



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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[www.cbavision.org](http://www.cbavision.org)



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Jamestown, NY 14701



Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am excited to present CBA Vision Rehabilitation's annual report for 2024. Joining this organization has been an incredible journey for me, and I am truly proud of the work we have accomplished together during my first year as Executive Director.

I am thankful for the dedication and support of our staff as I transitioned into this new role, the loyalty of our supporters and Board of Directors, and most importantly, the resilience of the individuals we serve. I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact our work can have on people's lives.



We celebrate many accomplishments in 2024, including a very successful Dining in the Dark fundraiser. With the support of our generous donors, volunteers, and attendees, we raised funds to continue the work we do with the Youth Vision Screening program and promoted our Vision Rehabilitation services.

We partnered with St. Bonaventure's Occupational Therapy students in Cattaraugus County to help raise awareness for White Cane Day. Additionally, we collaborated at an event with the staff of Jamestown's Northwest Arena, along with the Occupational Therapy Assistant students from JCC, to educate local 8th-grade students about the daily challenges our visually impaired clients face.

These, along with other community events, fundraisers, and achievements, reflect not just the hard work of CBA staff and volunteers, but also the support of each one of you - our donors, community partners, and friends. We look forward to continuing to strengthen relationships with area college students, other agencies, Lions clubs, and the community. Our supporters believe in our mission, and I believe that helps fuel everything we do, and for that, we are deeply grateful.

I am excited looking to the future and collaborating with all of you to identify new opportunities, strengthen our existing programs, and reach everyone who needs and can benefit from our services.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Sincerely,

*Megan Maynard*  
Executive Director

# Message from the President



The annual meeting from a year ago feels like it happened just yesterday, and yet clearly a full year of 'mission accomplished' activity has taken place. Being a member of this board of directors, and working with such a committed and resourceful Executive Director in Megan, is truly a privilege.

This past year is certainly highlighted by the growth in community support as evidenced in our Dining in the Dark results, and in the executive level refinements in operations as seen in accounting, an improved employee handbook, reductions in financial liabilities, new laptops and new automobiles, and other improvements.

I appreciate the commitment and contributions of each board member in our monthly meetings and in respective committees. We are so fortunate to have a board that is able to back the commitment of such an exceptional executive director and her team.

I, for one, am looking forward to what this next year may bring: Serving more who need our services? Expanding our fund raising opportunities and successes? Rethinking what it means to be a 'member' of CBA?

Whatever lies ahead, you are all part of where that begins. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Gene West  
President, CBA Board of Directors



CBA's mission is to enable people with visual impairments to be active members of their community, to provide education regarding vision loss, and to raise awareness of the importance of early vision screening for a lifetime of healthy vision.

# **2024 Impact and Outreach**

## **127 Visually Impaired clients were provided services**

### **26 Clients Served in Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program**

The VR program under our NY State Comprehensive Services Contract consists of 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 the area of: Vision Rehabilitation, Orientation & Mobility, and Social Casework. Training is provided in-home, at their job or school and continues until goals are met.

### **88 Clients Served in the Adaptive Living Program (ALP)**

The ALP program is under our NY State Contract and assessments are made on individuals 55 years and older in the areas of: Personal Care, Meal Management, Family Care, Communication Skills, Home Management, Indoor/Outdoor Mobility, and Financial Management. Training is provided in-home and continues until goals outlined in their assessment are achieved independently.

### **13 Clients Served in Non Contracted Independent Living Program**

The Independent Living Program consists of individuals who are not eligible to be served in an ALP or VR Program, but require Vision Rehabilitation, Orientation & Mobility and/or Social Casework services.

## **727 Individuals Reached in 28 locations and Educated about Our Services and Vision Loss**



# **Vision Screening by the Numbers:**

## **Measuring Impact on Youth**

**4,497** children  
vision screened  
in **101** locations in  
Chautauqua and  
Cattaraugus  
Counties



**730** Children  
referred for  
professional  
services for eye  
exams and  
potential glasses

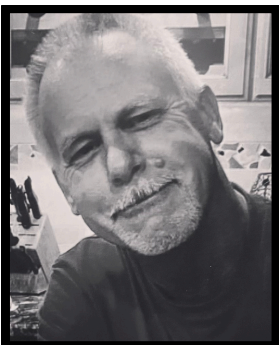
In 2024, CBA staff remained active by screening children in PreK through 1st grade, across Chautauqua and Cattaraugus County schools. CBA's Youth Vision Screening is an essential program that helps identify vision issues and the need for glasses among young children. This program depends on funding from United Way, fundraising events, and private grants to operate.

Of those screened, 17% were referred on for services with a local eye care professional. Thanks to the Youth Vision Screening Program and the Dr. Tim Grace Sight for Success Fund, these children can now experience the world more clearly and have a better chance at a successful future.



## **Dr. Tim Grace**

### **Sight for Success Program**



In 2019, the Dr. Tim Grace Sight for Success program was named in honor of the late Dr. Tim Grace. Dr. Grace was a local eyecare professional with a passion for quality eyecare and the community. This fund coincides with our Youth Vision Screening Program and helps assist local children financially, if in need, to help them to receive the proper eyecare and glasses after they are vision screened. Private donations and fundraising help keep the Sight for Success fund available. CBA thanks the Grace Family and private donors for being continued supporters of our program and the service that we provide to the community.

# 2024 Fundraising and Awareness



## **DINING IN THE DARK**

The 12th annual Dining in the Dark fundraiser took place in 2024. Over 170 attendees joined us, along with a great turnout of sponsors and volunteers who helped ensure the event's success. The Louise Tefft Award was presented to Ricardo Medina, who has contributed to CBA by creating several videos and taking photos for our organization throughout the years. The event was a great success, raising record funds for the Youth Vision Screening Program and raising awareness regarding visual impairment and the clients we serve in our Vision Rehabilitation programs.

## ***Thank You to Our Volunteers!***



We are incredibly grateful to our volunteer groups that have made CBA's Dining in the Dark events successful over the years. A special thanks goes to the students and staff of Jamestown Community College's Occupational Therapy Assistant program, students of the SUNY Fredonia Medical Professions Club, St. Bonaventure OT students, as well as the members of Lions Clubs and other community members and organizations. Their dedication and support have been invaluable in helping us further our mission.



## **WHITE CANE AWARENESS WALK**

In October, the annual White Cane Awareness Walk took place on the St. Bonaventure campus in Cattaraugus County. Several clients along with their family members, board members, and St. Bonaventure Occupational Therapy students and staff participated in the event as we raised awareness for our clients and the importance of the white cane.



## **ADAPT AND OVERCOME**

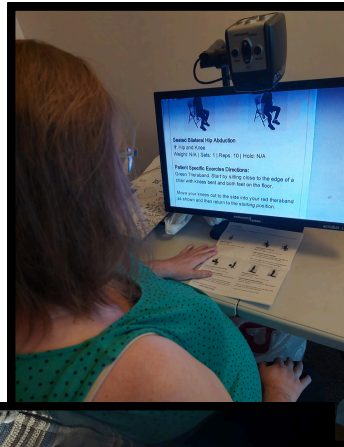
CBA Staff joined JCC OTA students and Northwest Arena staff to raise awareness to local 8<sup>th</sup> grade students on the importance of Adapting and Overcoming. Activity stations allowed students to experience, in a small way, life with a physical ailment, bringing them to a place of understanding, empathy and appreciation. We also had the pleasure of meeting Cor'Rales Dupree, who travels the country speaking to youth and sharing his incredible story of resilience.



# Program Highlights and their Impact

## **Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)**

This program addresses the need for legally blind individuals to maintain current employment, obtain employment, attend college, receive technology training, and enable them to be prosperous and independent. Training is done at their home, school, or workplace. Training can consist of orientation & mobility, braille, and the use of adaptive equipment and devices.



## **L.S.**

LS has been training towards obtaining a work experience. Due to her vision projecting to decrease, she is currently learning braille with our therapist, Debbie. LS moved into a new home this past year, so training was focused alot on cooking skills in her new kitchen and she is using a CCTV to read everything from mail to her daily exercises, as you can see in the photo.

## **Adaptive Living Program (ALP)**

This program is for individuals 55+ years old who are legally blind. They receive training in personal care, communication skills, mobility indoor/outdoor, eating meals, home and financial management, and family care. The primary benefit of this program is to allow senior citizens who are experiencing vision loss to function more independently in daily activities.



## **Winnie**

Winnie is in our ALP program and in 2024, she was living in a Senior Living Community. With the help of CBA training, she has been using her talking label wand to label things such as her medications and food in her freezer and cupboard. The label wand is also good to use for instructions for her cooking. By knowing food products and instructions, she has been able to cook for herself.



# Program Highlights and their Impact, cont.

## Independent Living

This program is for individuals who are legally blind, but are not employed. The program is designed to help clients carry out day-to-day activities. These services are provided based on individual need and may include: orientation and mobility services, rehabilitation teaching, low vision services and devices, social casework and adaptive equipment. But often require less intense instruction to meet their goals.

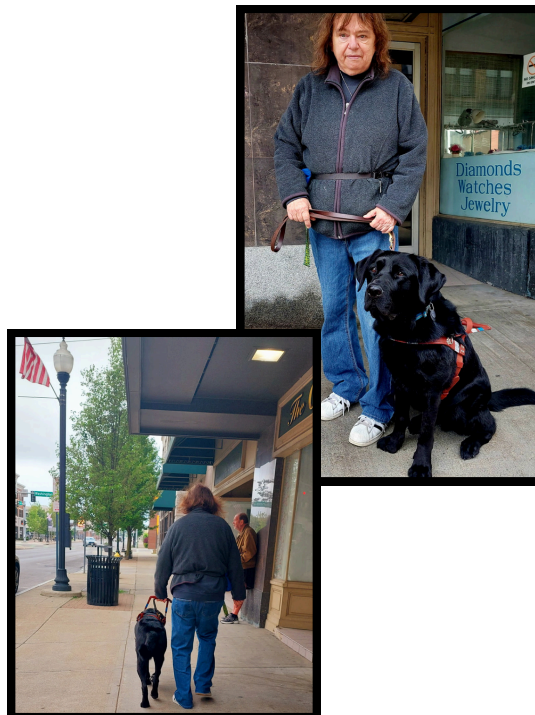


## Phil

Phil has received services through our Independent Living Program. He is newly married and recently moved into a new house, where he had to learn how to navigate the new environment, including using new kitchen appliances. Phil loves to cook and by marking his stove and microwave, he is able to remain independent and cook for his wife.

## What is Orientation & Mobility?

Orientation and Mobility, (O&M) refers to the set of skills a person who is visually impaired uses to move safely and purposefully through the environment; basically, the ability to get where you need to go. Clients learn skills to help with their independence, navigate stairs, crossing of streets and use of public transportation. Clients in any of our VR, ALP, and Independent Living programs can receive Orientation & Mobility training.



**Rose** is one of our clients in the VR program. She has worked with our therapist, Debbie, to maintain her independence, and remain active and confident within her environment, including her past workplaces. Here she is pictured with her new guide dog, Vintage, "Vinny", whom she will be receiving some further orientation & mobility training with.

# Thank you!

## Leadership and Staff

### **Board of Directors 2024**

President - Gene West  
Vice President - Eric Harvey  
Treasurer - Krista Leone  
Secretary - Mallery Dawson

#### Members at Large:

Lisa Cleveland  
Mike Herlong  
Tim Lacroix  
Hayden Senn  
Alex Grace  
Dan Stone  
Jennifer Wendel

### **Staff**

Megan Maynard - Executive Director  
  
Debra Liddell - Vision Rehabilitation  
Therapist/Orientation & Mobility  
Specialist, COTA  
  
Priscilla Shoup - Administrative  
Assistant and Blindness Prevention  
Coordinator

### **Funding Sources and Grants**

New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB)  
Chautauqua Region Community Foundation  
Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation  
United Way of Northern Chautauqua County  
United Way of Southern Chautauqua County  
United Way of Cattaraugus/Alleghany County  
William B. Anderson & Juliet J. Anderson Rosch Charitable Foundation  
M&T Charitable Foundation  
Olean Association for the Blind

## **Fundraising Sponsorships and Donors**

Cattaraugus County Bank - Lind Funeral Home - Group Ther-happy - Uber Law Office, P.C. - Law office of Andrew Robinson, Jr. - Bayview Financial Group - 716 Eye Care - Little Valley Lions Club - Collaborative Children's Solutions - Robbins & Johnson, P.C. - Michael Lahood, MD, P.C. - Media One Group - Hall and Lee Yaw, LLP - Signals - Spectrum Eyecare - HR Block - Wegmans - Kathy Grace and family - Seneca Resorts & Casino - UPMC Chautauqua - Zensations - Chautauqua Eyecare - WNY Whole Body Health - Stone Audiology - Lenny and the Landshark - Dave Snow State Farm - Dunkirk Fredonia Lions Club - Chadwick Bay Vision Care - Slone Melhuish - Pediatric Ophthalmology of Erie - Dawson Metal

**Give Big CHQ and Cattaraugus Gives donors:** Jennie Feliciano, Hayden Senn, Eric Harvey, Melisa Miller, Mackenzie Greene, Susan Stone, Jennifer Wiltsie, Lisa Cleveland, Lisa Goodell, Chautauqua Chemicals, Carol Hardenburg, Mallary Dawson, Joni Blackman, Karan Murray, Ricardo Medina

## **Individual, Business, and Church Donors**

- Karen & Donald Almgren
- Mary Budzinski
- Grace Perez-De-La-Garza
- Marjorie Filutze
- Frank Kempisty Jr.
- Grace & Robert Kennelley
- Karen A. Peterson
- James Scofield
- Joanne & William Ward
- Elizabeth Woll
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown
- Napoli United Methodist
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Northern Chautauqua
- Pilgrim Memorial United Church of Christ
- Lawley Rhoe B Henderson Insurance
- Creche
- Betty Woltz
- Juli Johnson

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

***Thank you for your donations!***



2024 Memorial Donations  
CBA received donations  
in memory or honor of:

Dr. Timothy Grace

Constance L. Basile

Happy P. Cornwall

Kathryn F. Scofield

William S. "Pete" Steen, Jr.

Nicholas Guzda

Rosalie Pembridge

Paul Crowe Jr.

Donna Raye & Emmett Shirey

Leona Smith

In Honor of Christopher Loomis

*Thank you to those who  
remembered or honored their  
loved ones by way of a  
donation to CBA.*

