



Representatives from the Sight Center and other local nonprofits gathered to celebrate Schuster Day on March 9th. More than \$50,000 dollars was awarded supporting programs Bill & Frances Schuster recognized through The Erie Community Foundation many years ago.

Lively Learning:

This semester, Occupational Therapy students from Gannon University have had the opportunity to work closely with Sight Center Occupational Therapist, Dr. Nicole Lavery. As an adjunct professor at Gannon, Nicole has helped many students get connected to our agency and learn more about how the field of occupational therapy is applied to vision rehabilitation. Several students recently completed projects benefitting the Sight Center, including the development of a sensitivity curriculum introduced to many local schools. Thank you GU!

The Giving Pledge:

The Giving Pledge initiative, supported by the Erie Community Foundation (ECF), encourages nonprofits to ask their donors to consider pledging support by including them in their wills or other estate plans. The Giving Pledge is non-binding but allows nonprofits to better prepare for the future. Pledges are being

accepted until April 15th. As an incentive, the ECF will honor the nonprofits with the most pledge commitments during their Annual Meeting. In addition, the top three nonprofits with the most pledges will receive a video to assist with planned giving and development efforts. Interested in supporting the Sight Center? Contact Shannon to receive your Giving Pledge today, 455-0995, or email her at shannonw@sightcenternwpa.org.

April Calendar Events:

- April is **Sport Eye Safety Month** and **Occupational Therapy Month**
- **Beeping Easter Egg Hunt** - Sunday, April 9th from 2-4 pm at the Sight Center. Children with visual impairments of all ages are welcome to attend with their siblings. Please call Shannon at 455-0995 for more information.
- Are you at risk for pre-diabetes? The Sight Center now offers a Diabetes Prevention Program, New View. Groups are now running and we'd love to have you be a part of one. Want to learn more? Contact Lana at the Sight Center, 455-0995.



Gannon Occupational Therapy students recently coordinated a Dining in the Dark fundraising event for the Sight Center. Thank you students for raising awareness about vision loss and the challenges that impact daily living!



The Sight Center was well represented on Saturday during the Success By 6 Early Learning Expo at the Millcreek Mall. Hundreds of children visited the Center's table to enjoy a spring themed sensory activity, while parents picked up information about services. Lana Kunik, the Center's Prevention Services Coordinator, was also on hand offering vision screenings to children and sharing information about our Diabetes Prevention program. Diabetes risk assessments were completed by many individuals on the spot who were interested in improving their overall health and wellbeing.

Wednesday Club Wearing of the Green:

Club members regularly meet at the Sight Center for organized activities that help them learn new skills, stay current on issues impacting people who are blind or visually impaired, and socialize with friends. On St. Patrick's Day members and guests joining us from GECAC Senior Center enjoyed a traditional St. Patrick's Day meal, entertainment and festive décor. If you know someone with vision loss, please be sure to introduce them to our Wednesday Club. New members are always welcome and fun, informative events are being planned. Sometimes connecting with others who experience similar challenges can make all the difference. Share the Wednesday Club with someone you care about! Call 455-0995 to learn more.



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

Vision Rehabilitation: Low Vision Clinics

Low vision is different from **presbyopia**, which is the decreased ability to focus on near objects once you are 40+.

Signs of low vision include:

Areas of blurred or distorted vision or spots and blotches in your vision



Shadowed or darkened field of view or noticeable loss of peripheral vision



A gradual loss of central vision



Cloudy and blurred vision or exaggerated "halos" around bright lights



Blind spots in your field of view



Each month, we hold six low vision clinics serving at least six people on each clinic day. A typical low vision appointment lasts an hour to an hour and a half. Patients start by talking with Jim Nies in Intake to discuss their challenges and goals, then they meet with Dr. Stupiansky, our optometrist. Dr. Stupiansky performs a low vision evaluation and discusses their current level of functional vision. Dr. Nicole Lavery walks them through a variety of devices to help meet their goals and keep them living independently in their own homes.