



THE BLIND
& VISUALLY
IMPAIRED
CENTER
OF MONTEREY COUNTY INC.

BLINDFOLD

225 Laurel Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

(831) 649-3505

www.blindandlowvision.org

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2016

BVIC Announcements

NAMC Names BVIC 2015 Health Care Nonprofit of the Year

On December 3rd, BVIC Board Members, staff and one guide dog filled two tables at the second annual Nonprofit Alliance Awards Breakfast. The sold-out event of more than 200 guests was held at the Hyatt Regency in Monterey. The Nonprofit Awards Celebration offers a unique opportunity to honor exemplary non-profit organizations and staff who work tirelessly to make tremendous contributions to the community in Monterey County. **Jeannie Cordero and BVIC were both nominated for awards this year, with the center receiving the Health Care Nonprofit Award.** As this was the category with the largest number of nominations, it is an honor to rise to the top! Jeannie and Ron Kihara accepted the award on behalf of the center.

BVIC extends a big thank you to NAMC for this honor and to everyone involved in making us such an exceptional non-profit!



Jeannie Cordero, Russ Hatch and Ron Kihara



Ron Kihara, Jeannie Cordero, Diana Trapani, and Russ Hatch

BVIC Receives \$150,000 Grant

The California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) Older Individuals Who Are Blind (OIB) program has provided us with a \$150,000 grant to be used for strategic initiatives, to build infrastructure, for staff professional development and to purchase supplies used with OIB eligible clients. Currently 89% of our clients are OIB eligible.

Over the course of 2016 we will use these funds to:

- upgrade all staff computers and network them to a file server
- purchase a case management software program for e-tracking of client information
- hire a strategic planning consultant to lead us in creating a new course
- hire a fund development consultant to help us create a strategic constituent and fund development plan
- purchase a constituent/donor database program
- provide all staff a variety of professional development opportunities

- hire a marketing firm to help us create a strategic outreach/marketing plan, along with new collateral materials
- and purchases a wide variety of assistive devices and tools

The total estimated costs for all these activities is \$200,000, with DOR covering \$150,000 of it. If you would like to help support these important strategic and agency strengthening activities, please send a donation today. **Essentially, your gift is matched 3:1 with this grant!** We extend a big THANK YOU to the DOR OIB program for this wonderful opportunity.

Rotary Club of Monterey Cannery Row Gift

As we wrote in our last newsletter, the Rotary Club of Monterey Cannery Row donated \$7,500 for a new retinal fundus camera. Our new executive director, Diana Trapani, along with Board Member Bob Johnson, recently attended a Rotary breakfast to receive the check from Suha Kilic, President. The BVIC extends its gratitude to the Rotary Club of Monterey Cannery Row for their generosity!



Suha Kilic, Diana Trapani, Bob Johnson

BVIC Membership Drive

February marks the official start of our annual membership drive. Last year, memberships provided \$10,000 of our annual income. We encourage everyone to become a member and enjoy the benefits of receiving the newsletter, borrowing from the audio library, and voting at meetings. Although membership is not required to

receive services, most recipients are supportive members of the BVIC. **Please use the enclosed envelope to join today or renew your membership now and know you are ensuring the continuation of free quality low vision and blind services to residents of Monterey County.** We ask you to give what you can and to be as generous as you are able with your tax-deductible donation.

Help the Blindfold Go Green!

The Blindfold is available by email upon request. Just send an email to vision@blindandlowvision.org and we will email it to you from now on.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on 02/11/16 in the upper room at the Center. BVIC Members and the public are invited to attend. Please call 831-649-3505 to RSVP.

Keeping Afloat

September 24 – December 31, 2015

- Maria Alameda - \$60.00
- Maria Alexander - \$20.00
- Leonard Anable - \$125.00
- Tony Ayres - \$25.00
- Franzel Bartels - \$50.00
- Brenda Blom - \$100.00
- Margaret Bohn - \$100.00
- Hazel Braudrick - \$50.00
- Robert Britton - \$100.00
- Elizabeth Plaxton Brown - \$25.00
- Edwin Budlong - \$225.00
- Cannery Row Company - \$500.00
- Sal & Angie Cardinale - \$50.00
- Carmel Women's Club - \$400.00
- Christiana Cava - \$475.00
- Gerda Chavez - \$10.00
- Enid Cocker - \$25.00
- Norma Cocklin - \$175.00
- June Cogswell (bequest) - \$841.34
- Mary Colburn - \$1,000.00
- M Robin Conlow - \$15.00
- Anthony Costa & Sons - \$500.00

Mr. & Mrs. Nick Craft - \$100.00
Jeff & Carolyn Craig - \$250.00
John D'Arrigo - \$100.00
Diane Davenport - \$220.00
Beverly David - \$100.00
Candice Depauw - \$100.00
Shirley Doolittle - \$426.00
William & Nancy Doolittle - \$250.00
Sue Dumller - \$60.00
Virginia & Richard Dunn - \$200.00
Geri Durocher - \$100.00
Ellen Dwyer - \$200.00
Catherine Farrant - \$50.00
Billie Field - \$100.00
First Presbyterian Church - \$100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Cyrus Fitton - \$100.00
Freedom Lions Club - \$100.00
Barbara Gamble - \$25.00
Bette Garcia - \$500.00
Lola George - \$25.00
Goodshop - \$18.94
Arnold Green - \$100.00
Dorothy Grimshaw - \$10.00
Sabreh Gross - \$56.00
Janice Gryp - \$150.00
Ray & Lillian Gularte - \$100.00
Gary & Tab Gunderson - \$75.00
Doris Haas - \$50.00
Dolores Hagey - \$50.00
Josephine Haidich - \$200.00
Anne-Marie Halloran - \$50.00
The Harden Foundation - \$20,000.00
Daniel Harnish - \$100.00
John Hart - \$8.00
Ruby Heinrichs - \$50.00
Lois Herschede - \$100.00
Virginia Holine - \$50.00
Sonia Hough - \$20.00
Ken Hunter - \$1,000.00
Sylvia Jean Hurd - \$100.00
Roberta Infelise - \$100.00
Sonja Jackson - \$270.00
Paul & Ellen James - \$50.00
Holger "Bud" Johansen - \$25.00

Bob Johnson - \$150.00
Harry & Joan Johnson - \$50.00
Lara Kahler - \$106.00
Steve Kane - \$21.00
Joshua Karanis - \$250.00
Norma Keleher - \$25.00
Ron Kihara - \$20.00
Suha Kilic - \$100.00
Clyde Klaumann - \$35.00
Elizabeth Langstroth - \$1,000.00
Maria Larez - \$30.00
Alvin Lease - \$250.00
Ted Leavenworth - \$100.00
Martin Lipp - \$750.00
Mel Loop - \$200.00
Charles MacGlashan - \$200.00
Jane Mamat - \$1,175.00
Diane Maraccini - \$20.00
Janice Maroot - \$500.00
Elenita Mathew - \$50.00
Tom McKay - \$15.00
Geneva Mehl - \$25.00
Herbert Meyer - \$100.00
Dennis Miller - \$20.00
James Miller - \$100.00
Irene Minjares - \$50.00
Monterey Peninsula Host Lions - \$100.00
Tom & Mo Moore - \$20.00
Adolph Nicolai - \$20.00
Nifty 50's Café - \$100.00
Lowell & Wilda Northrop - \$5,000.00
Old Capitol Lions Club - \$60.00
Amadee Ortiz - \$200.00
Helga Ozenne - \$20.00
Margaret Parenti - \$51.00
Janet Parks - \$150.00
Julie Parsons - \$20.00
Paul Davis Partnership - \$500.00
Betty Paul - \$100.00
Elinor & Alan Peel - \$500.00
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Pesce - \$100.00
Patricia Peterson - \$100.00
James Poland - \$100.00
Margaret Anderson Radunich - \$500.00

Gerda Rayne - \$125.00
Robbie Rhodes - \$84.00
Michael Robbins - \$10.00
Marjorie Ross - \$100.00
Rotary Club of Monterey Cannery Row - \$7,500.00
Robert Ruggles - \$100.00
Stuart Sargisson - \$1,500.00
SaveMart - \$104.07
Mona Schoenwisner - \$160.00
Cam Schure - \$100.00
Connie Shepherd - \$30.86
Mary Sherman - \$60.00
Ronald Shimizu - \$50.00
Margaret Shipley - \$125.00
James & Marie Sikora - \$100.00
Marv Silverman - \$200.00
Clara Smith - \$105.00
Eleanor Springer - \$20.00
Elizabeth Springer - \$100.00
Becki Stange - \$80.00
Thomas Streeter - \$25.00
Allyne Swerrie - \$50.00
Tim Allen Properties - \$100.00
Dr. Paul Tom - \$100.00
Philip Tucker - \$300.00
Kiyoko Uchida - \$25.00
Donna Van Noy - \$50.00
Vantage Eye Center - \$200.00
George & Patricia Walker - \$100.00
Judy Wills - \$200.00
Constance Ziegenbein - \$20.00

Monterey County GIVES Donors

November 12 – December 31, 2015

Mr. Leonard Anable
Yavuz Atila
Mr. Carlo Bernardino
Ms. Sharen Carey
Ms. Diana Case
Mr. Bert Curtino
Bill & Nancy Doolittle
Mr. Dion Dow
John Henry Dunn Kraus, MD JD
R K Dusek

Ms. Sharon Dwight
Mr. Adam Eberling
Mr. David Ford
Mr. Thomas Gardner
Gold Coast Tattoo
Myra & Drew Goodman
Ms. Arlen Grossman
Mr. Jonathan Hageman
J.L. Harkness
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Hatch
Ms. Jo Ann F. Holbrook
Ms. Deborah Howitt
Mr. Bob Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Kihara
Mr. Davis Laws
Mr. Alan Liddle
Mr. Butch Lindley
Mr. & Mrs. David Lloyd
Ms. Jean Lovell
Mr. & Mrs. Michael McMahan
Ms. Jonina Meyers
Mission Trails Lions Club of Carmel
Ms. Martha Myszak
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Nasr
Ms. Francis Paastor
Ms. Eva Parrott
Mr. & Mrs. John Pearse
Peter and Jackie Henning Fund
Ms. Shannon Petty
Mr. Frank Raab
Mr. Lee Rosen
Ms. Cindy Shaw
Ms. Betty Jean Stallings
The Flicker Family Trust
The Old Capitol Lions Club of Monterey County
Ms. Diana Trapani
Ms. Bernadette Trindad
Lonnie Trykowski
Ms. Dana Van Horn
Mr. David Watts

BVIC extends a big THANK YOU for your support!

If we misspelled your name or missed listing your gift, we sincerely apologize and ask that you contact us.

Vision Loss

Marjorie R. McNeely Low Vision Clinic

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a progressive eye condition affecting as many as 15 million Americans, with 200,000 new cases each year. AMD reduces our sharpest central vision and gets in the way of reading, driving, identifying faces, watching television, safely navigating stairs and performing other daily tasks. AMD never causes light-out blindness, but it could leave dim images or holes at the center of vision. There are two types of AMD – wet and dry. Dry macular degeneration is the more common of the two and is also the one with the fewest options for treatment. Wet AMD treatment options are more readily available. It's important to know dry AMD symptoms and wet AMD symptoms and what you can do about them.

If your family member, friend or yourself is diagnosed with AMD, there is help and hope. Please contact us at the Marjorie McNeely Low Vision Clinic (649-3505). Our specialists will help you understand your visual condition and recommend helpful devices to compensate lost visual function. Among the 204 individuals whom we served in the clinic in 2015, 134 (66%) have been diagnosed with AMD.

We also recommend signing-up for monthly email updates and newsletters with Macular Degeneration Partnership. Their website is www.amd.org. You will have access to the vast information regarding treatment advancement.

Donated low vision aids are now available. If you have been evaluated at our low vision clinic and found new devices unaffordable, you may be eligible for donated low vision aids depending on their availabilities. Please contact us at 649-3505.

Orientation & Mobility

Good-bye from Rena

It is finally hitting me that I am really physically leaving my office and my job to retire as O&M Specialist for The Blind & Visually Impaired Center of Monterey County. I have had many challenges but I also have had a lot of fun in the job that I love. I have met so many people of different ages, backgrounds and personalities that it has definitely enriched my appreciation for what people can do. I want to thank all my clients-or students as I prefer to name them- for being willing to share with me their lives, goals, and challenges. I thank them for their trust and for their hard work to achieve their personal goal of learning new things to cope with and live with vision loss. To the clients who have, at times, witnessed my slightly offbeat teaching style I thank you for bearing with me. I thank you all for the laughter we shared and the joy of victory. You were willing to be vulnerable with me to achieve your goals, and I deeply appreciate it.

I need to thank all my co-workers and bosses; by co-workers I also mean the volunteers who are practically staff because of their years and hours of dedication to BVIC. For all their hard work, support, and wonderful senses of humor over the years, thank you. I especially thank Cheri Padin and Jeannie Cordero for their guidance, support, and willingness to work with my personal idiosyncrasies. I thank them for their determination to keep serving our clients through all the transitions of over 20 years. They both did so much behind the scenes work to keep things going and running as smoothly as possible. I have seen few women who work as hard, without complaining, as those two do! I was quite impressed by their administrative partnership and I'm not shy about saying so.

I know BVIC will continue to function ably to serve the visually impaired and blind community of Monterey County. I welcome our new Executive

Director Diana Trapani who exhibits the same willingness to work hard and seek to meet the real needs of our visually impaired members and clients. She has a great board of directors to support and guide her, and she has professional financial wisdom to support and guide them. She also has the personal wisdom and integrity to look to the professionals and experienced staff and volunteers working with her to teach her about vision impairment and the needs of our clients. Even though I have not known her long, I can see that her heart is in the job.

I wish Diana, Moonset, Dr. Andrew Wodecki, Cheri and Sam a wonderful and productive working relationship. Whoever comes on staff next can be assured that they are working with quality staff and a very dedicated board.

Ways to Support the BVIC

The BVIC relies on the generosity of everyone in our community to ensure we are able to provide our services. Cash donations, grants and bequests make up the bulk of our annual donation income. Your membership, annual donation, Country Store Auction purchases, car donations and MC Gives donations help tremendously.

Thank you for your support!

Volunteer Opportunities

- Volunteer to join a committee or our Board of Directors.
- Front desk volunteer from 8:30am – 1:30pm on Tue, Th or Fri to provide a friendly face to greet visitors and a happy voice to answer the phone.
- Tuesday morning walkway cleaning, especially after a storm, to ensure Tuesday support groups, lunch and ceramic art attendees have a safe clear path. We have a blower and broom.

- Volunteer once or twice a month to plan, shop, prepare, serve and clean-up after our weekly Tuesday lunch program. We will pay for the food.
- Volunteer once or twice a month with the Tuesday ceramic art class.
- For more information about these or other volunteer opportunities, call Diana Trapani, Executive Director at (831) 649-3505.

Wish List

- DSLR Camera Kit (such as Nikon D3300)
- Kitchen Knife Set (such as Henckels 7-Pc set)
- 12-cup Thermal Coffeemaker

Chariots for Charity

Operated by the Old Capitol Lions Club, Chariots for Charity donations support the BVIC with cash donations from the sale of donated vehicles. During 2015, 12 vehicle sales totaling \$19,100 directly supported our services! A huge thank you goes out to Russ Hatch who oversees this program. For more information or to donate a vehicle, please contact Russ Hatch at (831) 659-5360.

Save the Date – Car Show

The next Old Capitol Lions Club Car Show will be June 12th at the Moose Lodge on Canyon del Rey Blvd, Del Rey Oaks. For more information contact Russ Hatch at (831) 659-5360.

Bequests

Bequests are an easy way to plan for support after you are gone by simply arranging for a transfer of assets to BVIC through your will or trust. Bequests can occur in several forms such as:

- Specific bequest – a specified amount of cash, securities, or property
 - “I bequeath \$___ [dollar amount or description of property] to The Blind & Visually Impaired Center of Monterey County, Inc. located at

225 Laurel Ave, Pacific Grove, CA
93950. Federal Tax ID#: 23-
7221588.”

- Percentage bequest – a stated percentage of the donor’s total estate
 - “I bequeath __% [% of total assets] to The Blind & Visually Impaired Center of Monterey County, Inc. located at 225 Laurel Ave, Pacific Grove, CA 93950. Federal Tax ID#: 23-7221588.”
- Residual bequest – all or a portion of what remains of the estate after specific and general bequests are distributed
 - “I bequeath [dollar amount or % of remainder of property] to The Blind & Visually Impaired Center of Monterey County, Inc. located at 225 Laurel Ave, Pacific Grove, CA 93950. Federal Tax ID#: 23-7221588.”
- Contingent bequest – a gift that takes effect only if the primary beneficiary or beneficiaries predecease you
 - “If neither my spouse nor any named beneficiaries survives me, then I give, bequeath and devise all the rest, residue, and remainder of the property, both real and personal, which I may own or be entitled to at my death, to The Blind & Visually Impaired Center of Monterey County, Inc. located at 225 Laurel Ave, Pacific Grove, CA 93950. Federal Tax ID#: 23-7221588.”

You may specify the use of your bequest to support a particular program, such as the low-vision clinic, for general support or designate it to the endowment to ensure ongoing support for the life of the Center.

The examples above are not intended to be legal advice. Please consult your estate planning professional for proper terms and language.

Welcome new Executive Director, Diana Trapani

I am honored to have been selected to serve as your new executive director. My first months have been a whirlwind of activity starting on my first day with a conference call from the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) about the \$150,000 grant opportunity, the Country Store Auction occurring my first week, and the impending departure of both Jeannie and Rena.

Much of my first two months were occupied with writing the DOR grant and meeting with and soliciting quotes from consultants; updating Rena’s job description, posting it, and screening submitted resumes; meeting board members, volunteers, clients and donors; and learning about the wonderful services offered here. Throw in the mix the NAMC Awards, board meetings, insurance contracts, tax filings, year-end giving, Tuesday lunches, grant reports, a newsletter, and the holiday season with all its revelry – well you get the picture! My head is swimming with information, names and faces, so if I ask you to re-introduce yourself or remind me of something we discussed please understand why!

I am beginning to get a good feel for many of my areas of responsibility and “how things work around here” but it will take more time to get fully up to speed.

Over the next few weeks and months I see the following activities as priorities:

- Hire a new O&M Specialist
- Continue to become familiar with BVIC’s mission and services
- Continue to meet with board members, volunteers and donors

- Carry-out all the wonderful activities approved in the DOR grant
- Proceed with annual fundraising activities, as well as research new funding sources
- *And, oh so much more!*

If we have not had a chance to meet, please do not hesitate to call or stop by. I can be reached at 831-649-3505 x103 or diana@blindandlowvision.org.



Victoria Carns & Joan Peffley

Annual Holiday Lunch a Big Success

On Tuesday, Dec. 15th, more than twenty consumers, guests, volunteers and staff attended the annual holiday party. Long-time Tuesday program volunteers, Victoria and Joan planned and oversaw the activities, while our new executive director prepared and served the lunch.

Attendee Cam Schure said, “I want to express my gratitude for an absolutely marvelous Christmas party! I thank everyone involved. The food was great, the games fun and the whole thing was just wonderful. Thank you again.”



The guests, feast and gifts!

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