Believing is Seeing at ABVI

Most people need to see to believe. Social entrepreneurs, on the other hand, believe first then see the solutions to challenging community problems.

At ABVI, we tackle difficult issues by first believing we can make a difference. We stake our belief in the confidence we have in our proven ability to garner the necessary human and financial resources along with the creativity and expertise to meet vital individual, familial and community needs. From securing a self-stick note pad production contract that created great jobs AND a revenue stream to support the development of vision rehabilitation services to creating new career opportunities in our Contact Center for people who are blind and who aspire to more professional careers, our track record is a testament to this assertion.

Solving problems and meeting unmet needs is in our DNA, as is the penchant for collaborating and partnering with others in the community to achieve common goals. It is through this idea of going beyond the bricks of our four walls and into the heart of the community that our Vision Wellness and Preventive Services programs have grown from an imperative vision to a vital first step in helping to prevent severe vision loss and blindness by identifying potentially serious eye conditions early.

Vision Care For Kids provides eye exams and follow-up including eyeglasses to school-aged children who have no medical insurance. We work closely with school nurses to identify the kids who need the exams; we recruit volunteer doctors and receive donated eyeglasses from local Optical Companies. Since this program began in 1997, every one of the 633 kids examined needed and has received eyeglasses that they would not have otherwise received.

Project Eye Care provides vital eye care services to adults who have no eye care medical insurance.

Continued on page 2.
At this year’s President and Chairman’s Luncheon, ABVI President & CEO, Gidget Hopf, and Board of Directors Chairman, Joe Istvan, presented the Foresight Award to Dick Bell (left center) for his longstanding commitment to ABVI’s mission. Dick’s generosity will help preserve the future of ABVI for generations to come. Gidget and Joe also presented the Community Partner Award to Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation President and Trustee Don Whitney (right center) for the Foundation’s support and help in, literally, getting ABVI’s Vision Wellness & Preventive Services on the road by providing a van and for their continued generous support.

Continued from page 1...

Since 2000 3,375 free eye exams have been conducted and over 3000 pairs of eyeglasses have been donated by participating optical stores. Most importantly, over 100 individuals have been referred for potential blinding eye disease such as glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and cataracts.

Most pre-school children do not receive eye exams or vision screenings, even during visits with their pediatrician. We believed that ABVI could play an important role in meeting this need and researched the various programs throughout the country where such screenings are being performed.

Based on this review, our own doctors and staff designed a researched-based screening, reporting and follow-up protocol and began the Early Vision Screening program in 2010, making it our third preventative program, geared for children ages six months to five years of age. We are grateful to the Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation and contributions from individuals who provided us with the seed money for this program.

Moving beyond the bricks into our community has taken vision, grit, determination and the support of a dedicated and passionate board of directors and the constant belief that where there is a need we are destined to fulfill it. Whenever we have embarked on a new initiative, you have been there to support us. We have built this organization together, one brick at a time.
NYOSA Recognizes ABVI’s Commitment to Public Service

The Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired is the New York State Optometric Association’s 2012 Public Service Award recipient in recognition of ABVI’s commitment to the visual welfare of the public as demonstrated through ABVI’s Vision Wellness and Preventive services. The award was presented during NYSOA’s 117th Annual Congress in May.

“We thank NYOSA for this award. It is very exciting to know that as a result of this award the efforts of our volunteer doctors and all of those people who have contributed to the success of the Vision Wellness and Preventive Services programs have received state-wide recognition,” says Katherine White, OD, ABVI's Managing Director of Low Vision Services.

In 2000, ABVI adopted Project Eye Care from the University of Rochester Medical Center. The program provides free eye exams, glasses and follow-up care to underserved individuals in our community through recruitment of volunteer eye doctors and collaborations with community health centers and optical businesses. In 1997, ABVI became involved in Vision Care for Kids, a program that provides free eye exams and glasses to school age children lacking medical insurance. Recognizing that these two programs serve to prevent vision loss, they were organized under the umbrella of Vision Wellness and Preventive Services. Two years ago, ABVI created Early Vision Screening, a third program that provides free vision screenings at local child care centers to detect and prevent vision loss among the youngest of our population.

All three Vision Wellness and Preventive Services programs are supported by grants and private donations. Over the years, more than 6,000 individuals in our community have received the vision care they needed thanks to these programs.

Gidget Hopf Leads NIB Public Policy Panel

At the National Industries for the Blind's Public Policy Forum earlier this year, ABVI President and CEO Gidget Hopf, who also serves as the Vice President of Public Policy for the National Association for the Employment of People Who are Blind (NAEPB), moderated a panel discussion on government affairs and disability employment issues. Panelists reminded Forum attendees that despite the challenges the economy poses, the length of the legislative process and election year distractions, it is imperative to reach out to Congress. Additionally, panelists advocated for the disability community to come together on issues impacting employment of people who are blind or visually impaired. Panelists were Andy Imparato, senior counsel and disability policy director, U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions; Bonnie O'Day, senior researcher, Mathematica; and Liz Roberts, principal, Capitoline Consulting.
The future is now. Are you able to access it?

ABVI’s TechBridge can help by offering individualized one-on-one training on iOS devices – iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch for people who are blind or visually impaired. ABVI’s TechBridge training will help you learn how to use the built-in accessibility features in Apple iOS products, giving you the ability to unleash the power of these devices.

Contact Chris Frank today at (585) 232-1111 or (800) 640-6005 to schedule a training session.

$20 for 3 hours of customized training
Customized to your current skills and abilities.

TechBridge

The goal of ABVI’s TechBridge Program is to provide the key that unlocks the usefulness of iOS devices like the iPad, iPhone and iPod Touch to read, scan and talk back to the user who is blind or visually impaired. The one-on-one, customized training sessions provide a foundation of learning in the built-in accessibility features of the products, giving what one trainee said is a “liberating feeling” because she can use a popular device to accomplish so much at a price point that is lower than other available adaptive technology. Learn more about TechBridge by calling ABVI at (585) 232-1111.

“A Liberating” TechBridge Program Offers Individualized iOS Training

As you plan for family and loved ones, you might also consider the charitable organizations you most value, such as ABVI. One way to meet your personal philanthropic goals and ensure the future of ABVI is by making a gift to our endowment fund.

It’s simple and easy. ABVI’s endowment fund allocates certain contributions to an investment portfolio—a carefully managed and monitored portfolio of stocks, bonds and other investment vehicles where a portion of the return helps fund programs, services and jobs for people who are blind or visually impaired. The principal remains safely invested to perpetuate the fund and, consequently, the stream of support so important to serving people who are blind or visually impaired.

A gift to our endowment fund can be made now or later. For example, a donor wishing to make a deferred gift can do so through a charitable bequest in a will, trust, or charitable life-income plan. Either way, a gift to ABVI’s endowment fund can create a legacy of perpetual gifts.

Some simple math. Suppose you would like to make sure that ABVI receives $500 every year, even after your lifetime. To calculate the amount you need to donate to perpetuate your annual gift, divide your annual gift amount, say $500, by 5 percent (the rate at which the agency currently draws on its endowment) to arrive at $10,000. So, by contributing or bequeathing $10,000 to ABVI’s endowment, you continue indefinitely your practice of donating $500 annually to assist those who are blind or visually impaired.

For more information on ABVI’s endowment fund or perpetuating your annual contribution, contact Tracy Schleyer, CFRE, Vice President of Development at (585) 697-5780 or tschleyer@abvigoodwill.com.

Did You Know:

Turn Annual Contribution into Legacy of Gifts

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The kindness and generosity of our donors help us to offer the best and most up-to-date services possible. The following is a list of much needed items that are not covered by ABVI’s budget. To donate funds to purchase any of these items, or to donate the items themselves, please contact Tracy Schleyer, CFRE, at tschleyer@abvi-goodwill.com or (585) 697-5780.

**Rochester Business Journal 2012 Book of Lists on CD:** $204
This resource would serve as a valuable tool for our Career Development Specialists by providing access to contact names and details of local companies who could be potential employers for people with visual impairments.

**Digital subscription to the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle:** $156
This resource would allow Career Development Specialists to stay current on area employers, employment opportunities as well as local labor trends.

**Epson Stylus NX430 Small-in-One Color Inkjet Printer:** $99.95
This wireless printer would allow our Adaptive Technology staff to have the ability to test and demonstrate printing capabilities from iOS devices. We are not currently able to print directly from an iPad, iPod, or iPhone—all of which are accessible technology used by people we serve.

**HiPPiH iEagle Foldable Wireless Keyboard:** $99.95
The benefit of this wireless Bluetooth keyboard is that it folds in half, making it a great portable option for the people we serve. We would like to be able to test and demonstrate its capabilities.

**2 Sun Lens Evaluation Kits:** $420 each
This evaluation tool would allow our Vision Rehabilitation Therapists to try out different lenses, and lens styles, with individuals to determine works most effectively for them. A Sun Lens Evaluation Kit consists of 26 pairs of sun lenses, each a different color and/or shade. For some individuals, the sun lens will heighten contrast, making it easier to see in low light conditions; for other individuals, a darker lens will help to minimize glare—even at times from indoor lamps.

**Kindle Touch 3G:** $149
This e-reader will be a welcome addition to our Low Vision Center to demonstrate accessibility features to individuals we serve. This technology allows users to read large print in E Ink with no need for Internet access. Text-to-speech, audiobooks and mp3 support is included.

**The new iPad (16GB wi-fi):** $499
The new iPad will be used in our Low Vision Center to demonstrate to people we serve the new Retina display which provides razor sharp magnified text with vibrant colors. This iOS device has built-in accessibility features such as white on black text, and VoiceOver, a screen-reading technology.
A memorial or honorary gift is a wonderful way to celebrate special occasions, honor a loved one, or pay tribute to the memory of family members or friends. Many generous people have found a way to express their caring spirit while helping to ensure the success of ABVI. As a thank you for your gift, ABVI will list your name and the names of those who you are honoring in our newsletter. We’ll also send a note acknowledging your gift according to your wishes. For more information about making a memorial or honorary gift donation, please contact ABVI’s Development Department at (585) 697-5713.

Thank you to the following friends who have made contributions from February 1, 2012 through May 31, 2012.

**In memory of Ann M. Ahlheim**
Ann M. Ahlheim
Wendy Ahlheim
Brad and Emily Beal
Judy Beal
Sara Beale
David and Ellen Bennett
Mr. and Mrs. Donald S. Bennett
Derry Burbank-Farmer and William M. Farmer
Lauren J. Burns
Mary Cooney
Daniel and Heather Costanza
David and Ilene Faum
David and Barbara Marcellus
Mary Martin
Michael Oros, DDS
Kiki M. Robinson
Marie Lee and Alan Shapiro
Mr. and Mrs. William A. Smith II
Martha and William Treece
Martha Wallace
Rudolph and Margaret Warren

**In memory of Stanley Bloom**
MetLife

**In memory of Daniel E. Brennan**
Irene Galinsky

**In memory of Rosemarie M. Brinklow**
Kathleen M. Nersinger

**In honor of Cheri and Robert Charboneau**
Kristie and Alan Braun

**In memory of Joseph Cucchero**
Ronald and Mary Ann Aument
Jeanne Hauser
Elaine and Frank Iacovangelo
Myra Izzo

**In memory of Dorothy Eletto**
Nancy and Donald Heseltine
Dan and Louann Lange
Patricia and William Verhagen

**In memory of Eva H. Falzone**
Stanley and Greta Kopec
Phyllis Ruffier

**In memory of Eli Eckman**
Leslie and Aaron Daily
Brian and Ashley Eckman
Kenneth and Betty Eckman
Terry and Della Maholland
Julie and Karl Marsiglio

**In memory of Donald Dietschler**
William and Jacqueline Heinrich
Mr. and Mrs. James Simpson

**In memory of Lois Easton**
Frank and Joanne Aprilano
Esther Cable
Suzanne and Geoffrey Crouse
Easton Thompson Kasperek Shiffrin LLP
Dorothea Easton
Sharon and Dave Hardy
High Falls Advisors
William F. Holly
Dorothy and Jack Pearson
David and Virginia Robinson
Isabel Rogers

**In memory of Barbara J. Devney**
Dorothy Wright

**In memory of John F. Friedman**
Mary Jean and Robert Sperry

**In memory of Donald Dietschler**
William and Jacqueline Heinrich
Mr. and Mrs. James Simpson

**In memory of Albina Grum**
Esther Craver

**In memory of Joan Hannon**
Irene Galinsky

**In memory of Elizabeth Harvey**
Earl Sitter

**In memory of Hubert G. Hill**
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**In memory of Ani Iacubucci**
James P. Broderick
Arnold D’Amico
Jeanne Davis
Susan DiVincenzo
Michael and Sarah Iacubucci
Anna Masiello
Nancy and Domenic Masiello
Joanne and George Pechie

Kathleen Tuite
Cyril Waugh

In memory of Elinore Fram
Mary and John Bartholomew
Donald E. Waltzer

In memory of John F. Friedman
Mary Jean and Robert Sperry

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Jeanne Davis
Susan DiVincenzo
Michael and Sarah Iacubucci
Anna Masiello
Nancy and Domenic Masiello
Joanne and George Pechie
The Visionary Society is a committed group of individuals who have supported the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired through their contributions for 10 or more consecutive years. Members of the Visionary Society can take pride in knowing they have helped many people in the Greater Rochester area and surrounding communities who are blind or visually impaired. Their continued financial support has been paramount in us delivering services and fulfilling our mission. We are grateful for our continuing members and would like to welcome our newest members:

Virginia and Perry Trout
Robert J. Hawes
Harvey and Elaine Nusbaum
Frank and Nellie Kruppenbacher
Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Dale

ABVI welcomes new Visionary Society members

For a full listing of Visionary Society Members, please go to http://www.seegreatthings.com/WaystoHelp/DonateNow/ABVIVisionarySociety.aspx

If you have any questions about the Visionary Society or you feel your name has been omitted, please contact Tracy Schleyer at (585) 697-5780.
You’re Invited!
Save the Date!

Get ready for an evening of live music, dancing, open bar and auctions – and please join us on Saturday, September 29 at the Hyatt Regency Rochester for ABVI’s Visionary Gala. Featuring artists and photographers who are blind or visually impaired, and highlighting that vision does not end once sight is lost, this black-tie optional celebration will be a night not to be missed!

To reserve a ticket, to learn more about sponsorship opportunities or to donate to the auction, please contact the Development Department at (585) 697-5713.