Annual Report 2018-2019

Assistive Technology

From the Executive Director

The world is changing rapidly and nowhere else is that more prevalent than in the electronic arena! This is especially good news for blind and visually impaired individuals who can use this technology to make their way in the world. From computers to iPhones and everything else in between, this assistive technology (AT) opens up the world for the blind and visually impaired.

Bruce Schwendeman, a Lackawanna Blind Association (LBA) client, engages with AT on a daily basis. With the help of our social worker, Mary Claire Boylan, Bruce began visiting the Agency and the Albright Memorial Library a few times a week. Bruce uses the computers which have large screens and large-key keyboards, along with larger font size on the computer and his hands-free magnifying visor. He says that AT has been a “godsend and therapeutic”.

A third-generation taxidermist, Bruce is keeping busy while writing a coming-of-age book about a 5-week cross-country trip he took with his father in 1964. Bruce and his father, who was the Chief Taxidermist of the American Museum of Natural History in NYC, excavated caves in the Oregon desert that summer.

In addition to the AT available at the Agency, Bruce enjoys the activities such as the Shopland Club, Advocacy, and Movie Day. He says the LBA has helped “me to live independently and their help and support is there when I need it”. He also appreciates the Support Group and meeting “people with similar issues” where they can discuss their “successes and failures”.

Assistive Technology and instruction on its use is available at the Agency to all our blind and visually impaired clients. Please call the office today to learn how AT can expand your world!

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and most importantly, our clients, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who has contributed in making FY 2018-2019 a success!

Mary Lou Wascavich
Executive Director

Mary Lou Wascavich, Executive Director

The mission of the Lackawanna Blind Association is to support and promote the interests of the blind and visually impaired, and the prevention of avoidable blindness.

Contact Us:
228 Adams Avenue 570.342.7613 or 866.662.5300 www.lackawannablind.org
Scranton, PA 18503 info@lackawannablind.org
274 individuals received 2340 sessions of independent living services in their homes or in a community setting to maintain or improve their activities of daily living

237 individuals received 791 sessions of educational information regarding healthy eating

25 individuals were assisted for 92 sessions of Transportation/Escort Services to Medical Appointments

17 individuals participated in 154 sessions of Support Groups

54 individuals were assisted with grocery and personal needs shopping in 244 sessions of shopping trips

238 individuals received 391 community connections/referrals made on behalf of individuals and families to address their specific health/safety/welfare needs

256 individuals received 449 sessions to enhance utilization of technology services and resources to maintain their independence

Above, LBA clients and volunteers in the Sensory Development program which is held every Tuesday during the year.

1373 hours of service were logged by 20 volunteers

504 hours of news, health tips, and agency and community events were broadcast on WUSR-FM 99.5 FM, Monday through Friday, 8 am - 10 am

*All statistics represent unduplicated numbers of persons served.
SOCIAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

LBA clients and staff enjoying our many outings and get-togethers throughout the past year.

22 clients shared and learned in 12 Book Club meetings and enjoyed 12 descriptive movies together
38 clients attended 18 outings and Social Club events
22 clients took part in 538 sessions of exercise class

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

2353 children at 71 sites were screened for vision problems
219 adults at 18 sites were screened for vision problems
438 children at 15 sites were educated about eye care and safety
507 adults at 14 sites were educated about eye care and safety
248 children and 24 adults were referred for follow-up care
2433 3rd-grade students in 93 classes participated in the Magic World of Vision Eye Safety Education Program

Above, the 2019 winners of our annual Magic World of Vision eye safety and health poster contest celebrate with LBA staff and Damian, the magician. Everyone enjoyed pizza, cake, and a magic show.

EYEGLASSES

118 individuals received low-cost eyeglasses

VOLUNTEERS

672 Volunteer Hours were logged at the Lackawanna Blind Association
**Board of Directors**

FY 2018-2019

Karl Pfeiffenberger, Chairman
Noreen Burke, Vice Chairman
Paula DePeters, Secretary
Sharon Byrne, Treasurer
Mary Lou Wascavich, Executive Director
Atty. Jerome Musheno, Immediate Past Chairman

Tracy Bannon
Joseph Barrassi
Elaine Blondek
Noreen Burke
Sharon Byrne
Gerard Champi
Paula DePeters
Thomas Donohue
William Donovan
Leigh Fennie
Robert Gebert
Kristen Hinds
Dr. William Jordan, Jr.
Melissa Kirtley
Atty. Jerome Musheno
Nick Parise
Dr. Debra A. Pellegrino
Karl Pfeiffenberger
Marylyn Preven
Judy Pronko

**Honorary Board Members**

Phil Condron
Ron Leas
John Mesko
Claudia Naismith
Ted Reap
Scott Thorpe

**Association Staff**

Mary Lou Wascavich, Executive Director
Mary Claire Boylan, Case Work Coordinator
Lisa Walter, Case Worker/POB
Janet May, Office Assistant/Case Worker
Paul Trama, Radio Program Manager
Anne Lawler, Prevention of Blindness Coordinator
Rich Millayczak, Mini Bus Driver
Peggy Suarez, Admin Support

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**Operating Income**

Fiscal Year 2018-2019

$356,713*

**Operating Expenses**

Fiscal Year 2018-2019

$332,152*

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**Light the Way Legacy Society**

The *Light the Way* Legacy Society was formed in 2012 as a way to invite our community members to include the Lackawanna Blind Association in their estate planning and to honor those who notify us that they have done so. Members of the *Light the Way* Legacy Society can have the special satisfaction of knowing that their life’s efforts will continue to make a difference. Legacy gifts become a permanent part of LBA’s endowment, ensuring that LBA can continue to provide compassionate care for its blind and visually impaired family. Legacy gifts also may be designated for a specific purpose or as a memorial or tribute to loved ones.

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*Income and Expenses estimated, pending FY18-19 Audit*