



THE  
**SIGHT CENTER**  
OF NORTHWEST PA  
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MY  
**VISION**

MY SIGHT CENTER  
**2016 ANNUAL REPORT**



**LINDA HACKSHAW, CEO**

This is an exciting time for the Sight Center as our team focuses on strengthening our services, expanding programs to fill unmet needs, and improving opportunities and services for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

Every day we see the results of our mission's work as we witness clients living full, abundant lives despite their vision challenges. For nearly 80 years, the Sight Center has worked to strengthen the vision of our community. Since our founding in 1938, we've experienced many changes including a new name, new location, the addition of service areas and new programs. Despite all of these significant changes, **our mission, to prevent blindness and promote independence for those with vision loss**, has remained constant.

The work of our mission continues to inspire, excite and motivate us as we look forward to celebrating our 80th anniversary in 2018.

Whether it's helping a young child whose visual impairment was identified during a preschool vision screening or working with low vision patients to maintain their best quality of life, the Sight Center is here, strong and ready to support our community's vision needs. As an extension of your doctor's practice, the Sight Center works with eye care providers and other local partners to give you the best care possible.

If you ever experience vision loss or know someone that has, we hope you will turn to the Sight Center for support.

**The Sight Center – providing a clear vision for the future!**

## OUR VISION

To be the region's primary resource for **prevention of blindness, vision rehabilitation and support for those with vision loss and blindness.**

### Board and Officers

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NICHOLAS SALA, DO  
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### The Sight Center Staff

<b>LINDA HACKSHAW</b> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	<b>AMY PATSY</b> VISION SCREENER
<b>CAROLE BROSIUS</b> DRIVER	<b>DIANE SMITH</b> OPTICIAN/MANAGER
<b>ROBIN COBURN</b> ACCOUNTANT	<b>DR. KRISTIN STUPIANSKY</b> LOW VISION OPTOMETRIST
<b>JIM FINDLAY</b> DIRECTOR OF CONTRACT SERVICES	<b>TYCO SWICK</b> CASEWORKER
<b>JACK JOHNSON</b> DRIVER	<b>SHANNON WOHLFORD</b> EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/ MARKETING COORDINATOR
<b>JANINE LACOUR</b> MEDICAL SERVICES COORDINATOR	
<b>NICOLE LAVERY, OTD</b> DIRECTOR OF VISION SERVICES AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING	
<b>JUDY MARTONE</b> RECEPTIONIST/DRIVER	
<b>JOE MINNAUGH</b> DRIVER	



Since 1938, the Sight Center has worked to prevent blindness and promote independence for those with vision loss.

## Prevention Program

One of the greatest tools we have to prevent blindness is vision screening. Each year the Sight Center screens more than 10,000 children and 500 adults. About 8% of the children we screen are referred to an eye doctor for further evaluation and 92% of those referred need glasses or other treatment to correct a vision problem.

Vision screening is an invaluable tool endorsed by the Pennsylvania Optometric Association and Healthy People 2020, our nation's health initiative. The earlier we screen children, the greater success we have with their treatment. Children with poor vision don't necessarily know how well they should see. Their vision may blur, they may see double, or have good vision in only one eye. It's critical for us to reach this population at an early age.

In addition to vision screening, the Sight Center provides eye health education in the community. Our staff takes age-appropriate programs into schools, daycare centers and community organizations, helping us reach thousands of individuals of all ages with messages about general eye care and safety, eye health across the years and the impact of nutrition on the eyes.

"I often make referrals to the Sight Center when I know someone is struggling with their vision because I know they'll find the help they need."



## Eye Glasses

"The years following my husband's passing were difficult. I found myself overwhelmed. Having gone far too long without a new prescription for my glasses, my vision had changed and seeing was a struggle. It was hard to perform simple tasks and I could no longer drive. Out of frustration and desperation, I contacted the Sight Center. After an eye examination and new prescription, I received a brand new pair of glasses. My new glasses did more than restore my vision, they restored my faith in myself and my abilities. I took on a job at the Salvation Army and continue to work there today. I love being able to give back to my community by working to help others. I often make referrals to the Sight Center when I know someone is struggling with their vision because I know they'll find the help they need. Everyone deserves to see what their future can hold!"

*Gayle*

A CLIENT WHO RECEIVED  
GLASSES THROUGH OUR PROGRAM.

MY INDEPENDENCE.  
**MY VISION.**

Many in our community cannot afford the high cost of corrective eyewear. In fact, they often go without. For those with low income and no insurance, the Sight Center provides new eyeglasses on a sliding fee scale based on individual need.



“The folks at the Sight Center helped me to maintain my independence by offering simple adaptations like prism glasses, magnifiers and an opti-light that help me continue to enjoy the things I love.”

### Vision Rehabilitation

“I have a passion for learning about the natural world and I’ve always been a curious student. My love of learning led to a 30-year career as a biology professor at Penn State Behrend. After retiring, I enjoyed spending hours collecting and curating insects for the Natural History Museum at The Tom Ridge Environmental Center, as well as documenting local plant life. I continue to be amazed by the wonders of nature and the breadth and beauty of our surroundings. When my vision began to change, I visited my doctor. I have a condition called macular puckering myopia and my doctor referred me to the Sight Center’s low vision clinic. The folks at the Sight Center helped me to maintain my independence by offering simple adaptations like prism glasses, magnifiers, and an opti-light that help me continue to enjoy the things I love. Today, with the support of the Sight Center and my doctor, I am able to read and enjoy my hobby of butterfly gardening. I tell people who are concerned about their vision to give the Sight Center a call, make an appointment and see what their staff has to offer you. I’m glad I visited the Sight Center because I’m able to enjoy my hobbies and take part in the things that matter most to me.”

*Dr. Masteller*

A LOW VISION CLIENT.

**MY HOBBY.  
MY VISION.**





## Experience Youth Program

Losing vision at any age can be challenging. Losing vision as a young child is often overwhelming for the child and parents. The Sight Center is here to offer hope and support through meaningful services that can truly make a difference in the everyday life of a child or teen who is blind or visually impaired.



The Sight Center's Experience Youth Program includes after-school enrichment activities that build on instruction in personal care, safety, physical fitness, mobility, fine motor coordination, adaptive equipment use and assistive technology training. A unique feature of our program includes a variety of summer day camps. Ranging from arts and pottery to a week-long sports camp, these camps not only are fun, but they offer another opportunity for kids to practice and develop new skills, increase independence and build lasting friendships.

## Our Service Areas:

The Sight Center provides services to people who are visually impaired in Erie, Warren, McKean, Elk, Cameron, Potter and Jefferson counties. When warranted, clients have access to all of our services including transportation, prevention services, life skills and social supports. Outside of Erie, the Sight Center provides support services to more than 150 people each year.

## Our Fundraising Efforts:

The Sight Center relies on annual fundraising activities to support foundational services and special project needs. Directed by the Executive Director, the Marketing and Communications Coordinator and a Development committee of the Board, these activities include an annual appeal, one signature fundraising event, major gifts solicitations and grant writing. A successful capital campaign in 2010-2011 allowed for the purchase and renovation of the Center's current home at 2545 West 26th Street in Erie.



Together we broaden a child's exposure to their community, foster independence and enhance self-esteem.



▲ Teachers of the visually impaired and Special Education Supervisor from the IU-5.



▲ Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services Staff

## Our Partners

Working under the principle that it takes a village to raise a child, the Sight Center, the Intermediate Unit (IU) and the Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services (BBVS), work together to address the needs of each child in our community with vision loss to ensure their future success. Our goal is to encourage independence through participation. Together, the Sight Center, the IU and BBVS build a strong foundation for your child to feel secure as they explore the world around them, gaining confidence in their own abilities and finding strength in challenging situations. The opportunities are limitless and our team encourages children and teens to live the life they desire, a life with no boundaries due to vision loss.

## Our partners that help support the needs of children and adults with vision loss include:

- Affordable Care Hearing Aids
- Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services (BBVS)
- District 14-F Lions Clubs
- Erie County LINK
- Erie VA Medical Center
- Intermediate Unit - 5
- Niagara Network
- Pennsylvania Association for the Blind (PAB)
- United Way of Erie County



Lions Club International is the largest organization of service clubs in the world whose primary mission is preventing blindness and supporting services for the blind and visually impaired, goals shared by the Sight Center of NW PA.

## The Erie Lions Club

The Erie Lions Club and the Sight Center have a symbiotic relationship that has existed for over 50 years due to our mutual service goals. With funds raised from the annual Save-an-Eye All-Star Football Game, the Erie Lions Club helps needy children and adults to obtain eye care through the Sight Center and local eye care providers. The Save-an-Eye Fund also provides for special, non-budget needs of the Center such as capital equipment needs and initiating pilot projects. The staff of the Sight Center is active in promoting the annual football game and the Center provides office space and support to "house" the projects of the Erie Lions Club.

# Statement of Financial Position

For the Year Ending June 30, 2015

	2015	2016*
Ending Net Assets	\$ 4,163,902	\$ 4,511,200
<b>Total Support and Revenue:</b>		
Total Donor Contributions	\$ 365,510	\$ 197,457
Private and Government Grants	\$ 356,324	\$ 370,270
Endowment Income	\$ 9,179	\$ 4,894
Program Service Fees	\$ 147,435	\$ 160,511
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 858,091</b>	<b>\$ 723,344</b>

## Total Expenses:

Program Services	\$ 831,352	\$ 839,920
Management and General	\$ 136,630	\$ 138,049
Fundraising	\$ 68,752	\$ 69,443
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,036,734</b>	<b>\$ 1,047,412</b>

\* These numbers represent unaudited results.

The Sight Center of NW PA met or **exceeded all goals** established by the State of Pennsylvania and United Way of Erie County.

## Specialized Services



*helping hands!*

The Sight Center provided more than **4,200 hours of life skills, support and transportation services**, traveling more than **100,000 miles** so individuals with vision loss can live as independently as possible.

## Vision Rehabilitation



Nearly **300 new patients** who are losing their vision are seen each year in our low vision clinic. About **300 devices** including magnifiers, lights and other tools were dispensed. Over **160 of our patients** followed up with our occupational therapist to make further adaptations to their home or daily routines to **best support** their individual needs for independence.



## Blindness Prevention

The Sight Center screened over **10,000 children** and more than **500 adults** last year.



**561 adults**



**11,081 children**

**Vision screening** is our best defense in preventing blindness in young children.

## Educational Programs



In addition to prevention, the Sight Center reached more than **1,000 community members** with educational programs about **eye health and safety**.

*an apple a day...*

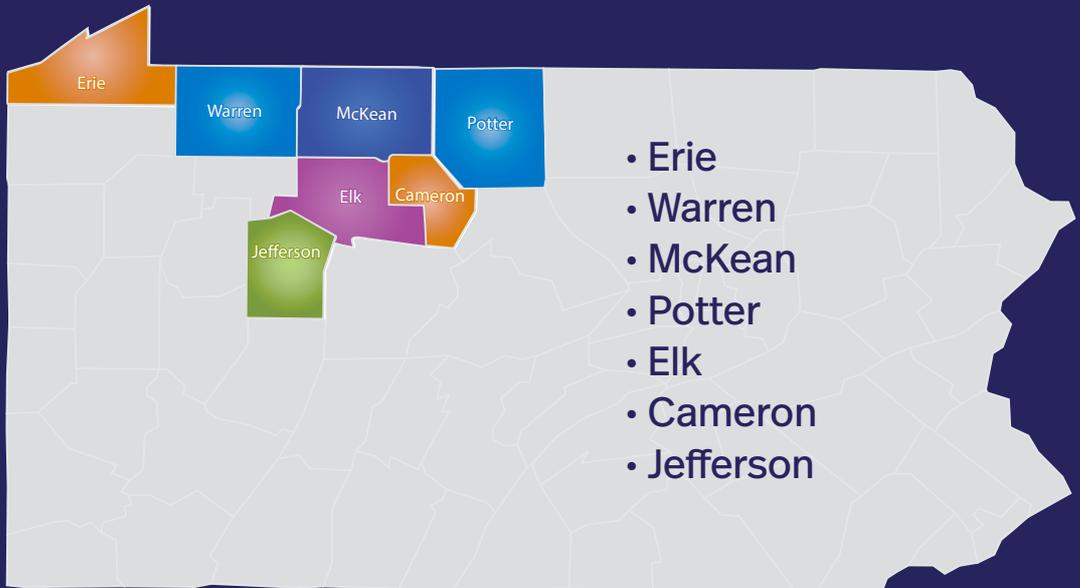


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sightcenternwpa.org



PRSRST STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #71  
Erie PA

## Counties Served



**Normal Vision**



**Age-Related  
Macular  
Degeneration**



**Diabetic  
Retinopathy**



**Glaucoma**



**Retinitis  
Pigmentosa**