



ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

From the Executive Director



Assistive technology is the array of products, equipment, and systems available to enhance the activities of daily living for the blind and visually impaired. From a simpler eReader to the more technical Sunu Band, an abundance of items are available for use. Ever vigilant of the needs of our clients, we strive to constantly explore new options for them as we stay on top of what is available in today's techno-world.

The best place to start our exploration is to ask our clients what they need, technically-speaking. Many of our clients are aware of the assistive technology available and are eager to be introduced to the products and the positive changes that can be added to their lives. Once we identify who is interested and which items they would like information or instruction on, we put together a "game plan" for disseminating the information to the largest

group possible or on an individual basis, as necessary.

Assistive technology can be categorized into two types: low-tech and high-tech. The low-tech end might include lighted hand-held magnifiers, large-print calendars, audio labels, signature guides, talking or low-vision calculators, vibrating alarm clocks, and bump dots. The high-tech end of the spectrum includes smartphone apps such as LookTel, which can identify currency and its denomination, or Seeing AI, a talking app that has face recognition, the ability to read text & bar codes, and distinguishes colors. Also, on the high end are Sunu wrist bands that can detect objects in your path between your waist and head, reader/scanners that will read entire books, or a voice-activated telephone with voice recognition and auto-dial. However, the pricier options bring economic challenges to accessibility. Even in streamlined technology, the more bells & whistles on the device, the higher the cost, and the lower accessibility to the average client. Regardless of cost and accessibility, we are constantly assessing our client's needs and their levels of interest to be able to educate them in assistive technology.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and most importantly, our clients, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who has contributed in making FY 2017-2018 a success!

Mary Lou Wascavich

Mary Lou Wascavich, Executive Director

The mission of the Lackawanna Blind Association is to support and promote the interests of the blind and visually impaired, and the prevention of avoidable blindness.

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CLIENT SUPPORT SERVICES

250 individuals received **2021** sessions of independent living services in their homes or in a community setting to maintain or improve their activities of daily living

223 individuals received **757** sessions of educational information regarding healthy eating

21 individuals were assisted for **65** sessions of Transportation/Escort Services to Medical Appointments



Our new driver, Rich Mikolayczak, above right, helping Bob DeLuca, above left, off the mini-bus. Rich joined the LBA staff in March of this year.



Above, LBA clients enjoying the Sensory Development program which is held every Tuesday during the year.

26 individuals participated in **146** sessions of Support Groups

69 individuals were assisted with grocery and personal needs shopping in **381** sessions of shopping trips

206 individuals received **368** community connections/referrals made on behalf of individuals and families to address their specific health/safety/welfare needs

250 individuals received **542** sessions to enhance utilization of technology services and resources to maintain their independence

PELL RADIO READING SERVICES

1352 hours of service were logged by **20** volunteers

762 hours of news, health tips, and agency and community events were broadcast on WUSR-FM 99.5 FM, Monday through Friday, 8 am - 10 am

At right, Paul Trama, Radio Program Manager



*All statistics represent unduplicated numbers of persons served.

SOCIAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

21 clients shared and learned in **12** Book Club meetings
and enjoyed **12** descriptive movies together
41 clients attended **15** outings and Social Club events
25 clients took part in **492** sessions of Exercise classes



LBA clients and staff attending and enjoying our many get-togethers and outings during the past year.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS



Above, the 2018 winners of our annual Magic World of Vision eye safety and health poster contest celebrate with LBA staff and Damian, the magician. Everyone enjoyed pizza, cake, and a magic show.

1970 children at **64** sites were screened for vision problems
277 adults at **17** sites were screened for vision problems
962 children at **31** sites were educated about eye care and safety
299 adults at **11** sites were educated about eye care and safety
235 children and **22** adults were referred for follow-up care
2520 3rd-grade students at **98** sites participated in the Magic World of Vision Eye Safety Education Program

EYEGASSES

157 individuals received low-cost eyeglasses



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FY 2017-2018**

Atty. Jerome Musheno, Chairman
Karl Pfeiffenberger, 1st Vice-Chairman
Noreen Burke, 2nd Vice-Chairman
Paula DePeters, Secretary
Sharon Byrne, Treasurer
Mary Lou Wascavich, Executive Director
Judy Pronko, Immediate Past Chairman

Tracy Bannon
Joseph Barrasse
Frank Beam
Elaine Blondek
Noreen Burke
Jerry Champi
Thomas Donohue
Robert Gebert
Fred Hickman
Dr. William Jordan, Jr.
Melissa Kirtley
Ron Leas
Leigh Fennie
Nick Parise
Kristen Pfeiffenberger
Marylyn Preven

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

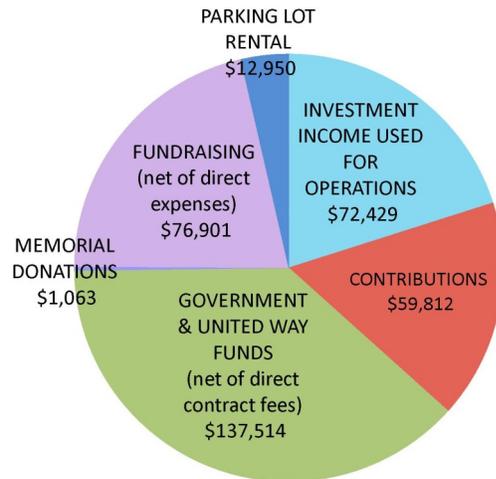
Phil Condron
John Mesko
Claudia Naismith
Ted Reap
Scott Thorpe

ASSOCIATION STAFF

Mary Lou Wascavich, Executive Director
Mary Claire Boylan, Case Work Coordinator
Anne Lawler, Prevention of Blindness Coordinator
Janet May, Office Assistant/Volunteer Coordinator
Lisa Walter, Caseworker/POB
Rich Mikolajczak, Minibus Driver
Paul Trama, Radio Manager
Peggy Suarez, Administrative Support

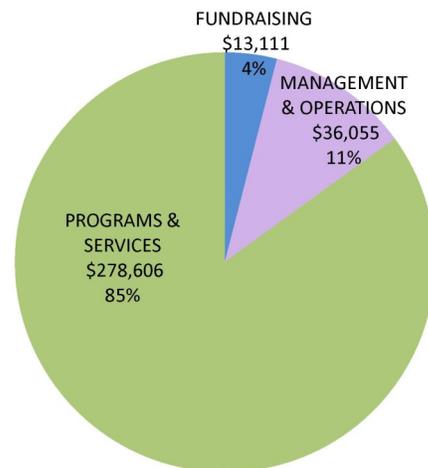
**OPERATING INCOME
FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018**

\$360,669*



**OPERATING EXPENSES
FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018**

\$327,772*



*Income and Expenses estimated, pending FY17-18 Audit

Light the Way Legacy Society



The *Light the Way* Legacy Society was formed in 2012 as a way to invite our community members to include the Lackawanna Blind Association in their estate planning and to honor those who notify us that they have done so. Members of the *Light the Way* Legacy Society can have the special satisfaction of knowing that their life's efforts will continue to make a difference. Legacy gifts become a permanent part of LBA's endowment, ensuring that LBA can continue to provide compassionate care for its blind and visually impaired family. Legacy gifts also may be designated for a specific purpose or as a memorial or tribute to loved ones.

