

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!

After retiring from her nursing career, Karen sought a volunteer opportunity that would fulfill the caregiver in her, and a serendipitous online search led her to NewView Oklahoma.

"What spoke to me about this organization is that I was his primary caregiver for my father in his later years and he had severe macular degeneration. When you're closely associated with someone with that eye disease, you get a first-hand experience of what it's like to struggle with barely being able to see," Karen said. "Now I feel like I'm able to make an impact on others' lives while also honoring my father's memory."

Karen has helped in NewView's Creative Visions program, which helps people who are blind and visually impaired create art through photos, ceramics and knitting.

Volunteering has been very fulfilling. And after I got to know these wonderful people, I've developed friendships, so I really feel like they are my friends now."

She particularly enjoyed helping during a ceramics class taught at the Oklahoma Museum of Art.

"It was very, very tactile and touch is so much of how these individuals perceive things. And then to be able to create



with their own hands was incredible," Karen said. "On top of that, we had a real instructor, so they were getting a real art education. It was just fabulous."

Thank you, Karen, for your dedication and honoring your father's memory with your generous work!

newview
OKLAHOMA

CEO Newsletter
OCTOBER 2017

New Lenses Bring New Perspective

When Dale Shawn came to work at NewView Oklahoma last summer, he started as a lineman in the hose manufacturing department, but was quickly recognized for his leadership potential. Dale was asked to train for the department lead of hoses, and as with all NewView employees, was encouraged to make an appointment at the Low Vision Clinic in Oklahoma City.

"I figured I'd get adaptive technology, stuff to help me do my job better," Dale said. "But this turned into an opportunity I didn't think was possible."

Dale visited Dr. Roach at the Low Vision clinic who suggested he try lenses to aid his visual impairment caused by retinopathy. Dale stopped wearing glasses several years ago because the glasses were so thick they caused headaches and eventually didn't improve his vision. But Dr. Roach conducted a thorough and extensive exam, and Dale came out of the appointment with new glasses – and a whole new perspective.

"I walked out to the car and I could actually see my wife for the first time. Then I looked in the backseat and saw my son smiling, and my daughter making faces at me – which she can't do now that I can see better," Dale said laughing. "It was like the world opened up again."

Dale has lived his adult life with limited vision, seeing only light and color, and his cataracts will eventually progress to the point that he won't benefit from glasses. So, he says that he's "enjoying the view while he can."

"The biggest plus has been being able to see my family. I never thought I'd be able to do that," Dale said. "But I'm thankful for the time I didn't have glasses because it made me much more aware of what's around me and much more capable."



While his glasses are helpful in his new role as department lead of hoses, Dale says that he is not dependent on wearing glasses.

"When you grow up blind, you think you have limitations," said Dale. "But NewView Oklahoma teaches you that there aren't any limits if you have the right methods and tools. They take away the excuse that, 'I'm blind and can't do it' and teach that we can be successful and prosperous in what we do. We're not just the blind and visually impaired. We are productive, and necessary individuals."



EMBARC OKC and NewView Oklahoma Recognize White Cane Safety Day

EMBARC OKC and NewView recognized White Cane Safety Day on Friday, October 13th, to call attention to travel safety for the blind and visually impaired independently navigating the transit system. NewView employees rode the bus throughout the day to highlight the significance of the white cane as a tool of independence and mobility for people who are blind or visually impaired.

"The safety of our customers is the top priority at EMBARK. Traveling safely depends a great deal on visual cues or signals between other drivers, cyclists and pedestrians," said Jason Ferbrache, administrator of EMBARK. "Making our community safer and more accessible means calling attention to the white cane and what it represents for our visually disabled friends, neighbors and colleagues. We want to help ensure that everyone can confidently and safely travel throughout Oklahoma City."

The International White Cane Day, established on the initiative of the World Federation of the Blind, is celebrated worldwide annually on October 15th with the mission to educate the world about blindness and how the visually impaired can live and work independently with the aid of the white cane. It is also an opportunity to demonstrate how the visually impaired give back to their communities, celebrate the abilities and successes achieved by blind people in a sighted world and honor the many contributions made by the visually impaired.

"The white cane gives the blind and visually impaired the freedom to travel independently to participate more fully in the life of their communities," said Lauren Branch, NewView president and CEO. "With Orientation and mobility training, people using the white cane can enjoy greater mobility and safety by determining the location of curbs, steps, uneven pavement, and other physical obstacles in their way."

NewView has been awarded a 5 year accreditation certification through the National Accreditation Council (NAC), the only international accrediting body devoted to serving organizations that provide programs for blind and low vision consumers. Achieved through a comprehensive evaluation process guided by contemporary industry standards, this designation recognizes NewView nationally as an organization that delivers the highest quality rehabilitation, employment and education services for people who are blind or have low vision.

Recent Grants and Gifts

NewView Oklahoma recently received grants from generous foundations to fund our capital campaign, senior programs and summer OWL camp. Oklahoma Natural Gas, a division of ONE Gas, pledged \$100,000 of support to our Home for Hope capital campaign. The gift will enable NewView to add an adaptive teaching kitchen that will be fully accessible to Oklahomans who are visually impaired at our new location at 4301 North Classen Boulevard in Oklahoma City.

We were honored to be recognized by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma at the Champions of Health Awards Dinner in September, as the winner in their Champion of Senior Health category with a \$5,000 grant. NewView's Older Blind Adult

Vision Rehabilitation program provides low vision exams, occupational therapy and safe travel training, combined with instruction in healthy meal preparation, medication management, exercise and diabetic education that empowers visually impaired seniors with the skills and tools they need to remain living in their own homes in health and safety. The Employee Community Fund of Boeing awarded NewView a \$5,500 grant to support the summer OWL Camp (Oklahomans Without Limits) held at the University of Central Oklahoma this past July. This funding enabled NewView to provide a wonderful, weeklong camp experience for 25 visually impaired youth ages 8-13 years old. The grant was funded by employee contributions. We sincerely appreciate the generous support of the Boeing family.

NewView Hosts 3rd Annual Tulsa Envision the Future Luncheon

Nearly 300 people gathered at the Renaissance Hotel in Tulsa on October 25th for the 3rd Annual Tulsa Envision the Future Luncheon. Sarah Hansel and Sarah Miller, both shareholders at Hall Estill, served as the honorary chairs.

In Tulsa and surrounding areas, more than 20,000 people are affected by vision loss, and that number grows every single day. The annual luncheon is held to educate the public about NewView's programs and help raise funds to continue our services throughout the state.

If you weren't able to join us in Tulsa, save the date for our 9th Annual Envision the Future Oklahoma City Luncheon on Wednesday, APRIL 11, 2018, from 12:00 P.M.- 1:00 P.M. at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. To RSVP, or if you are interested in hosting a table, please contact Tiffany Henley at thenley@newviewoklahoma.org.



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