Two of ABVI’s Best Ambassadors

For Curt Chaltain, it all started as a kid growing up in Newark, New York. He developed problems learning in school, but didn’t know why. His family was surprised when they learned the reason: he was losing his vision due to retinitis pigmentosa – a degenerative eye disease that has no cure and no treatment. He was going blind.

“Fortunately, ABVI provided the help I needed to develop into a happy, productive adult and live my life to the fullest,” says Curt.

He took ABVI’s classes in mobility, home living skills, Braille and other subjects. Curt graduated from S.U.N.Y.’s Morrisville State College with a degree in automotive technology. For several years, he worked repairing and installing car transmissions. He got married and had two children.

Then ABVI re-entered his life, providing him with the opportunity to work in the Goodwill store in Penfield – a job he has loved for the past 20 years.

Every day, Curt and his guide dog Kobie walk three quarters of a mile from their home to the Goodwill store. Kobie helps Curt safely negotiate all the intersections along the way. At the store Curt trains other employees, works the cash register, and interacts with customers while Kobie gets the remainder of the day off.

For Curt, his job allows him to do two things he loves. He has the opportunity to

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ABVI’s Model Donor

A person meeting Bill Clune for the first time might get the sense that she has seen him before. Even in his later years, Bill has that iconic look – the look of confidence that comes from travelling the world from one photo shoot to the next, and the stories that go with it.

Bill, a model during the Mad Men era of advertising, has shared his visage with brands like London Fog, Ford, and the Bermuda tourism industry. He was even the first Marlboro Man, after the brand decided on a more “manly” image.

How could a man so intertwined with the visual image come to be a steadfast donor to an organization that empowers people who are blind or visually impaired? The answer has to do with his voice.

Besides modeling, Bill also does voice-over work, including past work for the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and the Lighthouse for the Blind in Richmond, Virginia. It was while working with these organizations that Bill says he came to appreciate the struggles that people who are blind face on a daily basis.

“I think they (people who are blind or visually impaired) deserve whatever good can come to them,” says Bill, who has been donating to ABVI every year since 1997, even putting the organization in his will.

It is the generosity of others, however, that caused Bill to make the decision to increase his contribution. Through the Empowerment Fund, established by Shirley Preston and her sons to benefit children with vision loss and transportation for individuals who are blind or visually impaired, Bill was able to double his contribution because of the match associated with the fund.

Knowing that his donation would go twice as far made it that much easier for Bill to give to a cause that is very close to his heart. “ABVI is one of my favorite charities,” he said.

Bill Clune

Curt & Kobie, continued from page 1.

interact with the public and a chance to sing ABVI’s praises. Knowing he is blind, local residents often approach him and say things like, “My mother is losing her eyesight to macular degeneration. We don’t know what to do.” Curt tells them, “We’re fortunate to have a great organization right here in our community that gives blind and visually impaired neighbors all the practical help, encouragement and support they need.”

Success stories like Curt’s couldn’t happen without generous support from people like you. Please consider making a gift today so Curt can keep telling people that ABVI is our community’s best resource for those who are blind or visually impaired. Contributions can be made by: sending a check to ABVI, 422 S. Clinton Ave., Rochester, NY 14620; by going to our website at www.SeeGreatThings.com; or by calling (585) 697-5713.
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.

**Children’s Books, Toys and iPad Apps: $75**
Our Low Vision staff uses high-contrast children’s books, toys and certain iPad apps when doing low vision evaluations with pre-school children.

**A rugged case for the iPad in our Children’s program: $90**
To protect the device against drops, water, dirt and sand — so the iPad can be used anywhere the children are — even outdoors.

**LuxIQ Diagnostic System for Lighting: $950**
For many people who have experienced vision loss, the right lighting can make a huge difference in their quality of life. This device would allow our Low Vision staff to better evaluate the proper lighting for individuals who turn to us for support.

**Twenty-four (24) sets of bookends for ABVI’s multi-media center: $268**
Our multi-media center includes a lending library of Brailled books and large print books. These books tend to be much bigger than other books and require sturdy bookends with a textured base to keep them in place.

**Sunlens evaluation kit: $429**
The kit consists of 24 different sunlenses to try out with individuals in their home/work environments and contains lenses of many different shades — enabling staff to determine which shades work best for any individual in various environments.

**CCTV with Optical Character Recognition (OCR): $3,500**
This adaptive technology allows employees who are blind to still read hard copies of documents that they encounter in the course of their work. A high-definition (HD) camera is connected to a monitor with a movable table. The Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software then reads the document aloud to the employee.

**Wegmans or Tops Gift Cards**
Throughout the year, we provide a variety of recreation events for children and adults who are blind or visually impaired. These gift cards help provide refreshments and other items used at programs such as holiday parties, Game Night, summer picnics, and much more.

**Amazon.com Gift Cards**
Our new Family Resource Center is a comfortable and cozy place where families of children who are blind or visually impaired can access information specific to the needs of their child, as well as have a quiet family-friendly place to meet with our Vision Rehabilitation staff for support. These gift cards will be used to purchase books and other materials to add to our collection of resources; supporting children and their families.

**Self-Adjusting Pallet Positioners: $2,000 each**
At ABVI, the health and safety of our employees is our number one priority, especially within our Manufacturing division. We strive to have equipment available that is ergonomic, and that limits injury. These self-adjusting pallet positioners improve ergonomics and limit bending: resulting in less strain for our Manufacturing employees. We are currently in need of seven positioners to be used throughout our Manufacturing and Fulfillment areas.
Remember back to when you were 14. Did you know what you wanted to do when you grew up? Is that what you are doing now? How did you get here from there?

For many at-risk youth between the ages of 12 and 17 in our area, the question of what they want to become is not at the forefront of their thoughts. And if it is, figuring out the answer is difficult at best.

What if that teen could talk to someone who shares similar interests and could turn to that person as a mentor who can help the youth learn about careers and prepare for success? What if that person is you?

“At Goodwill GoodGuides®, we think that these youth matter. That is why we are seeking mentors that can be someone who matters to someone who matters,” says Carrie Abbott, Goodwill GoodGuides® Program Manager. Much the same as ABVI, Goodwill GoodGuides® is a mission brand empowered by Goodwill of the Finger Lakes.

Being a GoodGuides® mentor that matters in the life of a youth in the program requires committing to four hours a month for one year. It also requires someone who enjoys working with teenagers and wants to make a difference in the life of a teenager by working with him or her on future planning and career exploration.

“GoodGuides® mentors get to feel good about making a difference. During the year, they will see the positive transformation of the youth he or she is mentoring happen,” says Carrie, adding that mentors are trained after passing a screening process to ensure good matches with youth.

In addition to mentoring, the GoodGuides® program also provides two hours a month of career exploration programming/activities to youth in the program.

One Year Mentor/Mentee Match Sponsorship: $360

Would provide funding for community activities and transportation for volunteer mentors and matched mentees in the program for one year.

Mentoring Activities Sponsorship: $50
grocery/general merchandise gift cards

Would allow GoodGuides® to provide snacks and supplies for monthly career assessment and educational activities for the at-risk youth we serve.

“The year-long commitment may be too much for some people who want to help. That’s okay,” says Carrie. “We are always seeking volunteers to come in to talk with the kids about their area of expertise and other career-oriented, motivational topics.”

Contact Carrie at (585) 683-1381 or goodguides@abvi-goodwill.com to learn more about making a difference in the lives of our youth. Your 14-year-old self will appreciate it.
Honoring 20 Years of Partnership

ABVI is celebrating 20 years of providing low vision care to the residents of Ontario County through partnerships with Dr. Harold Ross in Geneva and the Eye Care Center in Canandaigua. Each provider was honored during a recent ceremony at their location.

Dr. Katherine White, ABVI’s Managing Director of Low Vision Services travels on a regular basis with portable equipment to see patients at the two Ontario County locations, as well as three others outside of Monroe County to eliminate the difficulty individuals who are blind or visually impaired may face when travelling to ABVI’s main campus in Rochester.

Both of the long-standing partnerships began in 1994. The partnership with Dr. Ross began at an ophthalmology conference that year, when Ross spoke with a representative from ABVI about providing low vision services in the offices of the Eye Care Associates of the Finger Lakes where he was then practicing. Dr. Ross, Associate Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology with the University of Rochester’s Flaum Eye Institute, now practices at the Flaum Eye Institute’s Finger Lakes Center.

The partnership with the Eye Care Center began when Dr. Gwen Sterns, ABVI’s Medical Director, reached out to Dr. Karl Marchenese to explore the possibility that ABVI could provide low vision evaluations at the Eye Care Center office. An agreement was made that allowed staff from ABVI’s Low Vision Center to use an exam room in the Eye Care Center office to see patients from the area that have significant visual impairments. The partnership has helped approximately 1,000 people who have a significant visual impairment.

Both ABVI and those individuals in Ontario County who are blind or visually impaired are grateful for the partnership of these offices.

“Having two places to provide low vision exams that are close to the homes of those who require the services is a very welcome thing,” Dr. White said.

And as Dr. Heidi Piper and Dr. Sungjun Hwang, the principal partners of the Eye Care Center, pointed out, the feeling is mutual. “We appreciate ABVI’s ability to provide vision rehabilitation services in our community,” they said.
Memorial and Honorary Gifts

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 tribute contributions from July 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014.

In memory of Ann M. Ahlheim
Derry Burbank-Farmer and William M. Farmer
Ann and Donald MacKay

In memory of Joey Bonavita
Joanne Jennings

In memory of Sam Burjoski
Howard and Karen Kessler

In memory of Mary Camobreco
Howard and Karen Kessler

In memory of Mary Durso
Barbara Palmeri

In memory of James Green
Gidget and John Hopf
Tracy L. Schleyer
Patricia P. Sullivan
Patricia and Robert Swayze

In memory of Ellis Gruber
Wendy Ahlheim
James & Wendy Barr
Allyson L. Barton
Jonathan Feldman
Donald and Elinor Fisk
Donald and Rena Goldman
Dorothy Green
David and Noreen Halpern
Irene Knight
Dr. Austin Leve and Mrs. Doris Leve
Tom and Marlayne McGarry
Mengel, Metzger, Barr & Co., LLP
Jill and Ed Musicus
Dr. and Mrs. David M. Schrier
James Taylor
Donald Tucker
Kim Walker
Westfall Surgery Center, LLP

In memory of Sam Jones
Barbara Palmeri

In memory of Arthur E. Lowenthal
Steven and Diane Feldon
Gidget and John Hopf

In memory of Nancy B. Morey
Booker W. Morey

In memory of Bill Ohle
Gidget and John Hopf
Marlisa Post

In memory of Anna Mina Palma
Kristie and Alan Braun

In memory of Charlotte R. Russell
Jean Losinger

In memory of Perry Trout
Sharon F. Albright

In memory of Kevin Ward
Joseph Michel

In memory of Ralph R. Wehner
Timothy and Lori Giarrusso
Gidget and John Hopf
Nancy Nealon
Marlisa Post
Jane S. Richards

In memory of Lawrence Weykman
R. Scott and Sherry Converse
George Dutton
Ralph and Helen Kommer
Carl and Lois Norsen
Camellia A. Sorbello
Ruth Weykman
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Zingler

In honor of Katherine White-Hitchcock
Marian Bach
Mary Didonna

In memory of Richard E. Wille
Joe and Paula Meisenzahl
Vivien Terry

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Irene Knight
Dr. Austin Leve and Mrs. Doris Leve
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Vivien Terry

For the first time ever, the 2015 World Series of Beep Baseball will be held in Rochester. ABVI is a partner in bringing the event here. You can help by adopting a beep baseball or volunteering. To learn how, please contact the Monroe County Sports Commission at (585) 262-3832.
TEAM ABVI Finishes Strong in Fundraising Efforts

TEAM ABVI finished strong in the 2014 George Eastman House Photo Finish 5K thanks to the support of local businesses, including employees from Spectracom, Rochester Optical, Visionary Eye Associates, and Leo J. Roth Corporation. With the hard work these team members, along with ABVI staff, friends and family, TEAM ABVI raised over $6,500 in support of our mission. Read more about TEAM ABVI’s stellar outing in the 5K here: http://bit.ly/teamabvi2014.

Here’s How to Give “Stuff” Instead of Cash to ABVI

We are always grateful for cash donations to fund the work that supports our mission. We understand, too, that cash is not the only way to sustain ABVI. In fact, we ask that you consider supporting ABVI in an entirely different way.

There are many benefits to giving ABVI “stuff” instead of cash. The truth is many of us have a lot more stuff than we have cash. Think outside the box about your other stuff, which could consist of valuable artwork, real estate, antiques, and/or collectibles. The best part is that giving stuff doesn’t have to cost you a lot of out-of-pocket cash today.

How to Gift Your Stuff

You can give us your stuff now, or another simple way to give us an asset is a bequest in a living trust or will where you specify which stuff you’d like to bequeath to ABVI.

Maybe you’ve downsized your home and the painting that you’ve treasured for years no longer has a place. This asset could give a child who is blind hope for their future.

When you donate your art, antiques, and collections, we sell them on our online auction site or in our Goodwill stores and use the revenue generated to fund valuable vision rehabilitation and employment training services for people in our community. We research the value of your asset and get the most from your donation.

Donating art, antiques, and other collectible objects can provide you with the following possible benefits:

– An immediate income tax deduction
– Avoidance of the tax on capital gains on appreciated assets
– An estate and gift tax deduction

To learn more about non-cash giving and to answer your questions about the various gift types and how to make them, contact Tracy Schleyer, CFRE, Vice President of Development at (585) 697-5780 or tschleyer@abvi-goodwill.com.
One sentence in your will can help continue ABVI’s programs and services, today and in the future, for people who are blind or visually impaired.

At ABVI, we understand that providing for family and loved ones is always the first priority. In addition, many individuals also provide for the charities that they deeply care for. We are always humbled and grateful to the many individuals who include ABVI in their estate plans. Gifts from these generous and visionary individuals ensure the perpetuation of our mission and fund vital programs, services and jobs for people who are blind or visually impaired for generations to come.

When you think of making a gift to charity in your will, an outright bequest usually comes to mind. This can take various forms:

- **A Specific Bequest** is when you bequest a sum of money or other property. In this case, you describe exactly what you want to leave to ABVI.
- **A Residuary Bequest** is honored after all other bequests have been made, and all debts, expenses and taxes have been paid.
- **A Contingent Bequest** is used when a specified amount or percentage of your estate is bequeathed to ABVI, only if your said beneficiary does not survive you.

It has been said that rare is the person who regrets having been truly generous or thoughtful, and we believe that to be true. More often, well-intentioned people are sorry for not having done more to help others while they still could. If you are interested in making a bequest to ABVI and would like to become a member of our Foresight Circle, please contact Vice President of Development Tracy Schleyer, CFRE at (585) 697-5780 or tschleyer@abvi-goodwill.com.