I hope you are enjoying the summer. This summer has been especially interesting for me because it marks the beginning of a very new and important role. A few weeks ago I assumed the role of Chair of the Board of Goodwill Industries International. It is a great honor and privilege to have been elected by my peers on the Board for this position. In 2012, Forbes named Goodwill® to its list of “America’s 25 Most Inspiring Companies.”

Having been a member of Goodwill Industries International since 1994, our organization is well aware of the outstanding work that is conducted by the 165 Goodwills in North America and many more throughout the world. It is a network of organizations that this past year served nearly 7 million people worldwide, including 216,532 individuals placed in employment. In fact, every 33 seconds of every business day, a person served by Goodwill earns a good job and every 5 seconds, another person accesses Goodwill opportunities to build careers and strong families.

As you may know, ABVI established Goodwill of the Finger Lakes as a separate, supporting organization so that we could expand our comprehensive services to people with other disabilities and barriers to independence beyond those who are blind. Goodwill of the Finger Lakes and ABVI share resources and work closely together to provide innovative programming to a wide spectrum of people in our community. The primary goal for both organizations is to prepare and empower people for self-sufficiency and contributions to their families and communities.

Please take a moment to go to the Goodwill Industries International Website at www.Goodwill.org to learn more about this outstanding organization. As one of only three Goodwills in New York State, Goodwill of the Finger Lakes and ABVI have significant opportunity to make a difference in the lives of

Continued on page 2.
Good Health Program Brings Wealth of Health

The Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired and Goodwill of the Finger Lakes (ABVI-Goodwill) are winners of this year’s Wealth of Health Awards, sponsored by Excellus BlueCross BlueShield and the Rochester Business Journal. The awards honor innovative organizations of various sizes that promote workplace wellness.

“Through our Good Health program, we made wellness efforts an organizational priority and framed the efforts in a positive way, connecting each component to how our employees and their families would benefit from participating,” said Jennifer Lake, Director of People Resources.

As part of the Good Health program, ABVI and Goodwill of the Finger Lakes employees participated in the Eat Well, Live Well Community Blood Pressure Challenge, as well as the Eat Well, Live Well campaign, doubling participation between 2011 and 2012.

The organizations went completely tobacco-free on December 1, 2012. In addition, monthly “lunch and learn” sessions focused on various topics related to wellness and good health that are accessible in an on-demand format for employees and family members to access. A health fair and two wellness fairs were offered. The organizations also provided health risk assessments and health coaching to employees through a biometric screening service that saw a 22 percent annual growth in participation. For more information, please visit http://www.wealthofhealthawards.com.

Show your support for ABVI through the George Eastman House PhotoFinish 5K!

Saturday, Oct. 5, 2013 8 a.m. – George Eastman House – 900 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14607
Join us for a 3.1-mile run/walk to raise funds and awareness for ABVI. First, register to walk at photofinish5K.eastmanhouse.org. This enables you to participate in the event as a runner or walker. Then go to www.crowdrise.com/photofinish5k2013, look for ABVI, click “Fundraise for this campaign” and you’ll be signed up for our team! Start gathering pledges from your friends and family! Don’t want to walk, but want to support ABVI through this great event? Go to www.crowdrise.com/photofinish5k2013, look for ABVI and click the “Donate to this fundraiser” button. You’ll be able to make an online donation to show how much you believe in ABVI. If you have any questions about this event, please contact Marlisa Post at (585) 697-5713 or mpost@abvi-goodwill.com.

Continued from page 1...

people and their communities throughout our 20 county territory. In my role as Board Chair I will have the opportunity to spread the word about the great work that Goodwill conducts. We are excited about a national public service campaign that will be launching later this summer as well as the many new grant programs that enable Goodwills around the country to serve youth, people with disabilities, people in poverty – especially women on public assistance – and many other groups that need a hand up not a hand out.
ABVI “Plays It Forward” at Annual Fundraiser

Guests at this year’s “Play It Forward” fundraiser, hosted by Macy’s, celebrated in our new Vision Rehabilitation Center. The space was transformed into a brightly-colored fantasyland filled with oversized flowers, kites, and pinwheels. The June 1 event raised over $124,000 for ABVI!

This year’s format allowed guests to mingle throughout the evening, enjoying grownup twists on kid’s favorites. There was a gourmet grilled cheese station and even “South Wedge Slushies” – everyone’s favorite frozen drink with a decidedly grownup twist. Attendees could frolic in a photo booth or try their luck at ring toss and troll toss games (no trolls were harmed during the festivities). Artist Carol Douglas captured the spirit of the event in a colorful impressionistic piece she painted on site, which was then auctioned off during our live auction, emceed by WBEE’s Steve Hausmann. Guests also bid on what some called the best array of auction items yet – a $1,000 shopping spree at Macy’s complete with limo ride and personal stylist services, tickets to a Bills game in the Red Zone Club seats, and even a guitar signed by Foreigner lead singer and Rochester native Lou Gramm!

The highlight of the evening, however, was the heartfelt remarks by ABVI employee Ann Marie Mistretta and her daughter, Jessica, who attends programs at ABVI. As a child, Ann Marie, who has optical atrophy, came to ABVI for programs like Summer Sizzle and Winter Chill. As an adult, she has become a key part of ABVI’s Contact Center. She was recently nominated by ABVI for the National Industries for the Blind’s Peter J. Salmon Employee of the Year award, which is given to someone who demonstrates not only successful on-the-job performance, but also for other positive activities, both at work and in the community. Ann Marie spoke passionately about the role ABVI played in her family’s life and the importance of our Children’s Programs, saying: “It’s for the generations to come that we have to get bigger and better, for kids like my daughter, Jessica.”

Moved by Ann Marie and Jessica’s remarks, the audience pledged over $10,000 to help build ABVI’s Outdoor Mobility Training Area, a space where children who are blind or visually impaired will be able to play and learn on adaptive equipment and adults will learn to safely navigate on a variety of terrains.

A special thank you to our corporate sponsors, guests, and volunteers. You helped make our 2013 Play It Forward hosted by Macy’s event a night to remember!

Photo credit: Mike Crupi
The Best Buy Children’s Foundation Brings Tech to Teens

In today’s world, teens can listen to music, watch videos, communicate with friends and family, and gather information from the Internet with something that can be taken anywhere. Imagine the barriers you would have in using a touch screen device, though, if you were a teen with limited to no vision.

Built-in accessibility features exist in Apple iOS devices that allow someone who is blind or visually impaired to use these devices just like anyone else. In addition to magnification and speech, a multitude of apps (applications) have been designed specific for the needs of people with vision loss. This technology has revolutionized how people go to school, work, and play.

In May, the first-ever “iCamp for Teens” program was held at ABVI. Our expert technology staff, along with a local Best Buy employee, provided training on the accessibility features of the iPad Mini for teens who are blind or visually impaired and their parents. Thanks to the Best Buy Children’s Foundation, eight teens with vision loss and their parents now possess the knowledge to use an iPad Mini. Additionally, this contribution allowed each teen to take home an iPad Mini for their own personal use.

“An iPad Mini is not just an electronic device for these kids, it opens the door for a successful future,” said Chris Frank, Employment and Technology Team Leader. “Now these teens can use their iPad Mini to do everything their friends are doing.”

ABVI Showcases Adaptive Tech at What’s the Latest Event

In June, ABVI held a What’s the Latest event that made the latest in adaptive technology equipment available to all in our community who are blind or visually impaired.

More than 40 people attended the event that was held in the new Vision Rehabilitation Center. The attendees had the opportunity to interact with products from nine different vendors. The event was sponsored by Enhanced Vision – Low Vision Products by G. Robert Oyer, LLC.

“I think it was a great success. We were able to educate people about Assistive Technology and the services ABVI provides,” said Chris Frank, Employment and Technology Team Leader, noting that they saw many new people come to the event.

The next What’s the Latest event is scheduled for 2014.
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’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.

Target Gift Cards to purchase items for the new Adaptive Skills Training Area (AST)
The AST area provides household training such as using a stove to bake and prepare meals.

TOP’s and Wegman’s gift cards for the Children’s program and Recreation program.
These cards allow us to purchase refreshments and supplies.

3 copies of the software program Talking Typer: $89/each

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.

Nikon D3000 Digital SLR Camera: $329
This camera would allow our staff to capture moments from recreation programs and document and share the work that we do.

A new examination stool with a back for Project Eye Care: $400
Project Eye Care provides free eye exams at local health centers to people without insurance.

iPad Mini Wi-Fi 16GB: $329
This is the newest iPad product from Apple. With this, we can demonstrate the most up-to-date technologies for those we serve.

The iPad with Retina Display: $499
The 16 GB Wi-Fi iPad will be used for our Children’s Program. The accessibility and portability makes the iPad ideal to use with children who are blind or visually impaired.

iPhone 5 16 GB: $200
(with prepaid service for 2 years add $1,680 [phone charges are approximately $70/month x24 months]). This would give staff the ability to demonstrate and use the features of the iPhone while at off-site lessons.

Mac Mini with OS X Server: $999
This server would enable us to configure the devices we use for programs like TechBridge on a single account, allowing us to operate more efficiently at a lower cost.

As a donor, you make a real difference in the life of someone served by ABVI. Every dollar you give supports our mission: “To prepare and empower people who are blind or visually impaired to be self-sufficient and contribute to their families and communities.”

Some donors like to be able to point to a concrete object and say, “Because of me, ABVI has something that they truly needed.” For those supporters, we have our Wish List. These are items that our staff uses to provide direct services to those whose lives we touch but are not covered in our budget. Recently, these generous individuals have given the funds to buy such things as: a Kindle, iTunes gift cards, a printer, a phoropter, and a streak retinoscope.

To these donors, our Vision Rehabilitation staff says a special thank-you. You have helped us offer the best and most up-to-date services possible.
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 March 1, 2013 through June 30, 2013.

**In memory of Ann M. Ahlheim**
Wendy Ahlheim  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald S. Bennett  
Derry Burbank-Farmer and William M. Farmer  
Milton P. Darcy  
David and Ilene Flaum  
Ginger Gadawski  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Halter  
Mr. and Mrs. Keith A. Johnson  
George T. Nichols, Ill  
Jean Schipper  
Martha and William Treece  
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher B. Wallace  
Molly Ward

**In memory of William C. Dieter**
Mary Austin  
Colleen DiMartino  
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Embury  
James Keenan  
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Malinowski  
Mary Beth and Ronald Musto  
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Piccirillo  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary A. Robinson

**In memory of Eli Eckman**
Brian and Ashley Eckman  
Julie and Karl Marsiglio

**In memory of Helen K. Francis**
Ernst and Inge Baier  
Mr. and Mrs. David A. Clunies  
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Marjorie F. Wilson  
Kathryn M. Wright  
Fairport Chapter #444 O.E.S.  
Newago Cove Corporation

**In memory of Joseph Gudauskas**
Kenneth D. Bliss  
Monica Henoch  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Keller  
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Lynd

**In honor of Ernest G. Guillet**
Barbara A. Jones

**In memory of Joanne Johnson**
Timothy and Lori Giarrusso

**In memory of Jeffrey P. Kilker**
Florence L. Green

**In memory of Eugene LaChimia**
Irene Galinsky

**In honor of Nikki B. Llewellyn**
Jean Allison

**In memory of Carole Lovisolo**
Irene Galinsky

**In memory of Helen Marcoff**
Elizabeth K. DeBruycker  
Mr. and Mrs. James A. Heberger  
Rita and Richard Kearney  
Richard Mittan  
Margaret Vorndran  
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**In memory of August Megalo**
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bednarski  
Mr. James A. Caswell Sr. and Mrs. Sheila A. Travis Caswell  
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In memory of Mary Jane Perry
Elaine M. Friedman

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Jean Hovey
John and Doreen Hovey

In memory of Jane Richardson
Christine D. Matthews
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen B. Smith
Jean Grant Whitney

In memory of Ada Rosentreter
Donna R. Kalikow

In memory of Samuel I. Rumph
Timothy and Lori Giarrusso

In memory of Robert Schon
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Mr. and Mrs. Carl R. Trebby

In memory of Jeannie H. Sello
Mr. and Mrs. William Bertram
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Kiereck

In memory of Constance Siconolfi
Gerald Manioci, Esq.
Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Petote
Eleanor R. Wegman

In honor of George and Ann Smith
Irene Galinsky

In memory of Adele Stoler
Len and Karen Webber

In memory of Gertrude Swartz
Jim and Jane Littwitz

In memory of Josephine Vianco
Richard and Joyce Schreiber

In honor of Ralph R. Wehner
Timothy and Lori Giarrusso

In memory of Sandra J. Whipple
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene H. Whipple

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Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Callipare
Judith Corbit
Anna P. Farnsworth
James and Colleen Knauf
Marisa Noto
Mr. and Mrs. David M. Rosenthal
Marlene Speers Videk

Rochester Optical: Giving Back to Their Community

For over 80 years, Rochester Optical has been manufacturing custom lenses and eyeglasses at their state-of-the-art facility. Their mission includes serving men and women of our military, eye care professionals, corporate partners, and members of our community by offering the latest styles and most up-to-date eye wear. Rochester Optical is also a company committed to supporting community organizations that help those in need. We are excited that ABVI is one of their newest partners!

In April, Rochester Optical highlighted the many programs and services offered by ABVI on their website. In addition to sharing our mission with their customers, they included a campaign where they would donate a percentage of each pair of glasses sold throughout the month. We were grateful to accept a contribution from Rochester Optical’s CEO, Patrick Ho, for $4,190!

These funds will help to support Project Eye Care, a program of our Vision Wellness and Preventive Services. Through Project Eye Care, people in our community who do not have health insurance are able to obtain an eye exam and glasses free of charge. This program has saved the sight, and lives, of many in our community who do not have access to regular eye care.

Without our dedicated partners – volunteer eye doctors, community outreach centers, philanthropic supporters – we would not be able to provide this vital service. Thank you to Rochester Optical for being one of those partners. Your commitment is helping people see their world more clearly!

Over the past few years, we raised $9M for our Centennial Campaign. We turned to the caring and compassionate people of our community for the philanthropic support to help make our next century of service as vital as our first 100 years. Like most successful projects, this one is the result of an amazing team effort. We could not be where we are today without the dedication and hard work of our Centennial Campaign volunteers, the hundreds of donors who have supported us, and the many professionals who have worked together to design and build an outstanding Centennial Campus. Our small corner of the city is flanked by a campus with a special purpose – to offer hope, happiness and dignity to people who are blind or visually impaired, or have other barriers to independence. Together, here is what we set out to accomplish with the funds raised:

- Meet the needs of a growing population to serve with expanded space, additional doctors, and state-of-the-art technology and equipment
- An expanded and renovated Centennial Campus with safe access, a patient drop-off area and convenient parking lot
- A new Contact Center and information technology infrastructure to create additional employment opportunities for people who are blind or visually impaired

We thank these generous friends for their contributions to the Centennial Campaign and support of our Century of Insight and Future in Sight!

$1,000,000+
Anonymous

$200,000 - $499,999
Estate of Clifford Andrews
B. Thomas Golisano Foundation
NYS 2012 Regional Economic Development Council Award
Estate of George R. Phillips

$100,000 - $199,999
Anonymous
Bausch + Lomb, Inc.
Richard T. Bell
Estate of Daniel Cardone
Chester & Dorris Carlson Charitable Trust
Davenport-Hatch Foundation, Inc.
Philip C. and Beverly L. Gelsomino II
Kenlou Foundation, Inc.
Estate of Eileen Morell
Estate of Annemarie E. Pahl
Estate of Edith Spector

$25,000 - $49,999
Anonymous
3M General Offices
Alesco Advisors
August Family Foundation
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Estate of Rita Duffy
Eastman Kodak Company
ESL Federal Credit Union
Estate of Chester Fenyvessy
Estate of Betty J. Hicks
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NYS Energy Research and Development Authority
Estate of Ruth B. Richardson
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Ruf
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Estate of Evelyn D. Taillie
Trillium Group
Marie C. and Joseph C. Wilson Foundation

$10,000 - $24,999
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Estate of Muriel Hammond
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Ames-Amzalak Memorial Trust
Estate of Betty L. Anderson
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Dr. Katherine White and Richard Hitchcock
Joyce Zimowski

$2,500 - $4,999
Velma P. Anderson
Ardent Commercial Real Estate Advisors
Bruce and Marcia Bates
Roger and Joyel Bennett
The following individuals made contributions to the Centennial Campaign in memory of a loved one:

Mike Blair and Sonja J. Blair in Memory of Robert L. Blair

Theodore and Lori Giarrusso in Memory of Patrick Giarrusso

Shirley Preston in Memory of Stuart H. Preston
I Wish I Could Give More  

by VP of Development Tracy Schleyer, CFRE

I have had many caring people say to me, “I wish I could do more.” They want to support ABVI, however they aren’t sure of all of their options. The following are a few of the ways you could provide so much for people who are blind or visually impaired in our community.

• An annual donation to support crucial vision rehabilitation services.
• A tribute gift in memory or honor of a family member or friend.
• Donate your car, truck, motorcycle, boat, or other vehicle to ABVI’s Vehicle Donation Program.
• Facilitate a corporate contribution from your employer.
• Attend our annual fundraising event.
• Sign up for our monthly giving program so you can make a regular investment in our mission.
• Consider a life income donation such as a gift annuity of charitable trust that provides an excellent supplement to your long-range financial plans.
• An endowment fund gift by naming ABVI as a beneficiary in your will, insurance policy, or retirement plan.
• Donating your home or other property may allow you to obtain an income tax charitable contribution deduction on your taxes for the full fair market value.
• Donate your gently used clothing and household items and shop at our Goodwill stores.
• Provide employment for a person who is blind or visually impaired.
• Volunteer your time and talent to touch the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired.

Please feel free to contact me for more information on ways to help us further our mission. I can be reached at (585) 697-5780 or tschleyer@abvi-goodwill.com.