

# NORTHEAST SIGHT SERVICES

Since 1918

OUR VISION IS CLEAR:  
SIGHT LOSS SUPPORT & PREVENTION™

# 2025

# ANNUAL REPORT



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE *President/CEO*

As I reflect on the past year at Northeast Sight Services, I'm filled with both pride and gratitude. This has truly been a year of growth, momentum, and meaningful impact.


Because of your support, we have expanded our reach, strengthened our programs, and continued to meet individuals exactly where they are by providing the support, tools, training, and confidence needed to live independently with vision loss. We also remained deeply committed to our prevention work with our Children's Vision Screening program, helping to identify concerns early on before issues arise.

None of this work would be possible without YOUR INCREDIBLE SUPPORT and the many ways you give to Northeast Sight Services, whether it be through your time, talent, or treasure. Your commitment fuels everything we do.

Together, we are not only continuing a legacy of service that spans more than a century now, but we are also building a future filled with greater accessibility, opportunity, and independence for those we serve.

Thank you for being part of this important work. Stay tuned for more exciting initiatives to come! THANK YOU for being a part of our family here at Northeast Sight Services!

With gratitude,

  
Amy George Feldman  
President/CEO



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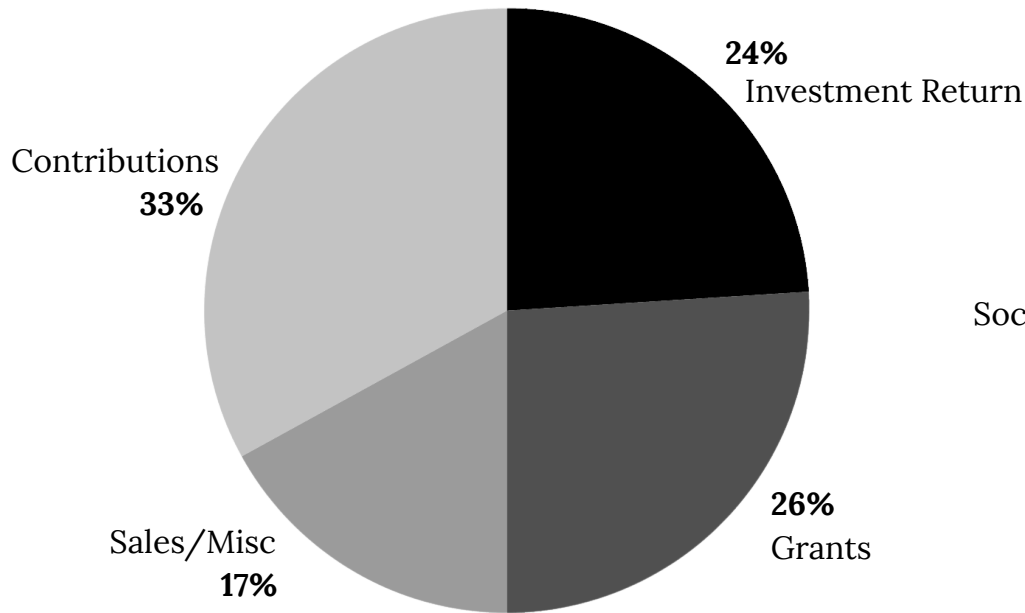
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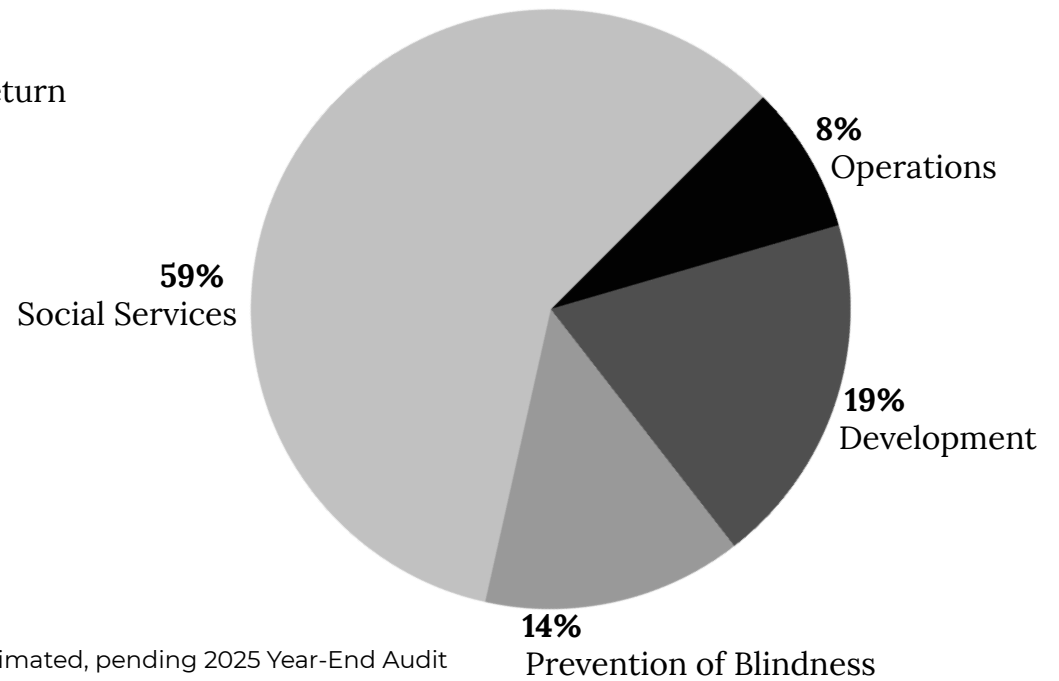
Youth Program Manager

# FINANCIALS

## 2025 Revenue - \$824,407



## 2025 Expenses- \$823,434



\*Revenues and Expenses estimated, pending 2025 Year-End Audit

The mission of the 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.

## SERVING LUZERNE, WYOMING, WAYNE AND PIKE COUNTIES

### 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 Screenings
- 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



Find us on the following



1825 Wyoming Ave, Exeter, PA 18643  
 918 Church St, Honesdale, PA 18431  
 570-693-3555  
 Toll Free 1-877-693-3555  
[www.NortheastSight.org](http://www.NortheastSight.org)  
[info@northeastsight.org](mailto:info@northeastsight.org)

## Support Services

At Northeast Sight Services, our Support Services create meaningful connections and empower our clients to live independently—thanks to the generosity of our donors. Your contributions make it possible for our team to provide personalized, one-on-one support that truly changes lives. For many of our rural clients, in-home visits are more than assistance—they are a lifeline, helping them maintain independence, stay safe at home, and feel supported even when distance or mobility challenges make daily life difficult.

Donor support also fuels programs that bring clients together, from educational workshops and technology trainings to social events. It enables access to assistive devices at our Vision Resource Center and extends our reach through our mobile Vision Resource Center, bringing resources directly into neighborhoods. Every gift, every contribution, helps us create opportunities for learning, growth, and community, ensuring our clients can live with confidence, independence, and connection.



**50**

**Education and Social Events**

creating community for our clients

**32**

**eyeglasses provided**

through the Marilyn Moore Maslow Gift of Sight Program

**1,132**

**Independent In-Home Living Support visits**

empowering clients to maintain their independence and live safely at home

**1**

**Mobile Vision Resource Center**

providing access to clients in rural areas

# A Legacy of Giving, A Future of Impact

For Jill Fortinsky Schwartz, supporting Northeast Sight Services is more than philanthropy — it is a deeply personal commitment to strengthening the community and helping others live with dignity and independence. She became actively involved in 2013, motivated by a desire to honor her family's connection to the organization and continue its spirit of service.

“I wanted to carry on my mother and father's legacy,” she says.

Since then, Jill has dedicated her time, leadership, and financial support through service on both the Northeast Sight Services and the Wyoming Valley Foundation for the Blind Boards. Her involvement reflects a belief that access to essential services should never determine whether someone can live independently, participate in their community, or pursue their goals. She believes strongly that individuals with disabilities should be able to live their lives as normally as possible — and she sees Northeast Sight Services as a vital partner in making that possible for people who are blind or visually impaired.

“It's an honor to be able to provide services to the community that they might not have,” she explains, noting how meaningful it is to see the impact of that support.

While she says it is difficult to single out one defining experience, what stays with her most are the stories of lives changed — especially those involving children gaining confidence, skills, and independence.

She has also witnessed the organization expand its reach into new counties, bringing critical support to families who might otherwise go without it. For Jill, this growth represents more than numbers — it reflects increased opportunity, inclusion, and hope across the region.

Her perspective is shaped by a broader understanding of disability advocacy. Having taught individuals who are deaf, she knows how transformative it can be when people are given the tools to advocate for themselves, participate fully in society, and live with confidence.

Through her generosity, leadership, and unwavering commitment to carrying forward her family's legacy, Jill Fortinsky Schwartz is helping ensure that children and adults who are blind or visually impaired have access to the resources they need to thrive. And in doing so, she offers a powerful reminder: one person's decision to give can open the door to independence for countless others.



# YOUR IMPACT

## Prevention and Education

Roni attends Head Start, where Northeast Sight Services provides vision screenings for children in their program. Her mom, Sabrina, had been told in the past that Roni may have had a vision issue since birth, but without clear answers, she did not realize there was a problem. The vision screening provided clarity. It revealed that Roni needed glasses, something her family had not expected but was relieved to finally understand.

Sabrina shared that she was ecstatic the screening caught something that had gone unnoticed for so long. Knowing her daughter's vision needs were identified early brought peace of mind. With the right support in place, Roni is now better able to focus, learn, and experience the world around her.

Thanks to the generosity of individuals like you these Children's Vision Screenings and Eye Health and Safety Programs are offered completely free of charge. Your support ensures that children in daycares, preschools, and at kindergarten registrations receive these critical services, helping set them up for success in and out of the classroom.



**6,063**

**children's vision screenings**

to help detect potential vision and eye health issues

**906**

**children educated**

on age-appropriate information and tools to prevent vision loss

**1,198**

**color blindness screenings**

early detection can help foster a more supportive learning environment





## By the numbers:

- 45 children served
- 20 engaging programs offered
- 2 family support groups held

## Highlights included:

- Adaptive horseback riding at Guiding Light Ridge
- A fall pumpkin patch trip
- A beeping egg hunt
- Adaptive sports outings
- Hands-on technology training
- Art, fitness, and volunteer activities



## Transitioning to Independence

### By the numbers:

- 8 participants served
- 19 educational and skill-building programs

### Highlights included:

- Higher education experiences at King's College, Wilkes University, and Luzerne County Community College
- A healthcare careers visit to Geisinger
- A financial literacy workshop at Community Bank
- Job shadowing at inclusive workplaces such as Coffee Inclusive, The Greater Wyoming Valley Chamber of Commerce, and Coal Creative.

### Areas of focus included:

- Independent living skills
- Workplace readiness
- Assistive technology
- Financial literacy
- Self-advocacy

# EVENTS

## Chip in for Sight

Our 12th Annual Chip in for Sight Golf Tournament was made possible by the incredible generosity of our sponsors, golfers, and volunteers, who came together for a memorable day on the course. It may have been a rainy day, but spirits remained high and participants embraced the fun, camaraderie, and friendly competition that make this event a favorite each year.

Highlights included exciting on-course contests, raffles, and a standout moment when Kevin Kosakowski (pictured in the bottom right photo) sank the 50-foot putt to win \$10,000 – a shot that had everyone cheering.

Thank you to Ken Pollock Auto Group for continuing as our Presenting Sponsor. We are deeply grateful to everyone who participated, sponsored, or supported the tournament. Your enthusiasm and commitment continue to make this event a success **raising over \$50,000** to strengthen our mission throughout the community.



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Save the Date:  
June 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> 2026

### 2025 Giving Day Campaigns

31  
donors

\$5,404  
dollars raised

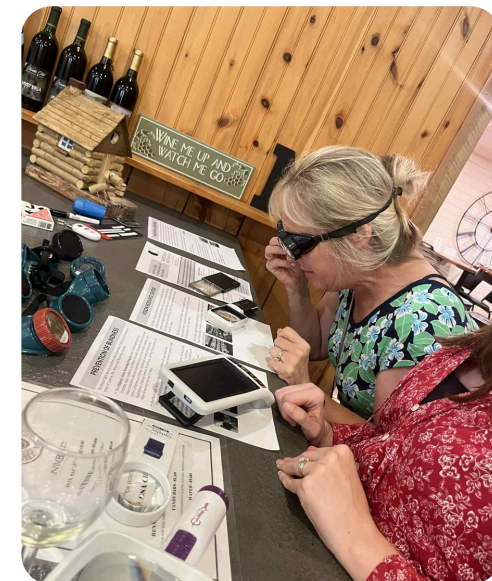


Save the Date:  
December 1<sup>st</sup> 2026

## Sip for Sight

In August, Northeast Sight Services hosted its inaugural Sip for Sight event at Nimble Hill Winery, bringing together supporters for an evening of community, conversation, and commitment to our mission. The event offered a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere while raising awareness and funds to support individuals who are blind or visually impaired across our region.

The success of our first Sip for Sight affirmed the power of gathering with purpose. We look forward to returning to Nimble Hill Winery on April 23rd for our next event and are excited to expand the series with an additional Sip for Sight in Luzerne County on August 6th. Location details will be announced this spring.



## Wyoming Valley Run

Since its inception, Northeast Sight Services has been proud to be a beneficiary of the Wyoming Valley Run. As one of the few nonprofits to benefit from this event, we are grateful for the continued support of the organizers and participants alike. Each year, our staff, clients, and volunteers cheer on runners at our water station in front of our office—a favorite tradition that allows us to engage directly with the community while supporting this incredible event. We love being part of the energy and excitement of the run, and we deeply appreciate everyone who makes it possible. Save the date for September 6th, 2026!

## Annual Awards Dinner



On October 22nd, we hosted our 20th Annual Awards Dinner at the Woodlands Resort, bringing together community members, supporters, and advocates to celebrate the work and impact of our organization. The evening recognized individuals and organizations whose dedication has made a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve by **raising over \$130,000**.

This year, we honored:

- **Kayla Penzone** – Arline Phillips Achievement Award, sponsored by Eye Care Specialists
- **Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield** – Marion Pollock Community Partnership Award, sponsored by McCarthy Tire Service
- **James Brogna** – Golden Anna Cervenak Community Impact Award, sponsored by Community Bank, N.A.
- **John Yudichak** – Distinguished Community Service Award, sponsored by Dr. Brian O'Donnell/New Era Eye Care
- **Nanci Romanyshyn** – Visionary Advocate Award, sponsored by a Generous Supporter

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# A Kitchen Renovated with Heart and Leadership



At Northeast Sight Services, our accessibility kitchen is more than a place to cook, it is where clients build confidence, learn essential daily living skills, and take meaningful steps toward independence. Through an incredible partnership with a Leadership Northeast team, the space was completely transformed.

The Kitchen Aides team—Yesenia Cosme, Michelle Elias, Matthew Gabriel, Josh Gorton, Tina Kosloski, Neil Prisco, and Nour Elbattah Wijahat, with guidance from advisor Jaclyn Reisser—selected Northeast Sight Services for their community project and worked to reimagine the kitchen as an accessible learning environment. With a generous donation from Wren Kitchens, they helped bring that vision to life.



Thoughtful planning and design have resulted in a safer, more functional space where clients can practice cooking, explore adaptive tools, and gain confidence in daily tasks. We celebrated the completed renovation with an open house in August, welcoming supporters and community members to see the transformation firsthand. We are deeply grateful to the Kitchen Aides team and Wren Kitchens for their lasting investment in our mission. Every skill learned and every meal prepared in this space will carry their impact forward.

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## Honoring a Life of Service

Northeast Sight Services mourns the passing of Ronald Petrilla, Ph.D., former Executive Director whose 35 years of leadership helped shape the organization into the regional resource it is today. From 1978 to 2013, he guided the Hazleton and Greater Wilkes-Barre Associations for the Blind through a period of growth, expanding programs, partnerships, and services across Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Dr. Petrilla believed deeply in education, collaboration, and creating opportunities for people with vision loss to live independent, fulfilling lives. His legacy endures in the strong foundation he built and in the countless individuals and families who continue to benefit from his vision and dedication.



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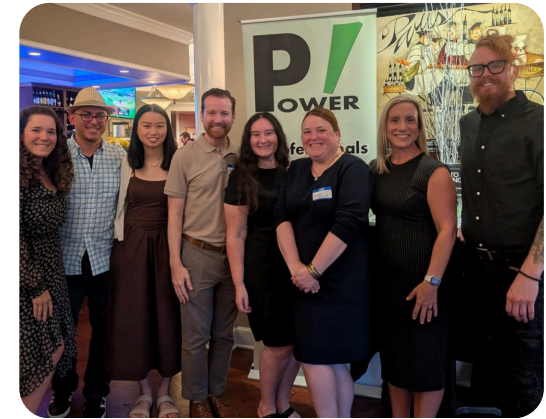
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Bistro 174  
Atty. Sarah L. Borland  
Cafe Apizza  
Chacko's Family Bowling Center  
Chef's Corner  
Clubhouse 315  
Coffee Inclusive  
Ms. Cheryl Connolly  
Cumulus Media  
DiscoverNEPA powered by Mericle  
Dr. Melanie DeMichele  
D's Diner  
Duchess Outlet  
Eye Care Specialists  
Floral Designs  
Geisinger Health Systems  
Gemino's Handcrafted Jewelry  
Greater Wyoming Valley Chamber of  
Commerce  
Greater Wyoming Valley YMCA  
Headstrong Hair  
Helen's Collective  
Hotel Wayne  
Humphrey's Bootery and Bags

# 2025 DONORS

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 James Thomas and Marie Roke-Thomas

Top of the 80's  
 Touch of Eyelet  
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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 Janelle Rushton at 570-693-3555 x223 or [janelle@northeastsight.org](mailto:janelle@northeastsight.org)

# Support Our Mission

## Make a One-Time Gift

Whether you make a one-time gift or become a monthly supporter, your donation funds essential programs and services for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Monthly giving provides steady, reliable support year-round.

## Sponsor an Event

Support signature events while gaining visibility for your business or organization. Sponsorships help fund programs such as Camp Sight, vision screenings, and family services.

## Volunteer Your Time

Share your skills and compassion by assisting with programs, events, administrative projects, or community outreach. Volunteers make our work possible.

## Legacy Gifts

Include Northeast Sight Services in your will, trust, or beneficiary designations to create a lasting impact for future generations.

## Advocate & Share

Help expand our reach by sharing our mission with friends, family, and colleagues or connecting us with potential partners.



Visit  
[northeaststight.org](http://northeaststight.org)  
for more information  
or scan the QR code!



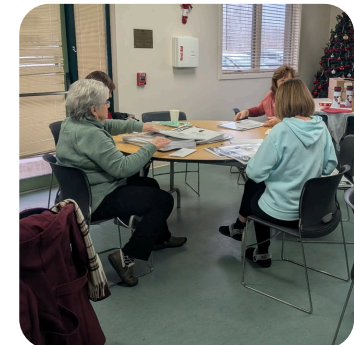
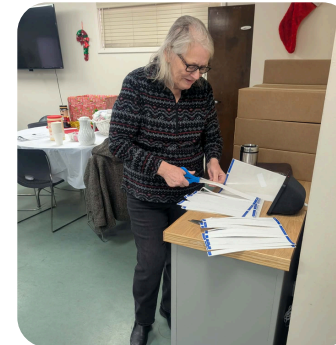
## Service in Action

Financial support fuels our mission.  
Volunteerism brings it to life.

Each year, dedicated community members share their time, talent, and energy to ensure our clients feel supported, celebrated, and connected. Their hands-on involvement strengthens our programs in ways that go far beyond financial contributions.

We are especially grateful to the General Federation of Women's Clubs - West Side for their continued partnership with Northeast Sight Services. From assisting at client events and supporting program activities to preparing large mailings and helping behind the scenes, their members consistently step in wherever help is needed.

Their commitment reflects the very best of community service. Through their involvement, they help create experiences that foster connection, dignity, and belonging for the individuals and families we serve. If you are interested in volunteering, you can reach out to Gayle at (570) 693-3555 x.228 or [gayle@northeaststight.org](mailto:gayle@northeaststight.org).



# Grant Partners Making a Difference

Grant funding enables Northeast Sight Services to extend critical services beyond our walls and into the communities we serve – ensuring that children, adults, and older adults have access to the vision care, education, and tools they need to live safely and independently.



## Helping Children See – and Succeed

In partnership with the See to Succeed initiative, Northeast Sight Services works alongside the United Way of Wyoming Valley to bring vision care directly into local schools. Youth Program Manager Kris Ahearn conducts screenings using advanced Spot® Vision Screener technology to identify students who may be experiencing vision challenges. Students who do not pass the screening are seen by a licensed optometrist for a comprehensive eye exam in the school setting and those who are prescribed glasses get them within two weeks at school, eliminating barriers to care, like transportation. We are so proud to partner with See to Succeed to help make these services accessible to children who might otherwise go without the vision care they need.



## In-Home Support Services for Rural Clients

Funding from the United Way of Wyoming County enables Northeast Sight Services to provide personalized, in-home support to older adults living in rural communities. For seniors facing transportation barriers, isolation, or the challenges of vision loss, these one-on-one visits offer practical training, home safety strategies, and trusted guidance delivered right in their own homes. This partnership helps ensure Wyoming County's older residents can remain independent, safe, and confident while aging in place.



## Bringing Services Where They're Needed Most

Support from the United Way of Lackawanna, Wayne and Pike Counties helped Northeast Sight Services take our Vision Resource Center on the road, bringing assistive technology demonstrations and educational resources directly to those who will most benefit from it. By meeting people where they are, this outreach expands access and connects individuals and families with services and tools they might otherwise never discover.



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

## Second Sight Promises

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



Vision Forever

## Guiding Futures Through Legacy Giving

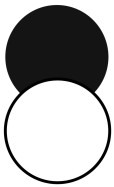
When Katheleen Onacko first came to Northeast Sight Services, she was facing the uncertainty that often accompanies vision loss. Diagnosed with glaucoma, Katheleen wanted more than tools. She wanted understanding, confidence, and a way to remain independent as her eyesight changed. Her daughter, Rachel, attended weekly classes alongside her, learning how best to support her mother as they navigated this new chapter together.

Skills that might seem small to others meant everything to Katheleen. Learning how to fold bills, identify money, and use a bill reader helped restore her sense of independence. With guidance from Northeast Sight Services, Katheleen learned how to move through spaces using sighted guide techniques and, eventually, a white cane. Rachel learned how to adapt their home, prepare meals safely, and support her mother in ways that allowed Katheleen to remain confident and comfortable in the home she loved. The social connections were just as meaningful. Luncheons, holiday parties, outings, and educational programs reminded Katheleen that she was part of a welcoming and supportive community.

Katheleen believed deeply in the mission of Northeast Sight Services because she experienced its impact firsthand. That belief continued beyond her lifetime through a \$5,000 bequest included in her estate. Her generous gift now helps ensure others receive the same education, encouragement, and support that meant so much to her. Katheleen's legacy lives on through every person who finds independence, dignity, and connection through Northeast Sight Services.



To become a member of the Second Sight Society or to obtain more information, please contact us at (570) 693-3444 ext.223 or [janelle@northeastsight.org](mailto:janelle@northeastsight.org).



# NORTHEAST SIGHT SERVICES

— Since 1918 —

OUR VISION IS CLEAR:  
SIGHT LOSS SUPPORT & PREVENTION™

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Exeter, PA 18643**

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**Upcoming Events: For more info or to register visit [northeastsight.org](http://northeastsight.org)**

**Sip for Sight**  
at Yimble Hill Winery  
April 23rd, 2026  
6:00 pm

**13th Annual Golf Tournament**  
Benefiting Northeast Sight Services  
Wyoming Valley Country Club  
Monday, June 15, 2026

Presented by: **Ken Pollock** auto group

**Sip for Sight**  
*Location To Be Announced*  
August 6th, 2026  
5:30 pm

**NATIONAL SUNGLASSES DAY**  
June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Annual Awards Dinner**  
*Location To Be Announced*  
October 21st, 2026  
5:30 pm