

Sight Center News



Annual Meeting 2017

The Sight Center celebrated many successes with the community during their recent Annual Meeting & Luncheon held June 15th. Thank you for those who attended or supported this event.

Good Vibes Emanate from Trip to Harrisburg

Each year, representatives from the 25 Pennsylvania Association for the Blind (PAB) member agencies converge on Harrisburg to participate in *Day on the Hill*. This day consists of a full schedule of meetings with state representatives and senators to discuss issues facing all of our agencies. This year's topic was transitioning our state funding from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) to a more suitable placement in the budget, potentially the Department of Health and Human Services.

Representing the Sight Center were Jim Findlay, Director of Contract Services, and Shannon Wohlford, Executive Assistant/Marketing Coordinator. Jim and Shannon had eight meetings with political officials. "Everyone was on board with our suggested funding move. They knew who we were, knew our reputation and thanked us for the good work we're doing. It was a day well spent," said Jim Findlay. "We look forward to continuing our conversations about the vital work of our mission with our state and local legislators," added Linda Hackshaw, Sight Center Executive Director.



What's New?

We won! The Sight Center is pleased to share that our organization was recognized during the Erie Community Foundation's recent Annual Meeting as the nonprofit that had the greatest number of Giving Pledges returned by the deadline. As the top organization, the Sight Center not only received recognition including a certificate from the Erie Community Foundation, but will also receive the production of a video to use in Endowment Fundraising efforts. The Sight Center looks forward to working our *Plan for Sustainability*.

Change is a comin': We are excited to be working behind with scenes with our good friends at Bensus Creative Marketing Group as we upgrade and redo our existing website. We'll keep you posted as we get closer to launching the new site. There will be lots of good information laid out in a way that will connect many people to our mission! This new website will be a tool you'll be proud to share!

Save the Date: *Dining & Dancing in the Dark 2017* will be held on **Thursday, October 26th, 2017** at the Bayfront Convention Center. Get your dancing shoes ready! Proceeds will support our Prevention Services.

What to Expect from a Low Vision Exam

Summer brings about its own set of challenges when it comes to individuals with low vision. Sunshine brings glare and the change of seasons means our routines change as we get outside to enjoy the things we love.

Through a low vision evaluation at the Sight Center, patients can expect to find solutions to everyday challenges. Our staff will teach you to use your remaining vision more efficiently and show you how to perform daily tasks by using alternative devices like better lighting, high contrast, enlarged print, and auditory or hearing techniques. With special optical devices like magnifiers, spectacle microscopes and telescopes that can improve your ability to see detail. **Our goal is to maximize your functional vision.** If you know someone that could benefit from this service, refer them to the Sight Center. Hope for clearer vision is just a phone call away: **455-0995**.

Summer Calendar Events:

- July is **UV Safety Month** – Protect your vision with UV blocking sunglasses.
- **Save-an-Eye Picnic** – Wednesday, July 12th, from 5-7pm at the Sight Center. Cost is \$7 per person and includes a catered dinner, beer, pop and more! Contact Shannon at 455-0995 to make your reservation.
- **Save-an-Eye Football Game**: Friday, July 21st at Veterans Memorial Stadium.

Sports Camp Plans in Full Swing:

How many of you played sports as a child? Sports and recreation play a vital role in developing who we are as adults. Team sports or any recreational activity help us to build self-esteem, develop skills, improve coordination and our overall fitness level. Sports teach us important life lessons like team work, leadership and how to be a good sport whether you win or lose the game. For children who are blind or visually impaired, these lessons are significant and can be missed if they're not involved in sports, which is often the case.

The Sight Center's XSightabilities program attempts to close this gap by providing a week full of new opportunities and recreational experiences for kids with vision loss. This summer's program will be held the week of June 24th at Presque Isle State Park. On the agenda are activities like tandem bicycling, kayaking, yoga, stand up paddle boarding and more. We look forward to this week and all of the amazing moments that will take place as our kids experience recreation like never before. For many, it will be their first time on a bike or in a kayak. Because of your continued support, programs like XSightabilities will continue to make a difference in the life of a child with vision loss. Thank you!

Want to support the XSightabilities Sports Camp or other service at the Sight Center? Visit sightcenterwpa.org to donate online or contact Shannon Wohlford today. YOU can make a difference!

Our Mission Matters: *To prevent blindness and promote independence for those with vision loss.*

We often hear great testimonials from those we serve. We'd like to share a few words that accompanied a recent donation. "We share the enclosed on behalf of our father who was assisted by the Lions Club through the Sight Center. The support of the Lions Club and his teachers set my father on a path of success as he found encouragement and self-confidence for future academic and life success. He went on to graduate high school, college, graduate school and enjoyed a long career as a metallurgical engineer. He also married, 43 years! We thank you for your support of community members like my father, a small gift set the motion of his path and we wanted you to know the big impact your work has. This donation is given in honor of our father on this Father's Day."