

A Bright Future

Logan is a typical 17-year-old high school student who enjoys reading and hanging out with friends, in addition to her school activities where she is a National Honor Society officer. She was recently accepted at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) and will start concurrent enrollment in the spring.

This is a time of increased freedom for any young adult, but Logan has had vision loss and nystagmus from birth due to optic nerve hypoplasia, so there are challenges with a new environment. NewView Oklahoma is helping with services for Logan after she attended the Keys to Work Transition Camp last summer.

"I went to Transition Camp not really knowing what I was going to get out of it, but Cathy Holden, the senior vice president of rehabilitation/clinical operations, had me get my cane out the first night and that was the end of that story," Logan said. "We weren't there just for fun, but it ended up being a lot of fun!"

Since camp, Logan has continued with follow up services from NewView including occupational therapy (OT), Orientation & Mobility (OM) and assistive technology training.

"Logan is so smart and cheerful, and she looks at the bright side of everything," said Kim Guirl, director of rehabilitation at NewView. "We're trying to set her up to be successful, especially as she goes to college and expands her independence."

In preparation for college, Logan has been touring the NEO campus and getting used to using her white cane. Her initial reluctance to using a cane came from not wanting to draw attention to her low vision and also from always being able to "get by" without it.

"I thought, 'I've made it 17 years and managed,' and I don't want to stand out. I can hide my low vision with no



Logan (left) getting ready for a television interview while at Transition Camp.

problem," she said. "But I think the cane will give me greater independence – to be able to walk around on a bigger campus and not have to rely on someone escorting me."

Logan plans to study psychology and work with children in some capacity, which will require a lot of studying. NewView services included training on adaptive equipment to make reading easier. Logan uses the Ruby, a portable device that magnifies and changes contrast to the text, as well as Prodigy which has text-to-voice and other features to help her read.

Logan says her experience with camp and follow up services at NewView are more than just about independence.

"I feel like I got so much more out of NewView than OT, O&M, and the new technology," Logan said. "I've never really been around anyone else with low vision, so camp was a great experience. In those two weeks, I made a lot of friends, and the services after camp have helped me grow a lot."



New Contracts Awarded to NewView Oklahoma

NewView Oklahoma has been awarded two five-year contracts to supply Wildland fire hoses to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) with a value of \$94,000,000. The contracts will provide more than 200,000 hours of employment to Oklahomans who are blind, as well as have a significant financial impact to the Oklahoma City economy.

NewView is the sole supplier of fire hoses for the USFS and has produced fire hoses since 2002. Last year NewView employees produced nearly 4000 miles of hoses, enough to reach coast to coast and back to Oklahoma City. The hoses are produced at the NewView facility at

501 North Douglas in Oklahoma City by employees who are blind or visually-impaired, and the hose department creates 20 full time jobs to employees who are legally blind. We encourage you to schedule a tour to learn more about our capabilities. We hope that in taking one of these tours, you will see our present and future dreams for the organization, and you will get involved to carry our message to the community around you.

We schedule tours by request to fit your availability. Email Tiffany Henley at thenley@newviewoklahoma.org to schedule your tour today.

Are you planning or revising your Will or Trust?
If so, please remember NewView Oklahoma.

For questions, contact Sarah Frey at sfrey@newviewoklahoma.org or (918) 906-5089.



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Lauren Branch,
PRESIDENT AND CEO

newviewoklahoma.org

Home for Hope Capital Campaign

Over the past nine years, NewView's Low Vision Rehabilitation Program has grown from one that served 30 clients with low vision to a statewide operation that serves more than 4,300 statewide. Because of our phenomenal growth, the rehabilitation program has outgrown our current location at the Chesapeake Community Plaza in Oklahoma City. As more than 500,000 people in Oklahoma are or may be impacted by debilitating vision loss, NewView needs more space to deliver more low vision exams and provide therapy, training and program activities to meet the ever-increasing need for our services.

To address the need for a larger facility, NewView Oklahoma launched a \$4 million capital campaign for the purchase and renovation of a 27,000 square foot building at 4301 N. Classen Boulevard. Centrally located on the Embark bus line, which makes it highly accessible to the visually impaired community, NewView's vision for the two-story building includes a welcoming entry and reception area, as well as a retail space that will offer latest in adaptive devices and assistive technologies.

The focal point of the first floor will be the store and the Community Room, which will serve as a gathering space for our clients who are visually impaired, allowing them to

participate in an ongoing schedule of group trainings, art classes, support groups and other activities. In addition to administrative offices, the plan for the second floor includes three low vision exam lanes, computer training, technology and Braille labs, a fully equipped adaptive teaching kitchen and neurological and pediatric therapy rooms. Once fundraising is completed, renovations are expected to take 9-12 months, with occupancy planned for the spring of 2019.

NewView has raised \$2,804,723 toward our \$4 million goal, including a \$500,000 challenge grant from the JE and LE Mabee Foundation. We wish to thank our most recent contributors to the campaign including **Herman and LaDonna Meinders**, the **HA and Mary K Chapman Charitable Trust**, the **Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation** and the **Robert Glenn Rapp Foundation**. We are grateful for the generous support of these and other donors for their commitment to improving the lives of visually impaired Oklahomans!

If you are interested in learning more about NewView Oklahoma's Home for Hope Capital Campaign, please contact Sandy Cotton, Vice President of Development at **405.408.3486**.



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OKC Low Vision Clinic
710 W. Wilshire, Ste 102
Oklahoma City, OK, 73116
(855) **811-9699**

855-811-9699

**SAVE
THE DATE**
Wednesday,
April 11, 2018



Please join us at our 9th Annual **Envision the Future Oklahoma City Luncheon** to hear testimonials from our staff and clients about NewView Oklahoma's life-changing programs. Learn how you can help make a difference in the lives of others with your support and donations!

Wednesday, April 11, 2018 | 12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.
St. Luke's United Methodist Church | 222 NW 15th St, Oklahoma City

To RSVP, or if you are interested in hosting a table, please contact Tiffany Henley at thenley@newviewoklahoma.org.

We Love our Volunteers!

NewView Oklahoma is proud to be in partnership with the Junior League of Oklahoma City. The Junior League is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. The organization partners with nonprofits and community agencies across the metro area to address health and wellness needs across our community.

Through the partnership with NewView Oklahoma, Junior League members help promote a healthy, active lifestyle and camaraderie for children and young adults with visual impairments. These outstanding volunteers have committed to planning and organizing quarterly events to serve individuals and their families.

During the 2017 OWL Summer Camp, members did an outstanding job volunteering with kids at the camp carnival,



which included bounce castles, snow cones, face painting, and more! In November, Junior League opened its doors to host a pumpkin decorating event for children with visual impairments. Kids enjoyed Halloween treats and music while decorating pumpkins of all sizes. We are so grateful to partner with the Junior League and we can't wait to see what is next!