An Empowering Challenge

By Tracy Schleyer, CFRE
Vice President of Development

Shirley Preston knows a lot about empowerment. During her 40 years as a volunteer for ABVI, Shirley has copied pages from the Braille book bank for students, helped people who are blind set up and spruce up apartments and driven them to ABVI for services, doctor appointments and shopping.

In addition to contributing her valuable time to ABVI, she has also been financially supporting our mission for a long time. Many years ago, Shirley did a very generous thing by putting ABVI in her will. Later, she decided she did not want to wait until she passed away for the agency to receive this gift. She wanted to make a major contribution while she was alive. So, a few years ago she made a major gift to the Centennial Campaign.

Recently, Shirley and her sons, having felt so good about the Centennial Campaign gift they made, started having conversations with me about giving another significant contribution. Now Shirley has found a new way to empower the people ABVI serves – by supporting our Empowerment Fund and giving friends like you a special incentive to do so, too. Shirley has made a commitment to give us an incredibly generous contribution of $100,000 – provided we raise a matching amount from our donors. So, for example, a donation of $100 will instantly become $200!

Shirley has two areas of interest that she wants to make an impact on:

- **Children** – because she wants to help give them a good start and knows about the challenges children who are blind or visually impaired face.
- **Transportation** – because she volunteered to drive people who are blind to ABVI for their appointments for many years, and she knows how difficult it can be to get to places when you can’t see to drive.

Continued on page 3.
TEAM ABVI Prepping for the PhotoFinish

TEAM ABVI is on the move again getting ready for this year’s George Eastman House PhotoFinish 5K on Saturday, Sept. 27!

The idea behind the George Eastman House is a bold one—to host one large event where all area nonprofits are welcome to fundraise on their own behalf. Last year 44 TEAM ABVI members joined over 1,000 other participants for a 5K walk/run through the Neighborhood of the Arts. ABVI was one of the top five fundraising teams, raising almost $7,000!

There are several ways to support TEAM ABVI:
- Join TEAM ABVI this year on the course! Online registration is $25. Anyone who raises over $25 for ABVI will receive a TEAM ABVI t-shirt ($25 raised for ABVI does not include $25 registration fee, which benefits Eastman House.)
- Make a donation to TEAM ABVI
- Hold a “virtual walk” by soliciting friends and neighbors to support TEAM ABVI even if you can’t be on the course with us that day

For more information, or to donate or join our team, contact Annual Giving Manager Marlisa Post at (585) 697-5713 or at mpost@abvi-goodwill.com.

Don’t Wait on this Geva Performance

Geva Theater is kicking off its 2014-2015 Mainstage Season with a thrilling production of Wait Until Dark. To celebrate, they will both generously donate a portion of the proceeds from the production’s first Sunday evening performance on September 14 at 7 p.m. to ABVI and give a discount price to ABVI supporters.

In Wait Until Dark, a Greenwich Village apartment becomes the setting of a suspenseful game of cat and mouse when a group of thuggish con men manipulate and terrorize the recently blinded Susan over a mysterious doll hidden inside – waiting until dark to play out this classic stage thriller’s chilling conclusion. The vulnerable Susan must muster her resources to outmaneuver her tormentors, turn her disability to advantage, and survive.

Premiering in 1966, the original Broadway production ran for nearly two years. Audrey Hepburn earned an Oscar nomination for her starring performance in the film version. The 1998 Broadway revival featured Oscar winner Marisa Tomei. Geva is only the second major theater in the country to stage this new adaptation.

ABVI Ticket Prices:
- Prime Seating (center orchestra & balcony): $39
- Section A Seating (floor and side balcony sections): $36.25
- Section B Seating (floor exterior seats in left and right orchestra): $30.50

To purchase tickets, please call the Geva Theatre box office at (585) 232-4382. Be sure to tell them you are attending the performance benefiting ABVI. This performance will be audio described.
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: $85 – $90**
To protect the device against drops, water, dirt and sand — so the iPad can be used anywhere the children are — even outdoors.

**iPad security locks: $100/each**
Sadly, even though we have security protocols in place, ABVI is not immune to the phenomenon known as “Apple picking,” which refers to the theft of popular Apple products. These locks and tethers would allow us to still instruct the people we serve on the latest technology while keeping the devices secured.

**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.

**An additional sunlens evaluation kit: Approximate cost: $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.

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

**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.

**Empowerment, continued from page 1.**

These programs are crucial to several major goals at the heart of our mission—combating isolation, fostering socialization and a sense of community, preparing and empowering people affected by vision loss to realize their goals and dreams.

Any gift to ABVI’s Empowerment Fund will have a tremendous impact because it will support these programs — and because, through Shirley Preston’s generosity, the gift will be doubled. Please help us – empower us – to take advantage of this great opportunity!

To donate to the Empowerment Fund, please contact ABVI’s Development Department at (585) 697-5711.
ABVI Celebrates CooperVision Friendship

CooperVision is a worldwide leader in contact lens manufacturing. Locally, CooperVision employs hundreds of people across three locations. In addition to helping people see better through their products, CooperVision is committed to helping people who are blind or visually impaired, or have barriers to comprehensive eye-care, see great things!

Since 2007, CooperVision has been a major contributor to Project Eye Care; one of our outreach programs, which provides free eye exams and glasses for people in Rochester who do not have health insurance. Thanks to CooperVision, thousands of people in our community have had blinding eye conditions diagnosed and treated, been provided with glasses so that they can find a job and care for their family, and may have even had their life saved from discovering illnesses through the exam.

CooperVision employees give back

In addition to their annual generous support of Project Eye Care, CooperVision made a significant gift to ABVI in 2012. Local employees were given the opportunity to choose a charity to receive a significant donation from the company in honor of CooperVision’s strong success in 2011. After a company-wide vote, ABVI was selected, and received a $30,000 contribution.

Each year for the past three years, employees at all three CooperVision locations have collected thousands of pounds of clothing to support our mission through Goodwill of the Finger Lakes. Our Goodwill retail stores generate revenue for our vital mission services. Through their commitment to people and the planet, CooperVision is empowering people in our community as they overcome barriers to independence!

CooperVision employees have also “raised green by wearing jeans!” Most recently, the Fairport office donated over $1,500 to ABVI by participating in Jeans Days throughout April.

CooperVision is truly a community partner. Their company contributions, clothing drives, and employment engagement is making a difference in the lives of thousands of people in need. Thank you, CooperVision!

To learn more about how your company can impact the lives of people touched by vision loss, please contact Sarah Favro, Development Manager, at (585) 327-5526 or sfavro@abvi-goodwill.com.

Have a boat or RV you’d like to donate to ABVI? Just call 1-877-537-5277 to make arrangements. Thank you so much for supporting ABVI in this special way!
New Training Area Builds Outdoor Skills

ABVI officially opened its 12,000 square foot all-weather outdoor mobility training area adjacent to the Vision Rehabilitation Center of Excellence in July. This project was 100 percent funded by philanthropic support.

The space will serve adults who are visually impaired by providing mobility training in a private, outdoor setting that will boost confidence and knowledge.

It will also serve children and teens with visual impairments by providing the opportunity to have play experiences on playground equipment similar to a sighted child. This safe and enclosed area will allow for clinical training to teach the youth an array of physical and social skills.

For more information on the training available through ABVI’s outdoor mobility training area, please contact ABVI’s Vision Rehabilitation department at (585) 232-1111 or (800) 640-6005.

Schumer at ABVI to support AbilityOne Jobs

In June, U.S. Senator Charles Schumer (D–NY) came to ABVI to lend his support to the AbilityOne Program. Senator Schumer visited ABVI’s Manufacturing department in the self-stick note production area. The Senator advocated for the General Services Administration (GSA) to put measurements in place to monitor government entities’ compliance with the law requiring them to purchase AbilityOne products, as the GSA is moving to privatize the distribution of office products.
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 February 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014.

**In memory of Ida Arthurton**
Esther Cable
Joyce Leonard

**In memory of Marion Becker**
Tracy L. Schleyer

**In memory of Francis E. Bonn**
Grace and William Matthews

**In memory of James T. Briggs**
Michael B. Trimble

**In memory of John E. Cappon**
Sharon E. Drogo
Collette Kappler

**In memory of Ann Conti**
Christine R. Klos

**In honor of Mike Datthyl**
Joe and Jeanine Schroeder

**In memory of Helen Dudley**
Anita and Guy Bennett
Renae and John Coley
Ann and Stephen Darr
William and Lois Lasher
Judith Lenhard-Lawler
Harold and Carolyn Moores
Constance M. Quanz
William E. Summerson
Lois A. Vogt

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

**In memory of Santo Farina**
Denise Hubler

**In honor of Ed Ford**
Allison Ford and Timothy J. Abbamonte

**In memory of Pam A. Himes**
Mr. and Mrs. David A. Merkel
Sally Miller

**In memory of Rayford Charles Jefferson**
Timothy and Lori Giarrusso

**In memory of Walter Kennedy**
Donald and Terese Metzger

**In memory of Jarret J. Lobb**
John and Jane August
Burton S. August
Rachel Baker August
Clayton and Susan Cloen
Frank and Susan Crego
James and Mildred Denaker
Michael Dickinson
Eileen M. Foley-Tometsko and Drew Tometsko
Jack and Dobby Gallagher
Stella Gambell
Lorraine Giordano
Dorothy and James Green
Dale and Dorothy Hotchkiss
George Jarrett
David and Kathleen Kaestner
Heather Kelly
Jennifer Kelly-Rogers
Kathleen Lobb
Eugene and Jeanne Lusky
Michael S. Lusky
Tim Lynch

Tony and Eileen Makepeace
Dennis and Kathleen Meeh
Patricia L. Merlau
Monro Muffler Brake, Inc.
Lawrence and Joyce Nagle
Mary O’Brien
Rafael A. Padin, Jr.
Mary Ann and Richard Raichlin
Anita Richards
Glenn G. Rodemerk
Kimberly A. Rudd
Lorraine Sandford
Colleen Scantlin
Drs. Gwen and Richard Sterns
Stuart’s Spices
Patricia Willard

**In memory of Helen Mead**
Barbara and Arthur Amering
Anne Christman
Carl and Kathleen Gallagher
Helen Ganotis
Barbara S. Owen
R.N. Club
Marsha Sawma
Emily B. Schwab
Mary Zadorozny

**In memory of Shirley S. Meyers**
Wendy Ahlheim
Jean and Jack Fiannaca
Timothy and Lori Giarrusso
Goodwill Industries International, Inc.
Dorothy and James Green
Steve and Julie Gutch
Warren and Joyce Heilbronner
Gidget and John Hopf
Larry and Cynthia V. Ishol
William F. Kearns, III
and Jason Barnecut
Designating Your Retirement Assets to ABVI is Simple to Do

Did you know that it can 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 beneficiary(s).

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@abvi-goodwill.com.
InSights

Informative Session

Hosted by the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Join us for an educational session on estate planning. Learn about tax-efficient planning and how you can include your loved ones and your favorite charities in your plan.

Featuring
Ralph J. Code, III
Partner, Boylan Code

Steven T. Barber
Financial Consultant, AXA Advisors

Wednesday, October 22
Hors d’oeuvres & Wine Reception: 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Presentation and Q&A: 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
ABVI, 500 S. Clinton Ave., Rochester, NY 14620

Information will be presented for your education, and you will not be solicited.

To attend, please contact Tracy Schleyer, CFRE at (585) 697-5780 or tschleyer@abvi-goodwill.com.