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ACCESSIBLE PRODUCTS FOR DAILY LIVING

“A DAY IN THE LIFE”

A recent presentation during a Life Skills Education class at the Center proved both informative and entertaining. The goal of the presentation was to familiarize the audience with products that can make life easier for a person with blindness or vision impairment.

The demonstration was aptly titled “Accessible Products for Daily Living.” Presenters included John Calhoun, Jonilynn Campbell and Diane Sydney Rivers - all instructors for CBVI’s Computer Access Technology (CAT) Department. As part of a new initiative promoted by Keystone Independence Management, and the PA Association for the Blind this lecture was video conferenced to Life Skills Education groups meeting at other Associations for the Blind across the state. The presentation was also taped and archived for use at later dates via video when appropriate.

In an attempt to keep their listeners interested and engaged, the CAT team subtitled their lecture “A Day in the Life.” Instead of just introducing products, they walked the group through a typical day in the life of a person with vision loss and displayed products that could help with each daily activity. “We wanted to make it fun,” said Jonilynn, “so we came up with this concept.”

The team started out the “day” by introducing a talking alarm clock with a clear male voice announcing not only the time but also the date and day of the week. Then, they showed how an audible “color reader” takes some of the guess work out of picking a color coordinated outfit. Moving on to breakfast, the panel demonstrated how a voice activated coffee maker can have that first cup of coffee brewed and ready and how a talking timer can make it easy to time a three minute egg.

Continuing through the day, the three experts displayed accessible kitchen products including a talking food scale, talking meat thermometer, and an indispensable talking microwave. They then took the group on an imaginary grocery shopping trip. An audible money identifier and a talking bar code scanner made the errand easier. The scanner not only read the product name from the bar code but also read nutritional values and ingredients!

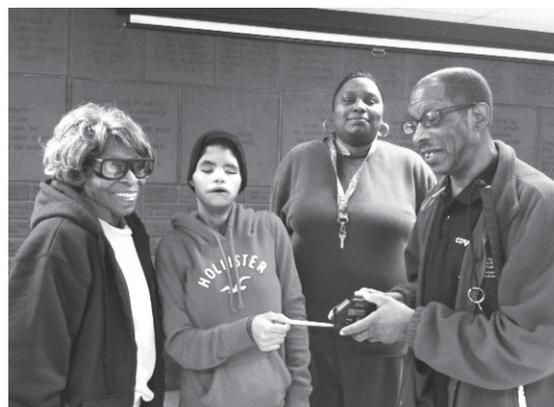
“We wanted to prove that blindness shouldn’t be a reason NOT to do something. There are so many ways to handle any visual challenges”, offered John Calhoun.

The team spent time on medically related products such as talking glucose monitors, blood pressure cuffs and thermometers, and demonstrated a talking one-month medication organizer.

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Mary Grace Klotz was fascinated by the talking Map App displayed on an iPad and explained by CAT instructor, Diane Rivers.



Life Skills Education group members, (from left) Virginia Denby, Brittani Davis, and Lavonne McCommons, enjoyed learning about a talking tape measure, demonstrated by CAT instructor, John Calhoun.



CAT instructor, Jonilynn Campbell, showed group member, Tracy Winters, how to work a bar code scanner.

CBVI WELCOMES NEW ADMINISTRATIVE/ DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

In February 2015, Mary Sue Boyle became the new Administrative/Development Director for CBVI. In this role, she is responsible for day to day administrative duties, as well as, development, fundraising and event planning for the Center. The task is huge but Mary Sue arrives well equipped for the challenge.

Mary Sue comes to us with a wealth of nonprofit management, for-profit management and fundraising experience. Most recently, she was owner and manager of Mary Sue Boyle and Company, LLC. Her company has worked on historic preservation projects impacting the Greater Philadelphia area. In addition, Mary Sue serves as chairman of the East Bradford Township Historical Commission and is a past board member of Kennett Square Main Street Association. She is also a past vice-pres-

ident of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network. In the for-profit world, she was the Secretary/Treasurer of Alliance Electronics Corporation, a majority female owned private, international corporation, established in the electronic distribution marketplace. She has been involved with numerous charitable events, including a role as co-chair of the Holidazzle Fundraiser to benefit the Delaware Foundation for Retarded Children and figured significantly in the Brandywine Battlefield 2014 event as well as recent Friends of Strode's Mill fundraising.

Already at home at the agency, Mary Sue states, "I am so impressed by the quality of the team here at CBVI and look forward to working with everyone associated with the agency as well as Keystone Independence Management. I welcome the opportunity to bring new

insights and concepts that will constructively benefit the longevity of our assistance to blind and visually impaired individuals in the Greater Delaware Valley area."

Please join us in welcoming Mary Sue and extending our support.



Mary Sue Boyle, Administrative/Development Director for CBVI

SUMMER EYE HAZARDS

AWARENESS PROMOTES PREVENTION

Did you know that more than half a million people each year experience home or yard work-related eye injuries? To some people, gardening is fun and to others just a necessary chore. But either way, it's important to remember that some of the most common lawn and garden care products and equipment can cause eye injury.

We tend to think that because chemicals and tools are made to be used at home, they're safe. But sometimes they're not. Common chemicals we use for cleaning or yard work can be very dangerous and accidents involving these things can result in eye pain at one end of the scale, and permanent blindness in the worst case scenario.

Data indicates that there are up to 32,000 serious eye injuries caused each year by household products. Chemical injuries can happen when fluids are sprayed, splashed, or misted into the eyes. Some of the common products causing injury include fertilizers, weed killers, insect killers, drain cleaners, mosquito repellent (DEET), and cleaners such as ammonia, detergents, bleach, and other disinfectants.

Direct injury to the eyes can happen as well. Some of the more common causes include power nylon cord trimmers or edgers, stones or debris from power mowers, flying material from hedge trimming, and hammering or drilling into brick or cement, causing flying particles.

You should always have an updated first aid kit ready in case of eye injury. Besides the typical bandages and antibiotics, include cold compresses to ease swelling or pain. A small cup and adhesive tape will allow you to protect a damaged eye until you can get further care.

Chemicals splashed into the eyes cause burning, tearing, pain, redness and blurred vision. Check the label and follow any directions about eye exposure. Most of the time, immediately flushing the eye for 15 minutes with cool clear water will take care of the problem. But if the label directs you to proceed to the emergency room, go immediately! Severe damage to the



eye from chemicals is rare with proper immediate care, but it's important to remember permanent eye damage and loss of vision can be a devastating consequence.

If you get a cut or puncture wound in your eye, don't wash it out. Cover it by taping a small cup to your cheek and forehead, protecting the eye. Go to the emergency department immediately. If there is a foreign object in the eye, don't try to remove it yourself. Your emergency room team will contact an ophthalmologist to make sure you get the best possible treatment.

The American Academy of Ophthalmology has reported that 90 percent of eye injuries are preventable with proper precautions. In the case of injuries that occur in the yard, there's a simple solution: Goggles will protect your eyes from splashes, sprays, and flying objects. Goggles fit snugly on the face and are designed to keep anything from getting beneath. Purchasing a good pair of goggles is a smart investment.

Be conscious of eye safety this season. Enjoy your summer!

(excerpted from www.stonypointsc.com/surgery/news-and-media/summer-eye-hazards)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LSE: Life Skills Education | **PSVS:** Pre-school Vision Screening | **AVS:** Adult Vision Screening
AE: Adult Education | **ED:** Education



MAY

- 4 – LSE: Main Line Arts; Patron’s Room; 10:30am
- 5 – AE: Health Fair @ Woodlyn Senior Housing; Woodlyn
- 6 – LSE: Patron’s Room; 10:30am
- 7 – AVS/AE: Chester Senior Center; Chester
- 11 – LSE: Main Line Arts; Patron’s Room; 10:30am
- 13 – LSE: Patron’s Room; 10:30am
- 14 – AE: Health Fair @ Riddle Village; Media
- 15 – AVS: Friendship Circle Senior Center; Darby
- 18 – LSE: Main Line Arts; Patron’s Room; 10:30am
- 20 – LSE: PAB Monthly Video; Patron’s Room; 10:30am
- 22 – Blindness Training for staff from County Office on Senior Aging; Patron’s Room
- 25 – **MEMORIAL DAY;**
CBVI CLOSED

JUNE

- 1 – LSE: Patron’s Room; 10:30am
- 3 – LSE: Patron’s Room; 10:30am
- 8 – LSE: Patron’s Room; 10:30am
- 10 – LSE: Patron’s Room; 10:30am
- 11 – AE: Health Fair @ White Horse Village; Newton Square
- 15 – LSE: Patron’s Room; 10:30am
- 17 – LSE: PAB Video; Patron’s Room; 10:30am
- 21 – First Day of Summer
- 22 – LSE: Patron’s Room; 10:30am
- 24 – LSE: Patron’s Room; 10:30am
- 29 – LSE: Patron’s Room; 10:30am

JULY

- 1 – LSE: Patron’s Room; 10:30am
- 6 – LSE: Patron’s Room; 10:30am
- 8 – LSE: Patron’s Room; 10:30am
- 13 – LSE: Patron’s Room; 10:30am
- 15 – LSE: PAB Video; Patron’s Room; 10:30am
- 20 – LSE: Patron’s Room; 10:30am
- 22 – LSE: Patron’s Room; 10:30am
- 23 – PSVS/ED: Shiloh Development Academy; Chester
- 27 – LSE: Patron’s Room; 10:30am
- 29 – LSE: Patron’s Room; 10:30am

IDEAL 2015

Individual **D**evelopment through **E**xperience, **A**ssessment, and **L**earning
 A transition program for students ages 15 to 21 with vision loss.

The IDEAL 2015 Summer program will be held July 12th through August 7th.

PLANNING YOUR ESTATE

BY TOM DILL, ESQ.

The Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI) has received several bequests - gifts by will - from thoughtful people who wished to provide for the Center through their estates. In most cases, their bequests were a continuation of the support they had provided all their lives and CBVI is sincerely grateful for these gifts. With a bit of planning you too can leave a lasting impact on CBVI’s future.



You may make a gift of cash, securities, real estate, or other assets by providing in your will for a bequest to CBVI. Your gift may be a specific bequest of a designated sum or asset, or it may be a percentage of your residuary estate.

If you are considering establishing a bequest for CBVI or if you would like more information about planned giving, please contact us at 724-347-5501 ext.233. Sharing your plans with us allows us to express our gratitude to you during your lifetime and ensures that your wishes will be met. Giving by bequest costs nothing now, yet it may give you a great deal of satisfaction to know that your future gift will live on.

ACCESSIBLE PRODUCTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A talking scale also found its way into the mix.

For relaxation time, the trio stated that audible books with an adapted CD player from the National Library for the Blind are a must. They demonstrated how a talking MP3 player and blind-friendly iPhones and iPads can also provide hours of accessible fun.

The team ended the “day” with a night out and one of their favorite products - a recordable beer pager! Never lose your drink again at a party! With your drink in an insulated holder, you press the button on a mini remote and you hear your pre-recorded drink tone. You can locate your drink for up to 60 feet away.

Jonilynn, who is blind and uses many of the demonstrated items, enjoyed sharing her expertise. “We hope this presentation proved that many of these items are available and financially accessible for most of us,” she stated. Diane was quick to chime in, “If you do your research, you’ll be surprised with what you can find to make living with vision loss a little easier.”

For more information about accessible daily living products, please contact a CAT team member at 610-874-1476 ext.131 or Candy Bantum at ext. 125.



**CENTER FOR THE BLIND
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OUR MISSION

CBVI is a not-for-profit agency dedicated to helping individuals in the greater Delaware Valley area prevent, prepare for, and adapt to vision loss in order to achieve independence.

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News & Views is the official publication of CBVI. It is published 4 times per year and is also available online.

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