

CABViews & News

Central Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired

Rehabilitation Department

Winter/Spring 2010



Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

Marty Jones Volunteer of the Year

The Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired held its annual volunteer recognition luncheon on November 4, 2009 at the Radisson Hotel, Utica. Volunteers of the agency enjoyed a wonderfully delicious buffet lunch while the “Four Dads” barbershop quartet entertained with their singing. CABVI’s employee, Bob Porter, Assistant Production Coordinator/Call Center Staff Facilitator, is a member of the barbershop quartet.

Paula Flisnik, CABVI’s Director of Volunteers, hosted the event. Speakers at the luncheon included Ashley Chruscicki, student, Alvina Bord, Lady Lion,

and Joe Merlan, Central Industries employee. All spoke on behalf of their various involvements with the agency. Marty Jones received the volunteer of the year award, and Kristen Spicer was awarded the Anne Sullivan Macy Fund Excellus Scholarship. Rudy D’Amico, CABVI’s President and CEO, gave a special thanks to everyone.





Seasonings

Falling Flakes Family Fair

On December 5, 2009, thirty-six children, including nineteen that are visually impaired, along with their parents, CABVI staff and volunteer family members, Utica Lion's Auxiliary, Lion's Club members, as well as teen and college-age volunteers, arrived at CABVI amidst snowflakes and other holiday decorations. Guests were greeted by a canine receptionist and Guide Dog, Glory, at her "dog house", where she was accepting donations of pet food to benefit the Stevens-Swan Humane Society.

Guests were able to visit various activity stations, including ornament making, holiday tattoos, cookie and cupcake decorating, glitter snowflakes,

karaoke, holiday picture frames and window decorating. A popcorn cart and snowcone machine added to the fair atmosphere, as did some wandering costumed characters, Scrooge, Rudolph, Frosty and three princesses, handing out treats. Holiday photos with Rudolph and Frosty posed in front of a winter scene, filled the children's newly created frames.

Lunch was provided, while a wandering minstrel sang holiday songs and the Ziyara Shriners' Clowns entertained with balloon creations. Lastly, a visit from the Utica Zoo-Mobile.

Santa's Station, provided the visually impaired children and siblings with gifts of Braille or print holiday books and stuffed animals from the Kohl's Cares for Kids Program or the National Braille Press, courtesy of the Utica Lion's Auxiliary.

For information concerning children's services: **contact Linda McMurray, Manager of Children's Services, at extension 1227.**



Blind Curling Comes to CABVI!

On January 24, 2010, nine blind and visually impaired individuals participated in the first blind curling team instruction session at the Utica Curling Club located on Clarks Mills Road in Whitesboro, NY.

What is curling? Curling is an ice sport that originated in Scotland and is now played in thirty-five nations. Curling is a popular game at the Winter Olympics. A team of four members compete to deliver or curl eight stones across the ice into the “house” or bull’s eye. The team with the closest stones to the center of the bull’s eye receives points.

So where does CABVI fit in? Blind curling is very popular in Canada and Scotland, but not yet in the United States. CABVI has partnered with the Utica Curling Club to begin a blind curling team that could possibly compete in the 2018 Winter Paralympic Games. The team has just started instruction and practicing, but all participants are very excited to have the opportunity to be part of an “up and coming” adaptive sport.

The team reserved Wednesday afternoons for practice and games. A new season will start back up in October 2010. For more information, **Contact Laura Yakey, Rehab Case Manager, at extension 1302 with any questions.**

**“We help people who
don’t see well live
like those who do.”**

The CCTV

The Closed Circuit Television (From Wikipedia) CCTV: “is defined as the use of video cameras to transmit a signal to a specific place, on a limited set of monitors.” CCTV technology is commonly used in surveillance by banks, airports, casinos and convenience stores as a means of security.

For those who are visually impaired, however, a CCTV or electronic magnification system can aid the reading of a variety of materials and facilitate handwriting activities as well. More simply stated, a camera is used to capture an image you want to see and to display it on a monitor. The most important advantage to the use of a CCTV is the fact that the image can be manipulated to meet the needs of the reader. This may mean increase the size, alter the contrast, add or remove color, or reverse the image giving it a black background with white print.

Today CCTV units come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Best known is the base unit, which has a platform table where reading material is placed under the camera. The table is moved from top to bottom and right and left during reading. This type is best suited for reading and writing activities in a permanent setting. This could include reading the newspaper, checking a phone number, looking at photos, writing checks, addressing an envelope and even cutting your nails. The latest evolution in base units are those that can be used for near and distant viewing. This is a real plus for academic pursuits.

The hottest development in CCTV technology is the portable unit. Portable units have their own screens, often with all the features found on base units. Hand held units have allowed freedom for the viewer to move about the work site, at school, or any activity where the individual is reading in a more public location. Many units are equipped with “freeze frame” capability, allowing the viewer to hold an image for

closer observation when necessary.

In summary, if you or someone you know feels CCTV technology would be helpful; they need to ask themselves some important questions:

What am I going to use it for?

Where am I going to use it?

Have I discussed this with my eye care professional?

How much of an investment am I prepared to make?

At CABVI many examples of the models discussed are available for viewing. CCTV prices start at \$400.00.

An appointment should be made with Wayne Campbell, at extension 1240, to try units before any decision is made.

This agency is focused on making sure the appropriate device supporting your needs is chosen rather than just making a sale.



The CABVI Library

Did you know that CABVI has a free lending library? Located in the Kent Street building just down the hall from the Turnbull Low Vision Center, the CABVI free library offers a selection of large print books and recorded books on cassette and CD.

The library is open during CABVI hours and is completely free, no fees or membership required. Materials need only be signed out, and returned at your earliest convenience.

An extensive variety of authors and titles are available in fiction and non-fiction, including biographical selections, self-help, romance, science fiction, mystery, westerns and historical accounts.

Please feel free to stop into the lending library anytime during CABVI hours, Monday thru Friday 8:00 - 4:30.

Patty Gates
Rehab Dept Assistant,
extension 1303.



CABVI Receives Veteran's Administration Pajama Contract

The Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, November 6, 2009, celebrating the newly acquired Veteran's Administration pajama contract. CABVI was awarded a five-year contract to sew pajama tops and bottoms for VA hospitals, totalling 340,000 individual garments.

The pajama contract has resulted in hiring eight new sewers and two material handlers. "This is the largest sewing contract in the history of CABVI," said Dennis Webster, Vice President of Manufacturing.

"Everyone is excited at producing top quality garments for our men and women in uniform," Webster also stated.

Blind and Visually Impaired Summer Bowling League

Blind and Visually Impaired Tenpin Bowling is a very popular adaptive sport in the United States. With adaptive equipment and sighted guides anyone that is blind or visually impaired can bowl like a pro.

CABVI is starting a summer bowling league for those that are blind and visually impaired. The league is planned to start in mid – June and run for about 6 weeks. For those interested in participating, the cost will be \$5.00 per week that includes 2 games, shoes and transportation. If you are interested in participating, please contact Adaptive Sports Coordinator, Laura Yakey, at (315) 797-2233 extension 1302.

CABVI Sight Shoppe



One Touch Can Opener

The One Touch Can Opener is the easy automatic way to open cans. Just place it on the top of the can, press the button and the can opens hands free. The One Touch “walks around” the top of the can and shuts off automatically when cutting is finished. After the can is opened, just lift the lid off. Its that easy! Price: \$24.00



Reizen Talking Weight Scale

Features include:
English or Spanish Voice
Large LCD Screen
Weight in KG or LB
Low Battery Indicator
Price: \$65.00

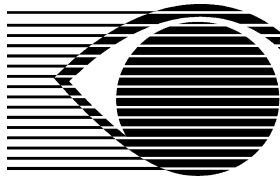
For these and other products, contact the CABVI Sight Shoppe at extension 1239.

How to Support CABVI?

State and federal funding does not cover the total cost of providing services to visually impaired consumers. If you are grateful for the rehabilitation services you received and would like to support the agency’s on-going initiatives, you may send your tax deductible contributions to:

CABVI
507 Kent Street
Utica, NY 13501

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Central Association
for the Blind
and Visually Impaired

To add your name to the agency's mailing list, call 315-797-2233.
This publication is available in braille or tape edition upon re-
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**FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND
OR HANDICAPPED**

**Central Association for the
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Utica, NY 13501**