

Bucks County Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired
News and Views • November/December 2011
(800) 472-8775 • (215) 968-9400 • www.bucksblind.org

Grand Opening

BCABVI is pleased to announce the Grand Opening of the Low Vision Clinic at Telford on November 16, 2011.

In cooperation with the Moore Eye Foundation, BCABVI will offer low vision examinations and low vision aids at the clinic housed in the Meadows Building of the Lutheran Community at Telford.

A tour of the clinic will be available from 10:00—11:00 am, followed by an informational session about low vision services presented by Georgia Crozier O.D., M.S. Both Dr. Crozier and BCABVI staff will be available for questions following the presentation.

BCABVI has been operating a successful Low Vision Clinic in Newtown, PA since 2005 and identified an unmet need low vision services in the upper part of Bucks County. With the opening of the new Low Vision Clinic, all residents of Bucks County will have access to these valuable services.

We hope you will join us on Wednesday, November 16th at 10:00 am to celebrate the culmination of our efforts from the past year. Lutheran Community at Telford is located at 2800 State Road, Telford PA 18969.

For more information about the Low Vision Clinic at Telford or to schedule an appointment with Dr. Crozier, please contact Susan Stubbs at (215) 968-1035 or email [sstubbs@bucksblind.org](mailto:ssubbs@bucksblind.org).



Georgia Crozier, O.D., M.S. Dr. Crozier is a 1984 graduate of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry and is a low vision specialist and chief medical administrator of the Moore Eye Foundation. She was the first optometrist to be selected by the federal government to receive a Masters of Science of Vision Rehabilitation. Dr. Crozier, a facilitator for low vision support groups, has lectured extensively in the field of low vision. She is a consultant for the Veterans Administration for homebound visually impaired veterans, and the State of Pennsylvania for visually impaired students and adults.

Thank you to all the sponsors and supporters of *Harvest Harmony*. The September 17, 2011 event raised over \$7,000 to provide free vision screenings for preschoolers in Bucks County.

A special thank you to our featured sponsors:

First National Bank of Newtown, Eye Associates LLC, The Newtown Exchange Club, Custom Care Property Maintenance, Dr. Denise Wilcox and the Newtown Lions.



From the Lion's Den

Thank you to all who purchased raffle tickets for the Hobbyhorse and Doll drawing in August.

The winners were *Ann Gardyan* and *Lottie Wajda*.

**Tickets are on sale now for our
ANNUAL SHOPPING SPREE RAFFLE**

\$1 each or 6 for \$5

1ST Prize \$300

2nd Prize \$25

3rd Prize \$25

Drawing will be held on November 2, 2011 at the center.

In September our club was visited by newly elected District 14-A Governor Gerri Towson. Her theme for the 2011-2012 year is: "Believe" that changing a life or the world, starts with each one of us, and "Together We Serve".

Look for a photo on the home page of the BCABVI Lions Club website at - www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/buckscountypa

We continue to collect necessities for the Bucks County Housing Family Resource Center. On the first Wednesday of each month (our club meeting time), donated items are picked up. These goods go to families as they transition from being homeless into housing and job training. There is always a need for toiletries, pantry staples, and cleaning supplies.

Please join us in this worthy program which provides immediate support to members of the community. Our sincere thanks go to those already participating.

Center Closings



Please mark down on your calendar the following days BCABVI will be closed in November and December:

Friday November 11, 2011 - Closed Veteran's Day

Thurs. November 24 and Fri. November 25, 2011- Closed Thanksgiving

Friday December 23, 2011 - Monday January 2, 2012 BCABVI office closed for Winter Break. Office will reopen on Tuesday January 3, 2012

Sign Ups

Wednesday November 16, 2011 - Non-Visual Skill Training Workshop #5 - Home Organization

Learn skills to organize your closets, identify clothing and room by room safety tips to minimize risk of injury.

Cost: \$15 includes an array of items for labeling (ie. textured 3D paint, a variety of Bumps and labels with 20/20 pen)

Monday December 12, 2011 - Holiday Luncheon

Celebrate the holidays with us at our holiday luncheon. Clients, staff, board members and volunteers are all invited. Spring Mill Manor will provide a delicious lunch, Marc Shaw will provide the entertainment and you bring the holiday cheer!

Cost: \$30

Wednesday December 14, 2011 - Non-Visual Skill training Workshop #6 - Grooming/Personal Care Workshop

Learn skills to help with personal care including: bathing, hair care, toothbrushing, shaving, nail care and make up application.

Cost: \$15 includes magnifying stand mirror

To sign up for an event, please call Shelley at (215) 968-9400.

Just a reminder, payment for all sign ups must be received at least one week before the event. We cannot give refunds for cancellations as the cost of the event is based on number of people attending.



We are pleased to announce that the Bucks County Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired received the **GuideStar Exchange Seal**, a leading symbol of transparency and accountability provided by GuideStar USA, Inc., the premier source of nonprofit information. The Seal demonstrates to BCABVI's vast support-base our deep commitment to nonprofit transparency and accountability.

In order to be awarded the GuideStar Exchange Seal, BCABVI had to fill out every required field of our report page on www.guidestar.org, including our financial documents, annual report, and information about services and key staff. This report is available to the public and provides a comprehensive picture of our professional organization.

We hope you will check us out and tell us what you think: www.guidestar.org and search our organization.

You can also write a review of BCABVI through our website www.bucksblind.org and click on the blue icon on our home page "Write a review"

We are extremely proud of the work we do at BCABVI and the Guidestar Exchange Seal confirms we operate with integrity in our efforts to serve the blind and visually impaired community of Bucks County.



The complete audited financial statements for BCABVI can also be obtained by sending a written request to
400 Freedom Drive Newtown, PA 18940,
calling (215) 968-9400 or sending an email to info@bucksblind.org.

Facts and Myths about Cataracts

Rebecca Singer Walker, M.D., F.A.C.S.

One of the reasons I chose to practice ophthalmology was the ability to help people. While this often involves managing chronic diseases (like glaucoma and dry eye syndrome), there is also an opportunity to “fix” problems! This might be treating an infection or “pink eye”, but also can involve restoring a person’s sight. The biggest treatable cause of vision loss in the world is cataracts. In fact, cataract surgery is one of the most common and successful surgeries performed in this country. I will review some basic facts about cataracts.

1) Cataracts are a normal part of the aging process. As we age, the lens in our eye (like the lens in a camera) becomes cloudy. This process starts in our 40’s, but may not become noticeable until later in age. By our 80’s more than 50% of people have had cataract surgery! Cataracts will affect people at different times, depending on their visual needs. The earliest symptom of cataracts is “glare” around lights, especially when driving at night-time.

2) The treatment of cataracts is surgery. There is *no* medicine or laser to treat cataracts. The only way to remove cataracts is by surgical removal. Surgery is done in an out-patient setting (usually a surgery center) using a microscope and tiny microsurgical instruments. Many people are under the misconception that laser can remove cataracts. This is untrue! We do use a laser to remove a “film” or scar that can develop on the back of the lens implant *after* cataract surgery, but that is *not* a cataract (people may refer to this film as a “second cataract” or “after cataract”).

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Rebecca Singer Walker, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Dr. Walker is a board-certified ophthalmologist, with additional fellowship-training in the subspecialty of glaucoma. She is a diplomat, fellow and board-examiner of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO). Dr Walker co-founded Eye Associates LLC in Chalfont, PA with Dr. Brian Sucheski, providing patient care for Bucks, Philadelphia and Montgomery counties. She is the author of several textbook chapters on the subject of glaucoma. Dr. Walker is also an active member of the BVCABVI Board of Directors.

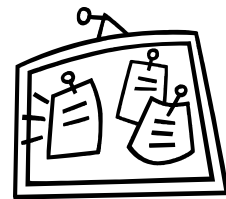


Cataracts continued from page 5

3) Cataracts are removed when they are impacting a person's sight and quality of life. Cataract surgery is an elective procedure. This means that it is a patient's decision as to whether they wish to undergo surgery. Whether a cataract is "ripe" or not is really up to the patient and their doctor. We do not remove cataracts if they are not affecting a patient's vision. Some people (especially if they are not driving) do not really notice the cataracts and do not feel a need for cataract surgery. Since the cataracts have been developing very slowly over many years, they really don't notice a change.

4) Cataract surgery will not "cure" other eye problems. If a patient also has glaucoma, macular degeneration or other eye diseases, then cataract surgery may not completely restore their vision. While things may be brighter and colors more vibrant, some of the vision loss may be permanent. This is especially true for our patients with macular degeneration.

Notes from the Social Work Corner



In continuing with our theme "to do for yourself" here is a reminder about your adaptive devices.

Adaptive devices are to assist you with routine daily activities. If you have these adaptive devices we ask that you have them with you at the center and use them, just as you would use them at home.

During activities and support group sometimes reading and writing is required by you to fully enjoy the activity or complete a group activity. So please bring in your handheld magnifiers or any other low vision devices that would assist you to independently enjoy, learn and assist in social or support group.

As always any questions or concerns let us know
Emily and Sheryl