



# New Vision News

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Check us out on the web at [www.n-v-i.org](http://www.n-v-i.org)



"Vision Impairment Services In Our Neighborhood"

Lake-Sumter Community College

9501 US Hwy 441

Leesburg, FL 34788

## Happy Holidays!

The rain didn't dampen anyone spirits on December 5th. New Vision sponsored its 4th Annual Christmas Party at Venetian Gardens. 150 people enjoyed good food, good company, and great entertainment!



The hall was beautifully decorated with green and red table settings, garland, and Christmas tree. The turkey dinner with all the trimmings including

warm apple cobbler and ice cream was wonderful. The emcee, Harold Miller, was entertaining as usual. The piano Prelude performed by Becky Letzkus was beautiful and her rendition of O Holy Night and Silent Night brought goose bumps to the arms of the listeners. There was great excitement during the drawing for the door prizes and 50/50 raffle. Orian Osborne provided great music with comedy thrown as he led everyone in singing Christmas Carols.

Thank you to all who came, all who entertained, the donors of the door prizes and the books on tape that were available for anyone to take home, and the many volunteers.

And many, many thanks Doris and Bob Schott, the energetic co-chair persons who organized the entire event.

We hope to see you all again next year - the date has been set for December 3rd, so mark your calendars!

The staff of New Vision would like to wish everyone a joyous holiday season and a healthy and happy New Year!

## Sneakers & Paws 5K Run/Walk

Thank you to all who braved the dark and cold on October 17th to attend our first 5K Run, Dog Costume Contest, and 3rd Annual Walk. The wind made it uncomfortable for viewing the events but our runners appreciated the coolness of the day.

We raised just over \$30,000, had a great time doing it, caught up with old friends, and made new ones.

Most \$ raised by individual:

1st - Ruth Back

2nd - Harold Miller

3rd - Teresa Durbin

Most \$ raised by a team

1st - Schott Team

Our race results were:

Overall 1st place - male - Mark Holsbeke

Overall 1st place - female - Aislyn Gaynor

Overall Master place - male - Scott McKenzie

Overall Master place - female - Dorcas Tomasek

Overall Jr.1st - male - Kyle Funke

13 and under 1st - West Lataille

2nd - Christopher Walters

Age 20-29 1st - male - Grant Mollett

Female - Mary-Beth Valley

Age 50-59 1st - Vicki Brown

2nd - Dawn Williams

Age 60-69 1st - Howard Fox

Costume Dog Contest Results:

Judges' Choice - Radar, owner Hope Reed

Viewers' Choice - Sissy Sue, Owner Joanne

## A Sad Goodbye and a Hearty Welcome!

With the signing of 3 new contracts with the Division of Blind Services New Vision found the need to expand the staff. Sadly, for us, Julie Engel was not able to work full time and stepped down from the position. Even though Julie was here a short time she was a great asset and touched many lives.

We feel fortunate to have Chantel Buck as our new Case Manager. Even before Chantel was interviewed, she volunteered at our Sneakers & Paws 5K Run/Walk. She has jumped right in and mastered the new on-line Case Management system required with the new contracts, she has organized several Independent Living Skills classes, Chantel has a great deal of empathy and compassion for our clients, and we are very happy to have her with us.

Lighthouse International has several newsletters you can sign up for:

1. **Shared Vision: Biannual newsletter** featuring the latest news about Lighthouse services, research, educational and advocacy -related activities, special events - and more. It can be received via mail or e-mail.
2. **At-A-Glance: Monthly e-mail newsletter** featuring the latest news, technology advances, an "Ask the Expert" column and more - all related to vision health.
3. **eSight Network News: Weekly e-mail newsletter** discussing disability employment issues, job-hunting tips, networking and resources for managing a career.
4. **Advocacy Alerts: periodic e-mails** about important legislative issues related to vision - an how you can become an advocate.

You can subscribe to one or all of these newsletters by calling 1-800-829-0500 or going to

<http://lighthouse.org/newsletter-subscribe>

#### Our Mission Statement

New Vision for Independence is committed to excellence in providing rehabilitation, community education, and support services for people with low vision or blindness and their families to promote independence, acceptance, and self-confidence.

Ray Campbell from Chicago Lighthouse is a regular guest on WGN Radio, 720 AM in Chicago. He is on the air the last Wednesday of each month at 11:30 pm with tips and information about the latest technology for people who are blind or visually impaired. If you are unable to listen on the radio you can



access the information on WGN's website, [www.wgnradio.com](http://www.wgnradio.com).

Ray Campbell's suggestions of Holiday Gifts for the visually impaired are

1) If you are planning to give a new computer to that relative who is blind or visually impaired, and, you are worried about whether or not they can handle Windows 7, don't be. Both JAWS and Window-Eyes Screen Readers as well as ZoomText Screen Magnification Software have versions that will run on Windows 7. I have, so far, heard of very few problems for people who are blind using Windows 7.



2) Is that family member who is blind or visually impaired a book worm? Why not get them a digital book player and get them signed up to services where they can download digital books. Players to consider are the Victor Reader Stream for \$349 from [www.magnifyingaids.com](http://www.magnifyingaids.com). Also, there is the BookSense available from G. W. Micro, [www.gwmicro.com](http://www.gwmicro.com). It retails for \$349 for the standard version, and \$499 for the XT version which includes 4GB of on-board memory, an FM Radio and Bluetooth so you can connect a Bluetooth headset. And you've also got the Plectalk Pocket for \$349 from [www.plectalk.com](http://www.plectalk.com). There are several sources of on-line books. The National Library Service for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired has a way to download books. You first need to be registered with that service, then you can sign up to download books. Check out [www.loc.gov/nls](http://www.loc.gov/nls) to find out more. Bookshare, [www.bookshare.org](http://www.bookshare.org), offers you the ability to download books. A subscription costs \$50 per

year. And finally, there's Audible, [www.audible.com](http://www.audible.com).

3) The perfect gift to get someone who needs a way to read mail, magazines, or other printed material is the new Intel Reader. About the size of a paperback book, this device quickly takes a picture of a printed page and reads it out loud to you. You can take it into a restaurant and read the menu, just like everyone else. With its optional capture station, you can read books almost as fast as you can turn the pages. Once you've read in an item, you can save it and even retrieve read documents off the device to store on a computer. The device costs \$1495.00, and the optional capture station costs an additional \$395.00. For more information or to purchase contact Humanware, [www.humanware.com](http://www.humanware.com). There have also been a number of articles written about this product. By googling Intel Reader, you'll find out quite a bit about it.

4) Check out on-line stores for a wide variety of Video Magnifiers (CCTVs). These devices magnify printed material so that someone with low vision can read it. There are desktop models for reading mail, books, or doing crafts, and there are portable models which you can take to the grocery store and locate products on the shelves and many in between

#### New Vision's Wish List:

We have been invited to participate in several outside events but have had to decline because of a lack of easily portable tent, table, and chairs.

*If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please call 352-435-5040 or e-mail [info@n-v-i.org](mailto:info@n-v-i.org) to be removed from the mailing list.*