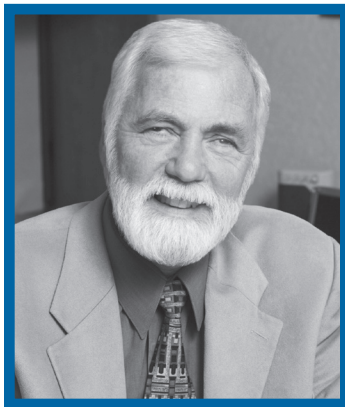


## WHAT IS THE CHRYSALIS AWARD?

In 2011, the Center for Vision Loss developed an award to honor the many accomplishments of individuals who are blind or visually impaired that often go unnoticed. We chose the name Chrysalis Award because a caterpillar's change in the cocoon, or chrysalis, to a beautiful butterfly represents the transformation of our lives that occurs when we work through our personal challenges. Our first award recipient was Dr. Amy Bower, a blind oceanographer from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Now we are pleased to introduce you to our 2012 award recipient.

## MEET DR. FRANCIS A. SALERNO

Dr. Francis A. Salerno is the Associate Chief of Geriatrics, Lehigh Valley Health Network. He has lived and worked in the Lehigh Valley for the past 22 years, making the advancement of geriatric medicine locally and beyond his life's passion.



A native of Philadelphia, PA., Dr. Salerno graduated from St. Joseph's College and the Temple University School of Medicine. He performed his residency in Internal Medicine at the Reading (PA) Hospital & Medical Center from 1974-1979, then practiced Internal Medicine there from 1979-1989.

At age 8, Dr. Salerno was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes mellitus. He lost his eyesight due to the complications of diabetic retinopathy when he was 29--a young resident with a new wife and their first child on the way. Dr. Salerno quickly points out, however, that this critical event in his life was

instrumental in helping him differentiate between freedom and liberties and facilitated his understanding and appreciation of being alone vs. being lonely. He quickly learned the concept of interdependence as a survival skill and with his first guide dog he learned about team membership.

When Dr. Salerno came to the Lehigh Valley in 1990 as the first Chief of Geriatrics at the Lehigh Valley Health Network, he continued to apply his approach to living with a disability to his practice of medicine. Through personal example, writing, teaching and community involvement, he quickly became a leader in improving services to the elderly and their caregivers including helping to establish the Phoebe Institute on Aging and the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley's Lehigh Valley Alliance on Aging.

Dr. Salerno will share his inspirational thoughts as a physician who happens to be blind in his presentation, "In Search of My Own Glide Path," at the 2012 Chrysalis Award Dinner on Friday, October 26, 2012, 6 pm, DeSales University.

*Continued on page 2*



# 2012 CHRYSALIS AWARD DINNER

*Continued from page 1*

The ticket price is \$85 per person and includes a Wine Bar Reception, Dinner and Program and Silent Auction.

Watch your mail as invitations will soon be sent to our friends, donors and community partners. Sponsors to date include Lehigh Valley Health

Network; Minuteman Press; PPL; Genentech; RetinaCare Associates; Embassy Bank; Stephanie Olexa and Seth Weber; Lions Clubs of District 14-K; Hawley Realty, Inc.; and Lifestyles Over 50. Additional sponsorships are welcome; call **610.433.6018, x. 241** or check out **[www.centerforvisionloss.org](http://www.centerforvisionloss.org)** for more information.



## OUR MISSION

*To provide a comprehensive set of preventative, rehabilitative, support and social services enabling blind and visually impaired clients to achieve their personal goals and restore quality of life consistent with those goals. Programs will provide a balance of independent living skills and social services to meet individual needs across a diverse client base and also help reduce the incidence of vision loss in the community through prevention of blindness and remedial eye care services.*

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

The world lost an extraordinary musician in May. Those of us who were amateur guitarists and were in tune with any part of the folk, country, bluegrass tradition all knew the name Doc Watson. I think the first time I learned about Doc Watson was on the classic album put together by the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band called "Will the Circle Be Unbroken." There, many of us were introduced to a host of country music stars from the earlier generation.

Yes, somewhere along the line, we all knew that Doc was blind. But that fact was irrelevant. What made aspiring pickers travel to folk festivals and bluegrass festivals across the county to see him play was the fact that many viewed him as just the best flat picking guitarist there was...breathtaking really.

My friends who are blind suggest, of course, that blindness is something to be dealt with, but not a defining issue. If Doc had made the fact that he was a blind guitarist the primary issue, it's unlikely we would remember him today. Single-handedly elevating the status of the acoustic guitar and developing a flat picking style unprecedented in earlier country music history was his defining issue.

All these years later, I'm still practicing my commonplace guitar skills from time to time. But in my head, I know what the best should sound like.

Douglas A. Yingling,  
Executive Director



# SPOTLIGHT ON CUSTOMER ACTIVITIES

On May 12, the Moore Township Lions Club sponsored a fishing trip for our customers.



On July 11, the Asbury United Methodist Church Youth Bell Choir performed and encouraged our customers to make their own music.



## **CUSTOMER CPR CLASSES OFFERED**

This Spring, the Center for Vision Loss offered CPR classes for their blind or visually impaired customers in Lehigh, Northampton and Monroe Counties. "We believe that these classes are the first of their kind in the area," stated Doug Yingling, Executive Director. "We had already trained our staff in CPR and then realized that it was equally important for our customers to benefit from learning these life-saving techniques."

Joshua Houck, a National Registered Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic, taught the classes based on the American Heart Association curriculum. He serves with units in Macungie and the City of Allentown and has 11 years of experience in the medical field.

Houck noted that training people who are blind and visually impaired challenged him to rethink his teaching strategy. Because the curriculum utilizes a video, for example, he quickly realized that he would have to interpret verbally what the actor on the screen was doing by using very clear and descriptive language. Houck also suggested that the size of the class be limited to 6 people because each student requires a sighted guide to assist them in learning and demonstrating the techniques.

To become certified, these students, like their sighted counterparts, had to demonstrate that they understood and could correctly administer the chest compressions and rescue breathing techniques required to save a life. The course covered adult, child and infant CPR including the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and choking. Certification is good for two years.





# SPOTLIGHT ON BEACON LODGE

*Editor's Note: In this issue we are focusing on the very popular PA Lions Beacon Lodge Camp in Mount Union, PA. Established in 1948 as a summer camp for blind residents of PA, the facility is located on 583 wooded acres along the Juniata River. It has grown into a favorite retreat for people with various special needs, a conference center for special groups, an educational facility for families, and a rental camp for group retreats. Session 6 in July is devoted strictly to campers who are blind or visually impaired. This year, 21 Center for Vision Loss customers spent 10 days at Beacon Lodge.*

On Saturday, July 14, blind or visually impaired campers from the Center for Vision Loss and the Philadelphia area boarded a charter bus bound for Beacon Lodge. Our agency's customers ranged in age from 31 to a senior citizen who is 90 years young! Lions Clubs in District 14-A Philadelphia sponsored the bus.

Each day campers can participate in a wide variety of activities ranging from canoeing, fishing, hiking, swimming, shooting a bow and arrow or rifle, arts and crafts, drama, rock wall climbing, to riding a zip line, basketball, water games or going on field trips. They plan their own day after learning about the options provided in morning, afternoon and evening sessions. If a camper prefers just to relax, that's fine, too.

James Van Horn, our associate adjustment to blindness counselor, has attended Beacon Lodge for 11 years and is the camp's "cheerleader" among our customers. James, legally blind, facilitates the Center for Vision Loss's monthly support group meetings in both Allentown and Monroe County. He says that attending Beacon Lodge is just what our customers need. "Being around other blind and visually impaired persons eliminates stress, frustration, and pressures that are present in the sighted world," stated James. "Every year that I have attended the camp, I witness a positive metamorphosis in each camper. Here low vision is never an issue

because the focus is on what you can do, not on what you can't do." Our campers agree that the experience allows them to meet new friends and try activities they would never try in the sighted world.

Many of our customers would not be able to attend Beacon Lodge without the support of Lions Clubs in District 14-K (Lehigh and Northampton Counties) and District 14-U (Monroe County). Statewide about 90% of all participants are sponsored by a local club at a cost of \$650 per camper. Center for Vision Loss really appreciates the fund-raising efforts made by the Lions to make this opportunity available to its customers. Each camper, however, is responsible to pay the \$75 camp registration fee and any travel costs incurred. You can learn more about Beacon Lodge at **[www.beaconlodge.com](http://www.beaconlodge.com)**.

Indeed, we are grateful for the continued support of our local Lions, Lioness and Leo Clubs in so many ways. The annual District 14-K Lions Needs Night fundraiser in Lehigh and Northampton Counties and the contributions of individual clubs in Monroe County, have enabled us to provide children's vision screenings, scholarships for escorted transportation, socialization and recreational programs and maintain our vehicles—all for the benefit of our community residents who are affected by vision loss. Thank you, Lions, for helping us "look beyond vision!"

# SPOTLIGHT ON BEACON LODGE

## Our Campers Share Their Thoughts...

"I like everything about camp. It is like we are in another world. Everyone realizes, in one way or another, what we are going through. We all have vision loss. Nobody is afraid to try new things... Being at camp is just like I'm having a happy childhood all over again." *Gloria, 82, Nazareth, third year camper*

"I am taking away from camp the knowledge that everyone is the same. For once my vision is not an issue." *Tina, 53, East Stroudsburg, first year camper*

"I like the fact that no one is judged up here." *Pat, 58, Bethlehem, first year camper*

"I enjoy the atmosphere and how I am taken care of at camp. The counselors are very attentive and are always there whenever I need assistance." *Joe, 90, Easton, third year camper*

"I like meeting people from other places who are just like me, or even worse off than I. Being at camp makes me realize how fortunate I am. When I feel bad about my vision loss, I stop complaining because I know, first hand, that there are others who have it worse than I do." *Ray, 54, Mount Pocono, third year camper*

"I learned tolerance. I did not know that I was a very intolerant person. Because of this awareness I also learned how to be patient." *Kathie, 46, East Stroudsburg, first year camper*



# ODDS AND ENDS

## ***FUN WITH “FUN”DRAISING!***



Our 5th annual **Basket Bingo & Brunch** on Sunday, April 22, 2012 netted \$5,771.00 for the agency's Vision Rehabilitation services. A big “thank you” goes to our enthusiastic players; our basket donors; Carol Dotta, our Longaberger representative; the Historic Hotel Bethlehem; and sponsors Inova Technologies; Lessig Oil & Propane; HMK Insurance; Allentown Optical; Yeager's Fuel, Inc.; Minuteman Press and Lifestyles Over 50.



Thirty walkers, a baby and Portia the dog stepped out in support of the Center for Vision Loss in the **Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community** on June 2, 2012. The new Walk location at SteelStacks in south Bethlehem was perfect for a brisk or leisurely pace. Our walkers, both traditional and virtual, raised \$6,064 – exceeding our \$3,500 goal and making this Walk our best in 7 years! The top individual fundraisers included John Filipos, top board member; Lisa Vasquez, top caseworker and Janet Shannon, top customer. Kudos to them!

## ***2012-2013 RAFFLE UPDATE***

2012-2013 Raffle tickets are still available at \$10 each or six for \$50. Call Stephanie Houck at **610.433.6018 x. 245** to purchase them. Winning tickets are drawn monthly through June, 2013. The Raffle supports the agency's programs and services.

**List of Winners:** **April, 2012:** Tom Dieter, Mary Heimbach, Barbara Proden, Angela McCallum, Steve Thomas and Verna Wambold; **May, 2012:** S. Heller, Teresa Zink, Jane Adams, Lois Frederick, G. Fussner, Gerri Huron; **June 2012:** Kay Dilliard, Kenneth Muschlitz, E. Mullin, Richard Heiney, H. Schmoyer, S.J. Drabick; **July, 2012:** Georgene Binder, Carolyn Fries, Joseph Kernick, Mike Carroll, Deb Schneiderhan, Arlene Fabian. **Congratulations to all!**

## ***VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION***

The Center for Vision Loss held its Volunteer Appreciation Event on Sunday, May 6, 2012. Four volunteers received special awards: Longest Service-Lois Frederick, 42 years as a vision screener; Greatest Impact on a Customer's Quality of Life-Lynn Schiavone, Annie's Angels; Newest Vision Screener-Bernice Flynn; and Newest Volunteer-Steve Klegarth, four weeks of service. Rita Lang, Manager of Innovative Programs, organized the event. If you are interested in becoming a Center for Vision Loss volunteer, please contact Rita at **610.433.6018, x. 231** or [rita.lang@centerforvisionloss.org](mailto:rita.lang@centerforvisionloss.org).

*Please Join Our 2012-2013 Annual Campaign* **WE COUNT ON YOUR GIFT TO HELP US  
CONTINUE PROVIDING THE QUALITY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS YOU HAVE READ ABOUT IN THIS NEWSLETTER.**



# GIVING PAGE

The Center for Vision Loss is the region's only community benefit organization dedicated to improving the lives of people affected by vision loss. Our programs and services touch the lives of residents in Lehigh, Northampton and Monroe Counties. Help us continue to "look beyond vision" with your tax-deductible gift today. **Enclosed please find my gift in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please check here if you give us permission to add your e-mail address to our electronic mailing list. We will never share your e-mail address with any other group.

**This gift is a tribute** ☐ In Honor Of ☐ In Memory Of

Name \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please notify the following person regarding this tribute gift:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: Center for Vision Loss**

I prefer to pay by credit card:

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Card \_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_ MasterCard

\_\_\_\_ AmEx \_\_\_\_ Discover

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_ Year

Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

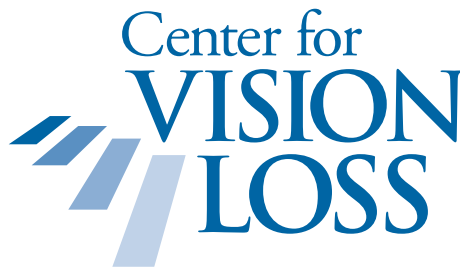
## HELPING TO ASSURE OUR AGENCY'S FUTURE

Friends and supporters of the Center for Vision Loss play an important role in ensuring the agency's future and financial health. A Bequest (Gift by Will) is one of the easiest gift options to choose. Bequests may be restricted or unrestricted. Contact your tax and/or legal advisor with respect to your personal circumstances and remember that everyone needs a will regardless of the amount of their assets.

**Please detach and  
send with your contribution to:  
Center for Vision Loss  
845 West Wyoming St.  
Allentown, PA 18103**

*All gifts to Center for Vision Loss are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. "The official registration and financial information of the Center for Vision Loss may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement."*

**Questions?  
Contact the Development Office  
at 610-433-6018, x. 241.**



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## IS YOUR CHILD READY FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR?

Did you know that 80% of your child's learning occurs through their eyes? A child who does not have good vision may be missing important details in the world around them and you may not even know it. The Center for Vision Loss can provide vision screenings at your

child's pre-school or day care center. If the facility's director has not yet arranged one, ask them to call **610.433.6018** in the Lehigh Valley and **570.992.7787** in Monroe County for more information. Having healthy eyes will give your child a good start in the new school year.

### Save the Date

2012 CHRYSALIS AWARD DINNER

*Honoring*

DR. FRANCIS A. SALERNO

ASSOCIATE CHIEF OF GERIATRICS  
LEHIGH VALLEY HEALTH NETWORK



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2012 • DESALES UNIVERSITY

The Chrysalis Award is presented to a blind or visually impaired person who has transformed the world around them. Since 1990, Dr. Salerno has transformed geriatric medicine, care and studies in the Lehigh Valley and beyond.

Please let us know if you would rather receive this newsletter electronically by calling **610.433.6018, x 241** or go to our website at **[www.centerforvisionloss.org](http://www.centerforvisionloss.org)**. Also let us know if your mailing address has changed or if you wish to be removed from our list.

VISION is published three times a year by the Center for Vision Loss for our donors, volunteers and friends in the community.

**Douglas A. Yingling**  
Executive Director

**Karen Z. Huetter**  
Editor

"IT'S A TERRIBLE THING TO SEE AND  
HAVE NO VISION." HELEN KELLER

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