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A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends of CBVI,

It's hard to believe that 2015 is here and that we are anxiously awaiting the arrival of spring! I hope that your new year is off to a good start. I am happy to report that such is the case here at CBVI.

2015 promises to be a wonderful year in terms of growth here at the Center. Our janitorial program at Cheyney University is doing well. We are currently negotiating to take on added responsibilities at the University which will result in even greater employment for the blind and disabled. CBVI has also submitted a Letter of Understanding to

the state and we are anticipating that this effort will produce more revenue for the Center.

Most importantly, last year we experienced significant growth in blindness services and we expect this trend to continue. In general, CBVI's future looks bright and we are positioned on an upward trajectory!

All of this is possible thanks to you, our loyal donors. We are so grateful for the generous contributions that we received in response to our Holiday Appeal. Your generosity enables us to continue our mission of service to blind



and visually impaired individuals in our community. And really, that's what it's all about.

Sincerely,
Allen Connelly, CEO

VISION SERVICES AT ANY AGE

CBVI'S oldest client has celebrated her 106th birthday! Last November 11th, Marion Roth commemorated her special day with family, friends, and chocolate cake at the retirement village where she lives.

Although Marion's vision is compromised by macular degeneration, she continues to do the things she loves and stays active and busy. An accomplished artist who has exhibited frequently, Marion still creates with watercolors and oils. Her earlier works often had scenic themes, whereas now, she limits her subject matter to flowers and still life.

CBVI In-Home Rehabilitation instructor, Connie Williams, visits Marion on an as-needed basis and enjoys time spent with her. "Marion has learned to read books and write letters using both a CC (closed circuit) TV and various magnifiers. She maintains a good quality of life by making

accommodations for her vision loss," offers Williams. CBVI Specialized Services Coordinator, Lori Johnson marvels at Roth's vitality. Johnson helps

with mail reading and personal shopping. She looks forward to conversations with Roth, who has two graduate degrees in education, while on their jaunts to nearby drug stores and supermarkets.

Marion Roth is just one of the hundreds of blind or visually impaired individuals receiving services through CBVI.

Little 3 to 5 year olds in pre-schools and day-care centers throughout Delaware County are our youngest clients, receiving vision screenings annually through CBVI's Prevention of Blindness program. Special eye-related children's programs are also presented.

School age youth with vision loss participate in Keystone Kids activities and CBVI's IDEAL summer transition program.

Working age adults receive training in our Computer/Access



At 106 years old, Marion Roth has the distinction of being CBVI's oldest client. She is an accomplished painter, even with the visual problems she faces.

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EXPLORING ANCIENT HISTORY THROUGH "TOUCH"

In early December, ten members of CBVI's Life Skills Education Group participated in a "touch tour" at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. This unique tour was designed with and for museum visitors who are blind or have low vision. As special guests, group members were invited to touch the ancient artifacts and statues in the Museum's renowned Egyptian collection.

Before exploring the exhibits, participants were asked to use sanitized hand wipes to remove oils. Under the guidance of well-informed docents who provided background information and verbal cues, group members felt eroded limestone and quartzite statuary and traced intricate hieroglyphs crafted almost at the beginning of time.

"I've never enjoyed museums much because they are so visual and so hands-off," stated participant Gerald Fowler. "This experience was much different and very rewarding. I actually saw things with my fingertips and learned so much!"

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Tricia Mauder, the special tours and disabilities program consultant for the Museum, for arranging the tour. CBVI clients look forward to future visits to Penn to discover more about the ancient past through touch.



ABOVE Clients listened in rapt attention as a University docent regaled them with ancient Egyptian lore.

LEFT The power of touch.
Photo credit: <http://phy.org>

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.



"Before, I felt like I was 'the only one.' I don't feel that way anymore."



"IDEAL helps you transition into the future - college, working and living on your own. IDEAL helped me to keep my future bright!"



"At one point I was ashamed of carrying my cane. Now I can travel even in heels! I feel good going out by myself. I'm no longer ashamed of my cane."



"Here you aren't judged by your disability. Now I know, I can't let my disability stop me - I can do it."



"IDEAL gives you a little taste of what college dorm life might be like. Waking up on time on my own wasn't easy!"

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

If you know a blind or visually impaired high school student who would benefit from an IDEAL summer experience, please contact us at (610) 874-1476 ext. 161 or rosemary.keefe@cbvi.net.

Check out IDEAL on our website at www.cbvi.net.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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



FEBRUARY

- 1 – LSE: Main Line Arts; Patron’s Room; 10:30 AM
- 3 – LSE: Master Gardener’s; Patron’s Room; 10:30 AM
- 9 – LSE: Main Line Arts; Patron’s Room; 10:30 AM
- 11 – LSE: PEW Video; Patron’s Room; 10:30 AM
- 12 – PSVS/ED: Just Kids Learning Center; Springfield
- 14 – Happy Valentine’s Day!
- 16 – Presidents’ Day (Agency Closed)**
- 17 – PSVS/ED: Lane Montessori; Wayne
- 18 – LSE: Access Technology; Patron’s Room; 10:30 AM
- 19 – PSVS/ED: Lane Montessori; Wayne
- 23 – LSE: Main Line Arts; Patron’s Room; 10:30 AM
- 25 – LSE: Master Gardener’s; Patron’s Room; 10:30 AM

MARCH

- 2 – LSE: Main Line Arts; Patron’s Room; 10:30 AM
- 4 – LSE: Master Gardener’s; Patron’s Room; 10:30 AM
- 8 – Daylight Saving Time Begins**
- 9 – LSE: Main Line Arts; Patron’s Room; 10:30 AM
- 11 – LSE: PEW Video; Patron’s Room; 10:30 AM
- 12 – PSVS/ED: The Children’s Academy; Media
- 16 – LSE: Main Line Arts; Patron’s Room; 10:30 AM
- 17 – Happy St. Patrick’s Day!
- 18 – LSE: Rod Powell & Master Gardener’s; Patron’s Room; 10:30 AM
- 20 – First Day of Spring!
- 23 – LSE: Main Line Arts; Patron’s Room; 10:30 AM
- 25 – LSE: Master Gardener’s; Patron’s Room; 10:30 AM
- 30 – LSE: Main Line Arts; Patron’s Room; 10:30 AM

APRIL

- 1 – LSE: Master Gardeners; Patron’s Room; 10:30 AM
- 5 – Happy Easter!
- 6 – LSE: Main Line Arts; Patron’s Room; 10:30 AM
- 7 – PSVE/ED: Sunshine Christian Academy; Drexel Hill
- 13 – LSE: Patron’s Room; 10:30 AM
- 15 – LSE: Master Gardeners; Patron’s Room; 10:30 AM
- 20 – LSE: Main Line Arts ; Patron’s Room; 10:30 AM
- 22 – Earth Day
- 22 – LSE: Patron’s Room; 10:30 AM
- 23 – PSVS/ED: Mt. Hope Children’s Center; Aston
- 24 – PSVS/ED: Mt. Hope Children’s Center; Aston
- 27 – LSE: Master Gardeners; Patron’s Room; 10:30 AM
- 29 – LSE: Master Gardeners; Patron’s Room; 10:30 AM

VISION SERVICES AT ANY AGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Technology program. We are also happy to offer employment to over 60 blind and disabled individuals through CBVI employment programs.

Blind and visually impaired adults throughout Delaware County receive In-Home Vision Rehabilitation and Specialized Services, free of charge, thanks to funding through the PA Association for the Blind and supportive grants. These services include case work, transportation, escort, and chore services. Life Skills Education classes and support groups are also available.

CBVI has community presence at local health fairs, senior centers, retirement villages and nursing homes, offering both adult vision screenings and informational lectures and presentations on vision-related topics.

The Low Vision Clinic at CBVI helps persons of any age with limited sight to make the best use possible of their remaining vision.

CBVI services aim to be appropriate to vision loss at any age. For more information, please call 610-874-1476 ext. 161, email us at cbvi@cbvi.net or check out the CBVI website at www.cbvi.net.

PLANNING YOUR ESTATE

BY TOM DILL, ESQ.

Do you have a will? A will ensures that your assets will be distributed to those who mean the most to you in the way that you, not the courts, specify.

We ask you to please consider CBVI when making estate plans. Your gift of any size makes a significant difference to us. To get started, we recommend that you talk to an attorney specializing in estate planning.

If you are considering to include CBVI in your estate plans, we will work with you to create a legacy of which you will be proud. For more information contact Tom Dill at 724-347-5501 ext. 233.



DO YOU HAVE LOW VISION?

A Low Vision Specialist can oftentimes assist individuals with conditions such as macular degeneration, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy in learning to use their remaining vision more effectively. CBVI’s Low Vision Clinic is now scheduling patients – please call Monica at 610-874-1476 ext. 129.



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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