

CABVI FOCUS

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Sailing silently beneath the north Atlantic the fast attack submarine based at Subase New London, CT takes its station at the point of the Navy's spear defending the United States from foreign attack.

Subase New London is homeport for the U.S.S. Virginia

Pulling a SKILCRAFT flashlight from his pocket, an engineer checks a gauge. Another submariner takes notes with a SKILCRAFT pen in a SKILCRAFT notebook. Tools crafted to the demanding specifications of the U.S. Military are in use throughout the boat.

Officers procured nearly all of the ship's supplies from the Dolphin Express Store at Subase New London. The Dolphin Express is owned and operated by the Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired and supplies 15 submarines in three squadrons that comprise Subase's waterfront commands.

The Dolphin Express, and its sister stores, the Island Express - Naval Station Newport, RI, the Galaxy



Capt. Joseph P. Voboril,
Commanding Officer, Naval Station
Newport

Express - Air Reserve Base, Westover, MA and the Shipyard Express - Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, ME, is one of 143 AbilityOne Base Supply Centers (BSC) at military installations across the country. CABVI's express stores contribute substantially to the tenant commands at the bases according to Captain Joseph Voboril, Commanding Officer at Naval Station Newport. "Naval Station Newport is home to 50 tenant commands. We are the Navy's premier site for training officers, officer candidates, senior enlisted personnel and midshipman candidates, as well as conducting advanced undersea warfare and development systems.



Capt. Voboril (r) meets with CABVI's BSC Supervisor Scott MacGregor and Island Express Store Manager Tammy McConnell.

pocket.) The temperature in the freezer gets to 10 below zero. We've tried them all and this is the only pen that will write at those temperatures."

Whether the thought is Capt. Voboril's, PO Agosto's or that of Site Deputy Director Chris Bosselman's at Subase New London, the sentiment is the same - the customer service and convenience of CABVI's BSCs is unmatched.

"We've purchased millions of dollars in goods from the Dolphin Express since it opened" Mr. Bosselman said. "We buy supplies for all the submarines in the waterfront commands plus the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

"When there's an open request from the afloat units, 9 out of 10 times we're buying from the Dolphin Express."

The AbilityOne Base Supply Center Program is entering its 16th year nationwide. Established as a partnership between National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and the Department of Defense, BSC sales approached \$440 million last year, and employment exceeded 300 people who are blind. Most of the products sold in the BSCs are manufactured or packaged at agencies like CABVI where, collectively, over 47,000 people who are blind or disabled earn competitive wages and benefits.

Kevin A. Lynch, President and CEO of NIB noted recently that the AbilityOne BSC program represents "how the

"The strongest point of the Island Express Store is its ease of use for the tenant commands. The store's staff is always accommodating. They make it easy for us to get what we need."

As much as anywhere on the naval station's sweeping grounds, the impact of the Island Express Stores is felt in the Ney Hall Galley, which serves thousands of meals to the station's military and civilian personnel daily.

Petty Officer in Charge Edgardo Agosto purchases nearly all of his supplies from the Island Express. Speaking of Island Express store manager Tammy McConnell, PO Agosto said, "this lady and her staff get me everything I need.

"From whisks to pots and pans, even new furniture in the dining room, the Island Express has been very convenient. One of the best parts... see this pen? (He pulls a SKILCRAFT Vista Gel Ink pen from his shirt



Chris Bosselman, Site Deputy Director for Naval Supply at Subase New London and Dolphin Express Store Manager John Matthews.

American dream is created in business opportunities followed by hard work, innovation and quality service.

“(Employees of Base Supply Centers who are blind) provide customer service, shelf stocking, purchasing, inventory and retail store management in support of each participating military base’s mission.

“Additionally, sales of SKILCRAFT and other AbilityOne products and services to military personnel



provide jobs and career advancement opportunities for over 47,000 people with disabilities, who make SKILCRAFT products or provide services through the AbilityOne Program.

“Since nearly 70 percent of working age individuals who are blind are unemployed, the job opportunities provided by National Industries for the Blind help our employees gain economic independence and the pride and confidence associated with working.”

The BSCs are another outlet for the products manufactured or packaged in Utica which, according to Rudy D’Amico, President and CEO of CABVI, “expands our base of employment in Central New York.”

In the 11 years since the opening of the Dolphin Express the size of CABVI’s workforce has nearly doubled to 200. “The number of people who are blind and employed by the agency is about 100,” Mr. D’Amico added.

“CABVI’s employees have compensation and benefits that are competitive to other industries including vacation, paid sick leave and a 403(b) retirement plan.

“An intangible benefit to our BSC customers is the motivation of our workforce, blind and sighted peers alike, to deliver the highest quality products and services to our men and women in uniform.

“We understand the sacrifice they endure to protect the country. CABVI’s pride is demonstrated in the deep-rooted desire by each employee to contribute to the success of their mission the best way we know how - by working hard at what we do.”

CABVI Base Supply Centers

The Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired opened its first base supply center, the Dolphin Express, in August 2000 at Subase New London, CT.



CABVI replicated the success of the Dolphin Express three years later when the agency opened the Galaxy Express at the Air Reserve Base in Westover, MA.



The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) in Kittery, ME became CABVI’s next BSC port of call. The Shipyard Express opened its doors in 2005. The mission of PNYS is different from CABVI’s other BSC homes because PNSY’s primary mission is the overhaul, repair and modernization of Los Angeles-class submarines, like those in New London.



The Island Express BSC opened to much fanfare in September 2008 at Naval Station Newport, RI.



Utica Businessman Honorary Chair of CABVI Holiday Appeal

Local entrepreneur Harold T. “Tom” Clark, Jr. will be the Honorary Chairperson of the Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired’s 2011 Holiday Appeal.

Mr. Clark’s Central New York business interests are as varied as the seasons. He is president of MacClark restaurants which owns and operates 16 McDonald’s Restaurants throughout the region and the Chairman of the Board of Adirondack Bank and Adirondack Financial Services. A graduate of Utica College, Mr. Clark is a generous benefactor to his alma mater as well as the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties where he is a past Chairman of the Board.

Mindy Barstein, Chairperson of the CNY Vision Foundation Board of Directors, is thrilled that Mr. Clark accepted the Foundation’s invitation to be the campaign’s Honorary Chair. “Tom Clark has a compelling personal connection to CABVI.

“He’s made a wonderful commitment of his time and treasure to help people who are blind or visually impaired.”

The CABVI Holiday Appeal will appear in mailboxes in late October.



Tom Clark

CABVI Helps Prepare Next Generation of Vision Rehabilitation Professionals

The Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired teamed recently with Hunter College to offer three graduate labs to Hunter students.

The Hunter College Combined Masters Degree in Vision Rehabilitation Therapy and Orientation and Mobility (VRT/O&M) prepares students as both vision rehabilitation therapists and O&M specialists. Graduates are eligible for certification through The Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals.

CABVI staff, working as lab instructors, included Jim Marscher, Mitch Hansen, Betsy Harvey-Minutti and Cindy Freudenberger. They taught: Intermediate Orientation and Mobility, Advanced O&M and Vision Rehabilitation Therapy.

The program’s aim is to prepare vision rehabilitation specialists who seek to improve the quality of travel and rehabilitation opportunities for learners with visual impairments.

Hunter College, located in the heart of Manhattan, is the largest college in the City University of New York (CUNY) system. The Distance Learning Master’s Degree Program in Vision Rehabilitation Teaching and Orientation and Mobility is supported by the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration and the New York State Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped.



Hunter College student Brook Erenstone instructs fellow student Kellie Nickerson in the **Region L** Lions Clubs Vision Rehabilitation Teaching Kitchen at CABVI.

Board Chair Completes Training

The not-for-profit landscape changes swiftly and, often, without much warning. Policies and procedures at the heart of not-for-profit operations must meet these expectations while complying with new or amended rules.

Board Chair Ed Welsh recognized the motivation for competently and ethically governing CABVI comes from the board of directors. He recently graduated from an eight month Board Leadership Seminar that provided fellow board chairs from sister not-for-profits with the knowledge and tools that allow them to effectively lead their boards. “We covered topics such as strategic planning, fund development, finance and the working relationships between the board chair and trustees and the board chair and the organization’s executive leader,” Mr. Welsh said.



Edward P. Welsh, CABVI Board Chair

There are more than 700 not-for-profit organizations in Herkimer and Oneida Counties, NY. They provide much-needed programs and services such as child care, education and health care and employ thousands of people. For the past three years the local Partnership for Nonprofit Leadership Enterprise Excellence has supported and strengthened area not-for-profits through the Board Leadership Seminar series. Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, The Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, and United Way of the Valley and Greater Utica Area partnered to offer the training.

Board Member Profile: Michael C. Wicks, Ph.D.



Mike Wicks does a lot of things that help you sleep at night. You just don't know it.

He recently retired as the Senior Scientist for Sensor Signal Processing, Sensors Directorate, at the Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome, NY. “I’m retired, but through a cooperative agreement at the University of Dayton, I can continue work for the Air Force.” Dr. Wicks specialized in the science and technology needed for superior U.S. air and space systems for reconnaissance, surveillance, precision engagement and electronic warfare. He holds 15 U.S. patents, and has authored or co-authored two books, several book chapters, and more than 300 journal, conference and technical papers.

Fortunately for the Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, he also has time to serve on the C.A.B. Foundation Board of Directors, which oversees Vehicles for Vision. “Our employees (at CABVI) have such great skills that I want to find new opportunities for them here and in the community. They have a great work ethic.”

Dr. Wicks began his career with the Air Force in 1981 when he joined the Air Force Research Laboratory. He advanced to senior engineer by 1990, principal engineer by 1998 and assumed the position, from which he retired, in 2002. His technical expertise encompasses space-time adaptive processing, advanced algorithm development and ultra-wideband radar, including antennas. Additionally, his expertise includes polarimetric sensor signal processing, S-band inverse synthetic aperture radar imaging, knowledge-base applications to radar signal processing, concealed weapon detection, ground-penetrating radar, bistatic radar, and radar systems engineering... in other words, keeping an eye on what the bad guys are doing.

So you can sleep at night.

Braille Group Makes Contribution



Seated (l-r): Dennis Webster, VP of Manufacturing and Marketing, CABVI, Eilene Edwards, Joan Frankland, Vincent Salatino, VP of Operations, CABVI, Carol Heschel, Janet Burt.
Standing (l-r): Betsy Bonsel, Dr. Susan Blatt, Barbara Starnes, Mary Byrd, Nancy Hester, Betty Hulsaver, Jane Gwise, Nancy Rooney, Cheri Sassman.

The Mohawk Valley Braille Transcribers made a recent donation of \$10,000 to CABVI, in memory of longtime Brailist Elizabeth Crandall, who passed away earlier this year.

Founded in 1973 the Mohawk Valley Braille Transcribers work year-round to transcribe school textbooks into Braille. Twenty-two volunteers, many of whom are retired teachers, spent 11,145 hours to produce 53,317 Braille pages in 2010. They distributed these pages to 20 states.

“We value the close relationship CABVI has with the Mohawk Valley Braille Transcribers,” said Rudy D’Amico, President and CEO of CABVI. “They are a dedicated group of volunteers committed to helping people who are blind to experience the wonders of the written word.”

Save These Dates!



12th Annual Norman E. Bramley Memorial Golf Tournament

Saturday, September 17

**Hidden Valley Golf Club
Whitesboro, NY**

**8 am Registration
9 am Shotgun start**

\$80 per player

18 Holes/Cart

Lunch at the turn.

Chicken BBQ

Lots of Prizes

**Call Dan Kinney
315-736-0534**

Proceeds benefit CABVI

NBT Bank Presents **DARK DINING**

An evening with Sen. Joe Griffo

A Central New York tradition returns!

Saturday, October 15

Yahnundasis Golf Club
Seneca Turnpike
New Hartford, NY

6 - 7 p.m.
Social Hour, Open Bar,
Silent Auction

7 - 7:15 p.m. Seating

7:15 p.m. - Dinner:
THE ULTIMATE! CULINARY!
SENSORY! EXPERIENCE! (Wait until you see what executive chef Jason Monohan has cooked up this year!)

\$100 per person. \$700 table of eight. Limited seating.

For information call 315-797-2233 or email steveg@cabvi.org



Gifts in Memory

February 15 to June 15, 2011

Ormston Aldred

Rudy and Anne D'Amico

Virginia Alsante

Rudy and Anne D'Amico

Everett Arthur

Beverly Johnson
Rome City Court
Daniel C. Wilson

Wesley Beck

Ruth M Beck

Marie Brennan

Susan Rocco-Frahasio

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Mr. and Mrs. Philip Hall

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Dominic and Angeline Papa

Louis and Madeline Franco
Michael and Louise Hornung
Charles and Beatrice Papa
Donald and Lisa Stanyon

John Schivone

Barrett and Jacquelyne Gates

Legacy Society

Generous contributors help the Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired provide our vision rehabilitation services without charge. Tens of thousands of people who are blind or visually impaired have benefitted from your generosity through the years.

CABVI created the Legacy Society, to honor individuals whose gifts through wills, life insurance, retirement plans and various charitable trusts or annuities have already been received or will someday accrue to the agency.

You can join the CABVI Legacy Society by naming CABVI in your will for a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your net residual estate. If you have a will already an amendment called a codicil should suffice.

Following is sample wording of a bequest codicil:
I give to the Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired of Utica, New York, _____ dollars (\$_____) or _____% of my net residual estate.

We are deeply grateful to each and every donor for their thoughtful commitment to the future financial well being of the Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired. For more information about the Legacy Society, please call Mary Monahan, Public Relations and Development Specialist at (315)797-2233.



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Established in 1929, CABVI is a not-for-profit agency that serves people who are blind or visually impaired, from newborns to the elderly, usually at no charge. Our staff of professionals offers comprehensive vision rehabilitation, employment, and technology services personally tailored to people with visual impairments. **Our mission is to assist people who are blind or visually impaired achieve their highest levels of independence.**

VISION EXPO WELLNESS FAIR



Saturday October 1, 2011
10 am - 1 pm

Central Association for the Blind
and Visually Impaired
507 Kent St., Utica, NY

Presentation
Macular Degeneration:
Diagnosis and Treatment
Joseph Gale, M.D.,
Vitreoretinal Surgeon



Meet many Oneida County health and service providers
and learn how they can help you.



Oneida County Office
for the Aging
& Continuing Care



Oneida County
Department of
Health



Door Prizes and Refreshments!

Vision friendly equipment available for purchase:
bold faced watches, talking clocks, ultra-bright lamps,
sunglasses, large print address books, check registers,
bold calendars, and more.

Questions? Call toll free (877)719-9996



An Event of

**Central Association
for the Blind
and Visually Impaired**

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