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N E W S L E T T E R
.....**NEWVIEW SPOTLIGHT: MARK IVY**

Mark Ivy has worked for NewView for 6 years, and in public policy for 5. He got his start in public policy through an internship with Oklahoma Senator James Lankford. Mark and his family are passionate advocates for NewView because he, his brother Kyle, and their father have Retinitis Pigmentosa. RP is a genetic degenerative eye disease which affects each of them differently.

Through NewView, Mark has found independence and support at all stages of his adult life. From in-home Occupational Therapy at his college apartment and learning to use a cane in his 20's, which brought him the confidence to leave his apartment, to learning to change his daughter's diapers using high-contrast changing pads and a headlamp, he says "You never age out or don't get help. NewView is there every step of the way."

In November, Mark was appointed by Governor Kevin Stitt to the Statewide Independent Living Council. The Statewide Independent Living Council work together on a state plan, hold meetings, and report to the Governor to ensure that Oklahomans with disabilities have the resources they need to live as independently as possible. This state plan includes a network of services, centers, and programs to provide assistance to those who need it.



Mark has also established the NewView Visionary program, calling members of the community to donate monthly. He and his brother are working to establish competitive accessible sports teams through NewView including Goal Ball, which they hold a 3rd place title in the state of Colorado, and Dragon boating, where blind and low vision rowers compete alongside sighted rowers.

Outside of NewView, Mark is a husband of 7 years to his wife, Alyssa. They have a 3-year-old daughter named Evelyn. He is an avid sports fan, a stand-up comedian, and a proud advocate for Oklahomans who are blind or have low vision. NewView is beyond grateful for Mark and all of the work he does to make the world a better place to be blind.

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UPCOMING EVENTS *Masks are required*

We are excited to resume in person events this month! Our Eyes Just Talking and VITAL meetings will be held in-person. RSVP's are required, please RSVP to Andrea Hamen at ahamen@nvoklahoma.org. Due to COVID, this is subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, visit nvoklahoma.org/event-calendar.

VITAL

January 19th, February 16th, March 16th
11:30 am to 1 pm
4301 N Classen Blvd

EYES JUST TALKING

January 26th, February 23rd, March 23rd
3:00 to 4:30 pm
4301 N Classen Blvd

It's only January, but our 2022 summer camps are quickly approaching! Application deadlines are in March and spots are first-come, first-serve. Don't wait to apply! NewView hosts three different summer camps for kids of all ages. From life skills to accessible experiences, there's something for everyone!

KEYS TO WORK

July 10-22, 2022
Application Deadline: March 18, 2022
Ages 16-22

Our one-of-a-kind Keys to Work Residential Transition Institute in the Oklahoma City metro area provides individualized assessments and goal setting for participants with a primary disability of vision impairment or blindness, aged 16 to 22 years old during a two-week long, residential summer program. For more information, including the application, visit nvoklahoma.org/community-programs/keys-to-work.

OWL CAMP – GRADES 3-8

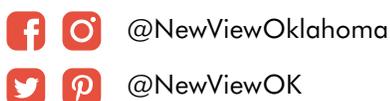
June 1-4, 2022
Application Deadline: March 11, 2022
University of Central Oklahoma (UCO)
100 N. University Dr., Edmond, OK 73034

OWL Camp was created in 2000 and has grown to two weeks of camp hosting 30 - 40 campers. Camp activities are carefully planned and designed to encourage collaboration, improve confidence, self-esteem, independence, and challenge societal and self-imposed limits through a variety of indoor and outdoor activities, with a new theme each year! This camp is for elementary students who are entering 3rd-8th grade in the fall of 2022. For more information, including the application, visit nvoklahoma.org/community-programs/owl-camps

OWL CAMP – GRADES 9-11

June 22-24, 2022
Application Deadline: March 11, 2022
Owl's Nest at Lake Tenkiller
19810 W. 901 Road, Cookson, OK 74427

Our Lake Tenkiller OWL Camp is all about inclusive water sports. Thanks to volunteers from across Oklahoma, we are able to make water skiing accessible to Oklahoma teens who are blind or have low vision. Year after year, this experience boosts the confidence of our campers unlike anything else. This camp is for students who will be entering 9th-11th grade in the fall of 2022. For more information, including the application, visit nvoklahoma.org/community-programs/owl-camps.



Lauren Branch, PRESIDENT AND CEO
NVoklahoma.org



2021 FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN: FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE

The coronavirus pandemic changed many aspects of our lives, and many of these changes will be permanent. It created a heightened awareness of contagions and emphasis on hygiene in public, it ushered in rapid changes in business models and work-from-home employment, but most of all created a new reliance on technologies that are now needed to keep us connected with friends, family, coworkers, and even vital services such as medical services and home delivery of grocery items and consumer goods. These rapid adaptive changes ushered in a “new normal” that we now live every day, and NewView Oklahoma is working to ensure that Oklahomans experiencing blindness or low vision are not left behind.

COVID was isolating, especially for people with visual impairments. NewView is focused on coming back better than ever through our impact on people of all ages. Vision loss doesn't look the same for any two patients, so we focus on taking an individualized approach to each patient's vision needs.

Our 2021 campaign has come to an end. With an abundance of gratitude to all of our incredible and generous donors, our Fundraising Department is excited to announce they met the 2021 campaign goal! Donations made this quarter will go to fund our 2022 summer camps for Oklahoma elementary and high school students who are blind or have low vision. Our OWL and Keys to Work camps provide essential confidence boosts through accessible experiences like water skiing, building blocks for independent living, and career readiness.

Visit nvoklahoma.org/donate to make a donation



GIFTS IN ACTION

DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

The NewView fundraising team is shining a spotlight of gratitude on Boeing. NewView was recently awarded a \$70,000 grant from Boeing to expand comprehensive vision rehabilitation services for veterans. NewView serves veterans of all ages, including those who may have experienced traumatic brain injury or stroke at any age, as well as older veterans who may be experiencing conditions such as macular degeneration or diabetic retinopathy. NewView is honored to serve the brave individuals who have served our nation. Thank you, Boeing!

DONOR HIGHLIGHTS:

NewView expresses humble thanks for gifts received recently from: AAON, Ascension St. John, Sharna and Irvin Frank Foundation, North American Fire Hose Corporation, ONEOK Foundation, Price Family Properties, Selser Schaefer Architects, and Maxine & Jack Zarrow Family Foundation. Thank you!

IN CELEBRATION:

With your help, NewView did it! The 2021 Campaign, Focusing-on-the-Future, exceeded the \$300,000 statewide goal. Thank you! This funding is crucial in NewView's nonprofit mission of service. We celebrate the statewide co-chairs! OKC-Region: Robyn Sunday-Allen and Russ Florence. Tulsa-Region: Jackie Price Johannsen and Whitney Stauffer. Thank you!

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Low Vision and Blindness – Tulsa
5350 E. 31st St. #302
Tulsa, OK 74135 | 918.779.7772

NewView Oklahoma Center for
Low Vision and Blindness – OKC
4301 N. Classen Blvd.
OKC, OK 73118 | 855.811.9699

WAYFINDER GRANT

NewView is excited to announce we are the recipient of the WayFinder Grant. United Way launched the WayFinder Innovation Grant program to encourage local nonprofits to develop new and innovative approaches to health and human service challenges in central Oklahoma.

NewView will be using the grant to fund a mobile vision clinic to provide no-cost vision assessments in high-need areas of Oklahoma. At least 300,000 people in the United Way service area are uninsured or underinsured without access or the ability to pay for eye care. Our mobile clinic will provide measures to improve the quality of life for those with vision loss. It is well documented that the progression of many eye diseases can be maintained or slowed with regular eye care.



GOVERNOR STITT'S VISIT

Governor Stitt visited our manufacturing facility in October with Secretary of Commerce and Workforce Development, Scott Mueller. Mark Ivy took them on a tour, showing them our capabilities and talking about the potential NewView holds to deliver even more to the state of Oklahoma. Stitt spoke at the end of his tour and recognized our employees' hard work.



VETERAN'S CORNER

Thank you to everyone who attended our Veteran's Day Event in November, hosted by Boeing.

We are planning to resume monthly VITAL meetings in January. The first three meetings of the year will be January 19th, February 16th, and March 16th from 11:30 am-1pm in the Community Room of our Oklahoma City clinic at 4301 N Classen Blvd. Due to COVID restrictions, we are requiring temperature checks upon arrival, masks while inside, and RSVPs to keep track of head count. Please RSVP to Andrea Hamen at ahamen@newviewoklahoma.org. For more information, visit nvoklahoma.org/event-calendar.



IT'S NOT WHAT YOU CAN SEE IT'S WHAT YOU CAN BE

