



ANNUAL REPORT
2025

ILLUMINATING

the path for all



The
SIGHT CENTER
of NORTHWEST PA
SIGHT & HEARING

sightcenternwpa.org



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S Welcome

Fiscal year 2025 was a year of growth, inclusion, and illumination for the Sight Center. Guided by our mission to prevent blindness and promote independence for people with vision loss and people who are blind, we are proud to share that we had a strong year—both programmatically and financially. We not only sustained essential services but deepened them in new and meaningful ways with the help of many partners – like you!

Our theme this year, Illuminating the Path for All, reflects our commitment to ensuring that every person, regardless of circumstance, has access to the tools, programs, and support they need to live healthier and more independent lives. Thank you for walking this path with us. Your generosity, your trust, and your belief in our mission continue to inspire everything we do.

With gratitude,

Linda J. Moore

CEO/Executive Director

ILLUMINATING THE PATH FOR ALL: Championing Community-Centered Care

We believe everyone deserves compassionate, personalized support—regardless of background, ability, or circumstance. Whether guiding individuals on their visual journey or supporting their overall well-being through our National Diabetes Prevention Program (National DPP), we walk alongside each person with empathy and respect, helping them build healthier lives.

As part of our commitment to whole-person care, we recognize that vision loss and wellbeing challenges often intersect with social and economic barriers—especially for those in underserved communities. For example, diabetes disproportionately affects Black, Hispanic, low-income, elderly, and disabled populations. In response, our National DPP offers a culturally responsive curriculum, peer support, and accessible formats that reflect the lived experiences of those most at risk. We reduce barriers by offsetting fees, providing transportation and childcare, and adapting schedules for working families. Collaborations like our work with Special Olympics have helped us bring this program to adults with developmental disabilities by adapting our curriculum to include simplified language, visual aids, and more hands-on activities.

Our vision rehabilitation program is equally rooted in individualized care. We understand that learning to live with a visual impairment involves overcoming multiple obstacles, and our team is here to help every step of the way. We tailor services to each person's individual goals, learning style, and schedule, empowering our clients to gain independence and confidence in ways that feel supportive and achievable.

The Sight Center remains committed to inclusive care—meeting people where they are and creating welcoming spaces where every individual feels seen, heard, and empowered on their journey toward wellness and independence.





- To prevent blindness and promote independence for those who are blind or visually impaired

THE GLASS IRIS

Created to honor the life and legacy of Donna Conner—who passed away in 2011 after a courageous battle with type 1 diabetes—the Glass Iris stands watch at the entrance of the Sight Center greeting every visitor as a beacon reflecting the strength of the human spirit. It's a vibrant symbol of hope and resilience for those facing the challenge of living with vision loss and those who are working diligently to preserve their future sight.

Donna's family, deeply committed to the Sight Center's mission, generously supported the creation of this tribute. Through their gift, they helped bring to life a piece that embodies Donna's spirit—her optimism, compassion, and unwavering dedication to doing what's right. "Vision loss is something that impacts so many people. It's affected me personally and many members of my family. That's why the agency's mission means so much to me and my family," shared Andy Conner, long-time supporter of the agency.

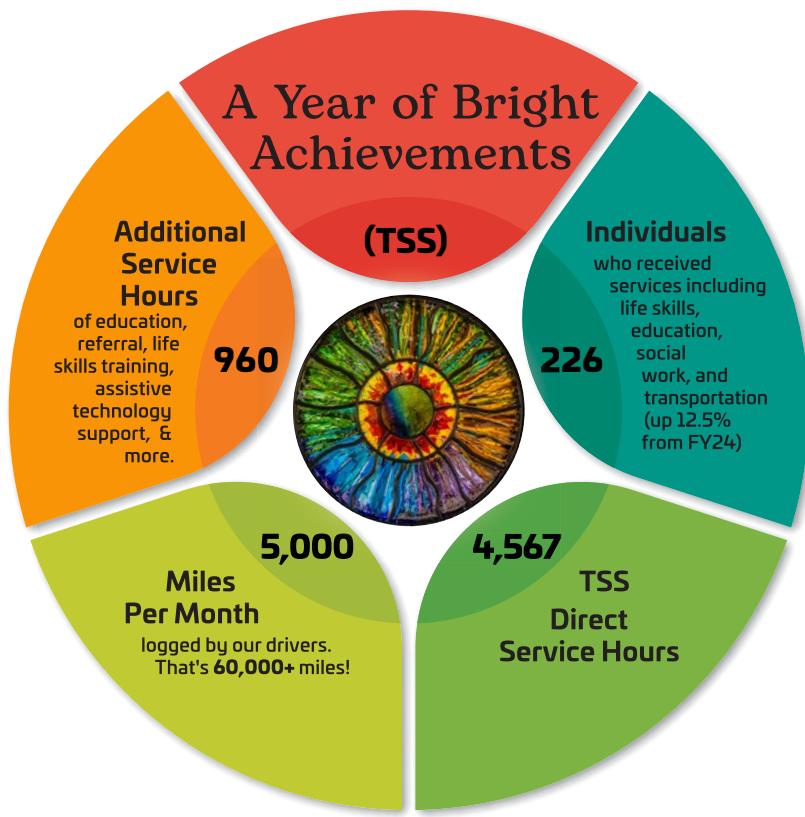


Crafted by artists Tom Ferraro, Edward Grout, and Steve Mik of the Looking Glass Art Project, the Glass Iris was shaped through a collaborative process involving Donna's family, Sight Center staff, and clients through many discovery sessions, and brought to life the experience of living with vision loss. Every detail was thoughtfully designed to reflect Donna's warmth and vibrant presence. The medium of glass—resilient and transformative—mirrors her ability to adapt and create beauty in every circumstance.

Surrounding the iris is an array of luminous stars offering light in dark times, a symbol of the interconnectedness of our universe. Each piece of glass used to create the iris fits uniquely with another, just as each person contributes to a greater whole. This powerful imagery resonates with the Sight Center's mission to prevent blindness and promote independence for those with vision loss or who are blind. As our mission continues to **illuminate the path for all**, we are deeply committed to providing the highest quality services to support individuals navigating the challenges of vision loss.

The Glass Iris stands as a welcoming feature to every visitor of our newly named **Donna Conner & Family Memorial Sight Center**, and serves as a daily reminder of Donna's enduring influence and the transformative power of generosity, community, and vision.





VISION REHABILITATION

Low vision examinations and evaluations are a crucial step for individuals losing their vision. Collaboration with other professionals enables comprehensive eye care plans. The Sight Center, through new partnerships, provides an in-depth vision rehabilitation program and clinic at the Erie office that supports independence for those with vision loss and improves safety, access to information/resources, and social engagement.

TRANSPORTATION and Specialized Services (TSS)

Independence and quality of life for those with vision loss or blindness are strengthened through the Sight Center's support, including our door-through-door transportation program and assistive technology.

Through personalized training on advanced equipment and software, the Sight Center empowers clients to enhance their safety, maintain independence, and gain better access to the world around them.

Shedding Light on Community Vision Needs:

- Pennsylvania's older adults face high vision loss rates
- Vision loss reduces quality of life and social connection
- Food insecurity is worse for those with vision loss
- One in three older adults has a progressive eye disease
- Safe and reliable transportation is the number one need expressed by adults with vision loss

The clinic helps make the best of your usable vision by:

- Assessment and goal setting for a personalized treatment plan.
- Teaching new ways to perform daily tasks such as reading, cooking, and making environmental modifications to organize and simplify daily tasks.
- Utilizing tools such as lighting, magnifiers, screen readers, and specialized software to help you access information with greater ease.
- **Highlight:** In FY2025, over 9,360 clinic hours of direct client services were provided.

AN 87 YEAR OLD PATH TO CLEARER SIGHT

The Sight Center and Erie Lions Club Save an Eye Fund have connected children and adults across our communities to essential eye care—no matter income, insurance, or ability to pay for nearly nine decades!

Uninsured, underinsured, low-income, and underserved families receive access to information and services so everyone—children and adults—can get the care they need.

Last year

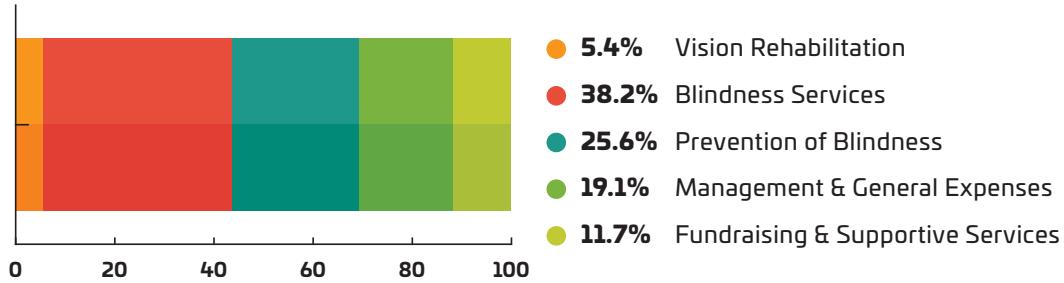
48	Individuals received eye care
65	Hours of case management



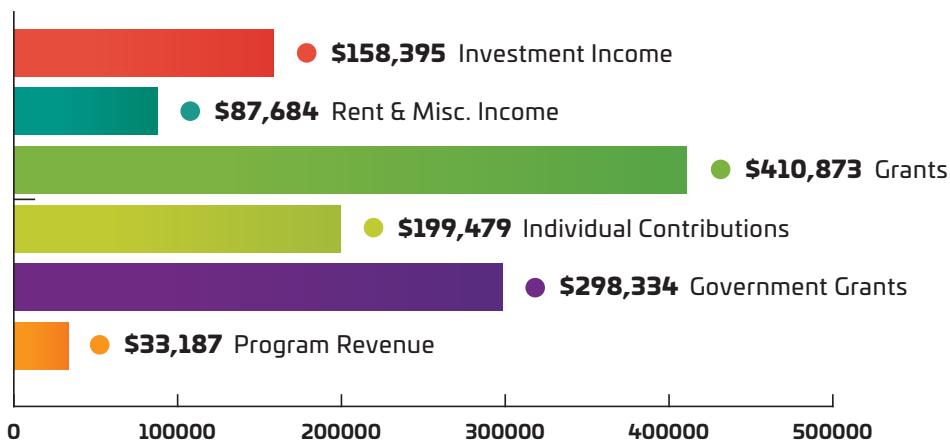
- To prevent blindness and promote independence for those who are blind or visually impaired

A YEAR OF INSIGHT and Economic Clarity

Overall AGENCY EXPENSES \$1,116,115



Sources of Revenue TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE \$1,187,952



PREVENTIVE SCREENING and Evaluation

For children to thrive and learn, all senses must be fully engaged, especially vision. When a sense is

underused, a child struggles academically and faces emotional, social, and psychological challenges, including low self-esteem and frustration. These struggles often lead to behavior and attention problems that hinder progress and achievement, with potential lifelong consequences.

This program's impact is clear when children are referred after screening. This year, 136 youths were sent to eye care professionals. Over 100 case management hours educated parents on eye health and the importance of early treatment. Most childhood eye conditions can be treated or cured if caught early.

- 1 in 4 school-age children have an undetected vision problem that affects learning
- Only 15% of preschoolers receive vision exams
- Just 33% of referred children get needed eye care due to barriers like cost, access, and literacy
- Limited access, cost, and lack of parental awareness prevent many from receiving proper care

ILLUMINATING SUPPORT THAT REACHES EVERY CORNER of Northwest Pennsylvania

Staff at the Sight Center of Northwest PA dedicate thousands of hours supporting individuals & families in 7 counties via outreach, partnerships, education, referrals, and core blindness prevention & independence services.

2025 HIGHLIGHT

We delivered 20,814 total hours of Sight Center direct support for clients and families affected by vision loss.

Our compassionate services reach thousands each year, meeting clients where they are and removing barriers related to health, safety, transportation, food, and income.

The Board guides mission delivery, service standards, and mission-driven financial planning to ensure long-term sustainability.

NATIONAL DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM

178 Individuals Served Through our DPP

98M American Adults have Prediabetes

1 in 3 People w/Prediabetes are Unaware of It

420+ Outreach Hours

2,200 Risk Assessments Implemented on At-Risk Residents

CDC Recognized National Leader in Lifestyle Change (May 2025)

1,500 Enrolled since its inception in 2017

Through culturally responsive curriculum, tailored cohort models, and accessible delivery formats, our team works collaboratively to build pathways to wellness that honor identity, dignity, and a broader community voice.

OUR MISSION -

Vision of the Sight Center's Diabetes Prevention Program

Every person is aware of their risk for type 2 diabetes, has access to prevention education and lifestyle change resources, and never loses their sight.



"After years of uncontrolled blood sugar levels, I found the long-term remedy: the Sight Center's National Diabetes Prevention Program. I lost 70 pounds, got active again, and got my blood sugar back to a healthful range. A new start is really possible with the right information and guidance."

- Jim Z.



The Sight Center Retention EXCEEDS CDC MINIMUMS BY 30%

4th Month RETENTION

(min 50%)

75%

7th Month RETENTION

(min 40%)

57%

10th Month RETENTION

(min 30%)

53%

Illuminating The Path For All

HbA1c REDUCTION

(min 0.2; national average 2.1%)





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for those who are blind or visually impaired

THE TEAM

Lighting the Way

Linda Moore, Executive Director

Vivian Bowser, Diabetes Prevention Program Coach/Wellness Coordinator

Beth Cage, Low Vision/Diabetes Prevention Program Coach Coordinator

Kim Flatt, Diabetes Prevention Program Coach/Vision Screener

Lana Kunik, Director of Diabetes Prevention

Pam Masi, Director of Operations

Susan McNeish, Group Services Coordinator

Lyrica Parker, Operation Coordinator

Mike Redinger, Transportation Coordinator

Mason Reininger, Case Manager

Tabitha Roark, Vision Screener/Diabetes Prevention Program Coach

Rebecca Swick, LC, MPA, LPN, BSW, Diabetes Prevention

Outreach Coordinator

Shannon Wohlford, Director of Marketing/Annual Fund

Vision Screeners/ Drivers/Service Aids

Carole Brosius

Allen Erickson

Ruthann Johnston

George Savko

David Way



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Anthony Angelone, Esq.,
Vice Chair

Anne Piotrowicz, Treasurer

Joseph DeMartino, Secretary

Tom Pysz, Immediate
Past Chair

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Vanessa Roddy Baran

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Pauline Gonda

Mark Papalia

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Thorp Andrews

Nicholas Sala, DO

Barry Stamm, MD

Roger Taft, Esq.

William Vorschek



GRATEFUL FOR PARTNERS

who Help Brighten the Path of Progress

Active Aging Center, Crawford County's
Area Agency on Aging

Aetna Medicare Advantage

Adagio Health

Allegheny Health Network

American Heart Association

AmeriHealth Caritas Health Plan

Castle Shannon Library

Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

Corry Library

Corry Memorial Hospital

Crawford County Area on Aging

Community Resources for Independence
(CRI)

Dan Laughlin, PA State Senator

Erie Community Foundation

Erie Insurance

Erie Retina Research Group

Gannon University/Gannon OT Program

GECAC

Highmark & Highmark Foundation

Highmark Whole Care

Intermediate Unit 5 - Erie County (IU-5)

JADA House International

Lakeshore Foundation

Meadville Area Free Clinic

Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program
/Medicaid Diabetes Prevention

Mercy Center for Women

Multiple Primary Care Physicians and
Endocrinologists

National Association of Chronic Disease
Directors

Nonprofit Partnership

Our Lady of the Lake Church

PA Bureau of Blindness and Visual
Services (BBVS)

Pennsylvania Association of
Nonprofit Organizations (PANO)

Quality Insights

Relevant Church

Ryan Bizzarro, PA House of Representatives

Second Harvest Food Bank

Special Olympics International

UPMC

Venango Association for the Blind

VisAbility

Wal-Mart/Wal-Mart Pharmacy

Warren Area Agency on Aging

Warren General Hospital

DONNA CONNER AND FAMILY MEMORIAL SIGHT CENTER



Seeing Change: A New Vision for Diabetes Prevention

A clearer, healthier future is in view... Through a new research partnership focused on diabetes and vision health, The Sight Center is uncovering how lifestyle changes can protect sight and improve overall wellness. Watch for updates as we share results and insights from this important work in the year ahead.



The
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of NORTHWEST PA
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