



Serving the Blind & Visually Impaired

Impact Report

July 2023

through

June 2024

228 Adams Avenue | Scranton, PA 18503

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Email: info@lackawannablind.org | Web: www.lackawannablind.org

Serving Lackawanna & Susquehanna Counties



Since 1912 the Lackawanna Blind Association has been serving blind and visually impaired individuals in Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties.

Our Mission is to support and promote the interests of the blind and visually impaired; and the prevention of avoidable blindness.

A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to share with you our annual report, highlighting the remarkable strides we have made together in empowering individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

This past year, our organization has achieved significant milestones. We have expanded our reach and deepened our impact through our local advocacy efforts, Client Support Services, Prevention of Blindness Program, and Radio Reading Service. These accomplishments are a testament to the dedication of our staff, Board and volunteers; the generosity of our donors; and the resilience of the individuals we serve.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to our mission and will continue to ensure that our services meet the ever evolving needs of those who rely on us. I extend my gratitude to each of you for your support. Your belief in our mission and enables us to create meaningful change in the lives of individuals who are blind or visually impaired.



Board of Directors 2024-2025

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Patricia Thomas

Lackawanna Blind Association Staff

Mary Ann Iezzi: Executive Director

Janet May: Administrative Assistant / Case Work

Kelly Mariani: Social Work Coordinator/PSE Specialist

Elaine Augelli: Case Work Aid

Mary Claire Boylan: Case Worker

Paul Trama: Radio Reading Service Program Manager

Richard Patchcoski: Mini Bus Transportation & Facilities

For more information about the Lackawanna Blind Association and its resources, please call 570-342-7613 or visit: lackawannablind.org.

Our Services

Client Support Services

LBA caseworkers regularly visit blind and visually impaired clients in the comfort of their own homes. Services include:

- Assisted shopping, Doctors appointments, Pharmacy visits
- Assistance with banking, check writing and mail review
- Assistance with correspondence, mail and bill paying Door-to-Door Escort Service
- Mini-bus Transportation
- Referrals for Orientation & Mobility Training

- **248 unduplicated individuals**
- **1,737 hours of client support services**
- **1,642 hours of transportation service was provided for grocery, medical & appointments.**
- **28% are male adults**
- **72% are female adults**
- **15% are ages 18 - 59**

Life Enrichment Program

This program provides assistance with activities in Daily Living to help our clients maintain their optimal physical health.

Activities include:

- Support Groups
- Exercise Instruction
- Life Skills Instruction
- Sensory Development
- Access Technology
- Yoga, meditation and sound bowl classes
- Mini-bus transportation to agency classes

- **1,941 hours of LE instruction in a clients home or community setting.**
- **156 hours individuals received support for Access Technology.**

Life Enrichment Program - Social Activities

Monthly, the Lackawanna Blind Association offers a variety of social activity programs for our clients including:

- Descriptive Movie Day
- Audio Book Club meetings
- Bowling & Social outings
- Bingo

Seasonal parties and outings: summer picnic, fall outing, Winter Wonderland party. Our monthly calendar of events is available in email, audio, print and braille formats to keep our clients abreast of the latest agency happenings.



Lakeland Orchard outing

Our Services

Prevention of Blindness

Ages 0-6

Prevention specialists conduct vision screenings and elementary school education programs centered on eye safety throughout Lackawanna and Susquehanna counties.

The Magic World of Vision is a fun, informative pamphlet distributed to third grade students to educate our youth about eye care and blindness prevention.

The Lackawanna Blind Association also offers adult vision screenings and education programs at senior centers, civic clubs, health fairs and industrial sites.

- **2,035 children at 77 sites were screened for vision problems.**
- **2,281 children at 91 of sites were educated about eye care and safety.**
- **341 children (15% of screenings) were referred for follow-up care.**



Spot Vision Screener



*Beacon's
Magic World of Vision
Third Grade Educational
Program*

Visual Support Center

The LBA has magnifying devices and other low-vision aids and home care equipment. LBA staff is available to provide clients and consumers with:

- Demonstrating low-vision aids and devices
- Computer instruction in assistive software for LBA clients; by appointment
- Assistance with mobile phone technology needs
- Recommendations on home technology
- Assistance to purchase eye glasses for income-eligible individuals

Radio Reading Service

The Radio Reading Service started in 1981 and is hosted daily by the LBA's Radio Program Manager, along with many dedicated volunteers. Live broadcasts for print-handicapped individuals include reading of the Times-Tribune with reports on local news, sports, and community and agency activities. In partnership with the University of Scranton, the program airs:

- Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM
- The radio broadcast can be found on the University of Scranton's radio station WUSR 99.5 FM.

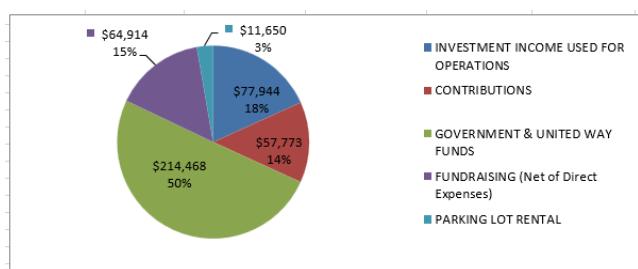
Thank you! Your Support Gives Light to Your Neighbor

The Lackawanna Blind Association extends our sincerest gratitude to our community partners foundations, donors, volunteers and friends who share their time, talents and resources with our clients. We make every effort to accurately recognize our donors. Please accept our apologies for any errors or omissions with your contribution. If there is an error, or if you would like to be recognized differently, please contact us at 570-342-7613.

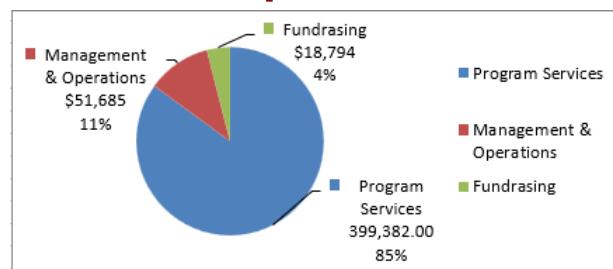
We are very grateful for all the time, dedication and talents of our volunteers.

- Total hours of volunteer service: 1906.5 hours
- Approximate monetary value of volunteer service: \$89,792.50

Income



Expenses



Donors: \$0 - \$250

Abrahamsen, Conaboy & Abrahamsen, P.C.
Adrienne Vavrick
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Frank Donnini
Freye Family Foundation
Friends of Kyle Mullins
Gary Matylewicz

Our Thanks

Donors: \$0 - \$250

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George PI Black, D.M.D
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Scandale Associated Builders &
Engineers

Our Thanks

Schiff's Food Service
Sean Byrne Construction, Inc
Sharon & Stephen Hudacek Family Fund
Sharon Potter
Shirley Pacyna
Shopland Club
Shoprite of Birney Plaza
St. John's Lutheran Church
Strategic Planning Associates, LLC
Synergist Solutions LLC
T. Peko
Ted Cerullo
Teresa Miles
Theresa Grzyboski
Wanda Donihoo
Wesel Foundation

Donors: \$251 - \$500

Abington Heights Civic League
Ashely Machine & Tool
Bennett Family Properties
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Custom Container Solutions
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Lawn Specialties
DeAngelo Contracting Services, LLC - Pest
Control
Discover NEPA Powered by Mericle
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Rosalind Marks
Ruth's Chris Steakhouse
S&H Construction

Shea Industries
T.J. Cannon, Inc
Tuxedo by Sarno
William Rinaldi

Donors: \$501- \$1,000

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Covenant Presbyterian Church
Friends of the Blind
Judy Pronko
Sabia Family Foundation
Schwartz-Mack Foundation
Stafursky Paving

Donors: \$1001-\$2,500

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FNCB Bank
NET Credit Union
North Penn Charitable Foundation
Northeastern Security Systems
P&W/Washo, Inc
Peoples Security Bank & Trust
Robert P. Harrington, Inc /Mary Regina Perry

Donors: \$2,501 - \$5,000

Margaret Briggs Foundation
NE Eye Institute
Peoples Security Charitable Foundation
Shoprite / Bracey's Supermarket
United Association Local Union 524
Toyota of Scranton

Donors: \$5,001 +

Albert & Ann Margolies Trust
Anonymous
Estate of John Rhodes
Joseph Kashuba
Scranton Area Community Foundation (Capacity
Building & Critical Needs Grants)
Scranton Lions Club
United Way of Lackawanna, Wayne & Pike Counties

Other Supporters:

Bureau of Blind & Visual Services	COLTS Transportation
City of Scranton	Lackawanna College
Kailin of Earth	University of Scranton
Oak Street Health	

There is no better way to thank God for your sight than by giving a helping hand to someone in the dark. — Helen Keller



Light the Way Legacy Society

Please consider joining our Light the Way Legacy Society by including the Lackawanna Blind Association in your estate plans. Your thoughtful gift will support our ongoing work and inspire meaningful change in people's lives as they learn to cope with visual impairment.

Charitable Trusts / Wills
Life Insurance
Pension / Retirement Plan

Memorial Contributions
Monetary Donations
Gift / Annuity



Scan to Donate

For additional information please reach out to Mary Ann Iezzi, (Executive Director) at 570-342-7613 (x1) or toll free at 866-662-5300.



- Sensory Development
- Radio Program
- Events / Fundraising
- Life Skills & Exercise

...And more

Consider volunteering this year and becoming a Friend of the Blind! Your gift of time can make a difference in someone's life!

Contact Us

To request any changes to:

- Have the newsletter sent via email
- Be removed from the mailing list

Please call 570-342-7613 (ext. 5) or email:
jmay@lackawannablind.org.

Mark Your Calendars UPCOMING EVENTS

**96TH ANNUAL
HELEN KELLER DAY EVENT
“Eyes on Fashion”**
Fiorelli Catering / Peckville
Sunday, March 30, 2025

**38TH ANNUAL
WILLIAM J. JORDAN, M.D. MEMORIAL
SWING FOR SIGHT GOLF
TOURNAMENT**
Glen Oak Country Club / Clarks Summit
June 16, 2025



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.



The Lackawanna Blind Association is a Pennsylvania registered 501(c)(3) organization. FED ID# 24-0795466



United Way of
Lackawanna, Wayne & Pike