

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

People...it's all about people. Keystone exists for one reason only, to help people.

In our case, we focus on helping people deal effectively with vision loss. Vision loss often leads to a sense of isolation. One may not be able to read their mail, drive the car to the grocery store, or read the newspaper. Making out ingredients for recipes and working safely in the kitchen becomes more difficult. Ironing clothes, sorting laundry or putting on make-up may seem almost impossible accomplish.

Fortunately, there is help, and it can be found at Keystone. Our dedicated team can teach you how to pour hot coffee without burning yourself, how to set the temperature on your oven so that dinner doesn't burn, how to cross the street safely or to use the shuttle service, how to identify your clothing by color or pattern, how to organize your medicines so you are taking the proper dosage at the proper time, or how to use standard or electronic magnifiers to make the most of your remaining vision. We can teach you how to be computer proficient even if you cannot see the monitor.

Our team will help you get to your doctor's appointments, help get your groceries, assist with banking and bill paying, read your mail, and assist with completed forms, and hundreds of other daily tasks that interfere with your ability to enjoy life.

With Keystone's highly trained and dedicated staff to help with many tasks and the rehabilitation programs available, most blind and visually impaired persons find that they can do more than they ever believed and that life doesn't have to be some dreary existence with the world leaving you behind.

We encourage anyone experiencing severe vision loss to contact us to learn how we can help. If you know someone who is visually impaired and needs help, encourage them to contact us.

Our vision works.



Jonathan Fister Keystone President/CEO

Our Mission

To empower, educate, and employ individuals with vision loss or other disabilities.

Our Vision

We change people's lives for the better.

See a timeline of our history on page 4 of the Industry Edition!



Keystone SERVICES EDITION

Programs

- 16 Assistive Technology
- 17 Eyeglasses Program
- 17 Talking Newspaper

Children's Programs

- 18 Keystone Kids
- 19 Young Adults
- 20 Growing with KBA
- 22 IDEAL Program
- 23 National Foundation for Blind Children

Events

- 24 Annual Golf Scramble
- 26 Sizzler for Sight

Rehabilitation

- 9 Orientation & Mobility
- 10 School Services
- 11 Rehabilitation Education

Insights

- 5 The Keystone Family
- 6 Casework Services
- 7 Client Demographics

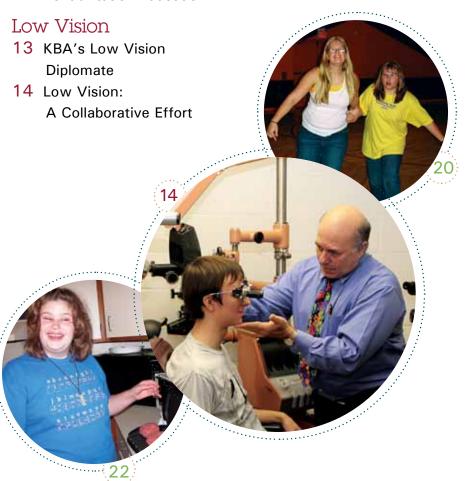
Prevention

8 Prevention of Blindness

On The Cover

0&M Specialist Luann Cade works
with a student on mobility skills.

Story on page 9.



KEYSTONE - SERVICES EDITION 3 .: "



Stephanie Finnegan editor/creative director Editorial Assistant Maureen Perod

PRINTED BY Minuteman Press of Hermitage, PA

KEYSTONE STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE : OPERATIONS

Jonathan Fister PRESIDENT/CEO

Aaron Sshwab DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Laurie Staph, MBA, CPA SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE

Michelle Boggs CONTROLLER

Amy Ferrara PAYROLL SPECIALIST

Vera Franken STAFF ACCOUNTANT

Tom Dill, Esq. SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF RISK MANAGEMENT

Melissa Means VICE PRESIDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Judy Rauso DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Susan McKinnis VOCATIONAL SPECIALIST

Brandy Davis ASSISTANT VOCATIONAL SPECIALIST

Maureen Perod DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Terry Lukes BCAB ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

David Sherwin MCAB ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Mary Sue Boyle CBVI DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Domingo Bermudez RECEPTIONIST

HUMAN SERVICES

Ann Peterson SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF SERVICES Jennifer Lilly CERTIFIED VISION REHABILITATION THERAPIST/ LOW VISION TECH/YOUNG ADULTS COORDINATOR

Kathleen Buskirk CERTIFIED VISION REHABILITATION THERAPIST

Shirley Shanes PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS COORDINATOR

Jennifer Ford PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS SPECIALIST

Luann Cade CERTIFIED ORIENTATION & MOBILITY SPECIALIST

Kim Graham ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Mike Nicol ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST

Regina Novak CASEWORK COORDINATOR

Katie Mason CASEWORKER/LIFE SKILLS COORDINATOR

Jason Buchowski LIFE SKILLS COORDINATOR

Tom Giovannelli SUPPORT SERVICES AIDE

Debra Hoffman SUPPORT SERVICES AIDE Jeanie Rahl SUPPORT SERVICES AIDE

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS,

BCAB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CBVI & MCAB CEO Allen Connely

VICE PRESIDENT OF FACILITIES & OPERATIONS Philip J. Yudt

DIRECTOR OF PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT & PRODUCTION Karen Bly

OPERATIONS ASSISTANT/REST AREA MANAGER Marie Ditz

PLANT SUPERVISOR - EASTERN OPERATIONS Cameron Grant

TOTAL PROPERTY MGMT. OPERATIONS MANAGER Evelyn Kurdupski

TOTAL PROPERTY MGMT. MAINTENANCE MANAGER Marvin McAfoose

TOTAL PROPERTY MGMT. MAINTENANCE MANAGER Gary Sturey

NORTHWESTERN REST AREA TPM DISTRICT SUPERVISOR Tim Soetv

WESTERN REST AREA TPM DISTRICT SUPERVISOR Leon Lewis

REST AREA TOTAL PROPERTY MGMT. DISTRICT 11 SUPERVISOR Gary Holder

SOUTH CENTRAL REST AREA DISTRICT SUPERVISOR Ed Harnish

DISTRICT 4 ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR William Waner

DISTRICT 5 SITE SUPERVISOR Roger Westgate

DISTRICT 12 SITE SUPERVISOR Rebecca Henke

CHEYNEY UNIVERSITY PROJECT MANAGER Suneisha Scott

ACQUISITION & LOGISTICS SPECIALIST Christian Skibinski

PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST Nikki Boyle

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR Frank Chess

STORE & MAILING MANAGER Raette Esmond

PHOTO ID MANAGER Cristina Rains

LAWN MAINTENANCE MANAGER Claude Gaines

HEAD OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY Kevin Bly

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR David Dancker

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR Dale Myers

MAINTENANCE/CUSTODIAN Russ Middendorf

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN Mike Kienast

HUMAN SERVICES, CONTINUED

LIFE SKILLS & KEYSTONE KIDS COORDINATOR Louise Johnson CRAWFORD COUNTY OFFICE MANAGER Bob George

LAWRENCE COUNTY OFFICE MANAGER Heather Winters

MAIN OFFICE

KEYSTONE BLIND ASSOCIATION - MERCER COUNTY KEYSTONE INDEPENDENCE MANAGEMENT

KEYSTONE VOCATIONAL SERVICES NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR BLIND CHILDREN

1230 Stambaugh Avenue, Sharon, PA 16146

*Moving Facilities in Mid 2015 | 3056 E. State Street, Hermitage, PA 16148

P| 724-347-5501

F| 724-347-2204

kba@keystoneblind.org

www.keystoneblind.org

© Copyright 2015 by Keystone. All rights reserved.

AFFILIATE AGENCIES

KEYSTONE BLIND ASSOCIATION - CRAWFORD COUNTY

312 Chestnut Street, Suite 103, Meadville, PA 16335

KEYSTONE BLIND ASSOCIATION - LAWRENCE COUNTY

2304 Wilmington Road, New Castle, PA 16105

BEAVER COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND (BCAB)

616 Fourth Street, Beaver Falls, PA 15010

CENTER FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED (CBVI)

CENTER FOR THE BLIND AND DISABLED (CBD)

100 West 15th Street, Chester, PA 19013

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND (MCAB)

25 E. Marshall Street, 3rd Floor, Norristown, PA 19401



The Keystone Family

By Ann Peterson, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF SERVICES

The main office of Keystone Blind Association (KBA) is located at 1230 Stambaugh Avenue, Sharon, PA 16146 (724-347-5501). The agency provides Specialized Services to more than 170 individuals in Mercer County. Prevention of Blindness services and educational programs are provided at schools, senior centers, high rises, agencies, industries and nursing homes in the community. Prevention specialists conduct pre-school vision screenings, vision screenings for adults and participate in health and info-fairs throughout the county. Over 5,300 Mercer and eastern Trumbull County residents received Prevention Services in 2012.

In 1986, the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind (PAB) awarded Keystone a grant to provide Specialized Services to visually impaired residents of Crawford County. That office is now located at 312 Chestnut Street, Meadville, PA 16335 (814-333-3121). Services are provided to about 40 visually impaired people county-wide. Prevention services are provided for over 2,955 Crawford County residents.

On July 1, 2012, the PAB gave KBA funding to provide both Specialized Services and Prevention of Blindness Services in Lawrence County. That office address is 2304 Wilmington Road, New Castle, PA

16105 (724-856-3527). The Lawrence County staff has provided specialized services to more than 30 visually impaired individuals. In the past year, KBA has provided Prevention screenings and educational programs to over 1765 children and adults in Lawrence County.

In addition to these offices, Keystone also has two other in-house agencies, as well four affiliate agencies across the state of Pennsylvania.

Created in 2000, Keystone Independence Management (KIM) provides management services to all of the agencies in the Keystone family. These services include: Accounting, Human Resources, Administration, and Services Consultation. KIM is headquartered at KBA in Sharon, PA.

In 2002, Keystone Vocational Services (KVS) opened to manufacture tools to sell to the federal government. The production facility is located at 981 Division Street, Sharon, PA, 16146. (724-347-3711).

The first agency to become an affiliate of KBA was Beaver County Association for the Blind (BCAB). KIM began providing administrative operations to BCAB in 2006. Located at 616 Fourth Street, Beaver Falls, PA 15010 (724-843-1111), BCAB provides services to Beaver County individuals.

2009 saw the addition of two more affiliates, Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI) and Center for the Blind and Disabled (CBD). CBVI provides services to the greater Delaware Valley, and is located at 100 W. 15th Street, Chester, PA 19013 (610-874-1476). CBVI is the parent company of Center for the Blind and Disabled. CBD manages 2 photo ID centers and provides lawn maintenance and snow removal services as a subcontractor for numerous rest areas along Pennsylvania's interstates. Most recently, CBD picked up a contract to provide janitorial services for Cheyney University, located just outside of Chester, PA.

The most recent agency to become a Keystone affiliate is Montgomery County Association for the Blind (MCAB). KIM began providing management services to MCAB in 2012. MCAB is located at 25 E. Marshall Street, 3rd Floor, Norristown, PA 19401 (215-661-9800) and provides services to individuals in Montgomery County, near Philadelphia.

Though on opposite ends of the state, Keystone and its affiliates work together to provide a variety of services and products to not only the individuals of Pennsylvania, but also to the federal government.

















Casework Services

By Ann Peterson, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF SERVICES

Casework services provided by Keystone Blind Association include transportation with sighted guide, support services, life skills programs, support groups, information and referral, access to talking books and the talking newspaper, assistance with housing, Keystone Kids, and Young Adults events.

A service provider meets with the consumer to assess the need for the service(s) and to agree on a plan tailored to meet those needs. Support services enable the consumer to be independent and active at home and in the community.

Transportation with sighted escort service is provided for grocery shopping, personal needs shopping, medical trips, banking, to the Post Office, Social Security office, and other necessary community services. Transportation is also provided to address of housing issues such as meeting with the landlord, applying for housing, or paying rent.

Support Services consist of various tasks, including mail-reading, bill-paying and check-writing, form completion, banking assistance, delivering adaptive devices, minor household repairs for safety purposes, setting watches and clocks, making large print address books or

phone lists, and emergency snow removal.

Life Skills programs are often presented by mobility or rehabilitation instructors or by community resource professionals who share information about programs, services or skills that can improve a consumer's quality of life. Programs stress safety, organizational skills and good communication.

A variety of Support Groups are available to address the consumer's needs. There are support groups for technology users, groups for individuals who want to share information about consumer issues and groups for people who want to better cope with vision loss. The intent of peer support is to improve communications among people who are visually impaired, to improve coping and problem-solving skills, to improve self-esteem and self-awareness and to build self-advocacy.

Information and referral services are provided for individuals to access community resources or agencies for food, meals, income, rebates, housing and information to make activities of daily living easier. Referrals are made to agencies or organizations that can provide assistance to visually impaired consumers.

KBA can process applications for Carnegie Library for the Blind, which provides talking books and magazines in several formats, Braille books and described movies.

The services listed above are provided in Crawford, Lawrence, and Mercer Counties in PA and in Masury, Brookfield, Mahoning, Trumbull, and Columbiana Counties, OH.

KBA volunteers record the Sharon Herald so that vision-impaired consumers can listen to the paper daily on the phone. The Talking News is accessible from the consumer's phone 24/7. (See page 17.)

Keystone Kids events provide opportunities for children and youth (ages 5 – 18) to attend outings and group activities while they practice communication, mobility, assistive technology and self-advocacy skills. (More information on page 18.)

Young Adult events provide individuals (19-30) the opportunity to network in social and recreational settings. (More information on page 19.)

If you or someone you know is in need of these services, please contact KBA at 724-347-5501.

SLongstreet Enterprise, LLC

Creator of
Low Vision Bingo Cards
and E-Z-2-C Deck
of Playing Cards

Congratulations Keystone!



www.flipbingo.com 724-977-5994 flipbingo@live.com

Where in the World Am I?

By Kathie Preece, COMS / Teacher for the Visually Impaired 60 pages, 2001 Price: \$15.00 (+ \$3.00 s/h)

Where in the World Am I? contains many concepts and skills that can be taught through play activities by parents, Teachers of the Visually Impaired, Orientation and Mobility Specialists, or Early Childhood teachers.

Call 724-347-5501 to purchase.





Services Demographics

By Jonathan Fister, PRESIDENT/CEO

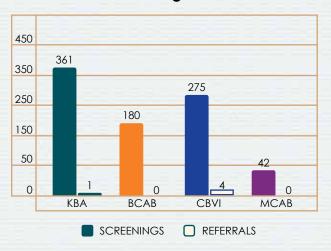
Keystone Blind Association does not view the people we serve as numbers, but numbers are important in evaluating who we are serving and whether we have the right programs in place to best serve our population. Studying client demographics helps us to be prepared if we see additional children coming into our programs or if we need to acquire new equipment to meet the demands of prevention programs. We want to know if our client's average is going up or down or if more males are seeking our

services from year to year. The numbers also help us make accommodations for population shifts and changes in demand for various programs. They enable us to take a "snapshot" of who we are serving and what we are doing.

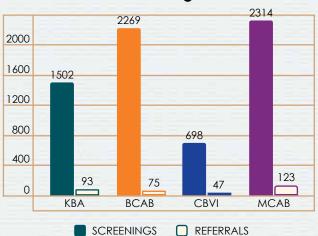
	KBA (Mercer, Crawford, and Lawrence Counties)	ВСАВ	CBVI	MCAB
Casework	×	×	×	×
Prevention	×	×	×	×
Vision Rehab. Therapy	×		×	×
Low Vision	×	×		
O & M	×			×
Assistive Technology	×	×	×	
Keystone Kids	×	×	=	
Young Adults	×			
IDEAL Program			×	

Figures reflect approximate 2014 numbers.

Adult Screenings & Referrals



Children's Screenings & Referrals



Average Age of Keystone & Affiliates Clients 18+

75

Age of Oldest Keystone & Affiliates Client Age of Youngest Keystone & Affiliates Client

106

2

Prevention of Blindness

By Shirley Shanes, PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS SPECIALIST

Keystone Blind Association's two Prevention of Blindness Specialists provide PreSchool Vision Screenings to identify preschool aged children who may be experiencing visual difficulties due to amblyopia (lazy eye).

Children with amblyopia usually do not know that what they are seeing is not normal, and are unable to tell their parents that something is wrong. Unless there is an obvious sign such as crossed eyes, there is nothing to suggest to the parent that there may be a problem.

Amblyopia is caused by any condition that affects normal use of the eyes and visual development. There are three major causes of amblyopia:

- Amblyopia commonly occurs with strabismus (misaligned or crossed eyes.)
- healthy and functioning well, they may not be functioning together. Amblyopia can occur when one eye is more nearsighted, farsighted, or astigmatic than the other. The image received can be double or blurred. The brain suppresses or pays less attention to the eye that is not the clearest. When this happens, the vision in the ignored or "lazy eye" cannot develop normally.
- Any factor, such as cataracts, that prevents a clear image from being focused inside the eye can lead to amblyopia.

Children with screening results outside of the normal range for their age are referred for a complete eye examination with an eye-care professional. When they are examined and treated by an optometrist or ophthalmologist, most will develop improved or normal vision.

To schedule a screening for your preschool, please contact Shirley Shanes at KBA, 724-347-5501, ext. 218.

The Prevention of Blindness Department also provides adult screenings and vision education programs at senior centers, senior residential facilities, churches, service organizations, nursing homes, and health fairs throughout KBA's service area. POB Specialists stress the importance of regularly scheduled eye exams and assist in the early detection of glaucoma and macular degeneration. Adult vision screenings include distance and near visual acuities, color perception, and depth perception. Amsler Grids are used to screen for Age Related Macular Degeneration. Individuals are instructed in the use of the grid, and are provided with one to continue the screenings at home.

Intraocular Pressure (glaucoma) screenings are conducted using a non-contact tonometer or "puff of



air" machine. The readings are immediately displayed on the tonometer, and given to the participant after the screening.

Individuals who have abnormal readings are referred to eye care professionals for complete eye examinations.

To schedule a screening for your facility or group, please contact Shirley Shanes at KBA, 724-347-5501, ext. 218.





Orientation & Mobility

By Luann Cade, orientation & mobility specialist

I teach Orientation and Mobility (O&M). When a person is having difficulty traveling independently due to a visual impairment, I can help. I teach blind and visually impaired travelers how to navigate through their environment safely and effectively. An O&M Specialist teaches the concepts, skills, and techniques necessary for a person with a visual impairment to travel safely through the environment. As an O&M teacher, I work with individuals to attain their mobility goals.

Each student/client, no matter what their age is, is new and unique in their goals, circumstances, and travel abilities. Therefore, after an O&M assessment of their particular situation, we create realistic goals together that they would like to achieve. This may include walking with a mobility device such as a long cane, support cane, guide dog, or

even a walker. It may be traveling throughout their home, walking outside to get their mail, taking a walk around the block, or getting on a bus and going to work. It may be teaching the use of sighted guide, trailing, or protective techniques. It may be working at their home, school, or out in the community. It may include learning how to cross streets, using public transportation, climbing steps, walking at the mall, using elevators and escalators, or maneuvering through the local grocery store. It frequently includes being a liaison and resource to employers, teachers, or family members.

Keystone Blind Association currently has contracts with school districts in Mercer, Beaver, and Mahoning Counties. The schools contract with us to come to their facility on a weekly, monthly, or consult basis and provide Orientation & Mobility training to their students on-site. The school children range in age from kindergarten to high school. We work closely with the student, school, and parents to develop Individual Education Plan (IEP)

goals for each child.

Our adult clients are referred to us from a variety of sources. We receive referrals from individuals themselves, family members, assisted living staff members, workplace, state agencies, and various other sources. We welcome anyone to refer an individual to us that is in need of help. Once again, we travel to wherever our clients need training. The most effective setting for training is always in the client's own environment. Adult O&M clients are currently being serviced in Mercer, Beaver, Lawrence, and Crawford Counties. We also service adult clients in Ohio. In 2014. 334 O&M lessons were taught to 40 different clients.

In addition to all of the above teaching, I provide in-service training to staff members who work with the visually impaired, stay up-to-date on continuing education, mentor student teachers just entering the field from universities, and promote public awareness of the White Cane Law to everyone that will listen.

We welcome anyone who is in need of help with safe travel skills to contact our Orientation & Mobility department at KBA. Now...let's get movina!



Luann demonstrates protective techniques to Martin during a lesson





teacher, O&M Specialist Luann Cade.

school hallways while on a mobility lesson with his

School Services

Louise Johnson, LIFE SKILLS & KEYSTONE KIDS COORDINATOR

There is a growing need for school services for students who are visually impaired. Their needs vary widely. Students who are blind have differing needs from students who have low vision, and different eye diseases affect vision differently. Acuity and visual field are not the only aspects of vision. Also, there is contrast, visual complexity, color, sensitivity to light, and even psychological factors. Some eye conditions originate in the eye itself while other originate in the brain.

The type of eye condition that originates in the brain is called cerebral vision impairment (CVI). This is a relatively new area of research. Many children who have visual impairment with multiple disabilities have CVI. Some of the key features of working with a student who has CVI would

be allowing time for the student to respond and eliminating visual clutter. Many students with CVI take around 30 seconds to register a visual image in their brains and then respond. Patience is key. Also, a great way to eliminate visual clutter is provide a black or white background.

Students with visual impairments have several needs, some of which are apparent and some of which are not so apparent. They include independent living, career education, assistive technology, recreation and leisure, social interaction, visual efficiency, compensatory skills, and orientation and mobility. A student may need instruction in the compensatory skill of braille or may need instruction in social skills. For example, children who are blind from birth do not know

that they should "look" toward the person to which they are speaking or listening to indicate paying attention.

Schools have several options to provide services to their students with visual impairments. Larger districts, with a high population of students with visual impairments may choose to hire a full- or parttime special education teacher to work in the district. More often, though, school districts will contract with an outside agency for these services. The Keystone Blind Association began providing services to schools in 2008. School districts can take advantage of the full range of services at a competitive contract rate. Services are delivered using an itinerant model, where the teacher travels to the school or home to work with students.



We Proudly Support the Keystone Blind Association

3170 East State Street, Hermitage, PA 16148

Phone: 724.346.1105 Fax: 724.346.1107

www.hermitage.minutemanpress.com www.minutemanpromoitems.com

Your local Fee Ex. and



shipping center

Rehabilitation Education

By Kathy Buskirk, certified vision rehabilitation therapist



Shawnna has low vision as a result of a blood clot on the brain. Learning to use adaptive techniques and devices enable her to better care for her young children and household. This photo illustrates Shawnna using an audible labeling system to make reusable audible food labels on magnetic strips to identify/organize her canned goods. Other devices (bottom left in photo) include using voice functions on her cell phone, a talking currency reader to identify currency and a digital recorder for keepina family appointments, physician directives and many other household recording needs. On the bottom right of this photo is a signature guide that assists Shawnna with accurately signing forms.

Just imagine – it is morning and you are getting ready to go to work. You use the alarm clock, know how to check the day's temperature, make (and pour) the morning coffee, pick out your outfit for the day, utilize transportation to get to work, and use your computer when you arrive. When you are visually impaired, you will complete all of these tasks differently!

The rehabilitation education program at KBA provides instruction with adaptive techniques that enable visually impaired and blind persons to independently perform daily living tasks, based on individual needs and capabilities. Vision Rehabilitation Therapists complete comprehensive assessments and service plans, taking into account an individual's degree/type of visual loss, tactile and audible skills, and cognitive and physical capabilities. Referrals for other services, such as additional KBA services or other community resources, are also made when

needed. Instruction is provided in the areas of personal management, home management, communications, low vision skills, orientation and movement in familiar indoor environments, and leisure/family interaction activities.

Personal Management skills development includes keeping time, identifying/organizing money, personal grooming, medical management, and other self-care skills. Instruction in the area of home management include kitchen/home safety, food preparation skills, labeling and organization, home repairs, sewing adaptations, and general home care. Communication instruction includes Braille instruction, keyboarding, handwriting, using writing guides to complete household correspondence and finances, and audible/low vision methods for information storage and retrieval. Low vision skills include using large print, lighting options, glare control, and use and review of low vision devices to enhance and

maximize the use of remaining vision. Indoor mobility skills in familiar areas include using sighted guide and protective techniques, trailing skills. Instruction with using or adapting low vision/tactile/audible games, cards, reading alternatives, techniques for handicrafts and adaptive sporting equipment allow a visually impaired person to take an active part and enjoy family activities once again.

KBA's Rehabilitation Department serves Crawford, Mercer, Lawrence and Beaver Counties. In addition, OOD (Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities) and BBVS (Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services) contract with KBA for Rehabilitation Instruction, Rehabilitation Technology, Low Vision Services, and Orientation and Mobility Services. These services have been provided in Trumbull, Mahoning and Columbiana counties in Ohio and Mercer/Lawrence counties in Pennsylvania.

11 .: " **KEYSTONE - SERVICES EDITION**





SAFE, SOLID, SECURE then & now.

CONTACT US AT ONE OF OUR THREE LOCATIONS

GREENVILLE OFFICE

233 Main Street - Box 150 GREENVILLE, PA 16125 Phone: 724-588-5420

HERMITAGE OFFICE

550 N. HERMITAGE ROAD HERMITAGE, PA 16148 PHONE: 724-983-1466

NESHANNOCK OFFICE

3302 WILMINGTON ROAD NEW CASTLE, PA 16105 PHONE: 724-652-5820

Member FDIC

www.greenvillesavings.com



keystoneblind.org

KBA's Low Vision Diplomate

Dr. Paul B. Freeman is an optometrist who graduated from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in Philadelphia in 1974. He is presently the head of low vision rehabilitation services at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and provides low vision rehabilitation services at Keystone Blind Association in Sharon, Pennsylvania and Beaver County Association for the Blind in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. He provides rehabilitative care for individuals of all ages, including those suffering from the visual consequences of acquired brain injury. In addition, he is the optometric consultant to the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children, and is involved in vision programs throughout western Pennsylvania's school districts.

He has been an investigator in a number of vision research projects to determine the efficiency of sophisticated low vision devices, to assess the psychological implications of low vision, and to explore the relationship of vision and the learning process.

Dr. Freeman lectures both nationally

and internationally and was a
Distinguished Clinical Practitioner at
the University of Houston, College of
Optometry, from 2000 to 2001.
Dr. Freeman was part of AARP's
Webinar: Keep Your Safety in Sight,
Prepare for the Effects of Aging
Vision on Driving, presented for the
AARP Driver Safety Program, May
2011, Washington, DC, and was
also involved in AARP Smart Driver
training videos, AARP Driver Safety,
November 2012, Alexandria, VA.
Dr. Freeman is currently on the
PennDOT Medical Advisory Board.

He has authored numerous articles, and served as the editor of Optometry, Journal of the American Optometric Association from February, 1999 to June 2012. Dr. Freeman is presently co-editor-in-Chief of the Elsevier eye care portal PracticeUpdate. He co-authored the book "The Art and Practice of Low Vision," and wrote "Believing is Seeing."

Dr. Freeman is a low vision diplomate in the American Academy of Optometry (1 of only 2 in western Pennsylvania), and was chair of the diplomate program and Low Vision Section of the AAO from 1989-1992. As one of the founders of the American Optometric Association's Low Vision Section, he served as its chairperson from 1987-1989. Dr. Freeman has received numerous awards, including the Golden Triangle Radio Information Center Award, for working with the visually impaired (1985), the Pennsylvania Council for the Blind's Distinguished Service Award (1996), the State University of New York, College of Optometry's William Feinbloom Award (1997), the Pittsburgh Business Times' Healthcare Hero Award: Physician of the Year (1997), the American Optometric Association Low Vision Section's Vision Care Award (1999). Pennsylvania Council of the Blind Honorary Service Award 2010, The COVD Distinguished Service Award in 2011, and the Merit Award from the Pennsylvania Optometric Association in 2012.

Dr. Freeman has consulted with many private care practitioners in establishing successful low vision services both nationally and internationally.



Dr. Freeman currently provides low vision rehabilitation services at Keystone Blind Association in Sharon, PA and Beaver County Association for the Blind in Beaver Falls, PA, on certain Thursdays of each month. He plans to expand the number of days at each agency in accordance with increasing client appointments. To schedule an appointment, please call KBA at 724-347-5501 or BCAB at 724-843-1111.

keystone - services edition 13 .∷



Low Vision: A Collaborative Effort

By Jenn Lilly, certified vision rehabilitation therapist

Taking care of visually impaired people effectively requires that all professionals know when it is necessary to interact with colleagues.

Many professionals can help individuals with the rehabilitation of their visual impairment, from doctors who specialize in maximizing the use of "remaining" vision, to orientation and mobility specialists (O&M), teachers of the visually impaired (TVI), assistive technology specialists, low vision therapists, and vision rehabilitation therapists (VRT). It is very important to have an interdisciplinary team that can work well together in a seamless fashion to help visually impaired individuals. The goal is to maximize the visual function of this population.

At Keystone Blind Association, we are fortunate to have professionals who have the expertise described above, and who work together to help our clients achieve their visual goals. Most often this begins in our Low Vision Clinic. Visually impaired individuals are scheduled to see Dr. Paul B. Freeman, the optometrist who provides a low vision evaluation. He does a comprehensive eye examination consisting of a goal oriented history, an eye health evaluation, determination of the need for regular eyeglasses, and prescription of non-refractive sight enhancement (magnification, environmental modifications, etc.). The doctor always writes a letter to the patient's referring eye doctor, primary care doctor, and any other professionals who may be part of the patient's health care (or sometimes educational) team, further supporting the philosophy of an interdisciplinary team approach.

After the first visit, most patients are scheduled back to see the rehabilitative therapists who work closely with the doctor. At this visit, the therapists systematically show the recommended low vision devices that could help in achieving the visual goals established early on. If a patient finds a device to be beneficial, but is unsure if it will work at home, the patient can usually take the device home to try it. If needed, a home visit with a VRT can be scheduled as well.

When the VRT goes into the patient's home, to work with the low vision device, see can assess the environment and recommend modifications. Sometimes making modifications in the home can help the patient function more effectively and improve the patient's activities of daily living. The benefit to the patient is that what was done in the clinic (an "ideal" environment) is being integrated into a real life setting.

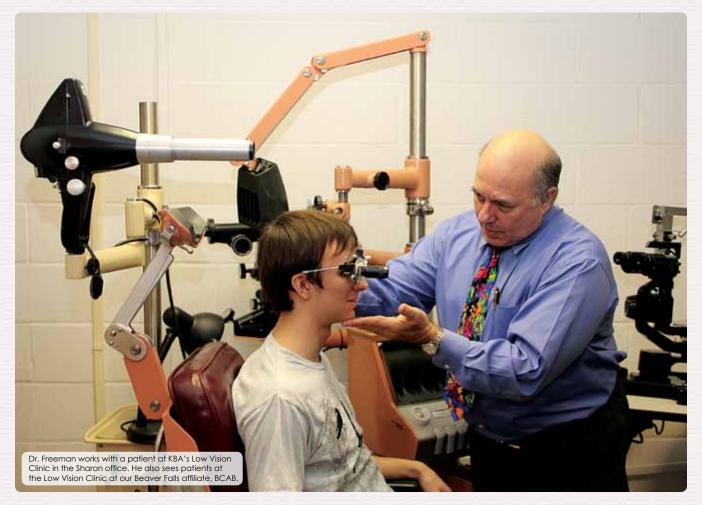
For example, a patient was using a microscope (a strong reading lens) at the clinic reading the newspaper, her Bible, magazines, etc. When she took the microscope home, she found that she was unable to read as well as she had in the clinic. The VRT went to her home to see if she could remedy the situation. The first thing she noticed was how dark it was. The VRT clipped a light onto the patients glasses, turned it on, and, directed the light on the paper. The patient remarked, "Wow, that is so much better! What did you do?" The VRT explained that the lighting in the room was not ideal, and that unless the patient was reading with better lights, or on a bright day, her general lighting was not sufficient. Now that she was using the microscope with

extra light, the client was able to use the device without any difficulty.

When indicated, patients can be referred for other specialized services within the agency as well. If a patient expresses concern about safe traveling, or frequent falling, that person can be referred for O&M training. The O&M specialist will work with the patient to improve all aspects of mobility, possibly using a low vision device recommended by the clinic.

As another example, one patient who has retinitis pigmentosa (RP, a condition affecting the peripheral vision) was having difficulty navigating, so the doctor prescribed a reversed telescope (an optical device that minimizes objects in the environment so that more information is accessible to the patient) mounted in glasses. The patient then worked with the O&M specialist who offered additional traveling techniques, and the low vision specialist who instructed the client on the proper technique of using the reversed telescope. After receiving training, she was able to travel with her guide dog.

With technology becoming an integrated part of life, patients often ask where they can get training. The doctor or therapist can refer that person to the assistive technology specialist for the appropriate training. When using a computer and adaptive programs, a patient might use a low vision device to view the monitor. For example, if a person is using Zoomtext (a screen magnifier program for the computer), the information displayed can be enlarged, but without proper glasses



to accommodate for the distance from the monitor, a small blurry image can become a large blurry image. The appropriate lenses can reduce the blur, thereby helping the patient see the monitor more clearly, enhancing their computer experience.

The rehabilitative process can confusing for those who are experiencing a decrease in vision. We are able to provide those individuals with information and resources to increase their quality of life, and help them to be as independent as possible.

A collaborative effort is important for maximizing the "remaining" vision of patients. Each patient is unique and has different needs. These patients are referred to all of the professionals who can help them to identify their needs, ensuring the best rehabilitative care possible.

Paul B. Freeman, O.D.

Fellow American Academy of Optometry Diplomate in Low Vision

Low Vision Clinic 724-347-5501

Thank you, Keystone, for your continued support of the blind and visually impaired community!

KEYSTONE - SERVICES EDITION 15 .: "

Assistive Technology

By Kim Graham, director of computer access technology services

Today more and more employers are opting to transition into mobilebased platforms to serve for their technology requirements. This type of platform includes laptop computer systems and personal data assistant devices, and most prevalent of the portable category, tablet computers and smartphones. While Windows and Macintosh operating system platforms are the leaders in user preference for mobile-based laptop computing arrangements, Apple iOS and Android are those most preferred in tablet and smartphone arrangements. Transitioning from a familiar desktop computing technology arrangement into a mobile-based environment often becomes a reluctance-filled task for those employees with visual impairment. The most common reason for transition reluctance is an understandable concern regarding mobile device accessibility.

With the skilled guidance and targeted support offered by Computer Access Technology (CAT) specialists at the Keystone Blind Association and its various affiliate agencies, end-user technology transition reluctance can be reduced and often times altogether prevented. Specialists provide thorough evaluation, training, technical support, and professional consultation services pertaining to individuals' specific needs. Specialists employ their expertise in determining the necessary assistive technology programs/ devices, training and/or technical support required for each circumstance.

Assistive technology is technology used by individuals with disabilities in order to perform functions that might otherwise be difficult or impossible. For individuals with a visual impairment, numerous assistive technologies are available. These technologies offer effective means to make the seemingly impossible, become possi-

ble. CAT specialists at Keystone Blind Association and its affiliate agencies deliver quality services relating to a countless number of visual supplementation technologies including:

- Screen Magnifier and Screen Reader programs
- Optical Character Recognition or Scan and Read programs/devices
- Speech Recognition programs
- Accessible Personal Data Assistant devices
- Video Magnifier devices
- Braille Translation programs
- Braille Embosser devices
- Mobile Platform-Integrated Accessibility Features
- Accessible Mobile Device Apps



Along with services relating to the above-noted assistive technologies, significant specialized focus by CAT specialists is placed on the effective overall assistive-to-mainstream technology integration. Ensuring proper system-wide functioning is paramount when working within an individual's employment and/or personal

environment. Furthermore, ensuring an effective end-user transition into the use or continued use of assistive technologies is just as important.

In relation to mobile devices and the recent surge of desktop to mobile technology transition within everyday life as we know it, an overall focus on improving accessibility appears to be the well-known manufacturer trend. Since 2005, Apple has remained steadfast in releasing updates to their OS-integrated Voiceover Screen Reader and ZOOM Screen Magnifier accessibility features. Attempting to remain competitive since 2009, Android offered the Google TalkBack Screen Reader app to appeal to visually impaired end-users. The addition of this app continues to create positive results today as it is now standard on all new Android devices. Android platform-based devices also include the OS-integrated Screen Magnification feature, Rest assured fundamental device accessibility for visually impaired end-users does exist on these common mobile platforms. Determining app-specific accessibility tends to be the ongoing questionable area, however. Determination of app-specific accessibility for visually impaired end-users typically requires some level of app and accessibility feature-related trial and error processes being completed.

Just as assistive technology is available to supply effective means for accomplishing functions and tasks, CAT specialists are available to supply experienced guidance, evaluation, consultation, training, and technical support services. Reach out to us via your assistive technology-enabled desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone devices today! Or, if necessary, contact us to request support for learning how to make an effective transition into the use of such technologies!

Eyeglasses Program

By Shirley Shanes, PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS SPECIALIST

Have you ever wondered what happens to all of those used eyeglasses that are brought to Keystone Blind Association by Lions Clubs, churches, senior centers, businesses, etc.? Where do they go? Who do they go to? Their arrival at Keystone Blind Association is only the first step on a long journey.

When KBA's collection bin of used eyeglasses begins to overflow, Lion Paul Mitchell of the Fredonia Lions Club arrives at the agency to sort

out the broken and unusable pairs and loose lenses. The reusable eyeglasses then begin their journey to be added to the millions of pairs of recycled eyeglasses that Lions Club International collects across the globe each year.

Lions Club International operates twelve Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers in the United States. The six international centers are located in Canada, Australia, France, Italy, Spain, and South Africa. Lion volunteers sort, clean, and box the eyeglasses by prescription for distribution to Lions permanent eye clinics as well as other humanitarian missions.



The used eyeglasses donation bin sits in the lobby of KBA.

Millions of people in third world countries live in poverty. They never have the chance to have an eye exam or receive eyeglasses for their uncorrected refractive

errors (nearsightedness,
far-sightedness,
and
astigmatism).
Learning to
read, raising
food, or working is
difficult because
they cannot
see clearly.
When a person
receives a pair
of the recycled

difference in their lives.

eyeglasses, it

can make a huge

Children are able to learn to read and receive an education, and adults are better able to provide for their families.

If your old eyeglasses are taking up space in your drawer or closet, let them out to travel to a foreign country. (They won't even need a passport!) It is as easy as dropping them off at your local KBA affiliate office or giving them to a Lions Club member in your area. Also look for a collection box when you visit your eye doctor for your yearly eye examination. The simple act of dropping your old glasses into a collection box close to home will help to change the life of a person far away.

To donate used eyeglasses by mail:

Lions Clubs International Headquarters Attention: Receiving Department 300 W. 22nd Street Oak Brook, IL 60523, USA

Talking Newspaper

By Domingo Bermudez, TALKING NEWSPAPER COORDINATOR

The talking newspaper is a service that is made possible by individuals who donate up to one hour a day reading certain articles to the public. You can listen to the Sharon Herald by dialing 724-347-5510. There is a simple menu to follow which is composed of 8 choices or topics to pick from. Some of the topics are weather, headlines, birth, obituaries, articles for sale, sports, grocery ads, and comics.

Clients can also listen to the *Vista* newsletter thru the talking newspaper. The newsletter is available four times a year. This publication contains the yearly dates of events provided by KBA, articles of interest, and Keystone news. In the future, we hope to offer other newspapers from surrounding areas like Grove City and New Castle. If you would like any further information about the talking newspaper, please call Domingo at 724-347-5501.

Stay informed by using this resource that is available to all, especially our visually impaired clients.



Editor's note: To avoid any confusion, please note that the phone numbers for the talking newspaper and for the agency are extremely similar.

Talking Newspaper: 724-347-5510

Keystone: 724-347-5501

Keystone Kids



By Louise Johnson, LIFE SKILLS & KEYSTONE KIDS COORDINATOR

The Keystone Kids program is a community-based instruction program that is specifically designed for children with visual impairments. Through a variety of fun and educational experiences, Keystone Kids promotes personal growth and independence for children who are blind and visually impaired.

Schools are struggling to include each area of the Expanded Core Curriculum in the education of students who are visually impaired. The Expanded Core Curriculum for students with visual impairments includes independent

living, career education, assistive technology, recreation and leisure, social interaction, visual efficiency, compensatory skills, and orientation and mobility.

What better way to supplement a child's education than during activities in which each child is having fun? Keystone Kids holds an event once a month. We practiced our orientation and mobility skills at the Corn Maze in October 2014. We practiced our visual efficiency skills and compensatory skills while working on Christmas crafts at the Christmas party in

December 2014. The children used real hay and shoeboxes to create a nativity set, drew pictures for Christmas cards, and built a Christmas tree out of Reese's peanut butter cups and Hershey's kisses. Of course, our events always incorporate social interaction and recreation and leisure!

There is no charge for students to participate, and often transportation is provided as well. For more information about the Keystone Kids program, call Louise Johnson at 267-908-6507 or email her at louise@keystoneblind.org.













Young Adults

By Jenn Lilly, certified vision rehabilitation therapist

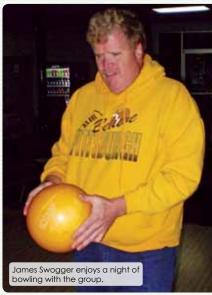
As we grow, we learn to be independent, to establish our own opinions, values, and goals; this is an important process for every person. To be independent is to be self-sufficient, minimally relying on others to assist in general activities of daily living. This is no different for those who are visually impaired. As a visually impaired young person, there will be certain things for which you will have to rely on others. However, at KBA, we encourage our young adults to learn the skills necessary to be as independent as possible.

Young adults come to an ageappropriate group activity that focuses on these skills. For example, the group may go out to dinner. Those who are visually impaired might have to use technology (i.e., magnifiers) to read from the menu to decide what they would like to order. Those who are totally blind might have to use their communication skills to ask the waitress for a Braille menu or to ask for assistance to find out what types of drinks, appetizers, and entrees are available.

After the young adults decide what

When everyone is finished with the meal, and they get their checks, they are responsible for paying the bill. They may use technology (i.e., money identifier), a folding method, a special wallet, or could (again, depending on the vision) use magnification to look at the money. When they are finished paying, they have to find their way back to the vehicle in the parking lot, with assistance if necessary, including cane techniques or a sighted guide. (Even though we stress independence we are cognizant of safety.)





Although the young adults program at KBA gives individuals a great opportunity for socialization and recreation, one of the main goals of this program is to assist them to become as independent as possible. Some of the areas we cover are communication, technology, cooking, cleaning, orientation and mobility, organization, money management, transportation, and self-advocating.

All of these skills are important to help an individual with a visual impairment get through each day. they would like to order, they then have to communicate that to the waitress. As the food is delivered to the table, they may have to ask the waitress, or a sighted guest, what is on their plate and where the food is located. They then have to understand proper eating techniques, so they do not spill things on the table, themselves, or others around them. When they are finished eating they may need to use the restroom, which will require orientation and mobility skills.

As is evident from the above example, one event can incorporate many skill necessary for independence. Other activities include making dinner, playing adaptive games, bowling, skating, snow tubing, movie night and camping. Each activity skills utilizes different daily living with the ultimate goal of learning to be self-reliant.

KEYSTONE - SERVICES EDITION 19 .: "

Growing With KBA

By Jenn Lilly, certified vision rehabilitation therapist

I was born with aniridia, which means "without an iris," a genetic condition that not only affects the iris, but affects other parts of the eye as well. I also have glaucoma and had cataracts removed. My mother has aniridia, and I was the second child born with aniridia in my family. My older sister Stacy also has aniridia. When we were very young, my mother wasn't aware of any services for us in our area.

the appropriate eye doctor to see, and contact private agencies (such as Keystone Blind Association) that can help with services. My mother was visually impaired and could not drive, so Mr. Farnum recommended transportation services from Keystone Blind Association (KBA). He also arranged transportation with KBA for a pediatric ophthalmologist in Erie who is still the eye doctor I see to this day!

to get involved with the Keystone Kids program at KBA. I met all kinds of kids that had different types of eye conditions. I was shy as a kid and often felt isolated and alone. I didn't know any other kids in my school who were visually impaired. Kathy felt it would be good for me to go to the Keystone Kids program so that I could meet other kids who had vision loss. She also thought this would help me reach an important goal in

my Individual Educational Plan (IEP): to interact more with my peers.

I became an active participant in the kids program. I loved attending and would count the days between each event. As Kathy had predict-

ed, the program was very beneficial to me, socially and educationally. The program helped me focus on what I wanted to do with my life, beginning with obtaining a college education. Kathy Preece, then the coordinator of the program, encouraged me to be the best person I could be. She told me I could do anything I put my mind to, even college. So, as a senior in high school, I was getting my driver's permit (I was able to meet the acuity requirements), getting ready for

college, and preparing to leave home for the first time. I was terrified of all these things, but Kathy was there to fortify me, telling me that I could do it. (In fact, she took me to get my driver's permit!) I am still involved with this program, now as a mentor and an assistant coordinator.

I only hope I can impact those whose lives I touch as much as I was impacted. Nothing could make me feel like I have accomplished more in life than this.

When my older sister went to kindergarten, she started to receive vision services through our Intermediate Unit at school. (This is an agency that serves school students who have any kind of impairment.) The IU assigned a teacher of

the visually impaired (TVI) to work with Stacy on typing, computer skills, Braille and large print. The TVI also worked with her on any school work with which she had difficulty.

The TVI referred my sister, my mother, and me to Blindness and Visual Services (BVS), a branch of the Office of Vocational and Rehabilitation Services. BVS works with all age groups from early invention services for young children to advocating for

the elderly population. I remember a very nice gentleman named John Farnum, a BVS vocational counselor, who became an advocate for the three of us. He provided information for my mother so that she could apply for financial support for medical treatments we would need, select

This was the beginning of a very long relationship between my family and Keystone Blind Association, which continues today. We met Kathy Lilley, who became like family to us. She took us grocery shopping and rushed us to the hospital for emergency eye surgery. We could always count on her. Throughout my childhood, Kathy encouraged, supported, and inspired me to be the best person that I could be. She encouraged me



Off to college I went, to start the next stage of my life. When I arrived at Slippery Rock University, I quickly realized that I had to be my own advocate because the professors did not have the time or resources to check up on each student. During the first month of school, I found it increasingly difficult to see the board or to keep up with all of the reading. I relayed this problem to my BVS caseworker, Rebecca, who suggested that both Stacy and I see a low vision specialist. We went to see Dr. Paul Freeman, After the initial evaluation, we had follow up appointments to work with devices that could help us both in school. The results were amazing: with the use of an optical aid we were both able to see 20/20!

During the follow up visit the therapist showed us many devices that could enhance reading and viewing the black board. After working with the multiple devices, I decided that a CCTV (I had used one in high school), a smaller hand held electronic magnifying system, a hand held magnifier and a pair of strong reading glasses were the most beneficial devices for me to use. I benefitted from all of these items at some point throughout college.

When I was a sophomore, I changed my major from math to special education (Community Programs for Americans with Disabilities - CPAD). I interned with Keystone Blind Association. I felt that choice would allow me to impact individuals who were visually impaired like me. I met with Jonathan Fister, CEO/President of Keystone Blind Association, to see what kind of work I could do as an intern. He surprised me by asking if I

would consider continuing my education to get a Master's Degree in Vision Rehabilitation Therapy (VRT). I was happy to know that he had faith in my ability. Once I

BELOW Jenn helps Keystone Kid Hunter DeGroff prepare homemade pizza during the Young

Explorers program.

started my internship, I fell in love with my role at KBA. This is when I decided that I would attend graduate school to be a VRT.

I began my employment at KBA in August of 2009. I also began my graduate studies for vision rehabilitation therapy online through Salus University, Philadelphia, while I was working. As part of my classwork I worked in KBA's low vision clinic which helped me to better understand principles of rehabilitation teaching. I also worked with our young adults program.

Now that I have my MS degree in Vision Rehabilitation Therapy and am nationally certified as a VRT, I continue to work at KBA in several positions:

 I work in the low vision clinic with the same optometrist who helped me during my college years, Dr. Paul Freeman. My responsibilities include scheduling appointments, making reminder and follow-up calls, participating in follow up appointments to demonstrate low vision devices, and conduct environmental

As a Keystone Kid, Jenn Lilly learned how to walk with a guide dog, Falla, and Rehabilitation Instructor Sandie Myers.

assessments in patients' homes.

Jenn roller skates with Keystone

Kid Lacey Rasely during one of

their visits to the roller rink.

- I conduct in-home VRT evaluations to remediate problems and remove obstacles or potential hazards.
 I prepare reports and keep records for each person.
- I coordinate the young adults program (ages 18-30) to provide opportunities for visually impaired individuals to experience things that their sighted peers may do and to work on activities of daily living (identifying and managing money; ordering, eating and tipping at a restaurant; attending a play or concert).

I am very busy, but wouldn't want it any other way. I plan to grow with KBA as it expands and grows. I only hope I can impact those whose lives I touch as much as I was impacted. Nothing could make me feel like I have accomplished more in life than this.

IDEAL Transition Program

By Rosemary Keefe, CBVI COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

The summer IDEAL (Individual Development through Experience, Assessment and Learning) Program at the Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI) specifically targets the transition challenges facing blind and visually impaired teens. The program adheres to the belief that support and good transition planning can foster achievement in further education, productivity in work, successful independent living, and integration into the community.

IDEAL is a full immersion, four week program where students live dormitory style at the Center. Days, nights and weekends are jam-packed with activities that cultivate independence needed for adult living.

The program is unique in that every effort is made to individualize the curriculum according to the specific needs of each student through careful initial assessments. A 19 year old, who lost her vision suddenly only 18 months before attending IDEAL, appreciated this effort. "These teachers really know what they're

doing!" she exclaimed. "I learned more than I ever dreamed I'd learn in four weeks!"

Daytime classes include instruction in five areas. Home Management emphasizes all the skills necessary for independent living: cooking, doing laundry, cleaning, bill paying, banking, organizational skills, etc. Computer Access Technology introduces students to the latest and best assistive technology for use in the classroom or the workplace and includes instruction in all iProducts. In Vocational Assessment and Career Exploration students receive college and career guidance Orientation and Mobility offers instruction in the use of the white cane, orientation to sidewalks and street crossings and

use of the white cane, orientation to sidewalks and street crossings and

Students enjoy hands-on employment experiences such as this one at CBVI's toilet paper factory.

access to public transportation, and in Communications students hone their Braille and keyboarding skills, and work with academic remediation as needed.

Visits to places of employment with opportunity for discussion with employees and time spent on campus at a nearby college round out the curriculum.

Of course, there is also time for fun with social activities such as dining out, movies, bowling and mall trips in the evening and field trips to cultural events, amusement parks and area points of interest on weekends. The program also provides a unique opportunity for students to bond with other blind and visually impaired







IDEAL

Continued from page 22

teens, to share feelings and ideas, and to form fast and lasting friendships. "I made friends that have blindness just like me and that made me feel better about my blindness," reported one happy camper.

At the conclusion of the summer program, the staff invites family members, counselors, and educators to meet with each participant to discuss his or her progress during the program. The group then develops plans and recommendations which facilitate an effective transition into college life or the workplace for the student.

For more information about the IDEAL program, access the CBVI website at www.cbvi.net and click on IDEAL or contact the agency's Communications Coordinator at 610-874-1476 ext.161.



Friendships form easily at IDEAL.



Safety tips, along with instruction on the use of adaptive equipment and techniques, help alleviate fears and make meal preparation fun.

National Foundation for Blind Children

By Kimberly Paglia, coms, TVI

The National Foundation for Blind Children (NFBC) was established in 2008 by KBA to serve as a resource for families, professionals, schools and organizations in meeting the needs of children who are blind and visually impaired. The centerpiece of the NFBC is the website, which serves as a central clearinghouse for ideas and projects that support the growth and independence of children who are blind and visually impaired. Visitors to the website can find resources for starting their own children's programs including detailed lesson plans as well as information about different programs nationwide. The National Foundation for Blind Children has its roots in the unique and



independent living, career education, assistive technology, recreation & leisure, social interaction, visual efficiency, compensatory skills, and orientation & mobility.

Extra-curricular programs for children who are blind and visually impaired can help fill the gap by providing these children with additional opportunities for concept development in all areas of the ECC. These programs

Developing and disseminating programs that prepare children who are blind or severely visually impaired for independent living are the main focus of Foundation efforts.

sometimes ground-breaking programs for blind children developed to meet the needs of these children in communities across the country. Developing and disseminating programs that prepare children who are blind or severely visually impaired for independent living are the main focus of Foundation efforts.

Since blindness is a low-incidence disability, children who are blind tend to be isolated, often being the only one in their family, church or school who has a visual impairment. In addition, schools are struggling to address all the areas of the expanded core curriculum (ECC) for these students. Areas of the ECC include

also give students the chance to interact with other children who are blind and visually impaired, developing positive relationships that foster self-esteem. There are many agencies, schools and organizations nationwide that have developed unique and effective programs. The National Foundation for Blind Children identifies "best practices and programs" from the field of children's programs and provides a forum for sharing those practices through the website.

Visit the NFBC website at www.foundationforblindchildren.org

Annual Golf Scramble

By Maureen Perod, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Keystone Blind Association kicks off each year with their Annual Charity Golf Scramble on the first Monday in June. For twenty years, KBA has been forging relationships with local businesses and residents through this event.

It began in 1995 at the Greenville Country Club. This golf scramble is unique in that we hold a 5-person scramble instead of the standard 4-person scramble. Today, the event has been moved a little closer to home at Tam O'Shanter of Pennsylvania.

Through the generosity of individuals as well as local businesses, the Annual Charity Golf Scramble continues to thrive. In just the last four years alone, Keystone has seen an increase

in revenue of close to 50%. Much of this success is due to the overwhelming amount of support received from the donation of auction items as well as sponsorships from local businesses.

Some of these businesses have been supporting our cause from the beginning through sponsorships and golf teams including: First National Bank, Oil Services Inc., Greenville Savings Bank, and Sharon American Legions. The KBA golf scramble has become a success much in part to the wonderful employees and volunteers who take time out of their busy schedules to put on this day-long event.

All proceeds from the KBA Charity Golf Scramble remain right here in our local community to help KBA provide quality programs and services to your family, friends and neighbors who are blind or visually impaired.

For more information on how you can participate in this worthwhile event, please contact Director of Development, Maureen Perod at 724-347-5501 or log on to www.keystoneblind.org.















Perry Templeton Memorial Sizzler for Sight

By Maureen Perod, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

When public smoking became restricted in restaurants and businesses and smokers were limited to a few events, Perry Templeton, friend and co-worker at Keystone Blind Association, had an idea to create a charity BBQ & Smoker where folks could relax and enjoy friends, food, and fun while raising money for programs and services at KBA. It was first called the "Cigar-B-Q". This event was held at the Shriner Picnic Grounds and consisted of barbecuing on the open

spit, music, craft beers and few good cigars.

After a couple years, the name was changed to the "Sizzler for Sight" and incorporated more food and entertainment into the venue in order to draw larger crowds. In 2009, Perry passed away suddenly. To honor his memory, Keystone renamed the Sizzler for Sight to the "Perry Templeton Memorial Sizzler for Sight" in 2010. It was then that Perry's wife, Tresa,

stepped into Perry's shoes and turned his ideas into the successful event that it is today.

The Sizzler for Sight is held on the first Thursday of October. We welcome everyone to join us at this larger than life event for a little fun, food and relaxation. For more information on the Sizzler for Sight please contact Director of Development, Maureen Perod, at 724-347-5501 or visit the website at www.keystoneblind.org.











Decaffeinated Coffee

Katen Bly, product manager

government customers. This project provides employment for the blind and disabled while providing one of the stea's finest decaffeinated beverages to our customers. Ideal for home or office use, KEY Decaffeinated Coffee is available to the public in the storefront of our 981 Division Street manufacturing plant in Sharon.

cluding correctional facilities, institutions, and state government offices.

KBA employees travel to nearby West Middlesex, PA to work in O'Neill's coffee roasting plant where they roast, grind and package 8.75 ounce packages of our very own KEY brand Decaffeinated Coffee for sale to state

In 2012, Keystone Blind Association commenced a new project with UniqueSource as part of the Pennsylvania State Use set-aside Program. In a strategic partnership with localfavorite O'Neill Coffee Company out of West Middlesex, Keystone began manufacturing decaffeinated coffee manufacturing decaffeinated coffee









