

NEWS & VIEWS

100 West 15th Street • Chester, PA 19013
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Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Winter - Spring 2011 / 2012

Serving the Delaware Valley

IDEAL Transition Program

- Individual Development through Experience, Assessment and Learning -



Cooking was a new experience for **Brittnee Brown**.

The IDEAL 2011 summer program for blind and visually impaired high-school students combined learning and fun! Participants, ages 15 through 21, garnered skills, formed fast friendships, and left with new proficiencies and happy memories!

"I received individualized attention which helped me to learn more and to be more confident in myself. I now feel somewhat proud about being blind because of everything I have learned."

- Hayden



Hayden Dahmm diligently practiced his new Braille skills.



PA State Representative **Joe Hackett** (2nd from left) spent a morning at the Center learning about the IDEAL program. Pictured with him (from left) are **Toni Whaley**, Communications Instructor, **Anthony Owens**, **Kesley Moise**, and **Shayna Wilmer**.

"I was shocked by all the devices I learned to use and how they can help me."

- Anthony

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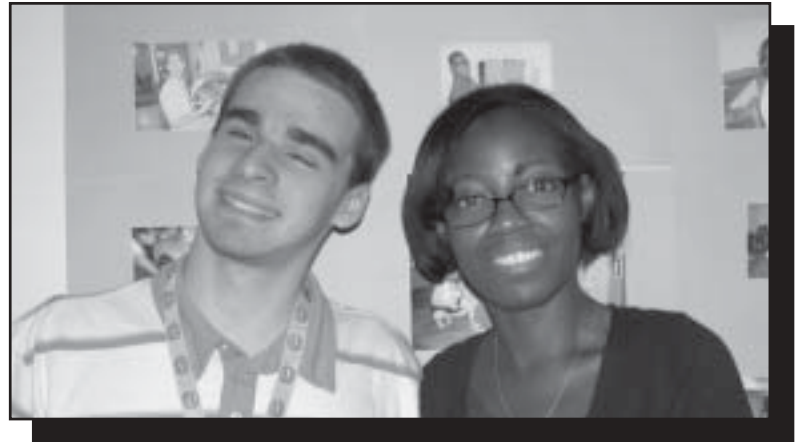
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IDEAL *(continued from page 1)*

This year, many IDEAL students hailed from throughout the Delaware Valley but CBVI also welcomed a student from Beaver Falls and one from Butler, both located in western Pennsylvania. IDEAL is a four week residential program designed to give students the skills necessary to transition into either college or the workplace. We are already making plans for IDEAL 2012. Please contact us (610-874-1476 ext.161) if you know a blind or visually impaired high school student who might benefit from an IDEAL summer experience! ■



At closing ceremonies, **Josh Vanderzee** said a special “thank you” to his BBVS counselor, **Andrea Askie-Rosario**.



Elizabeth Messaros gingerly placed a cake in the oven assisted by Home Management Instructor, **Jen Wilgus**.

“I learned how to do things that I will use the rest of my life. Living with other people was challenging but the outcome was ok; we worked through the difficulties.”

- Dawon



Using a “seeing eye dog” simulator, **Kesley Moise** took a stroll.

“Some things were difficult and I was afraid to do them but I believed in myself and just tried each thing.”

- Shayna

CBVI is proud to be a United Way Member Agency

To have your donation to United Way directed to CBVI, please specify our name and number on your United Way Pledge Card:

Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired

UW of SE Delaware Co Code: **M180**

UW of SE PA Code: **00347**

Together we “Live United.”



Swarthmore College student volunteers, **Joravar Dhaliwal** (back, far left) and **Naomi Liang** (front, far right), were an integral part of this year’s IDEAL program. Pictured with them are (front, left to right) **Anthony Owens**, **Brittnee Brown**, **Elizabeth Messaros**, **Shayna Wimer**, and (back, second from left to right) **Kesley Moise**, **Dawon James**, **Josh Vanderzee** and **Hayden Dahmm**.

CBVI Offers Computer Instruction



**for education,
employment,
and personal use.**

Training includes the use of software and devices designed specifically for individuals with blindness or visual impairment. Instruction is customized to meet each person's needs and can take place in a classroom setting at CBVI or off-site at consumers' homes or at employment/academic locations.

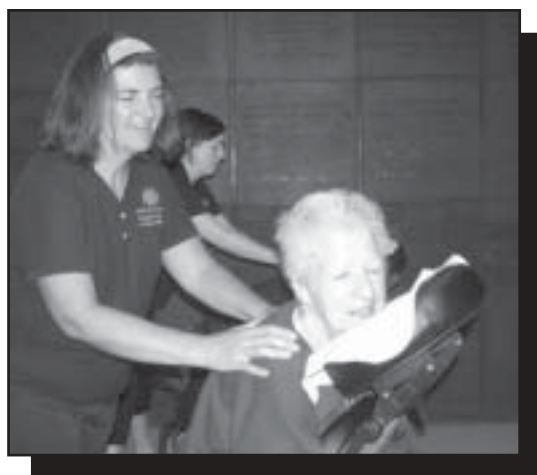
**Learn more by calling
610-874-1476 ext.161**

Life Skills Group "Sightings"

CBVI's Life Skills Education Group meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 AM to 12 PM for support that promotes adjustment to vision loss. Group activities include instruction, discussion, art and gardening workshops, lectures, field trips and social activities. Take a peek at some recent happenings! ■



Lois Simcox (left) and Margaret LeQuire applaud a guest speaker



Mary McCollugh enjoyed her massage given by a masseuse from the Institute for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork, Inc. of Chaddsford. The Institute graciously donated their time and skills to the group.



Members attended the dedication of the new Garden for the Blind in Wynnewood. **Helen Anderson (R)** was joined by Board member **Karen Ramsey**.



Beverly Levere worked on a ceramic piece during a recent class conducted by the Main Line Art Center.



Hope Jones Gary (L) of the Delaware County Master Gardeners, compliments **Shirley Womack** on her fall flower arrangement. Flowers were from a garden planted and maintained by the group.

Thank you to CBVI's Memorial Donors

In Memory of Loretta Berk
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brooks

In Memory of Anthony Crisante
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Crisante
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The Greatest Gift of All

– Safe & Healthy Families –



This holiday season, CBVI in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind wants to make sure that all children and parents are asking Santa for the safest and most appropriate toys.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), there are an estimated 235,300 toy-related injuries treated in emergency rooms across the country each year, with 75% of the injuries associated with children ages 14 and younger.

The following tips will help you (and Santa Claus) choose the perfect toy:

TIP # 1 – Consider the Size of the Toy

For infants, toddlers and all children who still mouth objects, avoid toys with small, or sharp parts, such as buttons, eyes, or wheels. These parts could be swallowed and could pose a fatal choking hazard. As a test, if any part of the toy can fit inside a toilet paper roll, it is considered a hazard and not appropriate for children under the age of 3.

TIP # 2 – Consider the Shape of the Toy

Make sure a toy doesn't have any blunt ends or edges that have points. These toys can be very sharp and could puncture the skin or eyes. Avoid any toys that shoot or include parts that fly off.

TIP # 3 – Check the Label

Be a label reader. Look for labels that give age recommendations and warnings. Look for any toxic substances that may be painted on the toy and check instructions for clarity. They should be clear to you and your child.

TIP # 4 – Discard Plastic Wrapping and Strings

Immediately discard plastic wrapping on toys and avoid all toys with strings. Plastic wrapping may have sharp edges and could cause suffocation, while strings can be very dangerous especially if the string gets wrapped around your child's neck.

TIP # 5 – Protect Your Child with Gear

Gifts of sports equipment should always be accompanied by protective gear. For example, if you buy a basketball, buy a pair of eye goggles as well, or if you buy a baseball, buy a batting helmet with a face shield. 90% of all sports-related eye injuries could have been prevented simple by using appropriate eye protection.

TIP # 6 – Finally, educate yourself on products that have been recalled, on both new and old toys.

For more information, please contact
The Consumer Product Safety Commission
at (800) 638-2772 or visit www.cpsc.gov.

CBVI Announces New Board President



David Stitely



Joe Saunders

Joseph Saunders has been named the new president of CBVI's Board of Directors. Joe follows in the footsteps of former Board President David Stitely.

CBVI is grateful to Dave for his dedication to his role as president over the past two years and for his thoughtful and decisive leadership.

The agency acknowledges the importance of Dave's strong business sense in forging the successful and growth generating affiliation of CBVI with Keystone Blind Association. On behalf of everyone at The Center and the blind and visually-impaired people that we serve, we thank Dave for his allegiance and service to our agency. We look forward to his continuing his association with us as a CBVI board member.

CBVI welcomes Joe to his new role as Board President. Joe has been a member of the CBVI board since 1994 and is recently retired from his position as President of Crozer-Chester

Medical Center. Joe is enthusiastic about the future of CBVI and states, "I intend to build on the firm foundation that Dave has put in place and to leverage the resources of the Keystone Blind Association to continue to move the agency forward."

Joe's high energy and positive spirit make him a perfect leader for our agency during these challenging economic times. We congratulate Joe and thank him for his willingness to serve in this new capacity. ■

What is a Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust? *By Tom Dill, Esq.*

Many people are lost when it comes to understanding legal terminology. Sadly, this leaves many individuals behind when it comes to reaping the benefits of certain programs. Allow me to help explain a **Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust**.

A **charitable remainder annuity trust** ("annuity trust") is a gift plan defined by federal tax law that lets you provide income to yourself or others for life or a term of years while making a generous gift to CBVI through the Community Foundation.

What it means:

- You irrevocably transfer assets (usually cash or securities), to a trustee of your choice (i.e., the Community Foundation).
- During the trust's term, the trustee invests these assets and provides a fixed dollar

amount to beneficiaries named by you (i.e. CBVI) annually, semiannually or quarterly.

- When the trust's term ends, the principal passes to the Community Foundation to be used to benefit the Center.

Benefits Include:

- A federal tax deduction for you.
- Payments for the length of the term of the trust for your designated income beneficiary
- Possible reduction in probate costs/estate taxes for your estate.
- Long-term support to CBVI.
- Expert asset management provided by the professionals who manage the Community Foundation's endowment

For more detailed information about charitable remainder annuity trusts, please contact Tom Dill at 724-347-5501. ■



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your visit
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**Please call
610-874-1476
ext. 125**



Keystone Kids In "Touch" With Nature



Seth Johnson explores the shell of a bashful turtle.

Early this past summer, the Keystone Kids gathered together for a rollicking good time. An active game of "beeper" football in the backyard of the Center was followed by a pizza lunch and then the group was off to the Rattlesnake Nature Center in Wawa, PA.

Valerie Gardner, who runs the Nature Center, graciously

offers free programs to groups of blind and visually impaired individuals in honor of her mother, Nesta Crozier Parry, who was blind for the last six years of her life. The programs provide

hands-on experience with small animals and birds which proved to be an incredible experience for all of the students.

While stroking a black and white rabbit, cuddled in his lap, Chris Rogers, blind since birth, exclaimed, "I always got the idea when people used the expression "rabbit ears" but now I really get what it means!" The most exciting part of the program was when each student took a supervised ride on - not a pony - but a full-sized horse!

Through a variety of fun and educational experiences, the Keystone Kid program at the Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired aims to promote the

personal growth and independence of our local blind and visually impaired youth.

If you, or someone you know, knows a blind or visually impaired student between the ages of 10 and 21 who might like to join the group for future activities, please contact Rosemary Keefe at 610-874-1476 ext.161 or email rosemary.keefe@cbvi.net. ■



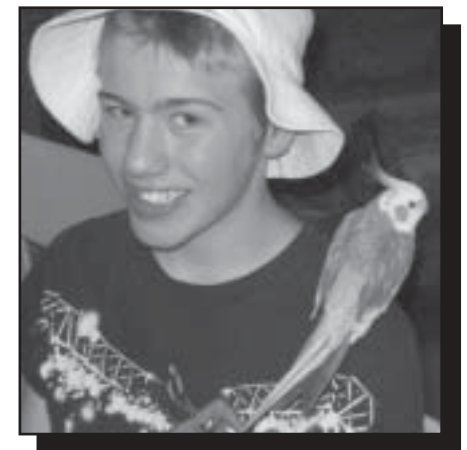
Chris Rogers now knows more about "rabbit ears!"

"I always got the idea when people used the expression "rabbit ears" but now I really get what it means!"

- Chris



Valerie Gardner readies Eddie Majeski for a horseback ride.



A friendly bird perches on Josh Baumann's shoulder.

Thank you for Donations of Goods

Bud Davis - magnifiers, talking clock and talking scale

Judy Lowenstein - CCTV
(in memory of Sylvia Lowenstein)

Max Karaska - CCTV
(in memory of his mother)

Thank you for donating to The Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

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*CBVI has made every effort to include all donations, \$25.00 and over, received 5/16/11 – 10/15/11.
If you have questions or corrections, contact us at 610-874-1476 ext. 161. Thank you.*

*** * Please Remember Us In Your Will * ***

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News & Views is the official publication of the
Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI).
CBVI is a not-for-profit agency dedicated to helping individuals
prevent, prepare for, and adapt to vision loss
in order to achieve independence.

Spring Golf Outing Planned

CBVI's Charity Golf Outing will take place in Spring 2012. The committee was originally aiming for a date in early fall, but a spring date seems more attractive to potential participants. We are looking forward to making this a spectacular inaugural event!

Thanks to the following sponsors who are already on board and whose generous contributions will make this event possible:

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For more information, to become a donor,
or to be added to the golf mailing list,
please call 610-874-1476 ext.161.

Holiday Giving Reaps Benefits

The Holidays are typically known as "the season of giving" and the true joy of such gifts is to make them with no thoughts of something in return. As you consider your charitable gifts for the remainder of the year, please remember that gifts made now can generate income tax deductions that could help reduce your tax bill for 2011.

At this time of year, when so many of us are thinking of others, please consider a donation to CBVI. Aside from the tax deduction, you will also be helping to make the world a bit brighter for blind and visually impaired people, right here at home. ■

**From all of us at CBVI
Happy Holidays
and a safe & healthy 2012!**

