

insight

Fall 2018

Walk By Faith, Not By Sight

Sister Linda's Light Shines Brightly in the Darkness

Many of us remember Sister Linda Maria Pelagio (photo right with WTOL Meteorologist Chris Vickers) from the inspired invocations she delivered before the last two Sight Center Dining in the Dark galas. But few of us know the journey this Philippine-born member of the Sisters of Notre Dame made to become a source of hope for countless people, including many who are blind or sight impaired..

Born in the Philippines, young Linda Pelagio was blinded by a severe reaction to penicillin at the age of six. While attending school, she became fascinated with a teacher who was a nun, and hoped that one day she could become like this holy woman. Her grandmother told her that if she wanted to be a holy sister, she must pray every day, saying "if you are called, you must trust in God."

In 1987, she travelled to the United States to participate in an international blindness conference in Missouri. This led her to the Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind where she was encouraged to pursue her dream. She applied to 16 Catholic religious communities to become a nun, but only one, the Sisters of Notre Dame in Toledo, Ohio, welcomed her to join their order.

While serving in her first ministry as a Notre Dame sister at the Kateri Center, Sister Linda was also earning a Master's degree at the University of Toledo. Since her keyboarding skills were not strong enough she was referred to The Sight Center where she quickly became a proficient typist. She also received occupational therapy, daily living instruction and training on using household appliances and braille writing devices.

In 1989, she helped start a support group for people who are visually impaired known as InnerVision. The goal was to provide spiritual enrichment, social activities and educational opportunities in an ecumenical environment. Over the years, the membership has grown to as many as 80. Sister Linda said that the name came from their feeling that "we may have lost our sight, but we will never lose our inner vision." The group continues to meet monthly at the offices of the Diocese of Toledo.



➔ Continued on next page



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SIGHT CENTER OF NORTHWEST OHIO



Walk By Faith (continued)

Through her years of service to numerous local social service organizations, Sister Linda has relied on The Sight Center for everything electronic. "They are a great resource for computer training," she said, adding, "When I am stuck with my smart phone, they help me through it. All of my electronic skills came from the people at The Sight Center."

In spite of her vision loss, or possibly because of it, Sister Linda's light shines brighter than ever. Whether she's attending an InnerVision meeting, counselling families in the Mercy St. Vincent Hospital Spiritual Care Center or meeting with residents in the John H. McKissick senior apartment complex in South Toledo, Sister Linda Pelagio keeps doing what she's been doing her entire life - walking by faith, not by sight. ■

Submitted by Mike Christie

Seeing ALL Options

The Shop Helps People Identify the Right Device Before Buying

Navigating with vision loss is challenging, but the navigational challenge shouldn't extend to finding and working with the right tools to help maintain independence. The Shop at The Sight Center allows people to identify, try and compare the low-vision products that can help in all areas of life.



Established in 2015, The Shop at The Sight Center is the only low-vision retail store in northwest Ohio. As part of a mission-driven nonprofit, The purpose of The Shop is to empower independence in our customers, not to sell a particular brand or to earn a commission. We understand there is no single solution for everyone so we offer a wide range of tools for the home, school and office. Because we are not aligned with any particular product manufacturer, we are free to talk honestly about the advantages and disadvantages of different products. What is most important is what works for you!

One major advantage of visiting The Shop is the opportunity to try out some of the most advanced wearable technology products. The Shop staff can demonstrate the wearable video magnifiers like NuEyes, Iris Vision and Jordy, as well as the "text-to-speech" OrCam glasses. For these high-tech devices with retail prices at \$2500 and higher, the guidance and support of staff with no interest in a sale or commission is invaluable.

The Shop also serves as a doorway to hope for people who are beginning to struggle with vision loss. Discovering the right kitchen gadget, handheld magnifier, task light or talking device can make life easier, but finding hope in the broader possibilities at The Sight Center is priceless.

The Shop is open to the public weekdays from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. There is no need for an appointment, but we recommend calling ahead to schedule demonstrations of the wearable devices. We'll make sure you see ALL the options! Call The Shop at 419-720-3937 x124 or shop online at www.SightCenterToledo.org. ■



The Only Thing To Fear Is Fear Itself

Vision Rehabilitation Can Defeat Fear of Blindness

HOPE FEAR

We all treasure our health. No one wants to consider a possible loss of vitality. In fact, fearing such a possibility, people may deny changes, shy away from doctors or skip medical screenings.

For many, the fear of vision loss is among their greatest health concerns. The results of a recent poll with 2044 diverse respondents, "ranked losing vision as equal to or worse than losing hearing, memory, speech, or a limb." This is not an irrational concern. As our population ages, cases of age-related diseases affecting vision are expected to double by 2050 affecting an estimated 27 million or more. Also, children and young adults are not immune to disease or accidents which cause low vision or blindness.

At the heart of many fears is the unknown. The Sight Center is driven by mission to help ease fears by connecting people to information and resources that reduce uncertainty. Consider these facts:

- ⦿ Vision rehabilitation can help visually impaired people attain maximum function, a sense of well-being, a satisfying level of independence, and optimum quality of life.
- ⦿ Vision rehabilitation is most effective when begun early in the process of vision loss. Both the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention assert the importance of early intervention.
- ⦿ The Site Center provides individualized vision rehabilitation services ranging from low vision evaluations to white cane training, assistive technology support, daily living skills and home safety enhancements. These intensive services, most of which are provided in a client's own home, teach lifelong skills that empower independence in people who have permanently lost much or all of their sight.

Each year The Sight Center provides vision rehabilitation to thousands of people of all ages who live with permanent vision loss. Some are totally blind while others are considered legally blind or visually impaired. Some have lived their entire life with their condition while others are having to adjust to their new reality after a lifetime of perfect vision. The agency enriches the lives of thousands more annually who receive relevant news, call for resource information, seek caregiver advice or find low-vision solutions in The Shop at The Sight Center. ■

"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear."

- Nelson Mandela



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(419) 725-EYES (3937) • TOLL-FREE (800) 624-8378 • www.SightCenterToledo.org

January 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

2019 Large Print Calendars

Thanks to support from our sponsors, Sight Center clients can request a free 24x18 inch 2019 calendar .

Call Tim at 419-720-3937 x105.

Calendars can also be purchased for \$5 each in The Shop at The Sight Center.

Join Us For A Day of Fun and Awareness

Canes, Brains & Automobiles Road Rally Returns September 15



The Sight Center presents the 2018 Canes, Brains & Automobiles Road Rally on Saturday, September 15, 2018 at The Sight Center. This family-friendly event raises awareness of the White Cane Laws as well as some of the daily realities experienced by people who have limited or no sight.

THE ROAD RALLY

Road Rally teams will consist of a navigator who is blind or visually impaired and a driver who is not. Navigators will be provided with Braille, large print or audio directions. Working together, the teams must use their brains to unravel the clues and find their way to the finish line.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

All guests are invited to enjoy the fun and experiential activities taking place at The Sight Center throughout the morning. They include:

- Sensory challenges
- White cane course
- Raffles & auctions
- Hot dog cookout

Canes, Brains & Automobiles will end with a hot dog lunch and presentation of prizes.

WHEN: Saturday, September 15 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

WHERE: The Sight Center, 1002 Garden Lake Parkway, Toledo

COST: FREE (Pre-registration required to participate in the Road Rally)

HOW: Call 419-720-3937 or visit www.SightCenterToledo.org/events

Presenting Sponsor

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With additional support from:
Sylvania Sunrise Lions Club

Enter the Rally.

Join the Fun.

Register today!



Call 419-720-3937 or visit
SightCenterToledo.org/Events

Mission on Display at 2018 Dark Dinner 7th Annual EyEvent Gala Paints Picture of Hope



The 7th Annual EyEvent Gala, featuring a client art show, was pleasing to the palate, or should we say "palette"? Taste buds came alive as supporters enjoyed a dark dinner experience, and guests marveled at the paintings of local artists Jeannine Dailey, Mike Sager and Dave Wisniewski (photos below), each of whom is legally blind. WTOL Meteorologist Chris Vickers once again served as Master of Ceremonies for The Sight Center's biggest fundraiser of the year. Cassandra Harter of Montpelier (photo left) provided a glimpse into her world of vision loss and the struggle to find hope after a lifetime of good vision. The Goerlich Award for Distinguished Service was presented to Jennifer Scroggs in recognition of years of service and leadership on The Sight Center Board of Trustees. ■



Scroggs Recognized For Service

The John Goerlich Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes unselfish service to the blind and visually impaired community, was presented at the 7th Annual EyEvent Gala to Ms. Jennifer Scroggs. In recognition of her multiple terms on The Sight Center Board of Trustees and her tireless leadership as three-term Board Chair, Executive Director Stacey Butts said, "We're still reaping the rewards of Jennifer's foresight and leadership," adding "We're here today because of her hard work." ■



Jennifer Scroggs (right) with
Executive Director Stacey Butts (left)

Rain Threatens, The Open Prevails

Golfers Chip In To Make The Sight Center Open a Success!



Rain threatened but The Sight Center Open prevailed! Golfers and supporters gathered at Whiteford Valley Golf Club on June 27 for The Sight Center's annual 18-hole scramble format fundraiser. The talented foursome from Habitec Security repeated as Open Champions.

In addition to the typical scramble challenges such as longest drive and closest to the pin, The Sight Center Open also included experiential activities such as Vision Impairment Putting and Blind Chipping.

► **SAVE THE DATE! The 2019 Sight Center Open is Wednesday, June 26** ■

What's All the Hoopla About?

Local Company Makes It Easy To Access Audiobooks, Movies & More!



Hoopla is a groundbreaking digital media service offered by local public libraries that allows users to borrow movies, music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics and TV shows to enjoy on computer, tablet, phone or TV. Titles can be streamed immediately or downloaded to phones or tablets for offline enjoyment later. Hundreds of thousands of titles are available to choose from, with more being added daily. Hoopla is like having your public library at your fingertips.

Hoopla is produced by Midwest Tape, located in Holland, Ohio. Midwest Tape is the leading distributor of DVDs, Blu-rays, CDs, audiobooks and Playaways to libraries since 1989. Hoopla was introduced in response to the digital revolution that continues to transform the world, including the world of people who live with permanent vision loss.

When the company introduced Hoopla, they did so with a commitment to accessibility. As the new app was being developed, Midwest Tape enlisted the expert services of the Carroll Center for the Blind in Newton, Massachusetts. The Carroll Center's Accessibility Services team uses their state-of-the-art facility to test software, applications, phones, televisions and other technological devices to gauge how well products function for users who are blind or visually impaired.

As a result, the Hoopla app is a great tool for people who are blind or visually impaired to access great content for free through their local public library. Explore the world of digital media on Hoopla at www.hoopladigital.com.



► **If you want to do more with smartphones, tablets, PCs and other technology tools, contact The Sight Center at 419-720-3937. ■**



Fire Prevention Program on October 25

The Sight Center is hosting a fire prevention & education program from the Toledo Fire Education Team and the Area Office on Aging. The program, called S.A.F.E. Senior Advocates for Fire Education, will be held on Thursday, October 25th at 1 PM in The Sight Center's Anderson Community Room. Don't miss this one-of-a-kind program! Learn how you should respond to a fire in your home or apartment building. ► **Call 419-720-3937 to register.**

Low Vision Support Group Meets Monthly

Join this monthly, client-directed group designed to share common experiences, learn about resources, find solutions to vision-related difficulties, hear from area professionals and much more. Meetings are the 2nd Friday each month from 10 AM-12 PM. There is no cost to attend.

► **INTERESTED? Contact Jill Hunt at 419-720-3937 x114 or jhunt@SightCenterToledo.org**



OUR MISSION
**We empower independence and enrich the lives
of people who are blind or visually impaired.**



Dr. Goulding Announces Retirement

The Sight Center Optometrist Leaving Lasting Legacy



After 50 years as a practicing optometrist, including 16 years as the Low-Vision Specialist for The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio, Dr. Robert Goulding has decided to hang up his ophthalmoscope at the end of this year. While the number of patients he has seen can be counted, the impact on their lives cannot. "It's hard to measure independence and quality of life" said Executive Director Stacey Butts, adding "but that's what Dr. Goulding has been giving patients his entire career."

His contributions to the worlds of vision and low vision extend far beyond the exam room. Dr. Goulding has been an active member of the Lions Club since 1988, served 13 years on the committee for Prevention of Blindness, taken multiple mission trips to Mexico delivering free eye services and glasses to people who could not otherwise afford eye care, and has been the promotor and chair of the Children's Blind Fishing program for over 10 years.

In 2014 he received The Sight Center's highest honor, the John Goerlich Award for Distinguished Service, which recognizes a person who has served the blind and visually impaired community unselfishly. "We'll miss seeing Dr. Goulding every week" said Stacey, "but we do hope to keep him involved in the work we do."

► **Consider making a donation to The Sight Center in honor of Dr. Goulding.** ■

2017 Annual Report At A Glance

We touch the lives of thousands, empowering independence and enriching lives through individualized low-vision services, supportive programs, and trusted leadership.

EMPOWERING INDEPENDENCE

Adapting to a life without vision takes time, determination, and good instruction. The certified staff at The Sight Center go the extra mile to change lives every day!

- 616 clients served in 38 counties
- 383 low vision evaluations
- 290 people connected to resources
- 672 hours of vision rehabilitation
- 134 people can travel independently
- 392 hours of technology training
- 31,260 miles to serve clients who can't drive

ENRICHING LIVES

Hope happens when people get connected to community. The Sight Center provides information, products, and experiences that change lives!

- Monthly support groups
- 10 counties with caregiver services
- 62 community group presentations
- 815 solutions in The Shop

LEADING THE WAY

Fighting for Ohio's Seniors—In September 2017 The Sight Center spoke out against changes to a state program that supports independence for blind and visually impaired older adults, safeguarding services for thousands of Ohio's seniors.



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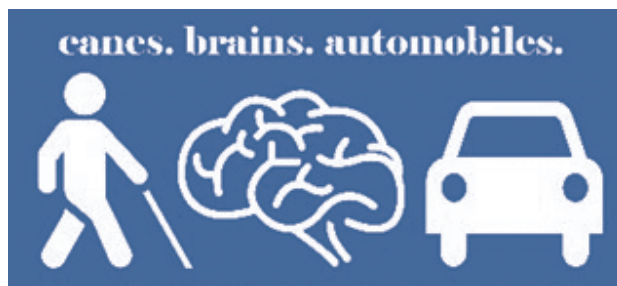
Raising Cane In Ohio Statehouse

The Sight Center Joins Effort For Medicaid Inclusion of White Canes

In June 2018, leaders from The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio, the Cleveland Sight Center and the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired testified before the Ohio House of Representatives' Health Committee in support of Ohio House Bill 587. This bill would require Medicaid to treat white canes for the visually impaired as durable medical equipment, removing a decade's old exemption for the mobility device which empowers independence for those with vision loss. This bill has garnered bi-partisan support and is currently being reviewed by the House Health Committee. ■



Join the Rally
Register today
FREE & FUN



SATURDAY, SEPT. 15
9 AM to 1 PM
At The Sight Center
(See page 4)