



New Vision News

December 17, 2008

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Check us out on the web at www.n-v-i.org



"Vision Impairment Services In Our Neighborhood"

Lake-Sumter Community College

9501 US Hwy 441

Leesburg, FL 34788

Annual New Vision Christmas Party



Good food, Great company, and
Superb entertainment!

Friday, December 5th was New Vision's Annual Christmas Party. 168 people attended a luncheon at Venetian Gardens in Leesburg. The room and tables were beautifully decorated in red and green and there was a 10 ft decorated tree. The traditional turkey with stuffing dinner was served. Harold Miller emceed and kept everyone amused with his jokes. Keith Manson, who is visually impaired, played a variety of music on clarinet and keyboard. Mr. Manson entertained everyone with his stories as well as his music. Orian Osborne, also visually impaired, joined Mr. Manson for several duets. We had dueling Keyboards! The afternoon closed with the distribution of door prizes provided by the VIP groups and area businesses.

Thank you to the many volunteers who made the party a huge success and special thanks to Bob and Doris Schott for chairing the event and the

many hours you devoted to ensuring that a good time was had by all.

United Way Days of Caring

Do you need a handrail installed at the steps outside your home? Maybe you need a safety grip installed at your bathtub. Do you need some tree branches cleared off your driveway or roof? Or maybe your front door is too hard to close or lock. Have bushes grown over your sidewalk? Do you need a yellow line painted at the edge of the front step so that you can see it better? If you have any special needs such as these, and you are unable to take care of them yourself, we may be able to help you. United Way offers Days of Caring, when volunteers help by completing these types of chores. If you think you have a project for a Day of Caring, please call New Vision and we will make the arrangements with United Way.



From the staff at New Vision:

We wish everyone a safe

and Happy Holiday season and New Year!



Resources

Division of Blind Services
(866) 841-0928

Low Vision Specialist:
Dr. Sonya Braudway
(352) 394-7137

Low Vision Products:
LowVision.com (866) 999-9188
LS&S (800) 468-4789
Magnifying Aids (866) 691-2450
MaxiAids (800) 522-6294

Guide Dogs:
Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.
(800) 944-3647
Seeing Eye, Incorporated
(973) 539-4425
Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind,
Incorporated
(866) 282-8047

Living Will:
Five Wishes by Aging with Dignity
(888) 594-7437

Congratulations Graduates!

As I sit here writing this, one of our current Independent Living Skills classes is graduating. That is right, I said one. New Vision, through the efforts of many wonderful people, has reached out to so many people we held two ILS classes simultaneously. January will find us again holding two classes, one in Sumter County and one in Lake County. Graduation today included a Family Workshop giving family and friends of the students the opportunity to learn about vision loss and how to assist someone facing that loss.

Phone: 352-435-5040 email: info@n-v-i.org

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

In these tough economic times non-profit organizations are also facing drastic cuts in budgets. No non-profit is secure from funding losses. If you are fortunate enough to be in a position to offer financial assistance, here are some ways you can help make a positive difference:

Send a donation today. To send a contribution of any type or amount, please use the following mailing address: New Vision for Independence, 9501 US Highway 441, Leesburg, FL 34788.

Make an Honor or Memorial gift. Honor a friend, relative, or even a pet (in honor of dog guides for the blind) – we will send cards of celebration or sympathy in your name.

Take Advantage of IRA Rollover Before End of Year. If you are age 70 ½ or older, new legislation now allows you to make cash gifts totaling up to \$100,000 a year from your IRA to qualified charities like New Vision without incurring income tax on the withdrawal. The provision is effective for tax years 2008 and 2009 only, so for 2008 you must act by December 31 to take full advantage.

Remember New Vision in your estate planning. Make a lasting commitment by naming New Vision in your will. You would have a legacy of providing independence for individuals with low vision or blindness.

Happy Holidays to you all!

Dear Friends,

I usually find myself writing thank you notes at the end of December, after the usual exchanging of gifts with family and friends, but I feel the need to write thank you notes now to so many of you and for so many reasons.

I thank each and every one of you who attended classes or support groups. It sometimes takes an act of bravery for someone with vision loss to agree to attend that first class, facing the unknown. You can be proud of your accomplishments and all that you learned. I would like to thank our wonderful volunteers who give of their time so unselfishly. Without you, New Vision would certainly be at a loss.

I would like to thank our Board of Directors for the careful guidance of the development of this young agency. Our funders also deserve hearty gratitude – without their confidence in our mission, we would not be in existence. And I especially would like to thank our staff. They are small in numbers but humongous in their caring, dedication, and commitment.

New Vision's successes are a direct result of the combined efforts of all of you who are involved. Please accept my sincere gratitude and appreciation for all that you do. I hope you will continue to be a part of our mission and endeavors in the coming year.

Peace and love to you at this joyous season, and throughout the year!

Bebe Chudeusz, Executive Director

Thank You!

A special thank you to Ursula Reber who recently resigned from the Board of Directors. Ursula has been a tremendous volunteer for New Vision over the years by serving on the Board, representing New Vision at health fairs, leading the Triangle VIP Support Group, among other things. We will miss her on the Board but we know she will continue to be a cherished member of New Vision. Thank you Ursula!

Welcome

Now, please help us in welcoming our newest member to the Board of Directors: Patricia Blair. Ms. Blair has joined New Vision eagerly and comes with a wealth of accounting and budgeting knowledge. She became a Board member at the November 18th Board meeting and she has already proven to be an asset. We are pleased that she has joined us in supporting the mission of New Vision. Welcome, Patty!

Help us spread the word about New Vision

New Vision has speakers available for presentations to service clubs, doctors' offices, retirement communities, and other groups, including YOURS. Community Education presentations can be tailored to the

request, including:

A review of New Vision's services and classes,
An overview of common eye conditions,
Instruction in sighted guide techniques
Discussion of independent travel methods,
Sensory and/or blindfold experiences,
Information for families of someone with blindness.
Please help spread the word by telling your friends, doctors, and other groups that we would be happy to provide a presentation for them. Call New Vision at 352-435-5040 to schedule a presentation.

Items for Sale

New Vision for Independence has a small store at the Leesburg campus of Lake-Sumter Community College. The store carries a wide variety of items to assist the blind and visually impaired. There are magnifiers, talking and low vision watches, 20/20 pens and Marvy markers just to name a few things available.

Large print Birthday, Sympathy, Get Well, Anniversary, and Congratulatory cards are also available.

Free Items:

Braille books of the Bible, Braille playing & Pinochle cards—call the office if interested.

Used Greeting Cards

Does anyone know of a group that has a need for used greeting cards? If so, call 352-435-5040

Living Will

Aging with Dignity has available a booklet entitled "Five Wishes". It is the first living will that addresses your personal, emotional, and spiritual needs as well as your medical wishes. It was written with the help of The American Bar Association's Commission on Law and Aging and the nation's leading experts in end-of-life care. If you are interested in the Five Wishes Booklet contact New Vision's office or call 888-594-7437.