ABVI Honors Dennis Asselin with Visionary Award

At ABVI's Annual President and Chairman’s Luncheon, we honor those who support the work that ABVI does. As we celebrate 50 years of low vision services, it is fitting that this year’s Visionary Award was given to Dennis Asselin, MD, who is passionate about helping those with low vision.

Given this passion, it is surprising that Dr. Asselin did not set out to be an eye doctor. In fact, he had no rotations in ophthalmology during medical school at the University of Rochester. After he graduated, he did a three-year internal medicine residency at University of Massachusetts Medical Center in Worcester. At this time, he had an elective working with a neuroophthalmologist and the experience had such an impact on him that he changed his career path. When he returned to Rochester to do an ophthalmology residency, he

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Brighter Views for the Visually Impaired

Imagine you just received news that you have macular degeneration and you will lose the majority of your vision. You haven’t lost all of it yet, but you are experiencing issues that are making some things more difficult.

You are visually impaired, but not yet legally blind. As such there is no funding for vision rehabilitation services for people in this situation. There are a number of people who fall into this category that can be helped by ABVI’s low vision doctors. They can prescribe a stronger pair of glasses or a magnifier. The question remains, though, what are these people supposed to do about every day living?

ABVI identified this gap, and with the help of grants from the Waldron Rise Foundation and the Lavelle Fund for the Blind, created Brighter Views to provide this type of training for the first time ever!

Brighter Views is a group-training program for people who are 55 or older and who are visually impaired. The program has had 70 individuals participate since its launch in June 2018. Participants learn how to manage daily life with vision loss and how ABVI can help as vision declines.

There is also the intangible benefit of this type of program. It is the comfort felt by participants when they have the opportunity to meet others who are experiencing the same things they are. Participants realize they aren’t alone and learn so much by sharing ideas and stories with their classmates.

If you would like to support Brighter Views by making a donation or becoming a volunteer, please contact Sarah Favro at either 585-327-5526 or sfavro@goodwillfingerlakes.org.

Dr. Asselin

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had rotations at ABVI and was mentored by our own Medical Director, Dr. Gwen Sterns. He was so affected by his work with patients with low vision that he continued to serve at ABVI, treating patients there one half day a month for three years. He has continued to support the organization for more than 30 years, both as a doctor and a donor.

Dr. Asselin finds it rewarding to work with low vision patients. He feels that they tend to be overlooked in the larger field of ophthalmology. As a tireless champion of ABVI, Dr. Asselin believes it is an important resource for the optometrists and ophthalmologists in our community. For one thing, it is not practical for eyecare practices to keep an inventory of the specialized tools and aids used in working with low vision patients in their offices. Also, ABVI serves as a resource to eye professionals and our staff is always available to answer their colleagues’ questions. Dr. Asselin says, “when I don’t know what to do for my patients, I call one of the social workers at ABVI.”

The prestigious Visionary Award is presented annually to an individual who exemplifies the spirit of ABVI and demonstrates a commitment to its mission “to prepare and empower people who are blind or visually impaired to be self-sufficient and contribute to their families and communities.” Dr. Asselin’s support of and interest in the work of ABVI for several decades are truly distinguished and genuinely appreciated.
Our Wish List

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 and Goodwill of the Finger Lakes’ budget. To donate funds to purchase any of these items, or to donate the items themselves, please contact Sarah Favro at sfavro@goodwillfingerlakes.org or (585) 327-5526.

Eye Charts for Low Vision Exams: $200
Because our service territory spans the Finger Lakes region, we provide low vision exams in locations outside of Monroe County to eliminate the need for people to travel to Rochester. We are in need of eye charts to keep at these locations to avoid wear and tear from moving them from location to location.

Digital Camera and Accessories: $200
Our ISO 9000 certified manufacturing operation produces, packages, and distributes over 90 different products, including textile products for the military, a complete line of SKILCRAFT® brand self-stick notes, repositionable flags, and easel pads, easy-to-use cleaning products, Lockout Tagout and Right To Know Safety Products, and our Dymo SKILCRAFT labeling solutions. This camera will allow our manufacturing team to take high quality photos and videos of these products and upgrade our on-line presentation for current and prospective customers.

Talking Color Identifier: $180
The Colorino is a portable adaptive device that aids people who are blind or visually impaired by speaking aloud an object’s color. This device would assist our manufacturing employees who are blind or visually impaired to be able to properly identify the colors of products and supplies.

Items for Work Experience Training: $400
People who participate in our Workforce Development program receive comprehensive training to prepare them for a job or career. Prior to securing employment, a participant may complete a Work Experience to develop necessary skills needed for a particular job. We are in need of supplies that a participant can use to learn specific tasks to be prepared for a Work Experience.

Glass Display Cases for Goodwill Stores: $400 each
Our Goodwill operation receives a variety of household items from our generous donors. Some of these items such as collectables, dishware, and high-end jewelry need to be displayed in glass cases to assure these items are visible while protecting them from breakage and theft. We are in need of ten of these display cases.

Beverage Coolers for Food Service Business: $600
Our food service team cooks and delivers over 62,000 meals per month for the Monroe County senior lunch program, all six local ABC Head Start programs, and a variety of private daycare centers. We are in need of 12 beverage coolers to better transport drinks and other cold items.

Pet Friendly Ice Melt: $1,000
Unlike other workplaces in our community, dogs work at ABVI as well as people. Of our 700 employees across ABVI and Goodwill of the Finger Lakes, 121 are blind or visually impaired. Many of these employees work with a dog guide. Like our human employees, our dog guide friends travel to work in the winter. Because rock salt can be very harmful to a dog’s paws, we use pet-friendly ice melt on the sidewalks on our main campus. This would supply us with enough ice melt for the upcoming winter.
MAG’s Assistant Curator Sydney Greaves (at left) leads a touch tour of a 3rd-c. Roman sarcophagus. Photo by Brandon K. Vick.

For people who are blind or visually impaired, a visit to an art museum may seem like a challenging undertaking. But the Memorial Art Gallery (MAG) offers touch tours and has audio description of many of the pieces in their collection.

As ABVI’s Director of Advocacy and Consumer Affairs, Rene Latorre, notes “it is really their strong commitment to accessibility for all individuals that has made this possible. Their docents and staff are highly trained in audio description, sighted guide, and being sensitive to the needs of those with vision loss.”

Rene and other ABVI employees worked with MAG staff to develop the tours and descriptions. These were especially useful when the MAG welcomed visitors from around the country attending the American Council of the Blind annual convention for an afternoon exploring the collection tacitly and verbally.

The touch tours allow visitors who are blind or visually impaired to touch the works of art. White gloves are worn to protect the pieces. The audio tours include professional verbal descriptions of the art that can be heard on mobile phones.

To arrange for a touch tour, visitors should call Chelsea Anderson at 585-276-8971.

Recorded versions of work from the collection is available at all times on MAG’s website: https://mag.rochester.edu/education/audio-descriptions/
Run with TEAM ABVI to Rock the ROCtoberfest 5K

Grab your running shoes and lederhosen and celebrate Rochester’s philanthropic spirit at the ROCtoberfest 5K! Join us October 19 at 10:00 am at Genesee Valley Park for a fun festival kicked off by the 5K run/walk that also will serve as a fundraiser. Local charities, like ABVI, will be raising money through the event. Last year, thanks to our amazing supporters and our friends at Smola Consulting, we raised over $3,500. You can be part of our team this year and make a real difference to people in our community who are blind or visually impaired!

After the race ends the party starts! Food trucks, beer garden, live music, and more! If you have friends or family who would prefer to skip the race, but come for the festival, there are tickets available for that as well. Be part of the fun and at the same time support the work that ABVI does!

More information can be found at http://yellowjacketracing.com/races/roctoberfest-5K. Interested in being part of TEAM ABVI or have questions? Contact Marlisa Post at 585-697-5713 or mpost@goodwillfingerlakes.org.

Goodwill Opens New Eastview Store

It was with much anticipation that Goodwill opened its newest store and donation center at Eastview Mall on Saturday, June 29, 2019.

The previous location at 2 Commerce Drive in Victor closed permanently when the new Eastview location opened.

The Eastview location offers a larger store where shoppers can find even more designer brands at discounted prices. It also offers a more convenient donation experience than before.

Customers anxious to shop the new Goodwill store at Eastview Mall lined up early on June 29, 2019 for the official Grand Opening.
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) 697-5711. Thank you to the following friends who have made tribute contributions from January 16, 2019 through July 15, 2019.

HONORARIUMS

In honor of Dennis A. Asselin
Grant Holcomb

In honor of the Joseph and Nancy Briggs Family
Bruce and Marcia Bates
David and Amy Bowen
Peter and Lauren Briggs
Elizabeth S. Bynum
Betsy and John Carver
Kathryn and John D’Amanda
John and Elizabeth Duford
Michael and Suzanne Frame
Bud and Peggy Frame
Lindsay and John Garrett
Louise and Peter Greaves-Tunnel
Mary B. Gulick
Nancy Hodge Lee
John and Ellen Kitchen
Frank and Cricket Luellen
Rochester Area Community Foundation
Bud and Joan Rusitsky
Fred and JoAnne Smith
Rudolph and Margaret Warren
Robert and Linda Wayland-Smith
Woods Oviatt Gilman, LLP
Geoff and Cindy Yancey
Anne C. Coon and Craig J. Zicari

In honor of Michael Frame
Scott and Kathy Frame

In honor of Alan H. Gruber
Howard and Arlene Schenker

In honor of A. Gidget Hopf
Eugene H. Fram

In honor of Tracy L. Schleyer
Linda and Alan Dolmatch

MEMORIALS

In memory of Joseph D. Abreu
Mary Helena Bickel
Mary and Thomas Bickel
Christine R. Klos
Alan and Eileen Vieira
Maryann and Timothy Welch

In memory of Stanley Becker
Howard and Karen Kessler

In memory of James W. Beisheim, Sr.
Cornerstone Eye Associates

In memory of Anne T. Bleier
Suzy Barcelos Winchester and Michael E. Winchester

In memory of Joseph Cerone
Samuel S. Attardo Jr.
James Cerone
Benjamin and Elaine Gioseffi

In memory of Roslyn Clarke
George and Shirley Bittner

In memory of Jean Cummings
Nancy Premo

In memory of George Dandrea
Ralph Dandrea
Philip Fedele
Joseph Fornuto
Bernard J. Iacovangelo
James LoBrutto
Gerald Manioci, Esq.
Louis and Karen Masi
Pamela Tofany-Kern
James and Carol Wigton

In memory of Elizabeth K. DeBruycker
Linda Hundley

In memory of Sheila DiPrima
First Baptist Church Braille Service

In memory of Constance W. Durfee
Joanna Gillespie

In memory of Eli Eckman
Julie and Karl Marsiglio

In memory of Elaine M. Friedman
Patricia Martin

In memory of Rose Gallo
Marilyn Rizzo-Ferris

In memory of Ellis Gruber
Dr. and Mrs. Saul Presberg

In memory of Tessa Schopinsky
Custom Ink

In memory of George Dandrea
Ralph Dandrea
Philip Fedele
Joseph Fornuto
Bernard J. Iacovangelo
James LoBrutto
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In memory of Ellis Gruber
Dr. and Mrs. Saul Presberg
In memory of Angeline Guggino
Peter and Nancy Adams
Sandra V. Button
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Thomas Connors Jr.
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Samuel and Marilyn Morabito
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Benjamin Snavely
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Robert and Linda Wayland-Smith

In memory of Jeffrey P. Kilker
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In memory of Justin Klein
Linda and Butch Beaumont
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Angela and Richard Farrell
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David and Bonnie Klein
Norma Marchetti-Smith and Eric Smith
James Sheppard
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Michael and Anne Timpano
Emily Weis

In memory of Mary Lou Knapp
Nancy Premo

In memory of Jarrett Lobb
Clayton C. Cloen

In memory of Mary Lodice
Nancy Premo

In memory of Florence C. Mancuso
Russell Mancuso and Deborah Cormier

In memory of Lois Miller
Nancy Premo

In memory of Emily J. Morante
Timothy and Joann Kruizenga
Isabelle W. Rodwell

In memory of Joanette Norman
Kathy Lansberry
Vivian Michel

In memory of Emma J. Paul
Margaret Balconi
Janna Brackett
Ira J. Cohen
Susanne Esan
Frances Maley
Christine Vos

In memory of Elias Rodriguez
Gail Gipner

In memory of Constance Rucinski
Christine M. Barna
Liane and Mark Kirchberger & Family,
Carol and Jay Martel & Lisa and Jeff Pazderski
Katherine Root
Cathy and Michael Schaffron
Debra Schoch
Helen Titus

In memory of E. Christine Shafer-Houck
Shirley A. Condella

In memory of Steve Sherman
Michael Sherman

In memory of Shirley E. Skinner
Dorothy Green
Frances Was

In memory of Vesta Wilcox Teeter
Pamela and Dean Harvey
Bernard and Virginia Heydens
Precision Grinding & Manufacturing Corp.

Time to upgrade? Donate it to ABVI!

Just call our vehicle donation partner
Charitable Auto Resources (CARS) at 1-877-537-5277. They’ll come to your location, help
with any necessary paperwork, and take the vehicle(s) away. It’s a great way to support
ABVI’s mission and to show how much you care about those in our community who are
blind or visually impaired.
InSights

www.GoodwillFingerLakes.org/ABVI

"ABVI made a difference in my life, and someday I’ll give back."

With the right planning, someday can be today.

Let us help you think strategically about how to support ABVI in a way that fits your financial situation.

To discuss your options, contact Tracy Schleyer, CFRE, Vice President of Development at (585) 697-9780 or tschleyer@goodwillfingerlakes.org