ACCESS TECHNOLOGY

KEYSTONE NETWORK BY THE NUMBERS

59,069
18,003
3,043,267
246,555

4

6

8

DRIVE FOR THE BLIND
BCAB
Beaver County
Association for the Blind
CHARITY GOLF SCRAMBLE

12

16

17

18

FEATURES

EVENTS

NEWS

CALENDARS

Our Vision Works

Network Agencies

Keystone Headquarters
3056 East State Street,
Hermitage, PA 16148
Phone: (724) 347-5501

KBA - Crawford County
312 Chestnut Street
Meadville, PA 16335
Phone: (814) 333-3121

KBA - Lawrence County
1429 New Butler Rd, Suite 2
New Castle, PA 16101
Phone: (724) 856-3527

www.keystoneblind.org

Keystone *Our Vision Works*

Keystone vocational services

Keystone nonprofit management group

BCAB
616 Fourth Street
Beaver Falls, PA 15010

Phone: (724) 843-1111
www.bcblind.org

BCAB Beaver County Association for the Blind

CBVI & CBD
100 West 15th Street
Chester, PA 19013

Phone: (610) 874-1476
www.cbvi.net

CBVI Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

CBD Center for the Blind and Disabled

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

Phone: 215-661-9800
www.mcab.org

MCAB Montgomery Co. Association for the Blind

President/CEO
Jonathan Fister

Sr. Vice President of Operations & Facilities
P.J. Yudt

Sr. Vice President of Services
Ann Peterson

Sr. Vice President of Finance
Laurie Staph

Sr. Vice President of Risk Management
Tom Dill, Esq.

Vice President of Human Resources
Melissa Means

BCAB Administrative Director
Teresa Lukes

CBVI Administrative Director
Monica Jones

MCAB Administrative Director
Mary Jean Schoeffling

Keystone Network By the Numbers

By Jonathan Fister, President/CEO

Numbers can be interesting items. So we thought we would have a little fun with some of the numbers associated with our Keystone Network of agencies. There are plenty more numbers we could have thrown your way, but we think we have made the point that our network agencies are busy, busy places. The most important thing to remember is not the numbers but the people behind them: our clients, patients, caseworkers, teachers, attendants, technicians, assemblers, processors, and support staff. Numbers are meaningless without people. All numbers are for 2017.

19 Blind school age students received over 2500 hours of training

34 PA rest areas/welcome centers operated 24 hours per day, 365 days per year

78 Licensed vehicles in the fleet

102 Children and adults received Orientation & Mobility instruction

200 Patients were seen in the low vision clinic

237 People received rehabilitation services

281 Blind persons received over 4,000 hours of access technology instruction

484 Blind persons received casework services

715 People employed

Our Vision Works

5,192	Acres of grass mowed by our landscape crews in one season
15,696	Children and adults received vision screenings, educational or other prevention services
18,003	Hours of casework services
26,486	Tools assembled and sold
59,069	Safety helmets assembled and sold
148,129	Drivers Licenses processed at our 7 locations
246,555	Pounds of documents were shredded
1,000,000+	Square feet of Universities, offices and facilities cleaned EVERY DAY
3,043,267	Pieces, packages, vouchers, fingerprints and folders were processed for the mailroom contract
$9,232,914	In wages paid
6,232,128,000	Sheets = 5,193,440 million rolls = 64,918 cases of toilet paper sold

US Rep. Mike Kelly (Second from Right) poses for a photo with the Production Team at Keystone during a recent visit.

US Rep. Mike Kelly visits Keystone

During a recent "Day on the Hill" event in Washington DC, several members of the Keystone staff spent the day visiting Representatives to talk about the Keystone network and all of the work we do for Blind and Visually Impaired individuals. During the "Day on the HIll" event, Representative Mike Kelly (Third District, PA) wasn't available for a meeting, however his Senior Legislative Assistant, Sam Breene met with the group from Keystone and was very excited about everything happening in the Keystone network. After that meeting, Sam passed on all the details about Keystone to Rep. Kelly, who then wanted to learn more about Keystone.

In May US Rep. Kelly visited Keystone for a personal tour and to learn more about what all we do here at Keystone. It was a good visit and he was surprised at what all we do here!

A Keystone production employee assembles Asphalt rakes.

WE ARE HIRING!

Career opportunities across the state of Pennsylvania!

Did you know that Keystone along with our network partners are the largest employer of the visually impaired and disabled in the state of Pennsylvania and offers a variety of career opportunities?

We have both state and federal contracts that provide services and support to state and federal agencies. These contracts require a large workforce, which means careers for Blind and Visually impaired individuals who often have trouble finding jobs. Some of these career opportunities include Mailroom Clerks and File Folder Team Members, Photo License Technicians, Case Work Staff, Production Workers, Janitorial, and Floor Technicians. We also employ Seasonal Snow Plow Operators and Landscape Maintenance Laborers.

In addition, the Keystone network partners are always looking for additional professionals in a variety of fields such as, Vision Rehab Therapy, O&M specialists and Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments.

All these opportunities and more, may be found on Keystone's website at: **www.keystoneblind.org**. Be sure to check each posting carefully, as some positions may require certain qualifications per contract. These listings are being updated daily, so be sure to check the site often to see what we have available. We are always accepting applications, even when there are no current job listings.

WHAT IS ACCESS TECHNOLOGY?

YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS BECOME TODAY'S SOLUTIONS
By Kim Graham/AT Program Director

Access technology is technology used by individuals with disabilities in order to perform functions that might otherwise be difficult or impossible. For low vision or blind computer users, various types of software and peripherals are available to provide visual supplementation within computer tasks.

Some examples of these types of computer-based tools include screen magnifier and screen reader programs, voice recognition programs and features, and scan and read programs/devices. A screen magnifier program allows for a low vision individual to zoom or magnify on-screen information; many of the available screen magnifier programs afford the user the capability of zooming the on-screen information size from 1.25x – 36x its original size! A screen reader program allows for a blind individual to access on-screen information by having such relayed audibly; this affords the user the ability to access information with their ears rather than having to use their eyes.

Voice recognition technology allows for a low vision or blind individual to control and access a computer system via their voice. This technology is extremely beneficial for those users who may also experience physical difficulty with the mobility of their hands/fingers, or who simply lack keyboarding skills.

A scan and read, or optical character recognition program/device, allows for low vision or blind individuals to use their computer system in order to gain access to hard-copy, print materials. This technology affords the user the ability to access such materials without relying on sighted counterparts.

For low vision or blind individuals who are not involved with computer use, but who would also benefit by being able to further sustain their independence, there are many types of standalone, stationary, and portable access technology solutions available too.

With further relation to sustaining independence as a low vision or blind individual in today's technology-immersed world, access technology is also available on select cellular phone models. An extremely popular and effective cell phone choice for low vision and blind individuals is the Apple iPhone. The OSX operating system offers both integrated screen reader and screen magnifier features. Setup of these accessibility features is necessary. By using some basic finger gestures applied to the device's touchscreen, low vision and blind users are capable of accessing and navigating various phone and app-related areas. Google's recent Android OS platforms offer the TalkBack accessibility-related screen reader app (already installed on recently-released phone models), as well as the capability to download an effective screen magnifier app. In conjunction with the access technology features/apps available on the Apple and Google cellular phone platforms, there also exist a variety of beneficial available low vision and blindness-related apps for use on related devices.

Transitioning into the use of technology may be difficult for some. For those who may be new to, or for those who just desire learning more about access technology, skilled Access Technology Program specialists are available through the Keystone Network of agencies. Specialists are able to provide quality assessment, training, and technical support services if and when necessary. Although the challenges of everyday life may be amplified for those living with low vision or blindness, sustaining independence within various personal and professional aspects in life is possible with the implementation and use of access technologies.

It is hard to believe that the Computer Access Technology program has been in existence for over 2 decades! Still even harder to believe is just how much "around" logistically the delivery of CAT services has become over these many years. Gaining much momentum from its roots in Delaware County, CAT currently serves over 32 additional Eastern and Western Pennsylvania counties… and growing! In addition, CAT services also continue to be delivered in areas of New York, New Jersey and Delaware. Much like a strategic trail cut precisely through time and traveled by many, the footprints of yesteryear's technology remain

E. Palmer Loux / CBVI AT Specialist (right) works with a client and her iPad.

heavily traveled within the CAT program. Travelers who experience CAT services are those on journeys that confront them with vision loss and transcend them into pursuits of development or redevelopment of personal independence. Achievements accomplished by the CAT program continue to be enhanced and complemented by organizational-wide teamwork and cooperation from many related staff members in the Keystone Network. You are now invited to fasten your hiking boots, prepare your white cane, hop on a virtual time machine, and take a trek through some of CAT's technology footsteps of yesteryear and today!

Services in Transition

Since its 1997 inception, nonstop advancement of the Computer Access Technology program continues to allow for endless numbers of blind and visually impaired individuals to receive necessary services still today. Beginning as a single-classroom, single-curriculum arrangement, the program's progression required administration and specialist staff to step out of the norm and transition into a different type of service delivery; itinerant, client location-based and client need-specific services originated. Through its transitional stages, and although it was an obvious realization that consistent classroom learning would best serve the majority of clients, many clients were/are unable to

withdraw from employment, academic and/or personal life obligations. Fortunately, having prudently persevered during its transitional periods, and while combining such with the above average skill, knowledge and resourcefulness of staff, the CAT program's itinerant-based service capabilities surpassed expectations. Currently, CAT remains able to offer both traditional classroom-based and itinerant client location-based program options. Transitional phases are constantly in affect for CAT's assistive technology specialist staff. Keeping up with rapidly changing technologies within transitional phases is sometimes challenging for even staff possessing extensive years of experience in the AT field. Nonetheless, for all former and current staff members, it is amazing to witness first-hand the ongoing evolution of technology. The ability to identify appropriate technology solutions and to understand the impactful benefit that these solutions afford blind and visually impaired individuals is a vital ingredient found in only top notch AT professionals. Versatile, flexible, willing, motivated, skillful, knowledgeable, empathetic, sympathetic, dedicated, and most certainly, top notch … these terms only brush the surface of qualities and attributes that describe CAT program staff of both then and now. During the double-decade's worth of existence, and on eastern and western ends of Pennsylvania, CAT has directly employed a total of 15 staff members. Of

special note, 10 of these 15 staff members endured their own personal vision loss experiences. Other staff members not having endured personal vision loss of their own, are those who have encountered 2nd party vision loss experiences of family and/or acquaintances throughout their lives. Allowing for history's successes relating to program longevity to lead the way, individuals possessing solid, fundamental AT skills and knowledge, even when indirect, are always highly considered for potential employment within the CAT program. One important factor offering support of CAT's growth and its ability to transition easily both back then and right now were/are opportunities that allow for staff to investigate and trial new and different technologies. These types of opportunities continue to assist with program cultivation. To be on the constant cusp of evolving assistive and mainstream technology is truly an honor for all CAT program staff. Today, much like yesterday, consistent skill and knowledge development remains to be a key component for the continuation of a strong CAT program.

If Not for Technological Advancement

For blind and visually impaired individuals, the difference is significantly noticeable between the days of yore and modern day's task of independently accessing hard-copy print information; especially while on-the-go. Although scan and read solutions existed in the distant past, such solutions were not extremely quick or very portable. Past time's setup of a bulky, heavyweight laptop computer system with a cumbersome flatbed scanner and the initiation of a scan and read program required an end user to have adequate setup space and ample time available. Today, blind and visually impaired individuals may use their compact, lightweight smartphones, digital media players, and/or tablet computer systems in-conjunction with reliably quick optical character recognition apps. This new age method allows for capturing, converting and within seconds, listening to hard-copy print information practically anywhere. The only descriptive term missing from this timesaving evolutionary AT footstep is, "Viola!" Just imagine, if not for predecessor technology's footsteps of yesteryear, the quick and easy-to-use capture and read solutions of today may not have ever been created!

In order for those who suffer visual impairment or blindness to achieve effective use of a personal computer system, non-visual or touch-type keyboarding skills reign superior. This remains the absolute truth still today. Former day's usage of audio cassette-recorded scholarly articles about technologies administered via Dictaphone proved to

Kim Graham/AT Program Director at CBVI (center) works with clients.

be an effective training and learning approach for touch-typing in earlier CAT program times. Despite the agony experienced by many touch-type keyboard skill learners of former times whose random recordings were created by the most monotone of individuals, self-paced Dictaphone controlled lessons worked well 10 to 15 years ago. On the opposite end of the timeline, one of today's most widely used training methods, software-driven, self-guided touch-type keyboarding drills, proves just as effective as the historical Dictaphone approach. The software-driven approach combines an individual's desire to learn with entertainment and self-competition minus the potential randomness of monotone readers. Audio prompts and screen reader-infused lessons in new age software allow for even those who do not have vision to utilize and learn touch-type keyboarding skills. One might guess that perhaps the primary developer of touch-type keyboard skill development software may very well have been a victim ... err, rather, a client who once endured monotone Dictaphone-dispersed lessons! Once again this just goes to show, the footsteps of yesteryear's technology, if not originally placed, may not have been followed and replaced by improved solutions.

Multiple disabilities present multiple challenges for many individuals. Approximately 10 years ago, a paraplegic or quadriplegic individual's assistive technology solutions were extremely limited. When either of those impairments was combined with blindness or even low vision back then, there existed no assistive technology solutions. Perhaps one of the most incredible assistive technology solutions

to have been created, and still to today be under further development, is the screen reader, speech recognition, and interfacing programmatic combination arrangement. A technology solution that allows for someone who cannot see, has no upper body mobility, or for whom only has control of their head to regain some level of independence once again is nothing short of amazing. Current solutions in this category are allowing for these types of individuals to use their ability to speak and to listen in order to independently utilize and control computer systems, home entertainment systems, and home appliances. Several CAT program staff members have been able to take part in the implementation of this type of technology solution for various individuals over the course of approximately 6 to 7 years. For these staff members, both the impressiveness of witnessing the ongoing improvement of this type of technology arrangement combined with the overall delight and satisfaction of the end user is priceless. The footprints left by yesterday's versions of these technologies are certain to be carried on well into tomorrow.

One's Own Footsteps

Supplying a necessary bridge within someone's uprooted route of employment is undeniably empowering. Computer Access Technology program staff members continue to be humbled by ongoing client experiences in which employment positions have been retained thanks in part to technology. For many clients, one's own perseverance and commitment to learn what is necessary in order to allow for effective technology implementation and usage, and ultimately job retention, is actually the main aspect for achieving success. In this scenario, clients basically learn how to use the skills that they have been taught while following their own footsteps in order to complete their job duties. Some notable job titles of various clients who have received technology-related services during 2017 and into 2018 include:

- Administrative Law Judge
- Cultural Research Consultant
- Administrative Support Technician
- Director, SAT/PSAT Prep Program
- Application Programmer
- Assistant Professor
- Emergency Room Nurse
- Psychiatric Rehabilitation Therapist
- Quality Assurance Senior Specialist
- Client and Events Services Director
- Senior Managing Director & Trust Counsel

- Clinical Psychologist
- Social Worker
- Crisis Specialist
- System Operations Director
- Critical Care Nurse

Keep Following Footsteps of Success

It is not necessary for one to have 20/20 vision in order to realize that the future of assistive and mainstream technology-related benefits for blind and visually impaired individuals remains promising and bright! Computer Access Technology program staff welcome each new day as an adventure in learning; not just about technology, but also about the human ability to persevere, transition and sometimes duck during times when life chooses to throw curveballs. Having the ability to offer someone skills for returning life's curveballs with technological fastballs right down the pike is empowering. May the footsteps that assistive technology professionals imprint today allow for the continued development and enhancement of assistive and mainstream technology-related benefits of tomorrow.

**In Respectful Memory of Mike Nicol,
a True Access Technology Warrior**

CAT Specialist Mike Nicol (left) works with Mark Pappas, a visually impaired client, on using an iPad in 2013.

DRIVE FOR THE BLIND

BCAB
Beaver County
Association for the Blind

CHARITY GOLF SCRAMBLE

20TH ANNUAL

New Date!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 2018
Shotgun Start at 1:00 PM
Registration at noon.

Blackhawk Golf Course
644 Blackhawk Rd, Beaver Falls, PA 15010

Visually impaired putting contest (starting at 11)
Chinese auction items and a 50/50 drawing

Our Vision Works

DONATION ENVELOPE INFO

Every year, the agencies in the Keystone network send out appeals for donations in the spring and around the Holidays. This year, we have enclosed an envelope for our spring appeal in this issue of the newsletter rather than a separate mailing.

Our clients and staff alike are enjoying a brand new year of social functions, Life Skills classes, and support groups aimed toward fostering personal growth and independence. We cannot do what we do without your help, so, please give generously to this spring appeal campaign. If you would like to learn more about what your local agency offers, please don't hesitate to call.

Because our newsletter is now combined and sent on behalf to all the agencies in our network, we had to include an appeal envelop that covers all agencies at the same time. As you will see, when you fill out your donation envelop, there is an area to indicate which agency you would like to receive your donation. When you select your local agency, that will insure your donation is given to the correct agency.
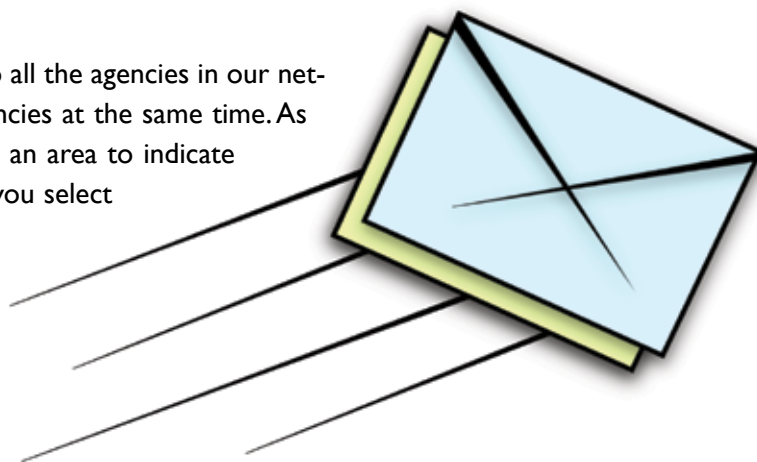
IDEAL

Individual Development through Experience, Assessment, and Learning
IDEAL Summer 2018 - July 8th through August 3rd
A transition program for students ages 15 to 21 with vision loss.
**One-on-one life skills training • Computer/Access Technology instruction •
Transition planning (pre-college and job readiness) •
Residential living – on-site dormitory • Social Development**

With "IDEAL" quickly approaching , we still have several openings left, they're on a 1st come 1st serve basis. If you know of anyone that would be interested or benefit from the camp please give them the contact information. We have some exciting, fun as well as educational events planned for the students, from our "Welcome Barbeque ", trips, dining out, educational tours at various places to our grand finale closing ceremony. The IDEAL Staff and CBVI is excited about the new renovations of the Kitchen Dorm, with its expansion and new appliances they look forward to putting it to good use.

A low vision rehabilitative examination: the beginning

By Paul B. Freeman, O.D.

Here is the scenario: you, or someone you know, has been diagnosed with an ophthalmic condition or brain injury that has caused a decrease in central or peripheral vision which does not appear to be amenable to improvement with conventional eyeglasses, contact lenses, medical treatment or surgery. (For this discussion we are going to address adult concerns but at a later time we will discuss children's concerns.) Because of this, some visual activities, like reading, driving, traveling safely, seeing medication, or watching television, can become challenging; this can affect quality of life. Fortunately, low vision rehabilitation is an option to optimize the remaining central or peripheral vision, but to do that efficiently and effectively a systematic evaluation is required.

This evaluation, like any other eye health and vision evaluation, begins with a description of what the chief complaint or difficulty is. Often times the complaint pertains to the inability to read, whether it's reading a magazine, newspaper, book, computer, or smart phone. Following an extensive history, a careful refraction, a systematic magnification assessment, and an eye health evaluation are done. Important considerations are stability of the medical condition that caused the decrease in vision as well as other health factors that might impact on the vision loss. As a starting point for the magnification assessment, a measure of visual acuity and other factors that can affect the visual function are assessed. Most importantly, determining or verifying a refrac-

tive status, such as nearsightedness (myopia), farsightedness (hyperopia), or astigmatism is done, which will serve as the platform for the next phase of the assessment: determining a starting magnification for helping to see a letter or object size which is consistent with doing a desired task. This is where a low vision assessment differs from a "conventional" evaluation. A ratio is determined based on what is seen and what someone wants to see. For example, if a 4 inch target is the smallest that can be seen, but the goal is to see a 1 inch target, then either all 1 inch targets need to be made physically bigger or brought proportionately closer to appear to be bigger. Once the power of magnification is determined, the next step is figuring out the best method of providing that magnification. Fortunately, today there are a lot of options, but those options need to be systematically assessed and worked with because each treatment option will have both benefits and some limitations. In the final analysis, however, there can be one or many devices which can help someone regain a lost visual activity or activities, but this often requires adapting to a new way of doing the activity. The next article will describe

Dr. Paul B. Freeman provides low vision rehabilitation services at Keystone and BCAB

the different magnification options for someone with decreased central vision and some of the adaptations needed to be made. What we won't be addressing in the next article is peripheral vision loss which, because it is less about magnification and more about awareness, requires a different approach; that topic deserves its own article.

News From MCAB

Life Skills Group News

MCAB had two wonderful speakers for the Life Skills Groups in February and March. The Montgomery County Community College Dental Hygiene Program sent two representatives to educate and demonstrate to group members the latest products for proper oral hygiene. Everyone left with dental goody bags! Two representatives from "Assisting Hands" Home Care spoke on the non-medical services they offer to a captive audience. Thank you to the reps for treating both groups to a pizza lunch!

Mary Brucker, Life Skills Coordinator, attended a seminar at Temple University on March 26. The topic was "Disabilities and Change for Technology-Peril or Promise". Mary came away with information that she will be sharing with MCAB clients.

MCAB Clients and members of the Montgomery County Community College Dental Hygiene Program.

MCAB and PhilStar

March 18 at the Jeffersonville Golf Club, a packed house enjoyed an afternoon of Ragtime music. Al Mikula's Red Garter Band led the audience in a singing, toe-tapping, flag waving event. Thank you to board member Maria Boyer who hosts these wonderful shows benefitting MCAB.

Al Mikula's Red Garter Band at the March PhilStar Event.

Orientation and Mobility Department Update

The O&M Department at Montgomery County Association for the Blind (MCAB) has welcomed many O&M graduate students first from Pennsylvania College of Optometry and now today Salus University. The O&M Specialist at MCAB has always tried to provide a warm, learning, skilled, mentoring environment. This experience has helped produce students that grow to be exceptional Orientation and Mobility Specialist.

The Specialist is very proud to be part of this collaborative effort with Salus University. Currently, Chumpon Pimprasmorn is placed in his internship at MCAB and would like to share what this opportunity has been like for him: "I am honored to have the opportunity to work at MCAB during my internship. MCAB has offered me unique real-world experiences that I do not think I could have found elsewhere. I am happy to say that my experiences with teaching students of all ages (from children as young as 3 to older adults) have polished my skills as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist. I have learned much under the guidance of Elaine Hendricks and I know I will be learning more in the weeks to come."

BCAB 4th Annual Vision Bowl

We had a record number of bowlers at this year's 4th annual Vision Bowl; Thanks to our winners!!!

Team Trophy:
1st place - Gary Ipson (board member), Scott Alexander, Brian Richards and Randy Nealy
2nd place - Drenda Haskins, Don Nye, Ruth Verost and Sylvia Thomas
3rd place - Gerry Mountain, Reva, Bernie Joyce, and Tayshon Shipman

Client Medal:
1st place - Gerry Mountain
2nd place - Don Britzenhof
3rd place - Joe Seiber

Special Trophy:
Highest personal score - Brian Richards
Lowest personal score - Tayshon Shipman

Thanks to our Sponsors:
Gold Sponsor - UPMC Centers for Rehab Services
Silver Sponsor - Beaver Falls Lions Club

Lane Sponsors:
Chippewa Area Lions Club
Little Beaver Lioness Club
Miller & Sons Chevrolet Buick
New Brighton Lions Club

Food Sponsor: Reno bros., inc.
Banner Sponsor: Julia & Nick Finikiotis
Beverage Sponsor: Ken Sheets

T-Shirt Sponsors:
K. Nahas Furniture
Chippewa Area Lions Club
Olga McDaniels
Riverside Lions Club
Rochester-Beaver Lions Club
Tri-State Waters
Ukrainian Club

Thanks for the special donations:
Ann Blum, Robert Joyce
Lilly Optometric
Hallowed Grounds Roasterie,
Sen. Elder Vogel
Jennifer Thomson, Julie Kern, Terry Lukes

Thanks to our bowlers:
Don Britzenhofe
Olga McDaniels
Joe Seiber
Agnes Meteny
Gerry Mountain & Reva
Sylvia Thomas
Jennifer Thomson
Kurt Thomson
Ruth Verosto
Don Nye
Al Zalewski
Ken Sheets/Drenda Haskins
Bernie Joyce
Tayshon Shipman
Jenn Bonnet - UPMC
Mike Cascio - UPMC
Mark McMillen - UPMC
Gary Ipson
Scott Alexander
Brian Richards
Randy Nealy

News From CBVI
New Administrative Director at CBVI

In January, Monica Jones was named to position of Administrative Director for CBVI.

Monica has been with the agency since March of 2008. She was hired as a driver for the transportation dept. where she transported/escorted the customer's to and from their medical appointments, shopping, LSE group meetings etc. In Aug. of 2013 Monica became a Life Skills Coordinator, and trained to do intake assessments, facilitate the LSE group along with transporting the customers. She was also the scheduler & driver for the Low Vision clinic.

As the administrative director, Monica will be responsible for the day to day administrative duties.

Monica assists a client with finding the items on her shopping list.

A Scholarly Role of CAT
By Taylor Gilligan

In late 2017, CAT staff members were invited to present at the 17th Annual Disability Symposium. This symposium took place in April 2018, and was hosted by the University of Pennsylvania's Weingarten Learning Resources Center. This symposium, held at Houston Hall in the beautiful Historic District/Perelman Quadrangle of the university's campus focused on exploring resilience and embracing optimism in education and employment by increasing awareness about disability support trends, resolutions, and possibilities. Kim Graham, Computer Assistive Technology Program Director, and Taylor Gilligan, Assistive Technology Specialist delivered an interactive, boot-camp style presentation that opened up with a sleep mask exercise. This exercise dropped guests right into the virtual trenches of boot-camp while putting to the test their literal blind abilities. The requirement for guests to attempt to complete basic technology tasks such as unlocking a smartphone and launching an app proved the very valid point of just how increasingly more difficult simplistic technology tasks become while blind. This exercise most certainly provided a different perspective for many audience members; it allowed for them to seriously consider what life would be like with vision loss, and educated them pertaining to the impact that assistive technology has especially on tasks that most take for granted due to sighted simplicity.

With well over 60 plenary session guests, Kim and Taylor provided insight on what it's like to be an AT Specialist in today's ever-changing technology-immersed world. Also shared were various assistive technology solutions that are paving the way for individuals with blindness and visual impairment, as well as memorable CAT program moments that prove assistive technology can and does change and empower lives. This presentation sparked conversation relating to disabilities other than blindness and visual impairments, as well as possible solutions for individuals with multiple disabilities. Inquiries have already been received regarding interest in CAT evaluation, training, consulting and workshop education services from session guests and from other Pennsylvania and New Jersey educational institutions. This immense amount of expressed interest in CAT services in-conjunction with the extraordinary satisfaction achieved by CAT staff members themselves are direct results of participation in one of the largest disability symposiums in the Philadelphia regional area! CAT staff offer their sincerest gratitude to the University of Pennsylvania – Weingarten Learning Resources Center for extending this humbling opportunity, and most importantly, for supporting those with disabilities in achieving their goals!

Spring Festival of Fun

On April 14th 2018 the keystone kids and young adults' programs participated in our spring festival of fun. There were 19 participants ranging in age from 10 to 60. They participated in a painting session and found it to be a great stress reliever while they were doing it. They used adaptive techniques to create their own masterpiece. There were no limitations. They were just told to "think spring". The kids program made paper flowers as well to send to a fellow keystone kid who has been ill. The theme of the day was a spring carnival. There were different games to play; including a Wii bowling tournament. The participants enjoyed a day at the carnival with hotdogs, hamburgers, nachos, pretzels, cotton candy, and slushies. There was food, music, games, and fun for all.

For information about the Keystone Kids or Young Adults programs contact Jenn Lilly by phone 724-734-5158 or email jennlilly@keystoneblind.org

(Left) Jim and Bailey wait for Sophia to make their cotton candy, (Center) A group photo of all the artist with their finished paintings, (Right) Volunteer Aunt Joni puts food out for the luncheon.

The never ending cycle...

Recently, the KBA Lawrence County office had the opportunity to reach out to even more individuals and provide services for them. We have added many new clients, but we also lost a couple of great clients. We were very saddened at the losses and our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of Michelle S. and Cathy A.

In looking to the future, we are excited to see how many more clients we can serve in our county. We are also looking forward to some interesting Life Skill and Support group events. We anticipate good things this year for both the KBA Lawrence County office and our clients! So far, we have had a great movie night with a descriptive audio movie and learned how to make a gift with yarn and a hanger, and of course everyone is looking forward to this year's summer picnic.

BCAB
Beaver County
Association for the Blind

EVENTS CALENDAR

JUNE

5	**LSE**	BCAB Office	10:00-2:00pm
11	**TIC**	BCAB Office	10:30-12:30pm
12	**LSE**	BCAB Office	10:00-2:00pm
13	Shopping Trip	Robinson Center, Keystone Board Meeting	
19	**LSE**	BCAB Office	10:00-2:00pm
26	**LSE**	BCAB Office	10:00-2:00pm
27	Shopping Trip	Robinson Center	

JULY

3	**LSE**	BCAB Office	10:00-2:00pm
4	**AGENCY CLOSED, INDEPENDENCE DAY**		
10	**LSE**	BCAB Office	10:00-2:00pm
11	Shopping Trip	Chippewa Walmart	
17	**LSE**	BCAB Office	10:00-2:00pm
18	**TIC**	BCAB Office	11:30-1:30pm
24	**LSE**	BCAB Office	10:00-2:00pm
25	Shopping Trip	Chippewa Walmart	
31	**LSE**	BCAB Office	10:00-2:00pm

AUGUST

7	**LSE**	BCAB Office	10:00-2:00pm
8	Shopping Trip	Monaca Walmart	
14	**LSE**	BCAB Office	10:00-2:00pm
15	**TIC**	BCAB Office	11:30-1:30pm
21	**LSE**	BCAB Office	10:00-2:00pm
22	Shopping Trip	Monaca Walmart	
24		Annual Golf Scramble	
28	**LSE**	BCAB Office	10:00-2:00pm

AE: Adult Education | **AVS**: Adult Vision Screening | **CEP:** Children's Education Program
GCA: Glasses Cleaning/Adjust | **GVAS:** Glaucoma/Visual Acuity Screening
LSE: Life Skills Education | **SG**: Support Group Meeting | **TIC:** Technology Information Club

EVENTS CALENDAR

MAIN OFFICE

JUNE

7	TIC	Mercer County	12:30-2:00pm
12	LSE	KBA Hermitage	1:00-3:00pm
13		Keystone Conference for Staff & Board Members	
14		Low Vision Clinic	8:00-4:00pm
18-22		Career Caravan	9:00-2:00pm
19		NO COFFEE TALK TODAY	
21		Prince of Peace and St. John's Food Banks	
26	LSE	KBA Hermitage	1:00-3:00pm
28		Salvation Army Food Bank	

JULY

4		**AGENCY CLOSED, INDEPENDENCE DAY**	
5	TIC	Mercer County	12:30-2:00pm
10	LSE	KBA Hermitage	1:00-3:00pm
12		Mercer Couny Client Picnic "Grilling Safely"	11:00-2:00pm
17	**Coffee Talk**	KBA Hermitage	1:00-3:00pm
19		Low Vision Clinic	8:00-4:00pm
19		Prince of Peace and St. John's Food Banks	
24	SG	KBA Hermitage	1:00-3:00pm
26		Salvation Army Food Bank	

AUGUST

2	TIC	Mercer County	12:30-2:00pm
9		Low Vision Clinic	8:00-4:00pm
14	SG	KBA Hermitage	1:00-3:00pm
15-16		Creation Station	9:00-2:00pm
16		Prince of Peace and St. John's Food Banks	
21	**Coffee Talk**	KBA Hermitage	1:00-3:00pm
23		Salvation Army Food Bank	
28	SG	KBA Hermitage	1:00-3:00pm

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EVENTS CALENDAR

CRAWFORD COUNTY

JUNE
4 . . . . . **LSE** . . . . KBA Meadville Republican Room 10:00am
12 . . . . Food Stamp Day
18 . . . . **TIC** . . . . Perkins Restaurant – Meadville 10:30am
28 . . . . **SG** . . . . KBA Meadville Republican Room 10:00am

JULY
4 . . . . . **AGENCY CLOSED, INDEPENDENCE DAY**
5 . . . . . **LSE** . . . . KBA Meadville Republican Room. 10:00am
10 . . . . Food Stamp Day
16 . . . . **TIC** . . . . Perkin Restaurant - Meadville 10:30am
23 . . . . BS with Bob . . . . KBA Meadville Republican Room 10:00am

AUGUST
7 . . . . . **SG** . . . . KBA Meadville Republican Room 10:00am
10 . . . . Food Stamp Day
20 . . . . **TIC** . . . . Perkin Restaurant - Meadville 10:30am
29 . . . . B.S. with Bob . . . . KBA Meadville Republican Room 10:00am

LAWRENCE COUNTY

JUNE
14 . . . . **TIC** . . . . Kings restaurant 1:00-3:00pm
19 . . . . **LSE** . . . . KBA Lawrence County office 12:00-2:00pm
28 . . . . **SG** . . . . Cascade Park (Summer Picnic) 12:00-3:00pm

JULY
4 . . . . . **AGENCY CLOSED, INDEPENDENCE DAY**
12 . . . . **TIC** . . . . Kings restaurant 1:00-3:00pm
17 . . . . **LSE** . . . . KBA Lawrence County office 12:00-2:00pm
24 . . . . **SG** . . . . Colonial Lanes (Bowling Night) 5:00-6:00pm

AUGUST
9 . . . . . **TIC** . . . . Kings restaurant 1:00-3:00pm
14 . . . . **LSE** . . . . The office 12:00-2:00pm
24 . . . . **SG** . . . . KBA Lawrence County office 12:00-2:00pm

CBVI EVENTS CALENDAR
CENTER FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

JUNE

4.	**LSE**	Main Line Arts, Patron's Room	10:00am
6.	**LSE**	Master Gardener's; Patron's Room	11:00am
11.	**LSE**	Main Line Arts, Patron's Room	10:00am
13.	**LSE**	Patron's Room	10:30am
14.	**AE**	Health Fair @ White Horse Village in Media	9:00am
15.	**AE**	Health Fair @ Good Neighbor Senior Center in Sharon Hill	10:00am
18.	**LSE**	Patron's Room	10:30am
20.	**LSE**	Trip to Longwood Gardens; Kenneth Square	11:00am
21.	**AE**	Chester Senior Center in Chester	10:00am
25.	**LSE**	Patron's Room	10:30am
27.	**LSE**	Access Technology Speaker, Patron's Room	11:00am

JULY

2.	**LSE**	Patron's Room	10:30am
4	**AGENCY CLOSED, INDEPENDENCE DAY**		
9.	**LSE**	Patron's Room	10:30am
11.	**LSE**	Patron's Room	10:30am
12.	**LSE**	Main Line Arts; Patron's Room	10:30am
13.	**AE/AVS**	Wayne Senior Center in Wayne	10:30am
14.	**LSE**	Patron's Room	10:30am
15.	**AE/AVS**	Chester Senior Center in Chester	10:30am
19.	**LSE**	Patron's Room	10:30am
19.	**AE/AVS**S.	Hometown Senior Center in Media	11:00am
21.	**LSE**	Patron's Room	10:30am
28.	**LSE**	Patron's Room	10:30am
29.	**AE**	Good Neighbor Senior Center in Sharon Hill	11:00am
29.	**AE/AVS**	Surrey Services for Seniors in Broomall	1:00pm

AUGUST

1.	**LSE**	Master Gardener 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**	Patron's Room	10:30am
20.	**LSE**	Patron's Room	10:30am
22.	**LSE**	Patron Room SS client picnic in CBVI parking lot	11:00am
27.	**LSE**	Patron's Room	10:30am
29.	**LSE**	Access Technology Speaker Patron's Room	11:00am

Our Vision Works

MCAB
MONTGOMERY CO.
ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

EVENTS CALENDAR

JUNE
11 . . . . .LSE . . . . .MCAB Office
21 . . . . .LSE . . . . .MCAB Office

JULY
9 . . . . .LSE . . . . .MCAB Office
19 . . . . .LSE . . . . .MCAB Office

AUGUST
13 . . . . .LSE . . . . .MCAB Office
16 . . . . .LSE . . . . .MCAB Office

Speakers planned for the summer months are a representative from Septa to discuss the new Key Card System, a Personal Navigator from the Visiting Nurse Association and a representative from the County Aging and Adult Services department. Mary Brucker will also be talking about the Descriptive Video Service for in-home television.

PHILSTAR ENTERTAINMENT
"ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL OCCASIONS"

SAVE THE DATE FOR A BINGO MURDER MYSTERY!

WHEN - Sunday June 24, 2018 at 2:00 PM
WHERE - The Empress Room at St. Helena's Church 1489 Dekalb Pike, Blue Bell
FEATURING - Bingo Murder Mystery
You will need to put on your mystery "cap" and help solve the mystery for this Bingo Murder Mystery Event. There will be lots of interaction and prizes in this whodunit show. Tickets are $20.00 per person or $35.00 a pair. The Empress Room is located in the back of the Church.
The first 20 people who email maryjean@mcab.org or call 215-66-9800 x413 will receive two free tickets!

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Keystone
Our Vision Works

3056 East State Street, Hermitage, PA 16148

Keystone — Our Vision Works

Keystone — independence management

BCAB — Beaver County Association for the Blind

CBVI — Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Keystone — vocational services

MCAB — Montgomery Co. Association for the Blind

Like us on Facebook!

Be sure to Like our agencies on Facebook pages to get updates or news from each agency

KBA - "KeystoneBlind"
CBVI - "CenterfortheBlind"
BCAB - "BeaverCoBlind"
MCAB - "MontgomeryCoBlind"

Donate ONLINE

We offer a secure online donation at each of our agency websites.

To make an online donation, click on the "Donate" button in the top right of the website.

We accept American Express, Diners Club, Discover, Mastercard, and Visa.

Please remember us in your will.