

A Publication of the Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired

FOCUS

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VISITING NURSE SERVICE OF NEW YORK



VNS NY

Customer of the Year Award

CABVI Acknowledges Visiting Nurse Service of New York as 2019 Customer of the Year



FOCUS

FOCUS is an official publication of the **Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired**.

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www.cabvi.org

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Rudy D'Amico
President and CEO

CABVI is positioned to create more employment and add more services for people with vision loss than ever before. The future is bright with opportunities in every area of the agency fueling our growth.

Our employees have always been the heart and soul of CABVI, and their dedication to our mission drives our passion and enthusiasm. Each one of them have brought great credit upon themselves and this agency. Having been apart of this culture over the last 12 years, I can only thank all of our employees, consumers, Board of Directors, volunteers, and donors for all they have done for me and CABVI.

I leave the agency in good hands and will always continue to follow its amazing path to independence for all people with vision loss.

See you on the golf course.



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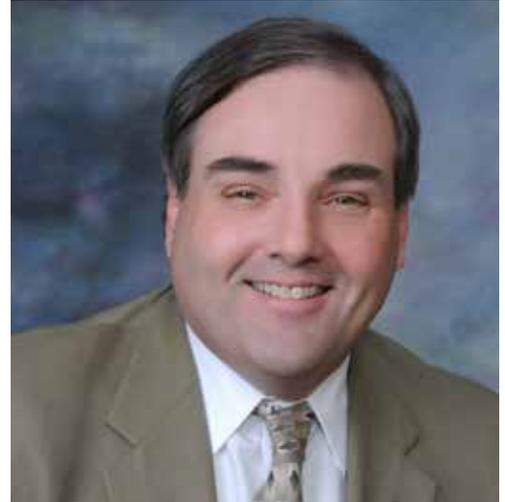
ANNOUNCING NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Board Chair, Jim Turnbull, and the addition of three new members: Gary Heenan, Debbie Kessler, and Michael Misiaszek.

James B. Turnbull, IV *Chair, Board of Directors*

Jim Turnbull is the co-owner of Turnbull Insurance and is the second generation of Turnbulls to fill the position of CABVI Board Chair. His father, the late Jim Turnbull, III, held the position from 1977-1984.

Jim has been an integral part to many successful milestones at CABVI, including the opening of the warehouse on Dwyer Avenue in Utica, the establishment of the Call Center at Kent Street and most recently, as co-chair of the Focus on the Future campaign, a \$14 million dollar expansion project that included the construction of the 23,000 square foot, Vision Health and Wellness Center on Elizabeth Street in Utica.



Gary Heenan

Gary Heenan is the head coach of the Utica College Men's Hockey team, and the only head coach in the program's history. Gary has opened the door for CABVI to introduce the game of hockey to individuals who are blind or visually impaired through the Learn to Skate program.



Deborah Kessler

Debbie Kessler is president of Kessler Promotions, which consists of public relations, trade shows, and connecting people and organizations within the community. She is a native of Rome, NY and attended Utica College, where she earned a bachelor's of science degree in public relations.



Hon. Michael J. Misiaszek

Michael Misizsek is currently the Oneida City Court judge. For over 35 years, he has been a private attorney with primary areas of practice including real estate, trusts, estates and estate planning, municipal law, criminal law, and family court. He is a partner in the law firm of Helmer, Johnson & Misiaszek, with offices in Oneida and Utica.

ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS



Luca Award

Don LoGuidice

The Luca Award is presented annually to an individual or organization that has made a significant impact on employment and upward mobility opportunities for people who are blind and visually impaired. The award honors former CABVI Vice President of Manufacturing, Luca Esposito.

The award was presented to Don LoGuidice, president emeritus.



Guiding Light Award

Gary Heenan

The Guiding Light Award is presented to an individual or group who has made a significant contribution leading to rehabilitation program expansion, and improved quality of service. Through collaboration with CABVI, this person, or group, significantly impacted programming and the lives of individuals with visual impairment.

The award was presented to Gary Heenan, head coach for the Utica College Men's Hockey team.

VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENTS

Elizabeth C. Crandall Volunteer of the Year Award

Donna Shelton

The Volunteer of the Year award is named after Elizabeth C. Crandall and mirrors her values. Crandall helped start the Mohawk Valley Braille Transcribers and dedicated her life to teaching and volunteering.

Donna Shelton received the award for volunteering 279 hours in 2018.



Roger Sinnott Leadership Award

John Calabrese

The Roger Sinnott Leadership Award recognizes, annually, the accomplishments of a volunteer in a leadership position at the Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Mr. Sinnott served CABVI as a member of the board of trustees, board chairman, and chairman emeritus, from 1960 until his passing in 2009.

The award was presented to John Calabrese, CABVI governing board member.



CABVI Youth Recognition Award

Dorentina Baniku

The CABVI Youth Recognition award is presented to a youth or high school student who has shown dedication and commitment to the agency through volunteering or other activities.

The award was presented to Dorentina Baniku.





EMPLOYEES DISCOVER THEIR QUEST

Workplace learning and development programs empower people to gain new skills and grow professionally. Employees are more likely to be engaged at work when companies offer learning and development opportunities.

In 2016, CABVI partnered with RD Advisory Group, LLC to start the Quest Program, an upward mobility, certificate earned program, integrating sighted and non-sighted employees. The goal is to offer employees a defined and integrated program which will help them to prepare for personal and career development, within the agency, or outside of the agency. Participants learn the skills to become stronger team players and improve performance in their current positions.

Participants meet monthly to attend lectures, study topics, participate in discussions, take part in group activities and projects, and ultimately, graduate with their classmates. This past June, CABVI celebrated the third class of graduating members from the Quest Program.



The 2019 Quest graduating class members included:

Ronald Baron,
General Manager, Syracuse

Ethan Comstock,
Customer Service Representative I, Utica

Noemi Roque-Keen,
CI Customer Service Representative, Syracuse

Ashley Hemingway,
Customer Service Representative I, Utica

Kevin Graeff,
Customer Service Representative I, Utica

Rebecca VanDerhoof,
CI Administrative Assistant, Utica

Benjamin Rodriguez,
Machine Operator, Syracuse

Stephen Kryczkowski,
Information Technology Technician, Utica

Larry Baynes,
Mail Sorter, DMV

Leta Laukaitis,
Executive Assistant, Utica

“As the agency meets the challenge of rapid growth and new opportunities, Quest has provided me with new, positive energy to pursue my goals for the future,” said Leta Laukaitis.

“I’ve noticed a big change in our Quest graduates,” said Laura Yakey, COMS/VRT, CABVI employment specialist and Quest mentor. “They are more confident, dress more professionally, and are more inclined to initiate conversation with new people. It makes me very proud knowing we had the opportunity to make a positive change in their lives.”

SYRACUSE INDUSTRIES HIRES

GENERAL MANAGER

NEW POSITION CREATES NEW OPPORTUNITIES
FOR EXISTING EMPLOYEES



When the position of General Manager for CABVI Syracuse Industries was created, CABVI looked at their current staff to fill it. Upward mobility and promoting from within have always been a goal at CABVI. Who knows the ins and outs of an agency better than its current employees? How do you create continuing employment? Provide opportunities.

Being a general manager is not an easy position. As the only extension of Central Industries outside of Utica, the Syracuse division forces a new challenge; a new market to reach. The GM is not only responsible for overseeing all of the daily operations, but also for acting as the public relations representative in the Syracuse area.

The decision was made to promote former machine operator, Ron Baron, to general manager of CABVI Syracuse Industries. Ron has been employed with CABVI since 2016.

After becoming legally blind, he was forced to leave his previous job with Syrtex Transportation as a delivery driver. He started at CABVI as a material handler in Syracuse, and was soon promoted to machine operator, and now GM.

"Ron exhibited great leadership qualities and skills," said Dennis Webster, senior vice president of production and operations. "He has hands-on experience working in Central Industries and has a strong knowledge base of the day-to-day operations."

Ron hit the ground running in his new position. Having recently graduated from the Quest program at CABVI, Ron brings many new communication and professional skills that will help in his new venture. With the goal of building awareness of the agency in Onondaga County and the nearby Syracuse area, Ron joined many networking groups, including the Orange Network, a sub-sector of Centerstate Corporation for Economic Opportunity.

"I look forward to continuing my career with CABVI and am optimistic about my future, and the future of the agency," said Baron.



CUSTOMER OF THE YEAR AWARD

CABVI ACKNOWLEDGES VISITING NURSE SERVICE OF NEW YORK AS 2019 CUSTOMER OF THE YEAR



Every year, CABVI names a company or organization as their customer of the year. This year's recipient is unique, though. Their mission mirrors CABVI's, and the partnership for the last three years affected the lives of more than 44,000 residents of the metropolitan New York City area.

Several factors played a role in the decision to name Visiting Nurse Service of New York (VNSNY) as the customer of the year. Topping the list is their mission: To improve the health and well-being of people through high quality, cost effective healthcare in the home and community.

"VNSNY is very unique in that it mirrors CABVI's core values and vision of helping people. The care they provide serves the clinical and social needs of patients while allowing them to live safely in their homes and communities."

Rudy D'Amico
CABVI President & CEO



Pictured: Katie Humphreys, CABVI VP of Products and Distribution, Sal Bastardi, VNSNY Vice President Corporate Administrative Support, Michael Bernstein, Executive VP and Chief Administrative Officer, Dan Phillips, CABVI Social Worker, Marki Flannery, VNSNY President and CEO, Rudy D'Amico, CABVI President and CEO

“Every CABVI customer is special,” said Rudy D’Amico, CABVI President & CEO. “VNSNY is very unique in that it mirrors CABVI’s core values and vision of helping people. The care they provide serves the clinical and social needs of patients while allowing them to live safely in their homes and communities.”

Sal Bastardi, vice president corporate administrative support at VNSNY, says it is fitting that the two organizations work so well together, “When you find a partner as well matched as CABVI is with VNSNY, it’s the ideal relationship. We both service vulnerable populations with the goal of helping people lead better lives from our services.”

CABVI Vice President of Products and Distribution, Katie Humphreys, noted VNSNY is the agency’s largest non-state/non-federal government customer. “Although they are not required to, Visiting Nurse Service made the choice to buy from CABVI. We started with exam gloves, and that grew to include sterile gloves, disposable aprons, dish gloves and, soon, scrubs.”

The Visiting Nurse Service of New York is the largest not-for-profit home and community-based health

care organization in the United States, serving the five boroughs of New York City, and Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties, for 125 years. VNSNY focuses on promoting the health and well-being of patients and families by providing expert, cost-effective care in their homes and communities.



CABVI NAMED OFFICIAL USA BLIND HOCKEY TRAINING CENTER

The Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired and USA Blind Hockey partnered by signing a three-year agreement to make Utica, NY the official home of the USA Blind Hockey training camp.

Based on this official contract between CABVI and USA Blind Hockey, the team will participate in a five-day hockey training camp each summer through 2021. The USA Blind Hockey team players will go through a rigorous training session with CABVI representatives to prepare for an exhibition game at the end of camp, then their upcoming season.

“It all started right here in Utica where USA Blind Hockey partnered with CABVI and Utica College. Without the support of CABVI, the college, and most importantly, the community, this would not be possible,” said Mike Svac, head coach for the USA Blind Hockey team. “Team USA appreciates the love and support by all that took the time to welcome our team of athletes with vision impairments, and we want to thank you for helping these players achieve a dream and the opportunity to represent our country.”

With the opening of CABVI’s Vision Health and Wellness Center, CABVI is embracing an evolutionary approach to service delivery and therapy, enhancing quality of life through elite competitive sports, including USABA Sports Clubs and US Paralympic sports.



“ This partnership is a wonderful honor and allows us to move forward with our elite sports program. We worked hard for this to happen, and today, we made history. We’re ready to prove that we’re well prepared to work with the athletes, represent them, and be their official home.”

Kathy Beaver
VP of Rehabilitation, CABVI

“It’s been incredible. The community here in Utica has set us up so well. There’s been so much support coming through for us and it has been an unbelievable experience.”

Geoff Martin
USA Blind Hockey Team



“(Utica) is just special. There is something different here that when you look at it, it is just a hockey community.”

Mike Svac
Head Coach, USA Blind Hockey Team



CABVI COLLABORATES WITH BOILERMAKER ROAD RACE



“By partnering with the Boilermaker, we can ensure our employees have work to do and for them to be sustainable in this organization and community.”

Jessica Watson
VP of Services & Marketing



Did you know...

- There were over 11,000 runners from around the world
- There were 22 water stations along the route
- The sewing department tagged 2,250 pieces of Boilermaker clothing
- 25 CABVI staff volunteered
- 7 CABVI staff completed the race
- The first blind runner and guide dog completed the 5k race

If you live in Utica, or the Utica area, you are probably familiar with the Boilermaker Road Race. For one day a year, the entire community lines the 9.3 mile course to hand out water and cheer on local, national, and international runners. It is a day that truly highlights why Utica is so great. Hundreds of volunteers and local businesses contribute to the success of the event and CABVI is proud to be a partner of the Boilermaker.

For the past several years, CABVI has collaborated with the Boilermaker to provide assistance with preparing all of the Boilermaker clothing that is sold at the Boilermaker Expo and at the finish line. From tagging, to boxing, to delivering the product to the expo, they play an integral part in making sure the product is ready to be sold.

“Staff in our Central Industries division work hard during the weeks prior to race weekend by inspecting the quality of the product, tagging the items, and hanging the apparel for the Boilermaker Expo,” said Jessica Watson, vice president of services and product development. “By partnering with the Boilermaker, we can ensure our employees have work to do and for them to be

sustainable in this organization and community.”

This year, CABVI staff prepared approximately 2,250 pieces of merchandise, ranging from tops, bottoms, and hats. Some were hung, while others were packed away in boxes.

CABVI staff also volunteered and hosted a water station during the race, and many members participated in the run. The collaboration between the two organizations provides an opportunity to give back to the community that gives so much to the not-for-profits.



CABVI TRIBUTES

March 31, 2019 - August 31, 2019

In Memory

Karen Czuryla Brittelli

Laura O'Donnell

Gloria Brown

Rudy and Anne D'Amico

Joanne M. Brown

Richard Brown

James Carlo

Christine Barnes

Robert and Sharon Braunlich

Paul and Kelly Callari

Michael and Carol Clare

Rudy and Anne D'Amico

L. Michael and Paula Fitzgerald

Kenneth and Pamela Ford

Steve and Patty Gannon

Georgio's Village Cafe

Steven and Kathleen Hartnett

Nancy Hughes

Donald and Pat LoGuidice

Matt Funeral Service, Inc.

Dr. Cynthia J. Parlato

Earle Reed

Gary and Marcia Scalzo

Scalzo, Zogby & Wittig, Inc

Col. and Mrs. Paul A. Steves

Joseph Taurisani and Leta Laukaitis

Dennis Webster

William Carrock

Mary Carrock

Yolanda Cavo

Rudy and Anne D'Amico

Michael Ryan Clark

Always Treasure the Memories

Anonymous

Glenda Foster

Daniel and Kathryn Griffiths

Sharon Loori

Nancy Marafioti

Northland Trailers

Barbara Scully

William and Elizabeth Sink

Betty Doherty

Beverly Johnson

Luca Esposito

William and Mary Murabito

Jacqueline Fletcher

Mary Fletcher

Jeffrey C. Ford

Rudy and Anne D'Amico

Joseph Taurisani and Leta Laukaitis

Walter Graham

Marytheresa Balutis

Anthony and Nicolette Fraccola

Danette E. Jones

P. Daniel and Cindy Freudenberger

Mitch and Margaret Hansen

Beverly Kearney

Mary Ann Bryden

Dennis and Elaine Buttenschon

Leo and Paula Carney

Christopher and Stacey Dawes

Gary and Debbie Dawes

Dawes Living Trust

Tom and Linda Doxtader

David and Anne Elacqua

P. Daniel and Cindy Freudenberger

Gerald and Jeanne Gymburch

Scott and Pooneil Healy

Lori Lynn Kever

Gail Knight

Christine Kolek

Karen and Joseph Makuch

John and Nadora Mikolajczyk

NBT Bank

Barry and Lisa Oaksford

One Paw at a Time

Christopher and Linda Reynolds

Tanya Rosen

Kathleen Roucant

Larry and Christine Schram

June Taylor

G Fred and Judith Wollin

Gail Zegarelli

Lorraine LaBella

Rudy and Anne D'Amico

John Longaretta

Francis and Therese Candella

Max Lupo

Rudy and Anne D'Amico

David L. Manser, Jr.

Nancy Manser

Helen Martini

P. Daniel and Cindy Freudenberger

Anne Hameline

Mary Lennon

Mary O'M. Murphy

Thomas McGuiggan

Vincent and Ann Salatino

Robert O'Toole

Edwin Meyers Jr.

Helen Parrott

Douglas Parrott

Diane L. Piazza

Rudy and Anne D'Amico

Seymour Ribyat

Martin and Claire Garfinkel

Renato J. Roefaro Sr.

Peter and Eileen Manno

Sally B. Sexton

Cary and Deb Flack

Jacqueline Seymour

Rudy and Anne D'Amico

John Tracy

Rudy and Anne D'Amico
Mitch and Margaret Hansen
Dr. Cynthia J. Parlato
Col. and Mrs. Paul A. Steves
Joseph Taurisani and Leta Laukaitis
Dennis Webster

Aaron Verminski

Joseph Verminski

John Zawada

John and Patricia Biernat
Matt and Darlene DiNardo
P. Daniel and Cindy Freudenberger
Kenneth and Anna Jean Oriole
Michael and Arlene Winslow

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Rudy D'Amico

Ed and Barbara Paparella
Scalzo, Zogby & Wittig, Inc
Donna Vitagliano

Oliver Englebrecht

Mark and Jenna Bahr

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Nancy Manser

Faith Murray The Sharpefinnias Effect

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WAYS TO GIVE



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For more information about giving to CABVI, please contact Steve Gannon, director of development,
at 315-797-2233.

507 Kent Street Utica, NY 13501

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PHIL BURKART

Board member profile

Phil Burkart is a native of Holland Patent, NY. He grew up in the family automotive business and is the owner of Burkart Automotive in Yorkville.

He joined C.A.B. Foundation board of directors two years ago, and has been an integral part of Vehicles for Vision, as well as the Invitational Car Show.

Phil is a decorated drag racer. He started racing when he was 14 years old and worked his way through the ranks, once being a four-time national event winner.

In 2016, he joined Follow A Dream race team, owned by Jay Blake, as the driver for the Permatex Top Alcohol Funny Car. Blake is the only totally blind crew chief in the worldwide sport of auto racing.

Blake, who also grew up in a family of automotive enthusiasts, was determined to own his own team after he lost his vision during an industrial accident. He built a racing program that was centered around a more important social message of inspiration, motivation, and



Phil Burkart

determination. In 1999, Blake started Follow A Dream (FAD), which spotlights the adversity he has overcome, as well as spreads a message of inspiration for others to follow their dreams.

Driving for a blind team owner and crew chief takes a special sort of individual. "I trust my life and the safe preparation of the car. It can reach over 250 mph in five seconds. At that speed, wrecks can destroy a lot more than a car," Phil said.

Since joining Blake's team, Phil returned to the Top Alcohol Funny Car ranks for the first time in nearly 20 seasons to win once, place second in the division, and 14th nationally.

When he is not racing or working in his shop, he enjoys spending time with his fiancée and their two daughters, traveling to various races in their motorhome, and teaching his daughters to race.