

in

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InSight is published periodically
Sarah Wammes, Development Director
Suzi Hahn and Rebecca Lugo,
Contributing Writers

Mission Statement

We enrich the lives of individuals with vision loss by providing personalized services.



The Sight Center
of northwest ohio

This publication is available in alternate formats.

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www.sightcentertoledo.org

We don't change vision. We change lives.

sight

Spring 2012

EyEvent

The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio presents Tom Sullivan on Thursday, May 3, 2012 at its EyEvent. Blind since birth, Tom is a nationally known speaker, actor, singer, composer, author



and athlete. The EyEvent will also include our annual donor recognition and presentation of the John Goerlich Distinguished Service Award. This exciting and unforgettable evening will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn at Levis Commons in Perrysburg. Dinner will begin at 7:00 pm. and the cost is \$90 per person. All proceeds raised through this event will directly benefit client services in our 16 county service area. Tom's performance is sponsored by Allergan drug company. Honorary Chairpersons for the evening are Fran and Dick Anderson.

EyEvent Symposium

The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio and Mercy College of Ohio EyEvent Symposium

Saturday, May 5, 2011, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Mercy College of Ohio - Short Term Education, Room 2630

The EyEvent Symposium is a partnership between The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio and Mercy College to offer continuing education to ophthalmic technicians in the community. The day will include four, ninety-minute sessions presented by The Sight Center's Low Vision Rehabilitation staff, experienced ophthalmic technicians, retinal ophthalmologist Dr. Greg Rosenthal, MD, and a luncheon keynote address by Thomas Sullivan sponsored by Allergan drug company.

The sessions will address:

1. Caring for the Low Vision Patient
2. High Tech and Low Tech for the Low Vision Patient: Guiding and Techniques for Putting Your Patients at Ease
3. From Skills to Professionalism; Clinical Performance to Exceed the Physicians and Patients Expectations
4. Advances in Retinal Care

Participants will earn six (6) continuing education credits* through the Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO).

*Pending approval

Questions regarding registration, contact Jen Skeldon, 419-251-1329 or Jennifer.skeldon@mercycollege.edu

Dear Friends and Colleagues...

As Executive Director, a significant portion of my responsibility is fundraising and development so I often wonder why people give. Is it because they are asked? Has a loved one suggested The Sight Center for memorial contributions? Do they know someone who has been a recipient of our services? Have they received services themselves?

What I have learned over the last several years is that there is no one right answer. I would like to share with you a story about a recent bequest we have received. For purposes of confidentiality, I will refer to this person as Edie.

In 1999, The Sight Center received a referral from Edie's eye care professional. In contacting Edie to set up her first appointment, she presented as a very angry person and declined services stating, "You can't help me." In 2000, we received another referral from her eye care professional, asking us to contact her to set up an appointment. Upon calling Edie, she said, "I



will come, but it will be a waste of my time."

During her first visit, Edie expressed anger, frustration and significant denial regarding her vision loss. Although we found magnification that would help her perform daily living tasks, she declined. Two years later, Edie contacted The Sight Center and was ready for help. Although there was still significant frustration, she was more open

to the assistance that we could provide. In my previous role as Supervisor of Case Management Services, I was her main contact. As time went on Edie and I developed a nice rapport. Knowing that I was blind, Edie finally realized that she too could live a fulfilled life with vision loss.

Until Edie's final months, she looked to The Sight Center for resources, guidance and support. Edie passed away in early 2011. In October, I was notified that Edie had left a significant monetary gift to The Sight Center. According to Edie's sister, Edie had a lot of anger regarding her vision loss, but The Sight Center gave her the help and support that she needed.

Just one of many reasons that people give.

With Warm Regards,

Dawn Christensen
Executive Director

The Sight Center Holds Most Successful White Cane Walk To Date

Thank you to all who supported our 4th Annual White Cane Walk, presented by Star 105.5. Because of you, over \$10,000 was raised to serve people with vision loss right here in Northwest Ohio. Please know that we very much appreciate your time, talent and treasure. You have made this our most successful White Cane Walk to date!

All proceeds from this event enable The Sight Center to continue to offer programs and services that empower individuals who are blind or visually impaired to adapt to their vision loss; learn new skills; re-enter and stay in the workforce or school environment; and continue to live independently and enjoy the things in life which provide meaning and substance.

“I don’t let blindness limit me...ever.”

“Live life the way you want it lived. That’s really the backbone of my story,” says Tamas Geczy.

Tamas is a sophomore at The University of Toledo (UT) where he is majoring in Journalism. He has a wide variety of interests ranging from the latest trends in technology to online radio to philosophy. While in high school, Tamas started his own internet radio show. At UT, he volunteers at the campus station where he also has his own program.



Tamas has no vision. Born prematurely, he lost his sight at birth. “To me, blindness isn’t a disability,” he says. “It’s the ability to see the world differently.”

Originally from Hungary, Tamas moved with his family to the Cleveland area when he was 13 years old. In high school, after visiting college campuses throughout Ohio, he decided to attend UT.

Living on campus has had its challenges. Tamas says working with the Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired and The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio, though, has been a crucial part of his adjustment to living independently.

Tamas received orientation and mobility training from Sight Center staff member Melissa Wilcox to help him acclimate to campus. “I wouldn’t know campus at all without her help,” says Tamas. This training also boosted his confidence. “I’ve never had the confidence to explore as much. But since she showed me how, it’s given me the courage to explore my surroundings.”

“Thank you to The Sight Center for all they’ve done,” say Tamas. To others who may be experiencing vision loss Tamas says, “Don’t let blindness limit you....ever.”

Volunteer Spotlight

For over 20 years, Angela Granata has shared her expertise in financial planning with individuals, businesses, and groups. Angela is a Certified Financial Planner™ and leads the Great Lakes Team for Key Private Wealth which serves Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan and includes ten metropolitan areas. In addition, she serves Keybank’s Wealth Advisory group as a national strategic advice leader.



Angela Granata, CFP™
Planned Giving Advisory
Council Member

A strong proponent of collaborative planning, Angela works closely with clients and their advisors to make the process of comprehensive financial planning a personal and enriching experience. Creating meaningful change within the lives of clients through what can often be seen as an intimidating or overwhelming part of life – completing a financial plan – is the most satisfying part of her work.

Angela currently serves as the President of the Northwest Ohio Chapter of the Financial Planning Association, she is actively involved in providing professional financial counseling to service men and women of the armed forces through a program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense, and has served several area schools as a part of the National Endowment for Financial Education. Angela is also involved with The University of Toledo Women and Philanthropy, ProMedica Planned Giving Council, United Way of Greater Toledo Visionary Council, and Mobile Meals of Toledo. She is a member of the Toledo Estate Planning Council and a graduate of the Leadership Toledo program.

Angela is truly a wonderful additional to our Planned Giving Advisory Council. We could not be more thrilled to have her involved.

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The generous support of foundations and trusts allows us to offer quality services to people of all ages who are blind or visually impaired.

We sincerely thank the following for their contributions from July through December of 2011:

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\$2,000 for Technology Equipment Support

France Stone Foundation

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We don't change vision. We change lives.



Reception Volunteers Needed

Would you like to join our team of welcoming and energetic reception volunteers? Reception volunteers are key to making The Sight Center a warm welcoming place. Reception volunteers must have a friendly and welcoming manner, great customer care skills and telephone manners. This position requires a minimum four hour/one day per week commitment. If you are interested, please call Rebecca Lugo at 419-720-3937, ext. 102.

Got a green thumb?

We are in need of volunteers to assist us in maintaining our flower beds. If you are interested in sharing your expertise, please contact Rebecca Lugo at 419-720-3937, ext. 102.

Give a Gift of Time

For more information on Volunteer Opportunities at The Sight Center, Visit www.sightcentertoledo.org or call Rebecca Lugo at 419-720-3937, ext. 102.

Save the Date!

We are thrilled to announce that our 5th Annual White Cane Walk is being hosted by ProMedica Flower Hospital in partnership with the Sylvania Sunrise Lions Club, Inc. The event will take place Saturday, September 29, 2012. Details coming soon!

Retiring Board Members

We'd like to extend a very special thank you to Kim Snavely and Tony Reams for their service on The Sight Center's Board of Trustees. We appreciate the time and dedication they have shown us over the years. We wish each of you well in your future endeavors!

Congratulations!

Staff member Renee Murphy and her husband Mike welcomed a healthy baby boy on October 14, 2011 (their 5th wedding anniversary). Lane Michael Murphy weighed 6lbs. 9oz, and was 21.5 inches long! Mom, Dad and Lane are doing well.

Thank You!

A big thank you to the women of Sigma Phi Gamma International Sorority, Nu-Xi Chapter. Their fall bus trip to Polaris Mall raised \$900 for The Sight Center.

Thank you to volunteer Amy Radon who spent countless hours making The Sight Center's grounds beautiful in 2011!

Thank you to Lamar for their in-kind contribution of advertising!



Vision Support Group Update

Frog Town Low Vision Support Group

NEW LOCATION: The Ability Center
5605 Monroe Street, Sylvania, OH 43560

1st Wednesday of the Month

10:00am to 1:00pm

Contact: Paul or Jan Rachow: 419-867-1940

or frogtowngroup2020@sbcglobal.net

Web Site: www.frogtownvision.org

Web Site: www.visionassociates.net

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