New Equipment Makes Staggering Impact

For almost 30 years, ABVI employees who are blind have been producing self-stick notepads and flags that are sold to federal and state agencies and the military under the AbilityOne contract and our partnership with 3M. In fact, ABVI employees have produced over 150 million of these products used every day to jot down a quick note, mark where a signature should go, or record ideas in a brainstorming meeting.

After a quarter century, our system of equipment that packages the notepads was in desperate need of replacing. The equipment needed to be shut down frequently for repairs and was slow when it was working. It also produced packaging of a poor quality. This impacted both the productivity of our business and that of our employees.

At ABVI, we celebrate that people of all abilities can earn a paycheck and give back to their community. It was important to update the equipment for the business. It was imperative that we did it for our employees.

Thanks to grants from the B. Thomas Golisano Foundation, Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation, Davenport Hatch Foundation, and Monroe County Department of Planning and Development, we were able to purchase not one, but two new packaging systems.

The improvements are staggering. No more down time for repairs and product turnover. No more wasted material due to re-wraps. No more product backup due to...
Macy’s a Star in Supporting ABVI and Goodwill

Macy’s is more than shopping; Macy’s gives back!

For close to a decade, we have benefitted from the generosity of Macy’s and Macy’s associates through giving of their time, talents, and treasures. We are privileged to have Macy’s VP/Store Manager Bill Barnecut-Kearns as the chair of our Board of Directors and previous co-chair of our Visionary Gala. His leadership and dedication has helped ABVI and Goodwill of the Finger Lakes make a difference in thousands of lives. Macy’s has a dollar-for-dollar gift-matching program. The company, doubling the impact of their giving, has matched Bill’s donations and those made by other Macy’s associates to ABVI.

Macy’s has been one of the lead sponsors of our Visionary Gala since 2012 and the local Macy’s Visual Team has transformed the Hyatt ballroom into Alice’s Wonderland, a sea cruise, and this year, an undercover spy mission. Macy’s has also donated fabulous items for our silent auction and store gift cards for our gala guests. In addition, Macy’s has impacted the lives of youth who are blind or visually impaired by providing grants that support programs to prepare and empower young adults with vision loss for a future of success. In total, Macy’s and its associates have contributed over $135,000 to our mission! Our partnership with Macy’s is extremely valuable and we look forward to many more years of working together!

If your company would like to join Macy’s as a supporter or you want to match your employees’ giving, please contact Sarah Favro, Foundation and Corporate Giving Manager at (585) 327-5526 or sfavro@goodwillfingerlakes.org.

REBUILDing Hope and Ability after Vision Loss

If you or someone you know is an adult age 60 or older seeking help with the impact of vision loss, Project REBUILD-VL is just the program for you. A partnership between the University of Rochester Flaum Eye Institute and ABVI, REBUILD offers four Vision Education Classes and six in-home Problem Solving Training sessions.

On an almost monthly basis, ABVI hosts the Vision Education Classes to educate program participants about the causes and emotional impact of vision loss while providing an introduction to services ABVI provides. The four classes are: Causes of Vision Loss and Eye Health; Maintaining or Increasing Activity in the Home; Orientation and Mobility; and Adjustment to Vision Loss. In addition to the classes, a Certified Problem Solving Trainer from REBUILD visits participants’ homes on six occasions to help the individual address challenges they face.

Sixteen groups have participated in REBUILD since it was launched. Results are showing that of the people participating in the program, 75 percent are showing a decrease in symptoms of depression after taking part in the program.

If someone is interested in taking part in REBUILD, call Program Coordinator Phyllis Vincelli at (585) 371-8173 to learn more.
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.

Materials for our Multi-Media Center: $500
Our Multi-Media Center is located at our main campus in Rochester, but people who are blind or visually impaired from around the world can access this very special service. Our dedicated group of Braille transcribers volunteer their time to create materials in Braille such as utility bills, restaurant menus, and entire books. Even though individuals can access a wealth of information through current technology, Braille remains the only form of literacy for those who are unable to see regular or large print. It is truly the window to the world! We are in need of braille paper, labeling materials, and book covers.

Furnishings for Tranquility Room: $500
Each day, our 2-1-1/ LIFE LINE Telecounselors are saving lives. Whether they are finding beds at a homeless shelter for a young mother and her children, referring a senior to their nearest food pantry, or stabilizing a teen who is considering suicide, our Telecounselors are here to help, 24 hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week. As you can imagine, these conversations, which can range from a few minutes to an hour, can be emotionally and physically taxing for our Telecounselors. We want to create a space for the Telecounselors to destress and re-energize for the next person in need. This room will include a tranquility fountain, soft lighting, small tables, and comfortable seating.

iPad Pro with Case: $800 each
With an iPad Pro, children who are blind can use the Voiceover feature built into the device to hear what is on the screen and children with low vision can use Zoom to enlarge what is on the screen. An iPad Pro with a 10 inch screen would enhance our ability to teach concepts, play games and other activities with preschoolers who are blind or visually impaired. The accompanying case can be adjusted so that the child can angle the iPad to the best position for their vision needs.

In addition to providing vision rehabilitation services, we are also a leader in offering employment opportunities for people who are blind or visually impaired across the organization. Within our manufacturing division, it is essential we record daily outputs for quality assurance and production analysis. Currently, we are using paper to record this information. This is inefficient and not accessible for those who are blind or visually impaired. An iPad would allow these employees to maintain this data independently and improve efficiencies by using technology designed for this purpose.

Items for Goodwill Career Closets: $600 ($200 for each closet)
The Goodwill Career Closets will be opening in three of our Goodwill locations. The Goodwill Career Closets will be a resource for individuals entering the workforce for the first time, or the first time in a long time, to gear up with the appropriate interview or work clothing. We are in need of retail gift cards to purchase those items we are not able to pull from our Goodwill stores, an iron and ironing board, and full length mirror to equip each closet.

Equipment for Low Vision Exams
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.

Sturdy Trial Frames: $500
These sturdy trial frames are used to determine the best prescription for eye glasses during a low vision exam.

Compact Wireless Color Scanner: $250
A scanner would enable our Low Vision Specialist who conducts the exams to scan documents directly into our electronic medical record from the remote locations.
Vision Loss Leads to New Horizons

When Cathy Dayan learned she’d need to wear an eye patch, instead of settling for a plain, black patch, she bought colorful scraps of fabric and had patches made to match her clothing. She was not going to let vision loss make her world less colorful!

Cathy has ROP or Retinopathy of Prematurity. This eye condition affects babies born prematurely who received intensive neonatal care that included oxygen therapy leading to disorganized growth of retinal blood vessels resulting in scarring and retinal detachment. When she was 23, Cathy's retinas detached. She estimates that she has had as many as 10 surgeries to help her vision.

Four years ago, Cathy's vision declined to a point that she was legally blind. While she was lucky enough to recover some of her vision, she did have to stop driving and she says that transportation is one of her greatest challenges. However, she makes the most of local resources, especially Lift Line, to get her to places she needs to go. She has also used Prism glasses, obtained from ABVI, and worked with an Occupational Therapist here to improve her visual reaction time.

One of Cathy's great passions is the Rochester Eastman-New Horizons Band. The New Horizons Band began 27 years ago through the Eastman School of Music. It has now become an international program with a philosophy that any adult who is interested in playing an instrument with a band should have that opportunity, no matter what their age or background. Cathy, who learned to play the oboe at age 55, picked up the alto saxophone through the New Horizons program. She rehearses with the group twice a week and maintains the 125-person roster. To read her music, she has at times needed to enlarge it up to 210 percent of regular size or uses Eschenbach glasses as another alternative.

According to New Horizons’ Conductor Bruce Burritt, “[Cathy] is a shining example of a person who rises above her own physical issues and lives her life to the fullest, and serves as an inspiration for many of our other players. She never gives up. Her outlook is positive and optimistic.”

New Equipment

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slow equipment. Most importantly, these were not simply investments in ABVI; they were investments in the lives of our workforce. We are so grateful for your belief in our mission.

If you would like to see the operation in action, contact us for a visit!

2-1-1’s for Everyone!
Check out the ALL-NEW 2-1-1/LIFE LINE Website at www.211lifeline.org

2-1-1/LIFE LINE is a mission program of Goodwill of the Finger Lakes.

New Equipment
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Each year all of the 89 agencies affiliated with the National Industries for the Blind nominate an individual who is blind to recognize their outstanding work ethic and achievements. The award was named for the late Dr. Peter J. Salmon, who was instrumental in the passage of the law that created the Wagner O-Day Act, which today is known as the Ability One Program and the formation of National Industries for the Blind. We are pleased to announce that our Peter J. Salmon award nominee for this year is John Scott from Manufacturing. John has a special ability to communicate with his co-workers and as a result is a strong and effective team builder. He is especially skilled at empowering co-workers who have multiple barriers. He is able to understand the needs of these co-workers and will work closely with them during training to help each overcome the barriers impeding their success on the job. John’s skills proved an invaluable resource during the recent implementation of the new packaging equipment in the manufacturing and fulfillment area. His dependable work ethic shines and how he helps out whenever and wherever there is a need on the production floor is very appreciated by everyone in the department.

In December of last year, John’s hard work was rewarded with a promotion to team lead. Although he has assumed more of a leadership role in the production area, John is not afraid to jump in and help out with things like bailing or material handling whenever necessary. Every day he comes ready to work, bringing a positive attitude and a willingness to do his best and help others do their best as well. John truly models our agency values by going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that the job gets done. He works with enthusiasm and determination, but always has time to help his co-workers. John’s positive attitude and work ethic impacts everyone he meets. John, you are truly worthy of Peter J. Salmon’s high esteem. Congratulations!
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 October 16, 2017 through January 31, 2018.

**Honorariums**

**In honor of Matt Alexander**
Timothy and Karen Bancroft

**In honor of Victoria Bement’s recent wedding nuptials**
Scot Graham-Raad

**In honor of Michael A. Frame**
Scott Frame
Walsh Duffield Companies, Inc.

**In honor of A. Gidget Hopf and Tracy Schleyer**
Daniel Meyers

**In honor of Eileen Kissel (Library Fund)**
Jeffrey Kissel

**In appreciation of Tracy Schleyer’s work on behalf of AFPGV**
Anne McKenna

**In honor of Sara VanBortel**
Lois Spencer

**In honor of Chandra and David Wong**
Michael and Tirsa Parrish

**Memorials**

**In memory of Ann M. Ahlheim**
Wendy Ahlheim
Ann and Donald MacKay

**In memory of Muriel Ackroyd**
Anne Wolff

**In memory of Catherine Alfieri**
Tisah L. Milner

**In memory of Barbara Deprez**
Ms. Patricia Coakley
Robert and Marion Deprez

**In honor of Fannie Demuth**
Joyce Eaton
Michael Gerber
Sharon Moore
Larry and Anne Smith

**In memory of William J. Elser**
Gates Lions Club

**In memory of Madeline Flanigan**
Gregory Perkins

**In memory of Wendy Forman**
William and Sharon Boyd
Richard Busch
Deborah and Charles Duffy
Jeff Greene
Kathy Jacobsen
Kathleen and Ronald Melia
Shirley Pappert
Alan and Marianna Wooster

**In memory of Rose Mary Ferrara Gallo**
Rose Mary Forehand

**In memory of Kathleen Griffith**
Elaine McCorry

**In memory of Joseph H. Kuhner**
Bill and Karen Appleby
Carole Carroll
James and Eileen Clements
Bob and Helen Kral
Gail and Joseph Kuhner
Stephen M. Montgomery
Bruce and Margaret Stoddard

**In memory of Ken Lingg**
Kenneth Lingg

**In memory of Mary Lodeci**
Nancy Premo

**In memory of Paul McKinnon**
Lockheed Martin
Harry R. Ackley
Daniel and Amy Ackley
Robert and Marcia Girard
Jim McKinnon
Susan and Russell Rebbmann
Donna Spellman
Rebecca Szpaicher
Amy Tange
Charles and Jo Ann Tange
Did you know that it can be very easy to provide for ABVI in your estate plans? It isn’t difficult to add a charitable bequest to your will. A simple codicil, drafted by your attorney, will get the job done. However, there are other ways you can support our mission without changing your will.

For example, you can easily designate your retirement assets.

It’s simple to make a gift of an IRA, 401(k) or other retirement moneys. Just contact the custodian of your account and ask for the form that you fill out to designate your beneficiaries.

The wonderful thing about making a gift with your retirement assets, is that you play a huge part in providing critically needed services for people who are blind or visually impaired.

If you would like more information on making this type of gift, please contact Tracy Schleyer, CFRE, Vice President of Development at (585) 697-5780 or tschleyer@goodwillfingerlakes.org.

In memory of Nikola Palozzi
Cornerstone Eye Associates

In memory of my parents, Frank and Teresa Pesesky
Jane Kennedy

In memory of Laura Stone
Dolores LeVasseur

In memory of Josephine Stowell
Virginia Rockwell

In memory of Mary Verna
The Rochester T’ai Chi Ch’uan Center, Inc.
Larry Early

In memory of Kenneth C. Wise
Peter and Kathleen Fellagara
Laurie and Faheem Masood
Deann Dollard Morris

Designating Your Retirement Assets to ABVI is Simple to Do
ABVI Visionary Gala
For Your Eyes Only.

YOUR MISSION: JOIN US!

03.10.18
At the Hyatt Regency Rochester

please visit http://bit.ly/Gala18