



NEWS and VIEWS

Our Mission is to facilitate independence, enrich the quality of life, and empower individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

December 2024

The Gift of Giving

This holiday season Vision Resources of Central Pennsylvania (VROCP) is grateful to everyone that contributes to the agency, volunteers, or has chosen one of VR Business Services divisions to help meet your business needs. This organization relies on the support and strength of the community to fulfill its mission. For over a century VROCP has remained a vital source of services for the blind and visually impaired, as well as a place for individuals with disabilities to seek employment for greater independence and quality of life.

Business partnerships and private donations help Vision Resources to provide remarkable work that benefits the agency, its clients, and every community and person within Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, and Perry counties. In the organization's past fiscal year your gifts allowed VROCP Support Services to provide 1,068 hours of transportation and escort services, group education meetings, orientation, and mobility assistance.

You helped to make it possible for the Prevention Department to conduct 2,752 preschool children's vision screenings and eye health and safety education presentations to 969 preschool children.

During the same period, businesses that contracted with Vision Resources helped elevate the lives of ninety-four persons with disabilities, allowing \$932,335 in wages, and empowering these employees to realize better lives. The gift of giving is all around us during this season and this organization is appreciative for all that you do. We hope that you will please consider sending a contribution to VROCP and if you already have, "the Vision Resources Board of Directors and every employee thanks you."



SCAN TO DONATE NOW!

Pete Barto, Business Development Officer



Vision Resources recently hired Pete Barto as its first Business Development Officer. In this newly created position, Pete will be tasked with analyzing VROCP's current business service division and determining areas for potential growth. Prior to joining VROCP, Pete worked for over 20 years in the amusement and attractions industry. He worked for three different amusement ride manufacturers, Hersheypark, and served as the Vice-President of Trade Shows, Conferences and Sales for the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA). In his career, he has been responsible for generating and overseeing multimillion-dollar revenue streams, developing and maintaining strategic partnerships, and launching and promoting new products and services.

If you have some business you would like to discuss with Pete, you may reach him at 717-238-2531 x134, or via email at pbarto@vrocp.org.

AN EVENING IN THE SHADOWS

It was another sold-out, SHADOWS, event on November 7th at the Greystone Brew House in Dillsburg. All immediate comments suggest that the awareness event was enjoyable to all and created the usual enlightening impact on the guests.

The exquisite menu included: goat cheese croquettes, canestri (*translation basket*) pasta, shrimp risotto, roasted pork tenderloin, with panna cotta-raspberries and white chocolate sponge cake for dessert. The chef complimented each course for this event with a different and carefully paired wine.

The ambience included beautiful music from local harpist, Mary-Kate Spring Lee, interesting commentary about some of the youngest low-vision clients at the Vision Rehab Center were provided by CEO Cheryl Cuddy, and two individuals happily ended the evening by having their names drawn as the evening's raffle winners.

To learn more about the mission and services of Vision Resources please visit the agency web site at www.vrocp.org and please mark you calendar for the next event, *Visions of Monte Carlo*, May 8th, 2025. Please join us for this VROCP signature fundraiser.



Assisting a Guest



Guests getting ready for dinner



Blindfolded Dinner Challenge



A Delectable Dinner Course

ACCESS TECHNOLOGY



Access Technologist, Londa Peterson, began a special Braille project for the Department of Aging in late October and completed it in the first couple of weeks of November. Londa, with the help of an assistant for the collating and binding portion of the process, created and assembled 200 participant guide Braille booklets titled, **HEALTHY STEPS FOR OLDER ADULTS**. The booklet is 113 pages of content that, in two parts, covered *prevention for falls* and *exercise to stay active*.

Do you have an idea or need for something in Braille that Londa might assist you with? She may be reached by calling 717-238-2531 x111 to the Vision Resources offices in Harrisburg.

Phoenix Contact United Way Volunteers



Thank You Sponsors!

Babineau Opticians

UPMC

Terry & Marsha Davis

PA Lions District 14T

Kirman Eye

F&M Trust

Capital Blue Cross

Highmark Health/Penn State Health

PSECU

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Archware Computer Solutions

Capstone Commercial

Strickler Agency

D&H Cares Foundation

Comprehensive Financial Associates/
Pennsylvania Pension Planners

Orrstown Bank

Cordier Auctions & Appraisals

Civitan Club Chesapeake District Grant

In August 2024 Members of the Capital Region Civitan Club were able to join VROCP for a check presentation at Vision Resources. The funding, from the Civitan Club and the Foundation for Children with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities (FCIID) was through a grant approved, in June 2023. The grant made it possible for the agency to replace computers, screens, servers for the entire facility, servers for Audio Services streaming, and docking stations for employees using laptop computers. Server switch panels that had not seen improvements since the agency moved into its present location in 2009 were also part of the replacement plan.

This was the first time that all the employee computers were new, not hand-me-downs, and the applications and functions were the same and compatible across the agency. Because of a lengthy hold-up in the delivery of the new servers for Audio Services, the final installation of new equipment and check presentation was finally able to take place. Thank you to the Civitan Club and FCIID for their assistance and generosity.





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B2B: The Differences You Can Make Through Philanthropy

Vision Resources of Central Pennsylvania (VROCP) receives recognition for its mission and the work it provides the blind and visually impaired. This recognition implies the **support** the organization receives from:

- Private donations.
- From volunteers who gave close to 4,000 hours of their time to the agency in the last fiscal year.
- Business sponsors who generously sponsor events that bring public awareness to the agency and provide financial support for the agency's services.

Businesses participate in the success of VROCP by offering their employees a program where they will match contributions to this non-profit. Other businesses understand the value of contractual partnerships they might benefit from with VR Business Services:

- Printing
- Bulk Mail Services
- Warehouse Rental and Fulfillment
- Specialty Cleaning Solutions
- Contract Cleaning Services
- Production and Assembly
- Carpeting and Flooring
- Braille Services



When a business signs a contract with VR Business Services, they learn they will receive quality, timely, and competitive services. A business also learns that the business operations of this agency earn 80-85% of the necessary income needed to pay for the **free services**, Vision Resources provides blind and visually impaired clients, and *their* contract helps. Finally, a business learns that 75% of the individuals working for VROCP lives life with a disability. By helping these grateful people remain gainfully employed they build self-respect, confidence, and a greater quality of life and independence.

To learn more about how you and your business can *make-a-difference*, please call, 717-238-2531 x134, to speak with Pete Barto, Business Development Officer.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT VR BUSINESS SERVICES PLEASE VISIT WWW.VROCP.ORG