

CBA Vision Rehabilitation Services Chautauqua Blind Association, Inc

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

CBA serves individuals who have been declared legally blind. Referrals come from many sources, eye care professional, family, friend, community agencies, NYS Commission for the Blind, or themselves. CBA's Rehabilitation staff travels throughout Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties providing services in their home, at their job site, school/college, or in their community.

CBA services include:

- Vision Rehabilitation Therapy (VRT) - A Vision Rehabilitation Therapist gives instruction on adaptive equipment and provides vision rehabilitation techniques to meet the individual's goals. and reach maximum independence for personal and household tasks at home or in the community.
- Orientation & Mobility. An Orientation & Mobility Specialist provides instruction with a white cane on efficient indoor and/or outdoor travel. This may include routes for bus stops, access shopping, jobs, recreation, etc. Individual must demonstrate efficient and confident travel to successfully complete instruction.
- Social Casework. This may include networking with agencies, i.e., Office for the Aging, State Senior Assistance Programs; Meals on Wheels, Veteran's Services, HEAP, Social Security. The individual may also want to discuss their concerns regarding their vision loss, living independently and staying positive.

CBA individuals are treated with a holistic approach when providing services.

CBA's compassionate staff always reminds them at the close of their case that they can contact us if their vision has worsened, living circumstances change, health needs arise or if they have questions or concerns.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS:

Kelly Fiorella, Co-President Megan Greene, Co-President & Secretary
Vacant, Treasurer

MEMBERS AT LARGE: Megan Barone Lisa Cleveland Julie Dahlin
Robert Dahlin Michele Johnson Peter R. Johnson Patricia Kinney
Kurt Meekins Diana Pantall Andrew Robinson Lynn Swanson

A Message from Co-Presidents

It is our pleasure to present the annual report for CBA Vision Rehabilitation Services (Chautauqua Blind Association) for the year ending December 31, 2020.

The year had much to celebrate and demonstrated many hurdles. The COVID-19 Pandemic presented many challenges to organizations worldwide, CBA included. As we were all sorting through how to continue providing services, the staff at CBA found innovative ways to connect to clients while adapting to a changing work environment.

The Pandemic was exceptionally handled by Lisa Goodell, executive director of CBA, ensuring ever-changing state mandates were enforced and guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) was followed by staff and office visitors. She ensured all staff health and safety concerns were addressed and provided continuous support to the association through this challenging time.

With the safety and wellbeing of CBA supporters in mind, the decision was made to postpone the annual Dining in the Dark fundraiser. This annual event brings in much needed funds for the Youth Vision Screening Program. Even though we were not able to hold the event, community members and foundations continued to support the mission of CBA which remains in good financial standing.

After 13 years of dedication to the blind and visually impaired community members of Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties, Lisa Goodell, executive director of CBA, retired in November. It is with fondness that we look back at Lisa's accomplishments over her time spent with the association. We are forever indebted to her for the financially sound association she left our community with which will continue to provide services for people with visual impairments. On behalf of the entire board of directors, we wish Lisa health and happiness during her retirement.

After a lengthy search, Joni Blackman was hired to fulfil the role as the new Executive Director of the Chautauqua Blind Association. Joni's strong background in nonprofit management and connections to the Chautauqua Region will ensure the mission of CBA will be supported and achieved. We welcome Joni to the association and look forward to working with her.

Throughout 2020, the association proved to be resilient and will continue our mission to enable visually impaired people to be active members of their community and to provide education and services to prevent vision loss.

We are grateful to the many individuals, foundations, organizations and businesses who have shown the association support over the past year and we look forward to serving our community in 2021.

Sincerely,
Megan Maynard & Kelly Fiorella

A Message from the Executive Director

I came on board here at CBA Vision Rehabilitation Services in the middle of November 2020, CBA's 99th year. Former Executive Director Lisa Goodell left a well-oiled machine with a robust financial foundation. The staff has been helpful in teaching me about the New York State Commission for the Blind services we offer to the greater Chautauqua/Cattaraugus region. The Commission staff has been very helpful as well.

CBA's other major funders are the United Way of Southern Chautauqua County and the United Way of Northern Chautauqua County. I was on the board of directors and served on an allocations panel for many years for the UWSCC prior to becoming the Executive here at CBA. It is interesting being on the other side of the funding fence.

I am impressed with the compassionate and creative work the therapists do with our clients to meet a variety of needs and limitations. Their knowledge and talents have been evident during the pandemic. While they worked remotely, using the phone to keep in contact with their clients, continuity of care was maintained. The office was closed from mid-March to mid-May 2020. Face to face client visits began again in late June, 2020.

Youth Vision Screening screened 1,630 children at 54 sites in 2020. 227 children were referred to partner eye care professionals for further evaluation and treatment. The Dr. Tim Grace Success for Sight Program which started in 2019, offers financial assistance to children who have had a CBA Vision Screening and have been referred for a comprehensive eye exam. Many needy families are thankful for the assistance the program gives them to obtain exams and glasses for their children. In 2020 the number of students who benefited from the program grew by 100%. The number of children needing exams and glasses was 10% higher in 2020 according to the Vision Screening results. Obviously the program is needed especially given the amount of increase screen time in 2020.

The 10th annual Dining in the Dark had to be cancelled at the last minute due to the pandemic. It will return in the spring of 2022.

2020 was also the year that the Fresh and Fancy Floral Designs in Fredonia won a spot in the Small Business Revolution. Part of the prize was to donate \$10,000 from the show's sponsors to the charity of their choice. It happened to be CBA! Thank you!

We wish to thank our many donors for their continued loyalty and support. Individuals, foundations, organizations, and businesses have all donated to CBA's work. We could not continue to provide our services to the community without your support.

Sincerely,

Joni Blackman, Executive Director

STAFF

Lisa Goodell, MPA, Executive Director (1/2020-11/2020)

Joni Blackman, Executive Director (11/2020)

Sally Minchener Barrile, Client Services Director,
Vision Rehabilitation Therapist, Orientation & Mobility Specialist

Debra Liddell, COTA, Vision Rehabilitation Therapist,
Orientation & Mobility Specialist

Julie Flaker, Vision Rehabilitation Therapist

Priscilla Shoup, Administrative Assistant,
Blindness Prevention Coordinator

2020 COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES CONTRACT (NEW YORK STATE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND)

ALP—Adaptive Living Program—156 successful

Assessments are made on individuals 55 years and older in seven areas:

Personal Care	Communication Skills	Mobility Indoor/Outdoor
Meal Management	Home Management	Financial Management
Family Care		

Training is provided in-home and continue until goals outlined in their Assessment are achieved independently.

VR-Vision Rehabilitation Program—47 successful

Individuals needing services to maintain current employment, obtain employment, attend college, or receive technology training enabling them to be prosperous and independent. Services include an Assessment in each of the three areas:

Vision Rehabilitation	Orientation & Mobility	Social Casework
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Training is provided in-home, at their job or school and continues until goals are met.

Non-Contract—Independent Living Vouchers—19 successful

Individuals who are not eligible to be served in an ALP or VR Program but requires Vision Rehabilitation, Orientation & Mobility and/or Social Casework services.

Past & Present CBA Clients Served and Cause of Vision Loss (Total Legally Blind Client Database—618)

Macular Degeneration	241	Cataracts	14
Diabetic Retinopathy	51	Retinitis Pigmentosa	31
Glaucoma	43	Unknown	17
Congenital	65	Other Causes	156

(Other Cause can be stroke, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, accident, etc.)

YOUTH VISION SCREENING

CBA continues to provide free vision screening for young children throughout Chautauqua County and into Cattaraugus County using a Spot Vision Screener by Welch-Allyn. Our target population is 6 months to 6 years but when asked, we screen older children as well.

CBA was challenged in 2020 as many schools closed because of COVID. We were able to provide free vision screening to a total of 1,630 children, referring 227 for comprehensive eye exams bringing our vision screening numbers down 40% from 2019. As CBA was able to return to some of our screening locations we broadened our age to include First Grade. We were aware of statistics proving increased "screen time" was making an impact on children's vision. One of the critical conditions that can be identified is Amblyopia (Lazy Eye). Amblyopia is treatable if caught at a young age; left untreated it will lead to diminished vision or blindness in the affected eye. In 2020, two children were diagnosed with Amblyopia after being referred from our screenings.

CBA would like to thank all the locations that continue to support our Youth Vision Screening Program, especially the nurses who promote the importance of screening children early.

HEALTHY VISION EDUCATION / PRESENTATIONS

CBA staff conducted Presentations at 3 locations, 2 in south county and 1 in Cattaraugus County to a total of 72 individuals.

CBA brochures were available as well as informational pamphlets on eye diseases. Those attending were able to have a hands-on use of adaptive equipment and observe a demonstration of some of the latest electronic technology .

FUNDING SOURCES

**New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB)
United Way of Northern Chautauqua County
United Way of Southern Chautauqua County**

DONOR LIST

CBA is grateful to those who contribute to making our mission possible. Our sincere thanks is extended to the following groups and individuals:

FOUNDATIONS/CLUBS, CHURCHES & CORPORATIONS

- **Amazon Smiles**
- **Judith J. Anderson Family Foundation, Inc.**
- **William B. Anderson & Juliet J. Anderson Rosch Charitable Foundation**
- **Cattaraugus County "Giving Tuesday"**
Lisa Cleveland; Kelly Fiorella; Julie Flaker; Jon & Lane Hagberg; Andrew Robinson
- **Chautauqua County SEFA c/o United Way of Northern Chautauqua County**
- **Chautauqua Region Community Foundation**
Dr. Harold M. & Joyce S. Childress Fund
Chautauqua Blind Association Fund
Fred L. & Vanne D. Cohen James Prendergast Library Fund
Joanne E. Nelson
- **Cummins—Charitable Contributions**
- **Cummins Employees Combined Charities**
Todd Barringer, Carl Jefferson, William Kelley, Jack Kujawa, and Carrie Spontaneo

DONOR LIST Continued

- ◆ **Randolph Lions Club**
- ◆ **Pilgrim Memorial and First Congregational United Church of Christ**
- ◆ **Sheldon Foundation**
- ◆ **Small Business Revolution**
 - Fresh & Fancy Floral Design Studio, Fredonia**
- ◆ **The Resource Center**
- ◆ **United Way of Greater Niagara—Amy Edgerton**
- ◆ **United Way South**
- ◆ **Verizon Foundation**
 - Volunteers Payroll Incentive Program—James Mckeever**

INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous
Donald & Karen Almgren
Nancy Blears
Jeanette Boscarino
Mary Budzinski
Jean Buffamante
Gloria Bush
Viola Carlson
Florine Christy
Bernice Clark
Dominic Colucci
Robert & Shirley Coon
Virginia Coustenis
Sally DePetro
Grace Dolan

Family of Dr. Tim Grace
Lois Galloway
Glenda Golden
Robert Higby
Robert & Grace Kennelley
Daniel & Joan Kojm
Sherry McCarthy
Jeanette Peglowski
Sr. Anne Rothmeier
Robert & Dixie Siegel
Frank Urbanski
Elizabeth Wile
Elizabeth Woll
Elizabeth "Betty" Woltz

**CBA gratefully appreciates everyone's
continued support.**

"Thank You Very Much"

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020

ASSETS

Current Assets:

•	Cash & Cash Equivalents	245,365	
•	Investments, at Fair Value	490,854	
•	Property and Equipment, Net	124,324	
•	Other Assets held by Others	<u>71,427</u>	
Total Assets			\$931,970

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

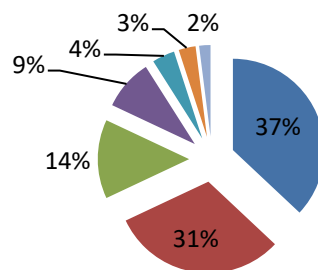
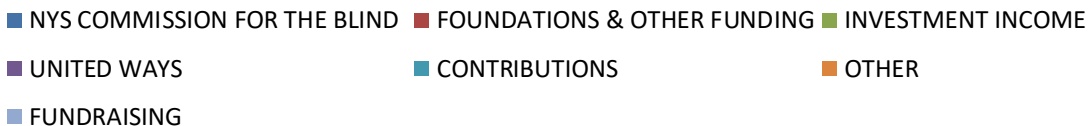
Current Liabilities:

•	Accounts Payable	16,321	
•	Accrued Expenses	12,340	
•	Deferred Event Income	<u>8,690</u>	
•	Total Current Liabilities	37,351	

Net Assets:

•	Net Assets without donor restrictions	894,619	
Total Liabilities and Net Assets			\$931,970

FUNDING SOURCES - 2020 ACTUAL



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MEMORIAL DONATIONS

CBA received memorial donations to honor the memory of:

Nelle T. Cala

Paul Crowe, Jr.

Viola E. "Swede" Carlson

Marilyn J. Lindahl Johnson

Dr. Timothy "Tim" Grace

Marian S. Holcomb

Emmett Shirey

Anna Manzella

Dorothy Thomas

Elizabeth D. "Betty" Wile

**"Thank you" to those who remembered their loved ones
by way of a Memorial Gift to CBA.**

**Memorial contributions assist CBA in providing services and adaptive
aides to the legally blind and visually impaired.**

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**CBA Vision Rehabilitation Services
(Chautauqua Blind Association)**

**510 West Fifth Street
Jamestown NY 14701**

Phone: 716 664-6660

Fax: 716 664-1193



CBA's Mission: Enable visually impaired people to be active members of their community and to provide education and services to prevent vision loss.

**CBA Vision Rehabilitation Services would like to remind everyone,
"Have an annual eye exam."
Maintaining healthy vision is for all ages.**
