

JUNE 2017



Helen Keller was born on June 27, 1880. Following a severe fever at 19 months of age Helen was left deaf and blind, but she overcame extreme adversity to become a worldwide inspiration.

Through patience and guidance from teacher Anne Sullivan, Helen learned the alphabet and thereby opened up the world to her. By age 7, Keller had developed nearly 60 hand gestures to communicate with her parents and ask for things. However, she was often frustrated by her inability to express herself. With the help of her teacher, Keller learned the manual alphabet and began communicating by finger spelling.

After attending Perkins School for the Blind in Boston, Helen was accepted into Radcliffe College, a women's liberal arts college in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She graduated with honors in 1904, becoming the very first deaf-blind person to ever earn a Bachelor of Arts degree.

During Helen's life she wrote and published a total of 12 books and numerous articles. She also became involved campaigning for then-radical causes like women's suffrage, birth control, and labor rights. In 1920, Helen Keller helped to found the American

## H and Helen Keller in June

*"I hope one day to see enough Braille presses, libraries, schools, and training centers and teachers to assure all persons the opportunities they would have had, had they not been blind. This is my greatest purpose in life."*

Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Though she campaigned for many causes, her best-known work was advocating for the rights of people with disabilities.

**Vision Resources honors the achievements and memory of this remarkable woman during the month of June. We ask you to please join us by making a contribution that will allow our agency to continue its programs and services for the blind and visually impaired, as well as our work with individuals of other disabilities. With your financial support Vision Resources will see that the legacy of Helen Keller will not be forgotten.**

**Contributions may be made securely online at [www.vrocp.org](http://www.vrocp.org), by calling 717-238-2531, or by mailing a check in the enclosed remit envelope. Thank you.**



# Declaration of **Stigma Awareness Day**

On May tenth the Declaration of **Stigma Awareness Day** was launched at the Pennsylvania capitol. The Proclamation was offered by **Representative Sheryl Delozier** on behalf of the Stigma Project, a federally funded campaign through the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council and the Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers' Association. The objective is to get Pennsylvanians' attention regarding the stigma associated with people with disabilities, and to educate and change people's thinking, behavior and attitudes and ultimately provide a more diverse and inclusive Commonwealth.

A major component of the **Stigma Project** is a documentary that was filmed featuring men and women with disabilities from Pennsylvania and to hear their personal stories and experiences. The film is titled, "**What Are You Thinking?**" It is very open and honest and provides wonderful insightful comments from the participants. **Vision Resources** is very proud of the documentary because one of our employees, **Londa Peterson** who has been blind since birth, contributed a substantial role. Londa is the Access Technology Specialist for the agency and teaches other blind and visually impaired individuals how to use computers and touch devices like iPhones.

To learn more about the documentary and the **Stigma Project** please visit [www.LetsThinkAgain.org](http://www.LetsThinkAgain.org).



*Londa with Representative Delozier.*

## CASEWORKER Notes

**VROCP** welcomes **Kathy Rodgers** is welcomed as our Caseworker providing services to the Carlisle area. We are glad to have Kathy aboard!



To learn more about the **Vision Resources** Caseworkers please call Director of Services, Nancy Altemose at 717-238-2531.



*Thank you to all of our guests,  
contributors and sponsors and volunteers  
who helped make*

**2017 Visions of Monte Carlo**  
**a smashing success.**

*See pages 4 and 5 for additional information.*

Saturday May 6, **Vision Resources** was a participant in the **Waynesboro Area YMCA Healthy Kids Day**. **Caseworker Lilli Eyer** was on hand to bring awareness to guests about the programs, services and businesses of **Vision Resources**. Her volunteer assistants made certain visitors received organizational information including agency brochures, newsletters and more.

# ORCAM MYEYE: NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Monday April 17, 2017, **Vision Resources of Central Pennsylvania** hosted a product demonstration for clients and employees of the South Central non-profit agency. Three employees from the **OrCam** organization, a technical rep, a sales/marketing person and one of their newest employees who is legally blind, visited. The members came to demonstrate their intuitive wearable device, the **OrCam MyEye**, designed to assist blind and visually impaired individuals. The new technology is impressive.

The **OrCam MyEye** device uses a smart camera and provides a visual aid through a discreet, wearable platform and easy-to-use interface. Created by dedicated software, computer and electrical engineers, and hardware design experts, the device can read text in books, newspapers, and signs. It also provides facial recognition and distinguishes objects, including money.

There are similar technologies and applications that assist the blind and visually impaired on the market. Some duplicate the functions of the **OrCam MyEye**. However, to the best of my knowledge, there is not another device containing all of the same functions, is as easy to operate and is self-contained in a small/handy unit that attaches to the side of the eyeglasses. Audio is through a tiny speaker for the ear.

As stated earlier, the new technology is impressive, but for now the one drawback for some will be the financial accessibility of the **OrCam MyEye**. As much as it may provide a greater quality of life for many individuals, the expense will make the device prohibitive to the majority that needs it. Hopefully, the organization will continue its inventive use of new technologies and develop models that can be more universally used.



**Please remember Vision Resources in your will.**

Contact Paul Zavinsky if you would like to discuss this planned giving option at 717-238-2531.



**Presents the 3rd Annual Vision Bowl**  
**A Low Vision Awareness Tournament to Support**  
**VISION RESOURCES**  
**Of Central Pennsylvania**

**ABC West Lanes 6454 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg**  
**Thursday, July 20, 2017 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**  
**Tournament Fee: Teams of 4 - \$200**

**Corporate Sponsorships Available**

For more information or to register,  
contact Cheryl Cuddy at 717-238-2531  
or [ccuddy@vrocp.org](mailto:ccuddy@vrocp.org)

**Trophies and Bragging Rights**

Registration includes 3 games  
for the 4 member team, shoe  
rental and a food voucher.



**Vision Bowl is a team bowling tournament to raise awareness for Low Vision. Teams will bowl 3 games total. The first 2 games will be used as warm up while the last game will be bowled with each of the 4 team members wearing simulation glasses that represent 4 of the primary eye diseases causing Low Vision; glaucoma, macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and cataracts.**

**The individual and the team with the highest scores from game 3 will be awarded the 2017 Vision Resources trophy.**

**Proceeds benefit the programs and services provided by Vision Resources of Central Pennsylvania.**

Vision Resources of Central Pennsylvania is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. The official registration and financial information of Vision Resources of Central Pennsylvania may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999.

# Penn State Rec Fest 2017

The Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and the Global Abilities Foundation hosted the inaugural **Rec Fest** on April 1st. **Vision Resources** was represented by Executive Director Danette Blank who felt the event was very worthwhile for individuals with disabilities, and as an awareness event for others. Featured were demonstrations of adaptive sports, exercises, community resources and demos that included wheelchair basketball, scuba diving, service dogs and adaptive snow and water ski equipment, just to name a few.

**Vision Resources** plans on participating in Penn State Rec Fest 2018 and wants to offer activities for the blind and visually impaired.





## FRANKLIN COUNTY AWARENESS

Franklin County employees (pictured above) gathered on May second for a speaking engagement with **Vision Resources of Central Pennsylvania**, Director of Development and Public Relations, Paul Zavinsky. The group was participating in the **Franklin County Government Wellness Program** and **Vision Resources** was on hand to initiate a series of awareness events with a grant provided by TFEC and the Franklin County Foundation.

**Vision Resources** is an agency that supports the interests and needs of blind and visually impaired individuals in Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin and Perry counties, and provides prevention services. The grant funding will allow **Vision Resources** to travel around Franklin County from May through October promoting

the programs and services the organization provides.

To learn more about future Franklin County events please call Paul Zavinsky at 717-238-2531, thanks.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Vision Resources is looking for volunteers.

Hours and availability are flexible. If you are interested in representing **Vision Resources** as one of our treasured volunteers, please call Cheryl Cuddy at

717-238-2531.



## Give With Liberty Volunteers

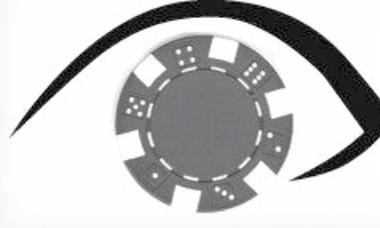
This wonderful group of Give with Liberty Volunteers, from **Liberty Mutual Insurance Co.**, did a fabulous job of painting at **Vision Resources of Central Pennsylvania**. Their effort was part of a long overdue renovation to a storage area which will soon house and display decorative art prints.

**Thank you**  
Liberty Mutual volunteers!



# VISIONS OF MONTE CARLO

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Once again, **Visions of Monte Carlo** was the fundraising event to attend. The evening turned out to be the most successful in its 19 year history. New decorations, a delicious selection of foods, wonderful auction items, fun with the casino style games, live music and dancing, and the hospitality of the Sheraton Hotel all helped to create a wonderful, enjoyable atmosphere. The pictures tell the story!

Next year **Visions of Monte Carlo** will really be fabulous as we celebrate its 20th anniversary.  
**MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Friday, April 20, 2018!!!** For more information call Cheryl Cuddy at 717-238-2531.

## THANKS TO OUR PRIZE DONORS FOR VISIONS OF MONTE CARLO 2017

AAA of Central Pennsylvania	Eye Candy	McGuire's Auto Family
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Armitage Golf Club	Harrisburg Area Riverboat Society	Outback Steakhouse
Babineau Opticians	Harrisburg City Islanders	Passage to India
Ballroom Break	Hershey Bears Hockey Club	Perfectly Pennsylvania
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Eden Resort Inn & Suites		Winterthur Museum & Country Estate
El Serrano Restaurante		York Revolution



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# VISIONS OF MONTE CARLO

**Friday, April 20!**



# GPS by NITRO

Hi All,

Shshshshhh, be really quiet! Londa stepped away from her computer and didn't take me with her. I decided to use her computer while she's gone to write this quick note, but if she catches me sitting in her chair, I'll be in big trouble. I'm not allowed on furniture you see.

I wanted to write and tell you about a type of technology we use every day to help us get where we're going. It's called GPS.



Londa uses apps on her phone just like most of her friends who are blind or visually impaired. She says there are several apps available, but

my doggie brain can't remember all that. I'll just tell you what they do. As we walk around, the app tells Londa what street we're on and what street we're approaching. It also tells her what's around us like



stores, restaurants and other places. If she puts in a specific address or place, it will tell us how to get there.

All I can say is that it makes my life a whole lot easier because Londa isn't always wondering if we're really in the right place or not. It even works on the bus, so we don't miss our stop anymore. Sometimes the bus driver drops us off in the wrong place. Even a few yards off can really be confusing for Londa and I, but the GPS helps us get back on track again.

Oh no, I think I hear her coming! I'd better get down from her chair quick! Bye for now.

Your Pal,  
*Nitro*

**To learn more about GPS apps please call  
Londa Peterson at 717-238-2531.**



**Vision Resources** has recently been gifted a large selection of art prints by a generous local couple retiring from the business. We have thousands of prints with a variety of content and sizes available. Some are signed, numbered, matted and even framed.

- Find an inexpensive (\$1.00 - \$20.00) and fresh look for your home or office, while learning more about **Vision Resources**, by attending our **Open House Art Print Sale**.
- The event will take place **Thursday, June 8, 2017**, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., at the agency location: 1130 S. 19th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17104.
- All purchases will support our mission to the blind and visually impaired of the region.
- For more information please call 717-238-2531, thanks.

*Art Gallery Open House  
When life gives you art...  
open a gallery!*



# VROCP

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**Vision Resources Radio**  
**Broadcasting can now be**  
**enjoyed via live web**  
**streaming.**



**LISTEN**  
**LIVE** (SSI))

**Select the Listen Live button**  
**on the side bar of our home**  
**web page at [www.vrocp.org](http://www.vrocp.org).**

# PLAN. GIVE. KNOW.

We all want to leave a legacy of some sort when we pass on. It might be for our family, an educational institution you attended or an organization that you look to. Your legacy may include all of these and more. As we age it never hurts to be reminded that it is important to “take care of business” before it is too late.

## PLAN

Explore the many options that are available to you. A talk with a financial professional and/or lawyer for estate planning can probably point out the options that would be a good fit for your budget and what you hope to accomplish.

## GIVE

Most financial gifts, no matter what the amount, will be appreciated and can help to provide a positive impact for the recipient(s). Giving through a will, trust or foundation is a gift for the future, but your comfort can begin as soon as it has been designated.

## KNOW

Even when you have passed on your desire to make a difference will be realized. Your generosity and support will become your lasting legacy for what you believe in and want to see continued.

**Vision Resources of Central Pennsylvania** has been remembered by many passionate individuals for 96 years. It is not how much donor planned gifts have been that is important. What was critical is the thoughtful determination, in advance of the gift, to ensure financial security would be there for the organization. Please think about what you would like your legacy to be, today!

For more information on planned giving, please call Paul Zavinsky, Director of Development at 717-238-2531, thanks.