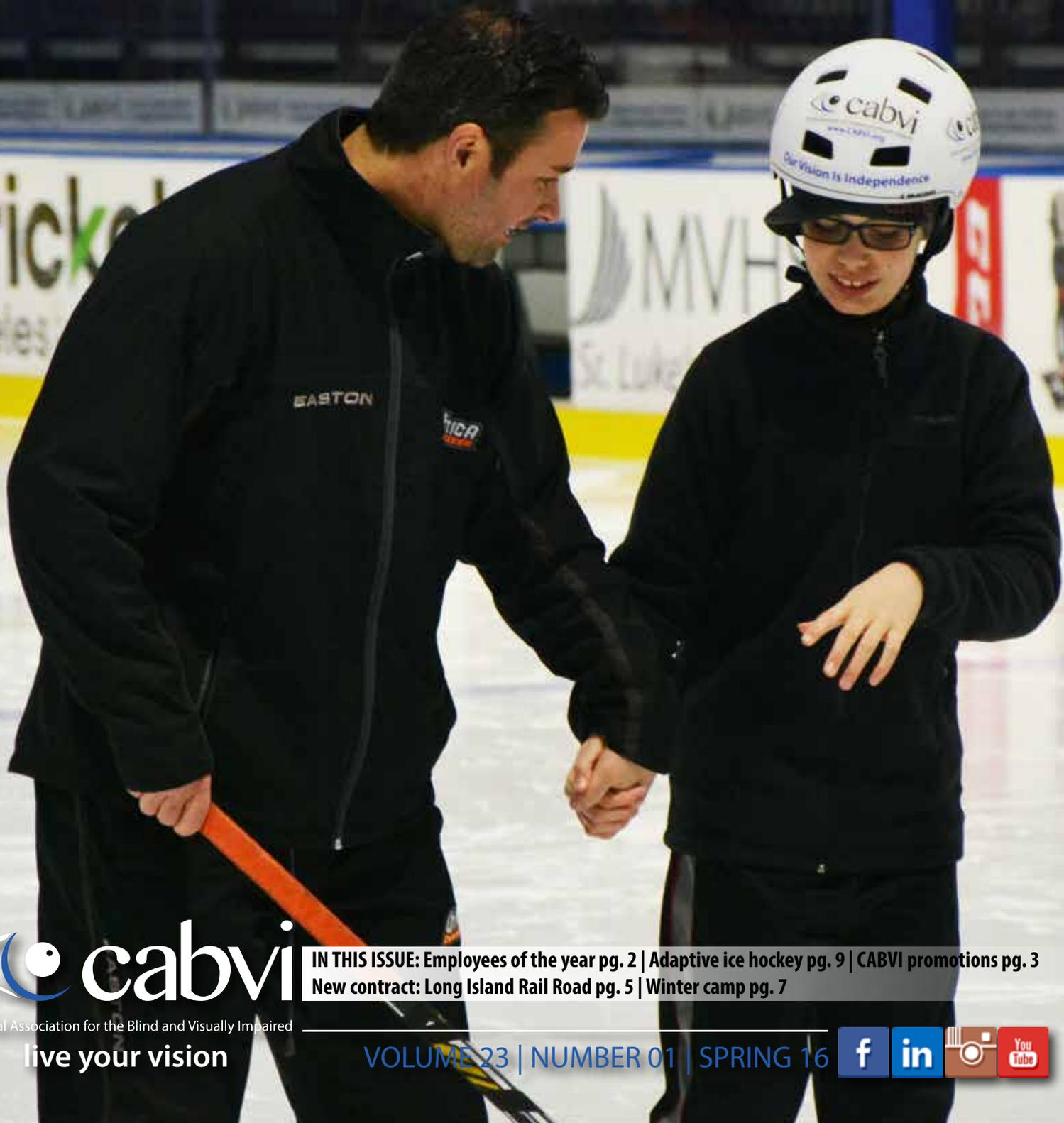


FOCUS



Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired

live your vision

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FOCUS

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www.cabvi.org

Cover photo: Utica College Men's Hockey coach and CABVI CNY Vision Foundation Board Member, Gary Heenan, teaches a youth camper how to skate.

Focus is a publication of the CABVI Public Relations Department.

Pam DelMedico
Publisher

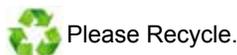
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Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired

live your vision



Rudy D'Amico
President and CEO

Welcome to the 2016 spring edition of FOCUS. Our team has worked hard to redesign and reinvigorate our newsletter (also available in an email version) to better meet the needs of our readers and CABVI family.

In this issue, you will read about the advances of our Adaptive Sports and Recreation program, meet our CABVI employees of the year, and get updates on some of our products and services.

2016 has started off with a bang and we look forward to what the rest of the year has to offer.

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CABVI employees of the year



Wayne LeGault



Barbara Castaldo

The Peter J. Salmon Employee of the Year award was established in 1968 by the National Industries for the Blind (NIB) Board of Directors to honor individuals who are blind that perform a direct labor, manufacturing, or service operation.

Wayne LeGault is CABVI's nominee for this year's Peter J. Salmon Employee of the Year award.

CABVI is happy to have Wayne as a member of the team. A qualified mason, carpenter, and electrician, he brings a unique sense of humor to work each day. His supervisor, Steve Niermeyer, Director of Manufacturing, says Wayne is one of the agency's most productive employees. "I often think Wayne is on a mission to supply all 460 airports with their security gloves by himself.

"He works while carrying on almost non-stop banter about anything and everything with his friends on the glove line. He's knowledgeable about many topics and helps with issues whenever he can."

CABVI's Sunshine Club, of which Wayne is a member, celebrates employee birthdays, expresses regret when an employee or family member passes, and works tirelessly to maintain morale. The Sunshine Club holds a monthly raffle to raise a few dollars for cards and flowers when needed.

"Drawing the tickets from an old jar wasn't good enough for Wayne," said Mary Dougherty, CABVI Receptionist. "He felt we needed something more dignified and befitting. Well he spent months and, with

the help of his granddaughter and wife, built a ticket machine that we've started using to pick our monthly winners. It is quite ingenious."

Wayne's been featured in radio advertisements for CABVI. "It's unfortunate – what happened to me and my sight, but I can make something good from it. If I can help people who went through what I did, get them the help they need without waiting almost 10 years, then I can say I've done good work."

The NIB and National Association for the Employment of People Who Are Blind (NAEPB) committees will meet to select recommendations for the national winner and the NIB Board of Directors will have final approval. The winner will be presented with the award at the 2016 NIB/NAEPB National Conference and Expo.

The New York State Preferred Source Program (NYSPSP) for People Who Are Blind is a state-mandated action to create and sustain employment opportunities for individuals in New York who are blind or visually impaired. 2016 is the first year that NYSPSP will give an employee of the year award.

Barbara Castaldo has been working here at CABVI for three years. She currently works in the production department of CABVI packing NYS examination gloves. Her production is excellent and her overall dedication to her job is admirable. Barbara is quite resilient and overcomes any personal obstacle that comes her way.

Barbara received technology training from Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany (NABA) and has exceptional computer skills. She also received a certificate in transcription from Lighthouse International in New York City. Her prior work history includes Call Center Operations at the Albany Stratton VA Medical Center as well as many years working on a federal project in the manufacturing division of NABA. Her Braille skills are outstanding and she is a very talented and creative knitter.

Barbara's attitude is always positive and she is a pleasure to have as part of our CABVI family, therefore she is our 2016 nominee of the NYSPSP Employee of the Year Award.

CABVI announces recent promotions



Dennis Webster,
Senior Vice President of
Production & Operations



Katie Humphreys,
Vice President of
Products & Distribution



Jessica Watson,
Vice President of
Services



Julie Byrne,
Vice President of
Human Resources



Robert Porter,
Director of
Public Policy



Angela Walker,
Director of
Customer Service



Kathleen Abruzzese,
Director of
Warehouse & Distribution

CABVI recently promoted seven employees. Dennis Webster, Katie Humphreys, Jessica Watson, Julie Byrne, Robert Porter, Angela Walker and Kathleen Abruzzese.

Dennis Webster, a dedicated CABVI employee for nearly 16 years, has been promoted to Senior Vice President of Production & Operations. Dennis has a bachelor of science degree in business management from Utica College and received his master of business administration (MBA) from SUNY Poly. At CABVI, he started out as a coordinator and worked his way through various positions to get where he is today.

Katie Humphreys, promoted to VP of Products & Distribution, has been a CABVI employee for 10 years. Katie received her bachelor of arts degree in Psychology at Arcadia University and her MBA with an emphasis on marketing from SUNY Poly. She began as

the Sales & Marketing Coordinator and then became the New Product Development Manager before taking on her new position.

Jessica Watson has been with CABVI for five years. She received her bachelor of arts degree from SUNY Oneonta in Childhood Education and received her MBA online from Kaplan University. Jessica started at CABVI as a contact center manager and worked her way up to her latest promotion as the VP of Services.

Julie Byrne, now VP of Human Resources, has worked in the human resources field for 15 years and has been a proud employee of CABVI for 10. Julie's career at CABVI started as a Human Resource Assistant and previous growth opportunities within CABVI included HR Manager and Director of HR before her most recent promotion.

Julie received her Professional in Human Resources certification through the Human Resource Certification Institute in 2011 and maintains the certification standards and knowledge with continuous experience, education, and training.

Robert Porter, recently promoted to the Director of ISO & Public Policy, has been with CABVI for 11 years. Robert received his bachelor's degree in economics from Hamilton College and his MBA in marketing and operations management from Syracuse University. Robert worked for CABVI from 1990-1995 but left to work at his family business for the next 14 years. Robert returned to CABVI six years ago.

Robert's new position will entail making changes to the current quality management system to meet the requirements of the new quality standard and more coordination between top management and production.

Angela Walker has been with CABVI for 18 years and was recently promoted to Director of Customer Service. She received her Associate Degree in Business Administration from the Utica School of Commerce. Angela will now become more involved with the interaction of customers and is looking forward to her new position.

Kathleen Abruzzese, Director of Warehouse & Distribution, has been with CABVI for six and a half years. Kathleen has her BA from SUNY Empire State in Business Administration. She is looking forward to the opportunity to manage scheduled import containers as CABVI receives 500-600 per year.

"We are so proud to announce these recent promotions," said Rudy D'Amico, CABVI President and CEO.

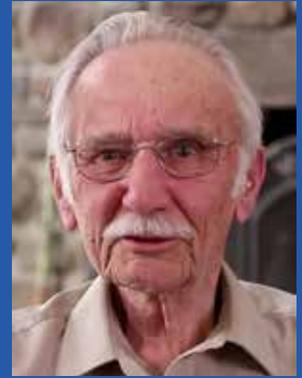
"Congratulations to all the recent recipients. Your hard work is appreciated and we look forward to your continued growth and success here at CABVI."

If you are receiving this newsletter in error please let us know by calling the CABVI Public Relations Department at (315) 797-2233 or emailing pamelad@cabvi.org

Hi, I'm Bill Corrigan.

I've dedicated most of my life to the mission of the Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired as a volunteer and a contributor.

I haven't needed their services. I've been lucky. But it's nice to know they are available in case I do.



LEGACY
Society

There's something else I've done that I'd like you to consider too... that is if you haven't already done so: Leave a legacy gift to CABVI and become a member of our Legacy Society. My gift is through life insurance. I named CABVI the beneficiary of a policy. My premiums are tax deductible.

That's just one type of legacy gift. Others may include a bequest to CABVI in your will or a charitable remainder trust or charitable annuity. There are even ways for you or a loved one to generate some income and still ensure a healthy future for people who are blind or visually impaired throughout the area.

Please consider a Legacy Gift to CABVI. If you want more information or guidance I ask that you contact the Legacy professionals at CABVI. They're nice people who will help you balance your desire to assist the agency to continue its good work and have the greatest impact on people who are blind or visually impaired. You can reach them at (315) 797-2233.

William L. Corrigan, Honorary Chairman
CABVI Legacy Campaign

P.S. If you've already designated CABVI as the benefactor of a Legacy Gift, please let them know. If you have email you can also drop them a line at legacy@cabvi.org.

CABVI earns 2015 employment growth award from National Industries for the Blind

Award Honors Success in Sustaining and Increasing Employment for people who are blind

National Industries for the Blind (NIB), the nation's largest employment resource for people who are blind, recently honored CABVI with the 2015 Employment Growth Award. The award recognizes CABVI's efforts to increase employment retention, growth and upward mobility for people who are blind.

"We are proud to provide employment opportunities for people who are blind and visually impaired in Central New York," said Rudy D'Amico, CABVI President and CEO.

"We are honored to serve as an example in the community of the capabilities of people who are visually impaired. Our team members who are blind represent a qualified, dedicated, and loyal workforce.

They play an integral part in providing products and services to the federal government."

CABVI currently has 252 employees, 112 of whom are blind or visually impaired.

Employment Growth Award recipients receive a cash payment from a fund created to recognize and encourage NIB associated nonprofit agencies that grow or sustain employment for people who are blind. Emphasis is also placed on efforts to increase upward mobility in the workplace and job placements.

"It is an honor for me to recognize CABVI with a 2015 Employment Growth Award," said Kevin, Lynch, NIB President and CEO. "CABVI continues to lead the way in creating employment and high-growth career opportunities for people who are blind."

Long Island Rail Road employees now utilizing gloves from CABVI

CABVI has entered into a new three-year contract with the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) to provide exam grade nitrile and work gloves to each employee.

CABVI's Sales and Marketing team worked to gain the LIRR contract under the AbilityOne program. CABVI was able to secure the new contract and is working to place the new glove lines on the state procurement list. This new contract was established in partnership with Northern Safety, a local distributor for personal protective equipment, and will allow CABVI to keep a more diverse glove inventory.

"By working with Northern Safety and winning the LIRR glove contract, we are able to continue providing gainful employment for people who are blind and visually impaired, giving them independence and dignity while performing at the highest standards," explained Joseph Madia, Senior Expeditor and Project Manager. "In addition, CABVI can continue to offer

vision rehabilitation services, most of which at no charge, to blind and visually impaired consumers as a result of the LIRR contract."

The first orders for the LIRR glove contract began in November 2015 and CABVI expects to reach sales of \$1.5 million over the life of the contract.

With each new contract addition there is growth and job stability given to people in this community who are blind and visually impaired.

"CABVI continues to be an economic engine in our community," said Rudy D'Amico, CABVI President and CEO. "Because of partnerships like this one with the LIRR and Northern Safety, CABVI is able to continue to provide meaningful employment and comprehensive rehabilitation services to people who are blind and visually impaired in Central New York."

CABVI enters partnership with Mountainside Medical Equipment



Martin Zarnock, of Mountainside Medical Equipment, visits with CABVI employees while working on the Naloxone Kit project.

The ravage of opioid abuse is becoming a nationwide epidemic, whether through prescription pain killers, or the use of illegal drugs like heroin.

As lawmakers and healthcare professionals struggle to develop plans to stem the tide of abuse CABVI is playing an important role to help keep people alive.

In partnership with Mountainside Medical Equipment and New York State, CABVI is assembling Naloxone Kits to be distributed to law enforcement officers and drug treatment centers.

According to WebMD, Naloxone can reverse the effects of an overdose of heroin or some types of painkillers. Paramedics and emergency room doctors have used it for years to save lives.

“We are pleased to have been approved by the Office of General Services to work on this important project that will not only save lives, but also help to sustain employment opportunities for the blind and visually impaired,” explained Cindy Bloom, Marketing and Product Development Coordinator. “Working with Mountainside Medical Equipment has been a positive experience on many levels.”

The Naloxone Kits will be assembled at CABVI headquarters; however, the lifesaving drug Naloxone will be placed in the kits by Mountainside Medical Equipment. Naloxone reverses the effects of opioid drug overdoses on the brain and revives the individual within two to five minutes. When an overdose occurs, law enforcement is typically first on the scene therefore it is important to get these kits to the right people.

“Working with CABVI to prepare Naloxone Kits, we can proudly support their service to the community while providing necessary supplies to New York State organizations in order to combat the opioid epidemic,” said Brian Cooley, Business Development at Mountainside Medical Equipment.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for CABVI. Creating employment for people with vision loss and working with local businesses both help to further CABVI’s mission,” said Rudy D’Amico, CABVI President and CEO.

PHOTO SPREAD

Visit cabvi.org or follow us on Facebook for more great photos from Camp Week!

Winter Camp Abilities-CABVI: Feb. 18 - Feb. 21, 2016



Learning survival skills, like how to make fire



Taking a selfie!



Ice fishing on Raquette Lake



Making banners to show team spirit!



Cross Country Skiing



COVER STORY

Adaptive ice hockey comes to Central New York



Campers from the Camp Abilities-CABVI program pose with Trax, the Utica College Pioneers mascot.

As a United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) Sports Club and a US Paralympic Sports Club, CABVI is on the forefront of innovative adaptive sports and recreation activities for people who are blind and visually impaired. One such activity is adaptive ice hockey.

Recently, the campers of Camp Abilities-CABVI faced off against players from the Utica College Pioneers men's and women's hockey teams.

One of the first items adapted for use in blind ice hockey is the puck. The puck is larger than a regulation puck, and also incorporates objects inside which make noise when the puck is hit or in motion. When play begins or is restarted in a face-off, the players are only allowed to touch the puck once the referee blows the whistle. This allows a fair environment for those who may not see as well or have total loss of vision compared to other players on the ice. Scoring is allowed only in the bottom three feet of the net and at least one pass must be made prior to the shot so the goalie is able to track the puck position and attempt to prevent the goal. All goalies are totally blind. The necessary protective equipment and hockey rules are in place to ensure everyone is safe and plays properly.

At CABVI, consumers participate in a wide variety of activities such as bowling, goalball, nordic and alpine skiing, and snowshoeing to name a few. However, ice hockey teams are not yet something which is common for individuals with vision loss. Kathy Beaver, CABVI Vice President of Rehabilitation, recognized that the Central New York area certainly has a fondness for hockey. "We are incredibly fortunate to have exceptional hockey teams with Utica College and the Utica Comets", she said.

Kathy initially contacted Gary Heenan, head coach of Utica College men's ice hockey program, to see if there was a possibility of collaborating and getting the youth involved. The idea is to have hockey first begin as an activity, with the future goal of having an actual team.

Kathy also reached out to the only existing US blind hockey team based in Newburgh, NY – the New York Nightshades. Kathy, and rehabilitation interns, Tyler Kallasy and Cara Kernoschak, traveled to Newburgh to learn to play and brought the game to camp. Blaise Bryant, goalie for the Nightshades, was able to help teach blind hockey alongside the Utica College players at the Utica Memorial Auditorium to help support the campers.

"It's great to see so many people willing to take on leadership roles and to learn the game," said Kathy. "CABVI looks forward to participation levels flourishing and the CABVI youth hockey team becoming a reality soon!"



Blaise Bryant, goalie for the Nightshades.

CABVI Couture Designer Draw

In its fourth year, the CABVI Couture Fashion Show has taken on new life as a designer raffle.

Inspired by women, organized by women, to benefit women – CABVI Couture has become the premier fashion event in our area. This year's raffle will give our lucky winners the opportunity to win some exciting, high-end, prizes while providing a fun and educational setting for the community to learn more about CABVI's programs and services.

1st Prize: Two night stay in NYC with travel accommodations and

\$500 spending cash (\$1,700 Value)

2nd Prize: Louis Vuitton Speedy 35 Hand Bag

3rd Prize: \$200 gift card to Ancora

Over 175 women attended the 2015 CABVI Couture Fashion Show and helped to raise money for women's health and wellness programs. From healthy cooking instruction to adaptive group fitness classes, this event helps to ensure these programs and services will be available to the women who need them in Central New York.

Join us May 5th at 5pm as we announce the winners and enjoy a cash bar get-together at Ancora in downtown Utica!

Designer Draw raffle tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased through CABVI. **Only 600 tickets will be sold!!** Please contact Mary Fletcher, Development & Public Relations Coordinator, for more information at (315) 797-2233. (Need not be present to win | CABVI GC 30-103-160-0548)

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The Skeleton Key to host CABVI Day

The Skeleton Key brings you a pulse pounding experience that puts you and your team in a race against time where you need to find clues to survive. Imagine being stuck in a basement with a blood sucking vampire who's looking for a fresh human and you happen to be on the menu. Can you escape in 60 minutes?

They have teamed up with CABVI to bring you the first ever CABVI Day, Sunday, April 17. This event has never taken place before... History is being made in your backyard and half the gross proceeds for the entire day will go back to CABVI. The Skeleton Key is located at 138 Main Street in Oneida, N.Y.

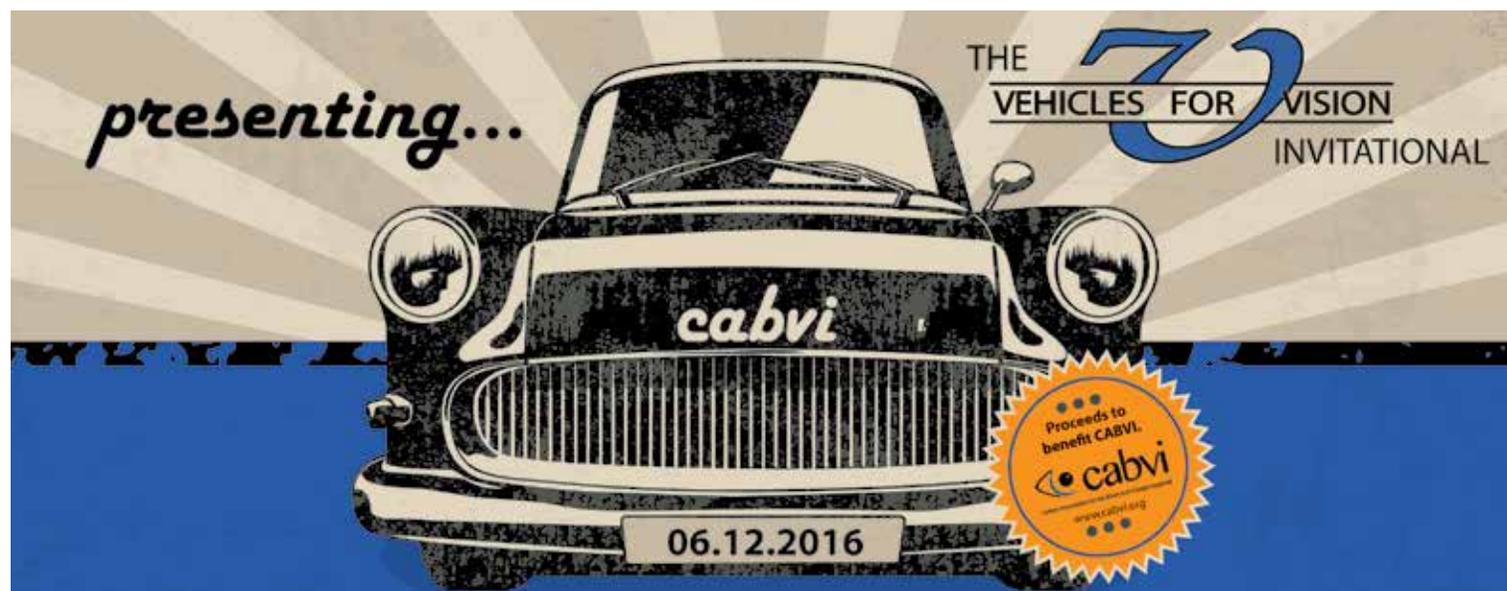
Founded in December 2015, The Skeleton Key is fairly new. They have made their mark on the area by being a top tier room puzzle attraction. They are also the first

and only escape room in Oneida where the players are locked in a room and must work together to escape.

The Skeleton Key offers four different mind-bending, thought provoking, adventures. Their experiences include: Dracula's Lair, Moscow is Silent, Cypher and their newest addition, The Crack House. The Skeleton Key is open Friday from 3pm-10pm and Saturday -Sunday from 11am-10pm, the cost of admission is \$20 per person.

For more information or to book time slots, find The Skeleton Key on Facebook at facebook.com/TheSkeletonKeyOneida or their website the-skeleton-key.com/oneida.

THE SKELETON KEY



Please join us Sunday, June 12, 2016 for the first ever

Vehicles for Vision Invitational Car Show!

Car show: 3-5pm | Dinner event: 5:30-7:30pm (Tickets \$50 each)

The Yahnundasis Golf Club, New Hartford, NY

Enjoy a lovely afternoon browsing three different car categories; pre-war, post-war, and modified. Stay for a charitable dinner to benefit the programs and services of CABVI. Guests will also have the opportunity to participate in a live auction featuring car related items and car-inspired artwork.

Call Mary Fletcher, Development & Public Relations Coordinator, to reserve seats or for more information (315) 797-2233.

Chester Triplett is coming to Utica in support of CABVI's tandem cycling team



Chester Triplett and Kyle Knott during training.

Chester Triplett, a recent qualifier for the 2016 UCI Para-Cycling Track World Championship held in Italy, is coming to Utica in support of CABVI's tandem cycling team.

Chester is also a part of R5-PARA; a nationally ranked tandem cycling team which pairs visually impaired cyclists with those with a non-limited range of eyesight. As a 35 year old Army veteran who began losing his central vision due to Stargardts disease while serving on active duty, Chester began racing in the Paralympic cycling division in 2010. He met Kathy Beaver, Alex Davis, and Tiffany Mitrakos during a USABA and VA Sports conference last year.

"I am very fortunate to have had a lot of support over the years," said Chester. "I cannot emphasize enough how effective all of the mechanisms were, ranging from the Veteran's Blind Rehabilitation Center in Birmingham, AL, to teammate's I raced and trained with on tandem in the Paralympic cycling division. The CABVI Staff had an impact as well. It's passion like CABVI's, for working with BVI people and Veteran's, that inspired me to work together with my R5-PARA teammate and my Coach to help raise money and support CABVI's mission - keeping blind and visually impaired people like me, in the fight."

In 2015, Chester and his R5-PARA teammate raised money during a Paralympic Tandem bike lap in South Carolina to benefit Camp Abilities-CABVI. This year,

Chester is coming to Utica to help spread the work about adaptive sports for people who are blind and visually impaired.

Chester Triplett and the CABVI tandem cycling team will be at Tom Cavallo's Restaurant in New Hartford, N.Y. on The Deck Sunday, April 10 from 4-6pm. Come join us for some food, fun and information. You and your family can meet the team and hear from Chester about his journey and challenges over the years. All proceeds benefit CABVI's tandem cycling team and their participation in The Ride for Missing Children on June 3.

Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased at cabvi.org or by calling Pam DelMedico, Public Relations Manager, at (315) 797-2233.

A graphic with a dark grey background. At the top, a cluster of colorful circular icons includes envelopes, @ symbols, dollar signs, and globes. Below the icons, the word "FOCUS" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Underneath "FOCUS", the text "is now digital" is in a smaller white font, followed by "sign up today at" in a yellow font, and "cabvi.org or call Mary Fletcher at 1-877-719-9996" in a yellow font. At the bottom left, the CABVI logo is displayed, consisting of a stylized eye icon, the word "cabvi" in a white sans-serif font, and the full name "Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired" in a very small font below it. Underneath the logo, the phrase "live your vision" is written in a white sans-serif font.

CABVI *tributes*

11.01.2015 - 02.29.2016

In Memory

Louis Barile

Drs. Douglas Hurd and
Cynthia Parlato

Herbert Black

Ethel A. Abbott
Anonymous
April Austin
Kathy and Tad Beaver
Charles and Elizabeth Black
John and Gail Brett
Linda Cady
Linda Cassidy
Catholic Charities of
Herkimer County
Everson and Evelyn Clark
Edward and Carol Cornwell
Kathryn Coyne
Rudy and Anne D'Amico
Patrick and Mary Dougherty
Judith M. Ehrhart
Thomas and Nora Foley
Janet Fox
Cindy and P. Daniel Freudenberger
Michael Gooden
Ruth Gooden
Mitchel and Margaret Hansen
Richard and Gail Hardy
Earl and Evelyn Hudson
David and Mary Hughes
Richard and Barbara Krecidlo
Leta L. Laukaitis
Ruth Anne Lester
Geraldine Levy
Donald and Pat LoGuidice
Catherine Martin
Joan Matteson
Christine McCluskey
Linda Metzler
Richard and Betsy Harvey-Minutti
Benjamin V. Page
Richard and Linda Parton
Warren and Nancy Perry

Marilyn Racha
Rapid Response Monitoring
Remsen Barn Festival of the Arts
C. Eugene and Frances Rice
Richard and Debra Roberts
Terry Roos
Charles and Doris Roscup
Howard and Debbie Roscup
Bruce and Janet Ruggles
Bonnie Sanderson
Robert and Cheryl Shallish
Walter and Jo Ann Tomasik
Glenyce Trainor
Frederic and Bronwen VanNamee
Elizabeth Jane Visell
Nancy Wheeler
Tammilee E. Wike
Harold and Mary Williams
Richard and Gloria Yenny
Joan Ziajka

Grace Candella

James Carlo
Rudy and Anne D'Amico

Beverly Clarey

Andrew and Janet Clarey
Rudy and Anne D'Amico
Patrick and Mary Dougherty
Cindy and P. Daniel Freudenberger

Mary Clements

Kenneth and Marie Bord
Julie Byrne
Rudy and Anne D'Amico
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Lenore Falvo
Cindy and P. Daniel Freudenberger
Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel D. Hester
Drs. Douglas Hurd and
Cynthia Parlato
Nancy Jones
Edward and Kathleen Lasch
Kathryn Lasch
Leta L. Laukaitis

Donald and Pat LoGuidice
Col. and Mrs. Paul A. Steves
Utica Council of the Blind
Dennis and Kelly Webster
Tammilee E. Wike

Frances Grassi

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James Griffin
Erin G. Dinneen

Helen Guarino

James Carlo

Edward Hughes

Anonymous
Robert Booth
William and Julie Booth
Frank Cosamano
Cynthia Dardano
Luca and Gina Esposito
Melvin and Deborah Golowski
Rosalin Mazza
John and Catherine Nester
Marie Rowlands
Edward and Barbara Sergott
Ferhun and Kerstin Soykan
Bruce Thorne

Thomas Keller

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Joyce Kelsey

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Patrick and Mary Dougherty
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Kevin O'Connor

Mitchel and Margaret Hansen

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Mitchel and Margaret Hansen

Peter Talarico

Ann Pacilio

Jack Vincent

Elegant Motors
 Mitchel and Margaret Hansen

Ted Wind

Herkimer County Hunger Coalition

*In Honor***Kenneth D. Novak, M.D.**

Staff at Eye Associates of Utica, P.C.

Cynthia J. Parlato, M.D.

Staff at Eye Associates of Utica, P.C.

Robert Schmelcher

Robert Schmelcher

Joe's is a great story but it is not unique at CABVI. Through the years CABVI has helped thousands of people with vision loss remain independent.

One of those persons was Mabel Clark, Matron of the St. Luke's Home in Utica until her retirement in the early 1970s.

As her vision worsened her grandson, Harold T. "Tom" Clark brought her to CABVI for vision rehabilitation services. He remembered how she managed to continue her duties at the home because of CABVI.

Over time Tom has grown from doting grandson to pillar of the community. In 2011 he contacted CABVI and offered to give back to the organization that helped his grandmother and so many other persons like her. He volunteered to chair CABVI's annual Holiday Appeal. The community responded so overwhelmingly to Tom's message that he asked to chair the appeal again. Then again. And again.

2015 marked the fifth anniversary of Tom Clark's role as the Honorary Chairperson.

Over that period the campaign raised a half million dollars for vision rehabilitation, outreach, adaptive sports and recreation and Camp Abilities-CABVI.

Fortunately prospective donors need not wait for an appeal to arrive in their mailboxes. Please show your support for people who are blind in Central New York by making a gift to CABVI at www.cabvi.org.

Appeal Update

Spring 2015, Joe Merlan shared his story from unemployment to manager of CABVI Syracuse Industries. His sight deteriorating regularly, Joe took advantage of the opportunities CABVI's services provided to live his vision.

With your assistance the trajectory of Joe's career points up while he creates a better life for his growing family.

507 Kent Street Utica, NY 13501

Electronic Service Requested

Hon. RALPH J. EANNACE

CABVI Board member profile

The Honorable Ralph J. Eannace is currently a Utica City Court Judge. He was elected to the position in 2003 and re-elected in 2013. Judge Eannace is originally from Central NY and loves the community here. Early in his career he worked in municipal finance practice and economic development in New York City but decided to return to Central New York and continue in private practice and elder law. Prior to becoming a judge, Mr. Eannace served as Oneida County Executive from 1997-2003.



Honorable Ralph J. Eannace

Judge Eannace was first introduced to CABVI through his clients in elder law. His grandfather would receive assistance from CABVI with adaptive equipment. He feels great about what the agency provides in services and assistance to those with visual impairments. Judge Eannace continues to be amazed by how far CABVI has come through the years. "The Board steers the ship but CABVI is run by such competent and exciting individuals," he explained. He is proud that the company provides employment

opportunities to the visually impaired at prevailing wages and with health insurance.

Judge Eannace is especially fond of Camp Abilities–CABVI, and was able to visit once a few years back during a dance event.

"It is thrilling – the opportunities we give youth, allowing each child to explore his or her potential and showcase their amazing skills to peers, counselors, and family."

Judge Eannace would like to see CABVI expand employment opportunities and services in the future.

Judge Eannace will serve at the Utica City Court until his term ends in 2023. He hopes to stay active at CABVI, his church, the Stanley Board of Directors, and other community service.