Smith
Anna Brennan	Minonette Fisher	William Jones	Elizabeth Meyers	Florence Stapleton
Ida Brenner	Rosamond Fisher	George Kazimer	Helen Molitoris	Dolores Troskoski
Anne Bryant	Elizabeth Fowler	Elizabeth Kovach	Meurita Moran	Walter VanLoon
Phyllis Canterini	Ida Frank	Helene Kretchik	Richard Oswald	Isabel Voeste
Anna Mae Carswell	Kathryn Gallagher	Leroy Landau	Elizabeth Post	Kathryn Wakefield
James Cartwright	Thomas Gambold	Phoebe Landon	Grace Post	Elizabeth S. Walter
Mary Caverly	John Haertter	Susan Latimer	Gertrude Prynn	Ethel Rolfe Wright
Florence Cohen	Mary Hartwell	Reuben Levy	Rose Rodda	George Wright
Nancy Abbott Cohen	Margaret Haupt	Joseph Leyba	Nathan Schiowitz	Martha Yeager
Evelia Comer	Caroline Hauze	Jason Lepa	Katharine Schroeder	Frances Zemenski
Hazel Dougherty	Catharine Heyer	Lillian Lottman	Marianna Schwab	

## Second Sight Promises

Michael Bibak	Gary and Katie Lambert	Bessie Renowden
Mary Caverly	Stanley Lewondowski	Tom Robinson
Rosalie Cohen	Margaret Monforte	Durelle and Connie Scott
Mary Erwine	Dr. Brian and Marcy O'Donnell	Jill Schwartz
Louis Goeringer	Leigh Pawling	Robert and Mina Stanley
Richard M. Goldberg, Esq.	Shep Pawling	Bobbie Steever
Chris and Ramah Hackett	Ron Petrilla	Caroline Youngman
Melanie Maslow-Kern	Chris and Tom Pugh	

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).





# NORTHEAST SIGHT SERVICES

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PRESENTING SPONSOR  
Ken **POLLOCK**  
auto group

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For more info or  
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of Wyoming County

