



LACKAWANNA  
**BLIND**  
ASSOCIATION

Assisting visually-impaired & blind individuals since 1912



# Board of Directors 2025 Impact Report

**Making a Visible difference in our  
community since 1912**

## *A Message from the Board Chair and Executive Director*

*Dear Friends,*

*We are pleased to share our Annual Impact Report, reflecting the significant progress we have made in empowering individuals who are blind or visually impaired. This year marked a pivotal moment for the Lackawanna Blind Association as we introduced a new, more inclusive mission statement, new website, and developed a strategic plan to guide our work over the next three years.*

*Our efforts have continued to expand through local advocacy, Client Support Services, the Prevention of Blindness Program, and our Radio Reading Service. These achievements are made possible by the dedication of our staff, Board, and volunteers; the generosity of our donors; and the resilience of those we serve.*

*Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to meeting the evolving needs of our community. Thank you for your unwavering support—your belief in our mission enables us to create meaningful change in the lives of individuals who are blind or visually impaired.*

*Paula DePeters, Board Chair &  
Mary Ann Izzi, Executive Director*

## **New Mission Statement**

*The mission of the Lackawanna Blind Association is to enhance the quality of life for individuals who are blind or visually impaired by supporting and advocating for their unique needs and interests.*

### **Contact Us:**

**228 Adams Avenue | Scranton, PA 18503**

**570-342-7613 | Toll Free: 866-662-5300 | [www.lackawannablind.org](http://www.lackawannablind.org)**

# Executive Summary: Strategic Plan 2025-2028

Founded in 1912, the Lackawanna Blind Association (LBA) has been a vital resource for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. The LBA remains steadfast in its commitment to service, advocacy, and empowerment.

**This Strategic Plan for 2025–2028 builds on more than a century of service and includes:**

- **Programs and Services:** Expand and modernize core offerings such as client support, social activities, and Radio Reading services; including exploring new initiatives.
- **Public Relations and Outreach:** A comprehensive outreach strategy will be developed to raise awareness of LBA's mission and services. This includes rebranding efforts, expanded use of digital media, and stronger strategic relationships.
- **Financial Sustainability:** Strengthen fundraising capacity and launch sustainable fundraising initiatives.
- **Facilities and Equipment:** Assess and upgrade facilities and technology to support service delivery.
- **Organizational Development:** Expand and train the Board of Directors, enhance governance, and invest in staff development to ensure long-term organizational strength.



## Leadership, Organization & Management

LBA is guided by a dedicated team of professionals and volunteers who are committed to its mission. Over the next three years, the organization will focus on building a strong leadership structure, recruiting board members with relevant expertise, assessing staffing needs, and ensuring that staff are supported through training and professional development. Governance policies, by-laws and internal procedures will be reviewed and updated to align with best practices and strategic goals.

## Community Engagement

LBA recognizes that meaningful community engagement is essential to fulfilling its mission. The organization will seek to deepen its relationships with clients, families, service providers, and local institutions through collaborative partnerships, and open communication. Initiatives will include community needs assessments, outreach to schools and healthcare providers, and participation in civic events. This plan reflects LBA's ongoing commitment to innovation, inclusion, and impact. With the support of our dedicated staff, board of Directors, volunteers, and community partners, the LBA will continue to empower individuals with visual impairments to lead independent, fulfilling lives.





## Programs: Client support services

At the Lackawanna Blind Association (LBA), we believe that independence begins where comfort lives—right at home. Our dedicated caseworkers visit blind and visually impaired clients in their own homes, providing personalized support that makes everyday life easier and more fulfilling. 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



### 2025 IMPACT AT A GLANCE

**248** UNDUPLICATED  
INDIVIDUALS



**1744**  
HOURS  
CLIENT  
SUPPORT  
SERVICES

**1847 HOURS**



Transportation services was provided for grocery, medical and other appointments.



# Programs:

## Life Enrichment Program

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

## Social Activities

Every month, the Lackawanna Blind Association offers a variety of social activity programs to keep our clients socially engaged. These include:

- 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 on our website, in email, audio, print and braille formats to keep our clients informed of the latest agency happenings



### 2025 IMPACT AT A GLANCE

65 VOLUNTEERS  
2141 HOURS



### 2025 IMPACT AT A GLANCE

2562 HOURS

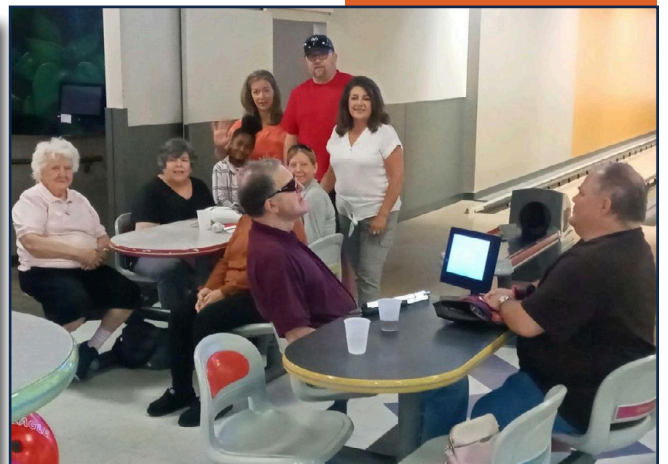


LE instruction in a client's home or community setting

153 HOURS



Individuals received support for Access Technology





## Programs: Vision Support Center



### 2025 IMPACT AT A GLANCE

  
**2318 CHILDREN  
AT 103 SITES**

were screened for vision problems

  
**342 CHILDREN**  
were referred for follow-up  
care

  
**2933 CHILDREN  
AT 97 SITES**  
were educated about eye care and safety



Beacon & Truffles  
3rd Grade Educational  
Program



Spot Vision Screener

The LBA offers a variety of magnifying devices, low-vision aids, and home care equipment to help individuals maintain independence and improve daily life. Our staff provides guidance and support, ensuring every client and consumer finds the solutions that best fit their needs.

- Demonstrating the use of 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 for more accessibility
- Eye Glass Program: Assistance to purchase eye glasses for income-eligible individuals

### Prevention of Blindness

Prevention is the key to lifelong eye health. Our Prevention Specialists travel throughout Lackawanna and Susquehanna counties to provide vision screenings and eye safety education programs for pre-school and elementary school students. Through interactive lessons and our colorful pamphlet, "The Magic World of Vision," third graders learn the importance of eye care and blindness prevention in a fun and memorable way. These programs help children build healthy habits that last a lifetime.

Eye health matters at every age. That's why we also offer vision screenings and educational programs for adults at senior centers, civic clubs, health fairs and industrial sites.



# Programs:

## Radio Reading Service

Since 1981, the Lackawanna Blind Association's Radio Reading Service has been a trusted source of information and companionship for individuals with print disabilities. Every day, our Radio Program Manager and a team of dedicated volunteers bring the news to life with live broadcasts featuring readings from the Times-Tribune, along with updates on local news, sports, and community events. In partnership with the University of Scranton, this program ensures that everyone—regardless of vision—can stay informed and connected.

- 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

## Board of Directors 2024-2025

### Board Officers

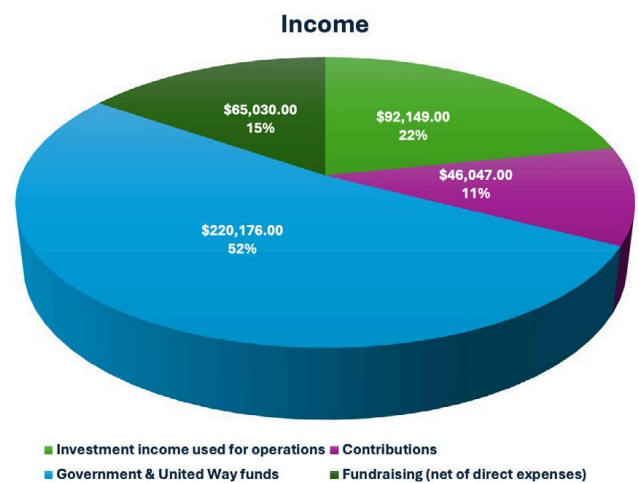
Paula DePeters, Chair	Judy Pronko, Vice Chair
Ellen Rudis, Secretary	Nicholas Parise, Treasurer

### Board Members

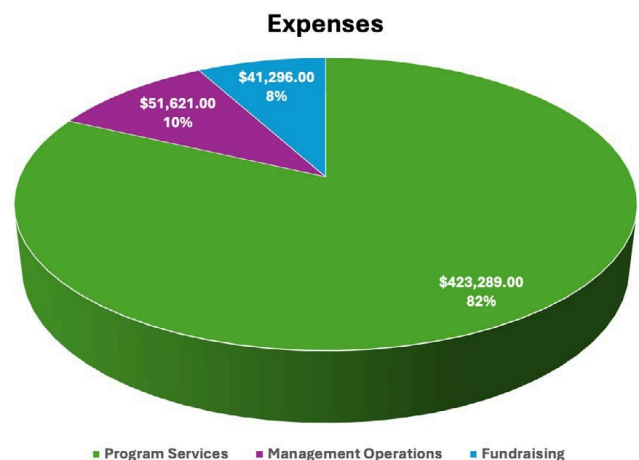
Jasu Acharya	Kristen Hinds
Joseph Barrasse	Dr. William Jordan, Jr., D.O
Elaine Blonddek	Alexis Kelly
Sharon Borgia	Melissa Kirtley
Gerard Champi	Martin McKeel
Thomas Donohue	Atty. Jerry Musheno
Leigh Fennie	Atty. Howard Spizer
Louise Frye	Patricia Thomas
Robert Gebert	

## Fundraising Income and Expenses

### Income Fiscal Year 2025



### Expenses Fiscal Year 2025



## 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Helen Keller Event



Eyes on  
Fashion

## 38TH ANNUAL WILLIAM J. JORDAN, M.D. MEMORIAL SWING FOR SIGHT GOLF TOURNAMENT

Glen Oak Country Club



Blind Putting  
Contest



# 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.

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### Donors: \$0- \$249

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### Donors: \$0- \$249

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- Vavrick
- Walter Ferguson
- Wanda Donihoo

### Donors: \$251-500

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- Condrion Media
- DeNaples Sanitation
- Dunmore Rotary Club
- Fidelity Charitable(Ken & Cheryl Freye)
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- Joyce Electrical
- Lackawanna County Pharmacy Assoc.
- N. Pocono Minisunk Lions Club
- SB Cottone Inc.
- St. Johns Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
- Unico National Scranton Chapter

### Donors: \$501-1000

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- AS Casselbury LLC
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- Morgan Stanley
- North Penn Charitable Foundation
- Paul Laboranti
- Paula DePeters
- Wesel Foundation

### Donors: \$1001-2500

- Atty. Jerry & Michele Musheno
- Covenant Presbyterian Church
- Dalton Lions Club
- FNCB Bank
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- MMQ & Associates, P.C.
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- Pinkus Charitable FDN/ WM NC-Philanthropic Agency
- Sabia Family Foundation
- Schwartz-Mack Foundation
- Scranton UNICO - The Italian Colony of St. Lucy
- Stafursky Paving Company, Inc.
- The United Association Local Union 524

### Donors: \$2501-5000

- Shea Demolition
- BNY Mellon Charles Robertson Trust
- Northeastern Eye Institute
- Shoprite of Birney Plaze, Daleville & Mt. Pocono
- Toyota of Scranton

### Donors: \$5001 +

- AllOne Foundation
- Anonymous
- Margaret Briggs Foundation
- Peoples Security Bank & Trust
- Scranton Area Community Foundation
- Scranton Lions Club
- The Albert & Ann Margolies Perpectual Charitable Trust
- The United Way of Lackawanna, Wayne & Pike



Scranton Lions Club



Toyota of Scranton



Dalton Lions Club: \$2,000

*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](mailto:jmay@lackawannablind.org).

## ***Mark Your Calendars*** **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **97th Annual Helen Keller Event: "Envisioning Our Future"**

Friday, April 24, 2026

**Featuring acclaimed comedian and  
magician Denny Corby**

**39th Annual  
William J. Jordan, M.D. Memorial  
SWING FOR SIGHT Golf Tournament**  
Glen Oak Country Club - Clarks Summit  
June 22, 2026



The Mission of the Lackawanna Blind Association is to enhance the quality of life for individuals who are blind or visually impaired by supporting and advocating for their unique needs and interests.

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



**United Way of  
Lackawanna, Wayne & Pike**