Upcoming Activities and Events

Eyes Just Talking
January 22, February 26, March 25, April 22
Eyes Just Talking is a peer-run activities group for visually impaired and blind individuals as well as their families and friends. In the Oklahoma City metro area, come enjoy refreshments, topic discussions, camaraderie, and exchange information and resources. All meetings are from 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m., and location alternates between NewView’s Classen and Douglas buildings.

VITAL Monthly Meetings
January 15, February 19, March 18, April 15
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
4301 N Classen Blvd.

VITAL (Veterans Independence Through Adaptive Living) gives social support to vision-impaired servicemen, women and their families by providing opportunities to build community, share stories, and access helpful resources. The VITAL group includes men and women who have served in every major war since World War II. Email info@newviewoklahoma.org for more information.

Veterans Corner
If you are a veteran and haven’t investigated all the benefits you can get from the VA, you might be surprised what you’re missing! For more information, call Dale K. Graham at the Veterans Foundation and ask to speak with Lora Malone: (405) 550-8806.

Braille Challenge 2020
March 4, 2020
4301 N Classen Blvd.

NewView Oklahoma is excited to partner with Oklahoma School for the Blind and Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services to host the 2020 Braille challenge at our Oklahoma City Center for Low Vision and Blindness! Students in grades 1-12 are invited to compete in a series of five skills contests demonstrating Braille reading and comprehension, speed and accuracy, spelling, proofreading and tactile graphics. For more information, visit brailleinstitute.org/braille-challenge.

Making Dreams Possible
Ben Ross is a Veteran whose faith and life experiences have deeply shaped him. Ross has a strong desire to share his experiences with the world in the form of a book containing personal stories that have strengthened his faith. When he suffered a stroke, however, he developed a resulting visual impairment that put a stop to his plans.

In the past, he used the “hunt and peck” method to type on a keyboard. Now, with a visual impairment, this typing method isn’t an option for him, as he cannot see the characters. He began to feel discouraged about his dream of writing a book, until he was referred to NewView Oklahoma by the Veterans Affairs medical services. At NewView, he began working with Bundy Porterfield, an Assistive Technology instructor. She shared programs and technology with him that enable him to dictate rather than type. Since working with Bundy, he has used Dragon NaturallySpeak to dictate his stories and is well on his way to writing his book!

Welcome, Dr. Maggie Ho!
Dr. Maggie M. K. Ho is our new low vision optometrist at NewView Oklahoma’s Center for Low Vision and Blindness in Oklahoma City.

Dr. Ho received a bachelor’s and master’s degree focusing on the physiology and genetics of diabetes from the University of British Columbia. Shortly after, she completed her doctorate from Pacific University. She then went on to complete her low vision residency at the University of Incarnate Word, Rosenberg School of Optometry. She is now a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry (AAO).

Dr. Ho has experience working in hospitals, Indian Health Services, Veterans Affairs, schools and private practices. She is fluent in English and Mandarin and often volunteers with mission trips, Special Olympic vision screenings and more.

We are excited and honored to have you join the NewView family, Dr. Ho!
NewView recognizes Tinker employees for National Disability Employment Awareness Month

NewView celebrated National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) this October by highlighting the capabilities of our employees who are blind or visually impaired. On Monday, October 21, NewView held a recognition event at our box reclamation unit on Tinker Air Force Base, where we have provided DLA Distribution, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma with full service warehousing and distribution of reclaimed containers since 2012.

NewView manages over 450 National Stock Numbers (NSNs) on a 4.4 acre indoor/outdoor warehousing space where a variety of wood, fiber, metal and plastic containers are delivered, inspected, repaired/refurbished, managed and stored until ordered by the customer.

“IT saves time and money to keep from having a brand-new fabrication each time a container is needed,” said Dennis Goodnight, Deputy Director of the DLA distribution center at Tinker. “In the past, there was a lot of waste. It means we can get parts into the supply system cheaper and faster.”

NewView’s box reclamation unit has saved DLA more than 22 million dollars since 2012!

Why I Serve: Dean Jackson

During Dean Jackson’s 35-year military career, he sometimes made morale phone calls home from overseas, where his calls were transferred through a switchboard operation at Tinker Air Force Base. When his career brought him to Tinker as a Mission Support Commander, he had the opportunity to meet the men and women operating those very same switchboards, most of whom were blind or visually impaired.

“They could work magic, letting you talk to family from halfway around the world,” Jackson said of the switchboard operators.

He soon learned that NewView Oklahoma provided employment for most of those individuals and met NewView’s president and CEO, Lauren Branch. That was in 2007, and since then, Jackson has remained a vital part of the NewView community, serving as an active member of the community outreach council and working to find new opportunities for business and employment.

Gifts in Action: The Boeing Company

Through philanthropy based on purposeful investment, employee engagement and advocacy, the Boeing Company provides charitable support to organizations that build better communities worldwide. Focus areas include improved access to competitive learning, workforce and skills development, and supporting military and veteran communities.

Since 2010, NewView Oklahoma has received grants each year supporting military and veteran communities.

The most recent grant of $9,000 will support the summer camps AND a job readiness program for young adults with vision loss.

This fall, NewView also received a Boeing Global Engagement grant to ensure that more veterans with vision loss have access to rehabilitation and support group services. A portion of the $100,000 grant will be used to purchase diagnostic equipment to support increased outreach to veterans blinded by traumatic brain injury. The Boeing Company also stepped forward to serve as the Presenting Sponsor of our Annual Veterans Day Luncheon on November 20. Because of their generous $5,000 gift, NewView was able to mount a fitting tribute to the service and sacrifice of veterans that garnered the largest attendance in the event’s history.

NewView Oklahoma is honored to partner with the Boeing Company to improve the lives of Oklahomans who are visually impaired. Thanks to these generous gifts, Oklahoma youth and veterans challenged by vision loss will have access to the services and support they need to live the full, productive lives they deserve.

Congratulations, Christian!

On September 19, Christian Gorshing graduated from George Mason University’s certification program in business management at the National Industries for the Blind headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. She was one of 21 students to complete the yearlong program, which resembles an MBA in structure and time commitment. Christian has worked at NewView Oklahoma since 2005, most recently serving as accounting manager. For her, this program was a step forward for her career, and a move that helped her shift directions as she looks ahead to her future at NewView.

Since graduating, Christian has been promoted to plant manager for the NewView manufacturing facility. Congratulations and a job well done, Christian!