



- Sensory Development
- Radio Reading 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.

Make a Lasting Difference

For most of our over 100 year history, the Lackawanna Blind Association has received bequests from people who support our good work.



These gifts continue to be the foundation for the many programs and services that inspire meaningful change in people's lives as they learn to cope with their visual impairment.

Contact us to learn about ways to help support those with vision loss through **Legacy Gifts** or by including the Lackawanna Blind Association in your will. For more information call 570-342-7613.



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

INSIGHT

SPRING / SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER



LACKAWANNA
BLIND
ASSOCIATION

Assisting visually-impaired & blind individuals since 1912

Serving the visually impaired and the blind in Lackawanna and Susquehanna counties since 1912

WHY WE CELEBRATE HELEN KELLER

Helen Keller (1880–1968) was an American author, educator, and advocate whose life is a powerful example of perseverance, determination, and never giving up.

After losing both her sight and hearing at just 19 months old due to illness, she faced challenges that might have seemed impossible. But with the help of her dedicated teacher, Anne Sullivan, Keller learned to communicate and, through hard work and persistence, went on to master reading, writing, and even speech.

Her determination led her to graduate from Radcliffe College in 1904, making history as the first person who was deaf-blind to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. She later became a writer and passionate advocate, authoring several books, including *The Story of My Life*, and speaking out for people with disabilities as well as causes like women's rights and social justice.

Through her work and public speaking, Helen Keller inspired millions, demonstrating the power of perseverance and courage. Her legacy continues to influence education, accessibility, and advocacy efforts around the world, reminding us all of what can be accomplished when we refuse to give up.



HELEN KELLER

HUMANITARIAN | 1880–1968

Despite being deaf and blind since she was 19 months old, Helen Keller became one of the 20th century's leading humanitarians and co-founder of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

WBRE / NEWSMAKERS FEATURE



The Lackawanna Blind Association was recently featured on Newsmakers, where Host Jayne Ann Bugda spoke with Executive Director Mary Ann Iezzi and Board Member Judy Pronko about the organization's longstanding impact in Northeastern Pennsylvania.



For more than a century, LBA has helped individuals who are blind or visually impaired lead independent through programs such as life skills training, sensory development, socialization, children's services, and other support services. The interview also highlighted the Radio Reading Service, which provides access to newspapers and magazines for those unable to read standard print.

The Lackawanna Blind Association continues to be a cornerstone of support and advocacy in the region, offering comprehensive services to meet the needs of the community. To view the segment visit:

<https://www.2822news.com/news/newsmakers/newsmakers-to-feature-lackawanna-blind-association/>

Dear Friends,

Every day, we are inspired by the strength and determination of the individuals we serve. As you can see with our activities, their resilience reminds us that vision loss does not define limits, it opens new paths to independence, achievement, and growth.

Our commitment remains clear; to provide the tools, training, and support needed for people who are blind and visually impaired to live full and meaningful lives.

This year’s theme for our recent Helen Keller Event was “**Envisioning our Future**”. We are especially excited about the future as we take meaningful steps to expand opportunities, strengthen our programs, and better serve our community...investing in independence, innovation, and lasting impact.

None of this would be possible without your support. Thank you for being part of our mission and helping us build a more inclusive future.

Mary Ann Iezzi, Executive Director

Our Services

- Client Support Services
- Life Enrichment Program
- Life Enrichment Program / Social Activities
- Visual Support Center / Access Technology
- Prevention of Blindness (Vision Screenings and educational program)
- Radio Reading Service (Monday thru Friday 8:00AM-10:00AM on WUSR / 99.5FM)

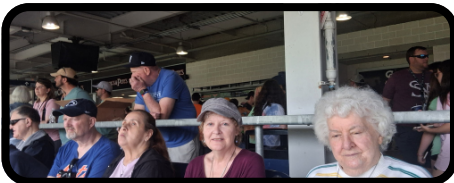


Congratulations to our HAM Radio participants who passed their **Technician License** and **received their call signs**: Joanne Gremler, Frank Beam, Adam Williams & Christina Stolze (Absent: Marty McKeel). Our thanks to Dr. Nathaniel Frissell, Ph.D, and the volunteer instructors from the University of Scranton.

What’s Been Happening

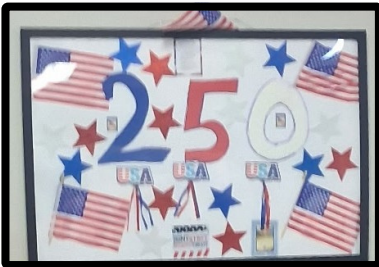


Above: Scranton Tomorrow, in conjunction with Penn State Master Gardeners, assisting our clients in decorating our flower beds during our Sensory Program.



Above...Other Activities: A visit with Individual Abilities in Motion, (I AM) and the Bike Buddy Program; 2026 Third Grade Coloring Book contest winners; clients attending SWB RailRiders Game.

Celebrating Milestones!



USA 250th Birthday - Sensory Project



Happy 100th birthday Frances!

For more information visit us at: www.lackawannablind.org

Generous Contributions

We are honored to acknowledge contributions that will help us continue our mission of serving individuals who are blind or visually impaired. We were recently awarded funding from:

- Scranton Area Community Foundation - Capacity Building Grant Program
- Irving & Edythe Grossman Fund of the Scranton Area Community Foundation
- Lackawanna County Community Re_invest Grant : Technology Upgrades
- The United Way: supporting our Life Enrichment Program and Prevention of Blindness Program & Vision Screenings.
- The University of Scranton Student ACHE Chapter
- Abington Heights Civic League, Inc.
- Albert & Ann Margolies Perpetual Charitable Trust
- Myron & Anita Pinkus Found Trust

Thank you!

We are deeply grateful for their support and belief in our work!



CHECK OUT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES FOR MORE PICTURES AND UPDATES



97TH ANNUAL HELEN KELLER DAY EVENT
“Envisioning our Future”



The 2026 Annual Helen Keller Event was a night s of laughs, featuring the amazing Denny Corby and emcee Jeremy Lewan (WNEP TV) keeping things moving. It was a magical evening bringing everyone together to celebrate our mission!

SAVE THE DATE



SUNDAY | OCTOBER 25
HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL



CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION:
570-342-7613(X5)

Northeastern Eye Institute

Peoples Security

ShopRite

NORTH EASTERN

RAIN DATE

ANNUAL WILLIAM J. JORDAN, MD

SWING FOR SIGHT

MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

GLEN OAK COUNTRY CLUB
CLARKS SUMMIT

AUG 17

CALL: **570-342-7613**

Sponsorships, raffle donations or other gifts are always welcome to support our mission. For more information call 570-342-7613 (x5)