Navigating COVID-19
Like many other nonprofits, we’ve risen to the challenge to be creative and stay focused on our mission as we navigate the unknowns surrounding the novel Coronavirus. We want our community to know, first and foremost, that we’re still here to help.

If you or a loved one is at home with low vision and needs assistance, our low vision therapists are ready to take your call. Call today at (855) 811-9699.

Clinic Update:
To ensure our clients’ safety, we are no longer treating individuals in-person at our centers for low vision and blindness. However, we are really excited to be expanding telehealth options and are working to provide valuable resources for our clients. For brief video resources including tips for living safely at home with low vision, visit our YouTube channel by searching “NewView Oklahoma” on YouTube.

We need your help:
If you are able to give, we need your help now more than ever. For most of our clients and employees, we are the only ones who provide the services and employment opportunities they need. If we close our doors, there is no other place to go. Even a small monthly donation makes a difference. Visit nvoklahoma.org/donate today to help us continue empowering Oklahomans with vision loss.

For updates regarding upcoming events, please see Events and Activities.

Frontline Heroes
Our workforce at the NewView manufacturing facility supplies state and federal agencies with vital products like first-aid kits, hand soap and sanitizer, vinyl shower curtains, aircraft wheel chocks, fire hoses and more. Amidst the COVID-19 crisis, NewView has been deemed essential by the Department of Defense. So, with all the proper safety adjustments—including daily screening, regular sanitation, social distancing, and use of PPE—our employees are still hard at work.

We’re continuing to shift our efforts so that we can supply much-needed products to agencies who need them. For example, we’ve started offering our vinyl shower curtains as medical protective barriers and are working hard to fulfill antibacterial soap and hand sanitizer orders across the state and country.

“It’s been kind of trying, but we are ready for it,” said Elmer Norton, first-aid department supervisor. “We are happy that we have essential work to do. It’s nothing more than an honor to serve the public.”

To all of our incredible employees, thank you for your work. You’re our heroes!

Events & Activities Updates
For the safety of our community members and staff, we’ve decided to cancel several of our upcoming events. We are so sad to miss out on face-to-face time with our community, but we’re looking forward to the next time we can be together. If you have questions about any of our programming, contact Andrea Hamen at ahamen@nvoklahoma.org or (405) 250-6279.

Oklahoma City OWL Camp – CANCELED

Tulsa Waterski Camp – CANCELED

Keys to Work Transitions Institute – VIRTUAL
Keys to Work will look a little different this year! To keep everyone safe and healthy, we’ll be holding our Keys to Work training virtually. Please reach out to Andrea Hamen with any questions.

VITAL Monthly Meetings – CANCELED until Fall 2020
Our upcoming VITAL meetings have been canceled. We hope to resume meeting in September.

Veterans Corner
NewView has teamed up with the VA to offer telehealth services. If you are a veteran with low vision and need help with technology or daily living activities, NewView and the VA can assist you virtually.

First, contact NewView at (855) 811-9699. Our Occupational Therapists will create a plan that addresses your needs and challenges. Then, we’ll set up a training over the phone to meet your needs. Our goal is to keep veterans safe at home.

If you need this newsletter in a different format, contact us at info@nvoklahoma.org. We will do our best to provide you with a format that meets your needs.
Regaining Independence

Meet Mr. Smith. He’s a 76-year-old veteran who lives at home with his wife and enjoys watching TV, reading, and fishing. He has Macular Degeneration and diabetes. Due to his vision loss, daily tasks like reading or using the remote have become difficult, and he relies on his wife to help him with daily tasks.

When Mr. Smith came to NewView, he received a low vision exam and met with one of our low vision therapists. His main goal? Greater independence. One of our low vision therapists then went to his home to assess his lighting, contrast, mobility, and technology.

Mr. Smith received training on handheld electronics and wearable magnifiers, learned lighting and contrast strategies, and gained tips for mobility and medication management. Now, he lives more safely and independently, and he’s able to do things he loves, like read, watch TV and go for walks.

Mr. Smith is one of around 500,000 Oklahomans with low vision. Chances are, you know someone with low vision whose life would change for the better with NewView’s help. Call us today at (855) 811-9699 to begin the journey toward independence.

Tips & Tech
Sharing the latest tips and technology for those who live with low vision or blindness.

Staying Safe While Sheltering in Place
We’re all spending more time at home these days. Here are some ways to stay safe and optimize your home for those with low vision:

1. Reduce clutter. Remove throw rugs, shoes, toys, etc. and secure cords under furniture or against walls.
2. Keep doors closed. Individuals without full vision may bump into cabinet or room doors.
3. Use high-contrast tape to mark steps, thresholds and corners.

Apps We Love
Be My Eyes: This app allows sighted volunteers to assist people with vision loss through live video chat. It’s perfect for matching clothes or locating dropped items. Learn more at BeMyEyes.com.

Audible: Amidst shelter-in-place orders, now is a great time to try audiobooks. There’s a monthly subscription fee that includes the purchase of one audiobook per month. Get started at Audible.com.

New Levels of Confidence
Success stories come in all different forms. While some clients come to NewView with limited mobility or independence, others arrive with plenty of tools in their toolbelt. Daniel falls in the second category. He lost his vision as a 2-year-old, when doctors discovered two large tumors on his brain. Through his personal tenacity and support from family and educators, Daniel has lived a “happy and normal life.”

Daniel came to NewView at the age of 16 as a young man who was independent, mobile, and skilled with technology. Even so, when he first attended Keys to Work, NewView’s job readiness and independent living program for young adults, he was surprised at all he learned.

“I learned little things that you take for granted, that you don’t realize you don’t know until you really need to know [them].” Things like how to use a plunger and how to confidently cook meals.

NewView didn’t provide Daniel with confidence—he already had it. We simply built upon his skills, so he has every resource he needs to live an independent and successful life.

When asked what he’d like to tell others who are visually impaired, Daniel shared these words: “Don’t underestimate yourself. You can do anything you want to do; you’ve just got to try.”

We couldn’t agree more.

Gifts in Action:
Masonic Charity Foundation

We’re deeply grateful for a recent grant totaling $256,650 from The Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma City. This much needed gift will offset costs for capital needs for our Center for Low Vision and Blindness and will cover expenditures for building improvements, including greater accessibility and security.

Since 2017, the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma has been a generous and enthusiastic supporter of NewView’s efforts to improve the lives of visually impaired Oklahomans.

“We are deeply grateful for the immense generosity of the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma,” said Lauren Branch, NewView president and CEO. “This gift allows us to continue serving our clients and community to the highest standard.”

Thank you, Masonic Charity Foundation!

Follow Us on Social Media

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501 North Douglas Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73106
(405) 232-4644

NewView Oklahoma Center for Low Vision and Blindness - Tulsa
5350 East 31st St. #302
Tulsa, OK 74135
(918) 779-7772

NewView Oklahoma Center for Low Vision and Blindness - OKC
4301 North Classen Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
(855) 811-9699

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Daniel poses with Lauren Branch during Keys to Work graduation.

Mr. Smith uses assistive technology to watch TV at home.
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