2018 OWL Camps were a Huge Success!

OWL (Oklahomans Without Limits) Camp is NewView Oklahoma’s free summer camp for kids ages 8-18, who are blind and visually impaired!

NewView believes that every child deserves to have a summer camp experience and that’s why we created OWL Camp in the summer of 2000, and it has grown to two weeks of camp hosting hundreds of children over the years.

This year, the Tulsa OWL Camp was held at Lake Tenkiller and the OKC OWL Camp was held at YMCA Camp Classen in Davis, Oklahoma. Kids and teens enjoyed waterskiing and tubing while at the OWL Camp at Lake Tenkiller and had a great time on the water. Younger campers and their sighted buddies enjoyed a fun (but very hot) week riding horses, kayaking, rock climbing, swimming and many other fun activities while in the Arbuckle mountains in Davis, Oklahoma.

We couldn’t continue to serve our children and teens with this amazing experience every year without the support of our donors and volunteers. A special thank you to our Delta Gamma volunteers from across the country who made each camp more exciting for the kids.
Remembering Cathy Holden

Cathy Holden, Sr. Vice President of Rehabilitation and Clinical Operations for NewView Oklahoma, passed away unexpectedly on July 27, 2018. She leaves behind a tremendous legacy and many broken hearts.

Cathy had an immeasurable passion for her work and mostly, for the people in her care.

Her career with NewView began in 2008, although her service to others began long before that when she began working in the field of low-vision and blindness.

Over the years, Cathy touched the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of NewView clients and employees. Her desire to serve others could be seen in every one of her actions as she advocated for those with visual impairments in the state of Oklahoma and throughout the country.

Cathy's professionalism could only be matched by her amazing sense of humor and her abundant love for others. She will be greatly missed.

If you would like to make a donation to NewView in Cathy’s honor, please contact Sarah Frey at sfrey@newviewoklahoma.org.
How Important are Your Glasses?

By JUDITH RILEY, O.D.
Vision Rehabilitation Optometrist at the NewView Low Vision Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma

The best pair of glasses starts with a good prescription, but the design of the glasses can make even the best prescription not work well!

When dealing with vision loss it is important to think of many variables besides the strength of the lenses when prescribing. I have seen many patients struggle to see, not because the power of the glasses was wrong, but the design was wrong.

The start is getting a good fit on the frame. Not only should the glasses look good, but the frame should fit well and stay up on the nose to do it’s job. A frame that is too small or too large for the width of the head will not stay in place. A nose that is too small for the chosen frame will not hold the frame up. So always begin with the best fitting frame.

The center of power should be directly over the pupil. If this is not measured correctly, there will be prism or distortion in the prescription. When dealing with some of the strong powers we use in Low Vision, patients can have subtle double vision that seems like blur but it is actually two images that shadow each other creating blur.

Bifocals need to be in the correct place. Too low, and the patient can not ever get the reading material in view. Too high and distance vision is distorted. If you have lost some of the working areas in your macula in age-related macular degeneration or in some of the macular dystrophies, the small area provided in a progressive bifocal will not give you a wide enough reading area. I often suggest a second pair of reading glasses to get a larger working area for reading.

The use of computers often requires a second pair for the best vision at that distance in a straight-ahead position. There are special tints we use that block the blue light and glare that can create sleep disorders in those with long hours on the computer.

Tint is important, too much and vision is dimmed. Too little and glare occurs. Our staff is trained to evaluate patients for the correct tint that best enhances vision. We may have a second pair of glasses made with a tint for a special task such as yellow to enhance reading or plum to help with brain injury.

All lenses for someone with vision loss should be made from protective materials. The precious vision the patient has needs to be protected from any further loss from impact.

Many problems our patients have in seeing are from the glasses not being designed to work well. It becomes very satisfying to help them do better by just changing the fit or style of the glasses.
Gifts in Action

Did you know that only 25-30% of NewView services are reimbursed by medical insurance such as Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance? In addition, NewView never turns an individual away based on their ability to pay, so we also have a robust benevolent care component in our services. This funding gap must be covered by charitable gifts, which is why your support moves mountains. Recently, NewView received grants and gifts from the United Way of Central Oklahoma, Philip and Miranda Kaiser Foundation, Oklahoma Arts Council, Maxine and Jack Zarrow Foundation and American Fidelity Foundation.

In addition to applying for grants, NewView also holds two annual fundraising luncheons; one in Tulsa, which just took place on October 3. Special thanks to: Arvest Foundation, Presenting Sponsor, as well as Downtown Tulsa Lions Club, Harrel Eyecare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Helmerich Payne, Mabrey Bank, TD Williamson, Max and Marian Vowel, Maxine and Jack Zarrow Foundation, Shining Honor Project, The Lou and Connie Miller Charitable Foundation, and University Village.

Save-the-Date: The Oklahoma City luncheon will be April 11, 2019 at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church. If you know of a corporation or individual that would like to sponsor the OKC luncheon, please email or call Tiffany Henley at thenley@newviewokahoma.org or (405) 602-0780. Sponsorships range from $500-$5,000, so there are support levels to fit every budget.

Charitable gifts are the engine powering the nonprofit mission of NewView. The rehab and employment services NewView provides in Oklahoma and in 17 states total, are changing lives daily. Your gifts make this possible. Thank you!
Why I Give

As Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oklahoma for 25 years, reading has played an integral role in the life of Thomas J. Hill. Diagnosed with Macular Degeneration after his retirement, Mr. Hill began having trouble reading the fonts on his tablet. The magnifier Tom purchased did not help and he had to call on a neighbor to read his mail for him. Tom felt disheartened, for at 94 years old, he still wanted and needed to be able to read.

Tom was referred to NewView by his ophthalmologist, Dr. Rebecca Morgan, a low vision specialist at the Dean McGee Eye Institute. As one of 523 referring physicians to NewView, Dr. Morgan told Tom about NewView’s low vision services and recommended that he call NewView “sooner rather than later.”

Tom contacted NewView immediately and following a low vision exam, he received a prescription for spectacles which immediately improved his ability to read. During home visits by NewView occupational therapy team member, Anita Miller, Tom learned how to use a hand-held and table top magnifiers to read books and his mail. With his new spectacles and special TV glasses, Tom can read on his tablet and watch his favorite programs. Tom terms Anita as an “angel” and is so grateful for the care and patience Anita and everyone at NewView has shown to him.

Tom shared about his mother’s macular degeneration, “I wish that she could have had NewView to help her the way that they have helped me.” As a donor to NewView’s capital campaign to renovate a new building as the future home for our low vision clinic and vision rehabilitation program, Tom has one reason for supporting the nonprofit mission of NewView: “I know how much NewView’s services and the ability to use all these wonderful devices has made in my life. I want others to be able to have the same opportunity to change their lives.”

Your Giving Matters

You too, have the opportunity to change lives by giving to NewView Oklahoma’s Home for Hope Capital Campaign. We are completing renovations on a new 20,000 square foot facility at 43rd and Classen with more low vision exam, therapy and training rooms. With this much needed space, NewView can double the number of people we serve and change many more lives.

NewView has raised $3.6 million of our $4 million-dollar goal. Please consider making a gift to the Home for Hope Capital Campaign by completing and returning the enclosed card. With your generous support, you will join Mr. Hill and other donors in making our new facility a reality.
Welcome Dr. Byron Bonner

NewView Oklahoma has announced the appointment of optometrist Dr. Byron Bonner, who is now seeing patients at the NewView Low Vision Clinic in Oklahoma City at 710 West Wilshire, Suite 102.

Dr. Bonner received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Law Enforcement/Juvenile Justice from East Central University and his Doctorate of Optometry from University of Incarnate Word-Rosenberg School of Optometry. Dr. Bonner had the privilege of being the first class to graduate from UIW-RSO. Being dedicated to the school’s development, Dr. Bonner founded the RSO Chapter of the College of Optometrist in Vision Development and also the International Gold Key Optometric Honor Society RSO Chapter. During his time there, Dr. Bonner received the COVD Award of Excellence in Vision Therapy and Outstanding Clinical Excellence Award.

Dr. Byron Bonner is originally from Moore, Oklahoma and is a specialist in Pediatric/Developmental Optometry. With a collegiate sports background, he is passionate about Sports Vision Training, and concussion/mTBI management and he has a true passion to ensure the pediatric population is not overlooked. Dr. Bonner feels he will become a well-rounded Optometrist that will be able to understand and manage all aspects of the profession and is most excited about learning more about Cortical Visual Impairment and further specializing in Neuro-Visual Rehabilitation.

Dr. Bonner is a member of the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians and the American Optometric Association. He enjoys doing various activities with his loving wife and two children.

Meet Dr. Bonner on Thursday, October 18 from 5:30 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. at the OKC Low Vision Clinic at 710 W. Wilshire, Suite 102.

Upcoming Activities and Events

VITAL Monthly Meeting

October 17, 2018
NewView Headquarters, 710 West Wilshire

November 19, 2018
Location TBD

December 19, 2018
NewView Headquarters, 710 West Wilshire

11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

VITAL gives social support to vision-impaired servicemen, women, and their families, by providing opportunities to enjoy the company of their peers, share stories, be active members of their communities, and have access to helpful resources. The VITAL group is represented by men and women who have served in every major war since World War II.

VITAL meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (September - May). Attendees enjoy a catered meal and guest speakers. The group takes quarterly outings to various military bases, museums, and other venues. NewView also hosts an annual Veterans’ Day Luncheon.

Email info@newviewoklahoma.org for more information.

Envision the Future OKC Luncheon

April 10, 2019
St. Luke’s United Methodist Church
12:00 p.m. -1:00 p.m.

If you are interested in a sponsorship or hosting a table, please contact Tiffany Henley at thenley@newviewoklahoma.org or at 405-602-0780.