Continued on page 7

What a year it has been!
In 2010, we have been celebrating the 100th anniversary of one of BVRS’ founding agencies, the Pittsburgh Blind Association (PBA). PBA was incorporated in 1910 to prevent blindness and to provide jobs for people with vision loss. At the same time, we’ve been commemorating the rich history of The Greater Pittsburgh Guild for the Blind, BVRS’ other founding agency that was incorporated in 1959 to teach rehabilitation techniques to vision-impaired clients.

The work of both agencies, that consolidated in 1997 to become BVRS, has led to greater independence for thousands of people with vision loss. Through training and/or employment services at BVRS these individuals have been able to resume their lives, enjoy hobbies, continue working, and care for themselves and their families.

The story of the agencies that became BVRS began 100 years ago when immigration was booming and rapidly expanding industrialization was fraught with unsafe conditions. For workers who were disabled or blinded on the job, the choices were few.

An estimated 7,000 blind adults lived in Pennsylvania and no social safety nets existed, no job retraining, no workers’ compensation, no social security, and no welfare. Injured workers relied on the kindness of

Continued on page 7

Erika Arbogast Named BVRS President

After conducting a national search, Erika Arbogast, 31, of Cranberry, was hired by the BVRS Board of Directors to replace Stephen S. Barrett, who retired in February. (See related story on page 2.)

On July 1, she began overseeing all programs, services, and staff.

“My top priority is to get the agency to a point financially where we are a little more comfortable in these economic conditions,” she said. After that is accomplished, Mrs. Arbogast wants to grow the agency.

Mrs. Arbogast said every decision she makes is measured by whether it forwards the agency’s mission and how it affects the financial bottom line.

She most recently served as the Vice President of Programs for Life’sWork of Western Pennsylvania where she supervised a staff of 75 people and assisted the CEO in managing a $6.5 million annual budget.

BVRS received 58 applications from experienced professionals nationwide and Mrs. Arbogast’s “skills and experience made her the best person for the job”, said Mike Romano, Chairman of the Board of BVRS.

“We interviewed some pretty

Continued on back page

BVRS to Receive New United Way Funding

BVRS has been chosen by United Way of Allegheny County to implement an exciting program that addresses the needs of vulnerable seniors and adults with disabilities. In 2008, United Way developed a new strategic initiative aimed at meeting critical community needs and making the best use of funding dollars. At that time, a shift was made to create an RFP (Request for Proposals) process that stresses collaborations between community agencies and achievement of measurable outcomes. Agencies that receive funding from the United Way through this process are considered to be high quality organizations that address a population with great needs, utilize a sound approach in programming, and achieve measurable results.

In April 2011, BVRS will begin to receive funding for a three-year

Continued on page 7

Extraordinary Volunteer Nancy Schepis Receives Prestigious Senator John Heinz Award

Nancy Favo Schepis, BVRS’ dedicated volunteer coordinator who has worked tirelessly to benefit clients and programs, has been awarded the prestigious Senator John Heinz Award for “outstanding community service.”

On her behalf, BVRS received a $10,000 award from United Way.

A volunteer for 38 years, first as a mobility aide and later as the volunteer coordinator, Mrs. Schepis has logged more than 30,000 volunteer hours. Her services are valued at an estimated $750,000. As volunteer coordinator, Mrs. Schepis has recruited and trained hundreds of volunteers to work with vision-impaired clients, including sighted guide training.

“For her years of devotion and the impact she has made on the lives of people and their families, the committee selected Nancy from the 59 stellar nominations that we received...her unwavering selflessness made her the clear choice for this award,” said Scott Lammie, Chief Financial Officer of UPMC Health Plan who co-chaired the Heinz Award Nominating Committee with his wife, Susan.

Mrs. Schepis said she is honored to receive the award and that the work has always been about serving clients.

Continued on back page
Eileen Bender Named Recreation Professional of the Year

Eileen Bender, BVRS Rehabilitation Instructor, has been awarded the prestigious 2010 Therapeutic Recreation Professional of the Year award. The award was presented by the Pennsylvania State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance, a professional association to which Mrs. Bender has belonged for 45 years. “You are to be commended for being an outstanding role model, leader, and advocate,” wrote Marjorie Wuestner, President of the association. “You are joining an impressive list of previous award winners.”

At BVRS, Mrs. Bender teaches sensory training, techniques of daily living, provides instruction in health, wellness, and exercise, and organizes leisure time activities for clients.

BVRS Seeks Adult Mentor Volunteers for Vision Impaired Youth

Vision impairment can be isolating, so BVRS’ Employment Opportunities Project (EOP) has launched the Insights Mentoring Program to match young people aged 14-21 who are blind or vision impaired with a successful and confident adult who also experiences limited vision. The goal is to offer young people a friend and advisor who has faced and overcome challenges associated with vision loss.

Mentors may provide guidance in dealing with attitudes about blindness, becoming an active member of the community, and identifying resources for assistance. They may also offer tips and techniques for living independently, provide valuable insight into enhancing job exploration, and help the young person develop a positive self-image and realistic goals.

Mentors will be asked to make a one-year minimum commitment. Additionally, volunteer mentors will attend BVRS relationship building activities, meet with the young person at least once a month, contact the person at least once a week by phone or email, and provide BVRS with monthly feedback.

If you have questions or are interested in becoming a mentor, contact: Sue Lichtenfels EOP Training Specialist 412-368-4400 slichtenfels@pghvis.org

Announcing the Newest Members of our Chuck Noll Road to Independence Society


This society pays tribute to Chuck Noll who served as Chairman of BVRS’s Board from 1997-2004. Members of this prestigious group have pledged unrestricted gifts of at least $1,000 per year for five years.

If you are interested in learning more about this society and how you can become a member, please contact Laura Liggett in the Development Department at 412-368-4400 x 2232.
WHAT CAN A BLIND PERSON DO?
Hint: You just might be surprised.

LIFELONG ARTIST LYNDA LAMBERT DISCOVERS HOW TO CREATE ART WITH VISION LOSS

When she lost her vision, artist and jewelry maker Lynda Lambert wasn’t sure how she was going to make herself a cup of tea let alone create art again.

But after coming to BVRS to learn how to be independent, Mrs. Lambert has also discovered how to be an artist with vision loss.

“T’m no longer painting, and it took me two years to figure it out, but I can now use the CCTV to make jewelry,” said Mrs. Lambert, who lost her vision in October 2007 to ischemic optic neuropathy, often called a ‘stroke of the optic nerve.’

The Closed Circuit TV, or CCTV, has a camera that projects images placed beneath it onto a large computer or television screen. The image can be magnified up to 85 times its original size.

With the help of the CCTV, Mrs. Lambert has also returned to creating medieval beadwork, a project she began while an assistant fine arts and humanities professor at Geneva College.

“My introduction to the CCTV at BVRS was to read a paragraph that had one or two sentences. I was asked a question from that material. You can’t believe how long it took me to read that paragraph. It was so hard, and I got headaches from the stress on my eyes.”

Once home, she experimented with the CCTV. At the same time she discovered a group of blind crafters on the Internet who told her about methods and tools she could use to make jewelry again.

Mrs. Lambert began making pottery after a friend invited her to join a class at the Sweetwater Center for the Arts in Sewickley. Working with the clay proved to be cathartic. Mrs. Lambert took more classes and, inspired, began making pots in her home studio.

Today, Mrs. Lambert sells the pots and the jewelry she makes in area art shows. In September and October, “Going to BVRS made every difference in the world to me. I am a fully functional human being again and I really feel I can do just about anything I want to do, just like before.”

—Lynda Lambert

hers pottery was featured at the Merrick Art Gallery in New Brighton. The show featured seven other members of Associated Artists of Pittsburgh. Her work has been displayed in art exhibitions in Japan, New Guinea, Austria, and the United States. Her artistic career has been documented by the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C.

“It was only one year ago that another artist was visiting me and we were looking at the art in my home. As she was leaving, I remember saying, ‘I just hope I can be in an art show some day,’ and I broke up and began to cry,” she said.

“Right now, as an artist, I’m back in the game.”


CCTV’s Wanted
If you have an unused recent model Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) that you wish to donate, Please Call 412-368-4400.

The 14th Annual Steelers Alumni Charity Golf Tournament

BVRS’ 14th annual golf outing was held on July 26, 2010 at Diamond Run Golf Course. Since it began, the event has raised more than a million dollars for BVRS. Over 175 players and volunteers attended this year’s event. Attendees bid on fabulous prizes such as a trip on the Steelers chartered flight to watch them play the Titans in Tennessee.

Mark your Calendars for the 2011 outing which will take place on July 25, 2011.

Photos are courtesy of Sal Tommarello
BVRS Centennial Celebration—A Night of Remembrances

BVRS celebrated 100 years of service on Wednesday, October 20th at Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland. The Centennial Celebration marked an important milestone for BVRS. The evening highlighted 100 individuals, companies, and organizations who were recognized for their past record of support and dedication to BVRS and its predecessor organizations. Each of these individuals received a centennial medal to thank them for their service. Approximately 350 guests attended the program which began in the auditorium and was followed by a beautiful dinner in the Grand Foyer.

Larry Richart of KDKA radio was the Master of Ceremony for the program and was assisted by Julie Unitas Giba, a long-time volunteer and former President of St. Lucy’s Auxiliary to the Blind. The program was divided into three parts: a historical review of the past, the awarding of Centennial Medals, and a tribute to BVRS’ past and current staff. Thanks to the research skills of Dr. Richard Welsh, former Pittsburgh Vision Services President, a wonderful historical presentation began the evening.

The presentation of medals which followed was very inspirational. Several former and current clients, volunteers, board leaders, donors, and cooperating organizations were awarded medals. Over 85 people were seated on the stage after all the medals were presented. For many attendees, the centennial was like a reunion of old friends and classmates.

Many thanks to the Centennial Committee
Peggy Snively, Chair
The Hanna Family, Honorary Chairs
Cheryl Akers-Stanton
Bonnie Anton
Alan Boarts
Julie Giba
Joe Gordon
Pat Hauser
Dennis Huber
Elizabeth McCarthy
Mary Nelle McLennan
Cathy Mullin
Dick Roberts
KC Sokol
Betsy Teti
Richard Welsh, Ph.D.
Jane Yallum

Our Thanks and Appreciation to the Centennial Sponsors
Diamond Centennial Sponsors
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Oxford Development
Reed Smith
St. Lucy’s Auxiliary to the Blind
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Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney, PC
Citizens Bank
Confluence
Giant Eagle
John Lubimir
2010 Centennial Sponsor
UPMC Health Plan

The third portion of the program featured a salute to our current and past staff which showcased clients and the level of caring service they received while at BVRS. Comment after comment reinforced the importance of our staff and the essential role they play in the rehabilitation of our clients. There was hardly a dry eye in the audience after this program was over. Fabulous displays of every program currently offered at BVRS were presented in the registration and reception areas. Included were both historical memorabilia and descriptions of equipment, programs, and services currently offered. Also displayed were group photographs of staff from each department.

The Hanna Family, who have had four generations of family members active in the support of our agency, took on the role as Honorary Chairs. They also accepted medals on behalf of themselves, their mother, grandmother, children, and grandchildren. Helen Hanna Casey, Annie Hanna Cestra, and Hoddy Hanna all made comments about the importance of our work and how proud they were to be involved. Howard Hanna Real Estate Services was one of our Diamond Centennial Sponsors as was The Auxiliary, BVRS.

Every person who attended the event received a beautiful diamond-shaped paper weight with our Centennial logo etched into it as a souvenir.

A lot of hard work and dedication went into making this the most special event in our 100 year history. Hats off to the committee under the direction of Peggy Snvely, a member of our board of directors, who worked diligently on this for over a year. As well thanks go to the Development staff and to Deb Mendenhall for planning the event and utilizing the team’s creative skills to pull off a perfect evening. The event raised close to $100,000 for our programs and reinforced relationships with many old and new friends. BVRS looks forward to continuing our service to the community for the next 100 years.

Medallion Ball

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The St. Lucy’s Auxiliary to the Blind held its 47th annual Medallion Ball at the Wyndam Grand Pittsburgh (formerly the Pittsburgh Hilton) on Friday, November 26, 2010. Approximately 1,200 attendees and co-chairs of the event, Julia Gleason and Regina Callahan, watched 119 girls being awarded the Joan of Arc Medallion by Bishop David Zubik. In order to receive this honor, each girl had to perform at least 150 hours of volunteer service. The proceeds from this event benefit BVRS.

St. Lucy’s donated $125,000 to BVRS from the 2009 Ball. Shown are Penny McKenna (left) 2010 President and Annie Hanna Engel (right) 2009 President.
Our Centennial Year commanded a special individual to be chosen as the Person of Vision for 2010 and that person was Diane Holder, President of UPMC Health Plan. Diane’s leadership in the health field made her an outstanding choice to be our honoree this year.

The event was held on May 4 at the Westin Convention Center Hotel and was chaired by board member, Cynthia Kutcher Troup. Bonnie and Tom Van Kirk served as Honorary Chairs and assisted a hard working committee of volunteers who planned the event for many months. Mrs. Holder spoke of the importance of our work and the need for eye care professionals to refer to BVRS for low vision services after everything has been done to try to save a patient’s sight.

Entertainment was provided by Scott MacIntyre, a finalist on the 2009 “American Idol” TV show. Scott was described by Judge Paula Abdul as an inspiration to the entire world through your commitment and through your talent. Scott has been vision-impaired since birth.

Jim Roddey, BVRS long-time supporter and former board chair, was the MC for the evening. Jim has served as the master of ceremonies for all of BVRS’ Persons of Vision programs for over a decade. Speaking on the benefits of our programs was Dr. Tricia Pil whose daughter, Ellen, was one of the 12,000 children screened in our Preschool Vision Program. Due to our outstanding program, Ellen was diagnosed at four with a condition that, left alone, would have caused serious vision loss. As a mother, Dr. Pil was very grateful to our program for catching this problem in her child. As a medical doctor and pediatrician, she recognized the value of our service in finding vision problems in children while they are fully treatable.

BVRS is grateful to UPMC for providing so much assistance for the evening and to staff member Gina Pferdehirt for all her support and attention to detail.

**It’s A Tailgate Party!**

On Friday, June 11, the annual “For Your Eyes Only” Tailgate Party was held at the Pitt Football Practice Facility on the Southside. Head Football Coach, Dave Wannstedt, gave a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the home of the Panthers. Guests were treated to a delicious dinner, fabulous silent and live auctions, music by the classic Rock and Roll group “Truth be Told”, and an inspiring talk given by BVRS Program graduate Sharon Donovan. Many thanks to the committee members and to our guest auctioneer, Bill Alberts, for a great evening!

**Many thanks to Our Person of Vision Sponsors**

**2010 Centennial Sponsor**

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*Photo courtesy of Lennon, Smith, and Souleret Engineering*
Centennial Medal Recipients

We are proud to list the recipients of BVRS’ 2010 Centennial Medal. Recipients were presented with medals at a ceremony at BVRS’ Centennial Celebration at the Carnegie Music Hall on October 20th. The process began months earlier when nominations were received by the Nomination Subcommittee of the Centennial Planning Committee. Spearheaded by Dr. Richard Welsh, retired agency President, the Subcommittee was charged with selecting approximately 100 living individuals, organizations, companies, and foundations to honor for philanthropy, support, leadership, and commitment to helping BVRS continue into the next century our mission of service to people with vision loss and other disabilities. All past and present BVRS Employees were recognized with a special audio-visual tribute and a symbolic medal.

Hanna Family, Philanthropic Supporter, Volunteer
84 Lumber, Philanthropic Supporter
The Auxiliary, BVRS, Philanthropic Supporter
Sally Alexander, Graduate
Allegheny County DHS/Area Agency on Aging, Cooperating Organization
Allegheny County Department of MH/MR, Cooperating Organization
Emily Angelczyk, Volunteer
Bonnie and Dick Anton, Volunteer, Philanthropic Supporter, and Board Leadership
Michele Antonelli, Volunteer and Philanthropic Supporter
BNY Mellon, Philanthropic Supporter
Ronald F. Bargiband, Board Leadership
Anne Barmore, Volunteer
Dorothy (Dorrie) Barnes, Volunteer
Bayer Corporation, Philanthropic Supporter
Bethel Park Lions Club, Philanthropic Supporter
Albert Biglan, MD, Volunteer
Craig Bingham, Volunteer
Alan Boarts, Board Leadership
Nadine Bogner, Philanthropic Supporter
Bridgeville Rotary, Philanthropic Supporter
Thomas G. Buchanan, Esq., Philanthropic Supporter and Board Leadership
Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney PC, Philanthropic Supporter
Domenic Carlino, Graduate
Charles Talbot Campbell Charitable Foundation, Philanthropic Supporter
Carnegie Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped, Cooperating Organization
Linda Conner, Board Leadership
Therese Courtney, Volunteer
Diocese of Pittsburgh, Philanthropic Supporter and Cooperating Organization
Dave Dunbar, Volunteer
Ruth Eger, Volunteer and Philanthropic Supporter
George Ehringer, Volunteer
Leroy Esh, Graduate
Federated Investors, Philanthropic Supporter
FISA Foundation, Philanthropic Supporter
Donald Fusilli, Board Leadership
Giant Eagle, Philanthropic Supporter
Bob Gordon, Board Leadership and Philanthropic Supporter
Joe Gordon, Board Leadership and Philanthropic Supporter
Highmark Corporation, Philanthropic Supporter
Hillman Foundation, Philanthropic Supporter
Henry and Elsie Hillman, Philanthropic Supporter
HJ Heinz Company and Foundation, Philanthropic Supporter
Charles D. Horne, Board Leadership
Mary Janicko, Volunteer
Roy Johnson, Philanthropic Supporter
Kate M. Kelley Foundation, Philanthropic Supporter
Lois M. Kreitzer, Philanthropic Supporter
Lackner Family, Philanthropic Supporter
Sue and Bob Lichtenfels, Graduate
Lions District 14B, Philanthropic Supporter
David Lynch, Volunteer
Joe Manzinger, Board Leadership
Massey Charitable Trust, Philanthropic Supporter
Elizabeth McCarthy, Philanthropic Supporter and Board Leadership
Rita McGinley, Philanthropic Supporter
Ray Mekis, Philanthropic Supporter
Scott Miller, Graduate
Mt. Lebanon Lions Club, Philanthropic Supporter
National Council of Jewish Women, Pittsburgh Section, Cooperating Organization
Chuck Noll, Board Leadership and Philanthropic Supporter
Oakland Lions Club, Philanthropic Supporter
Pennsylvania Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services, Cooperating Organization
PA Department of Community & Economic Development, Cooperating Organization
Richard Pagliari, Board Leadership and Philanthropic Supporter
Heidi Pierce, Graduate
The Pittsburgh Foundation, Philanthropic Supporter
PNC Financial Services, Philanthropic Supporter
PPG Industries, Philanthropic Supporter
Judy Press, Volunteer
James C. Roddey, Board Leadership and Volunteer
Sherrie Rodgers, Graduate
Michael Romano, Board Leadership and Philanthropic Supporter
Natalie M. Ruschell, Graduate and Board Leadership
Leo Russell, Board Leadership and Philanthropic Supporter
Ed Ryan, Board Leadership and Philanthropic Supporter
Faye Sampson, Philanthropic Supporter
Vincent Sarni, Board Leadership and Philanthropic Supporter
Scaife Family Foundation, Philanthropic Supporter
Nancy Schepis, Volunteer and Philanthropic Supporter
Dr. Walter A. Schratz, Board Leadership
Carol Schwartzmiller, Volunteer
Marilyn Seach, Volunteer and Philanthropic Supporter
The Frieda Shapiro Family, Philanthropic Supporter
Marcia Sherwin, Volunteer and Philanthropic Supporter
Peg Sobek, Volunteer
Speyer Family Foundation, Philanthropic Supporter
St. Lucy’s Auxiliary to the Blind, Philanthropic Supporter
Cheryl Akers Stanton, Board Leadership
Edith Trees Charitable Trust, Philanthropic Supporter
United Way of Allegheny County, Philanthropic Supporter and Cooperating Organization
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Philanthropic Supporter
Upper St. Clair Lions Club, Philanthropic Supporter
Julie Uram, Board Leadership and Philanthropic Supporter
US Steel Corporation, Philanthropic Supporter
Dave and Jan Wannstedt, Volunteer
Lora Werkmeister, Volunteer
Ron Wertz, Philanthropic Supporter
Western PA School for Blind Children, Cooperating Organization
Archbishop Donald Wuerl, Board Leadership
Lois Zahorchak, Philanthropic Supporter
Vicki Zezzo, Volunteer
Sid Zonn, Board Leadership

BVRS AWARDED BNY MELLON GRANT

We are pleased to announce that a grant of $50,000 has been approved by the BNY Mellon Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania Board of Directors at the Foundation’s November 17th meeting. These funds are to enable 20 blind and/or visually impaired youth to participate in Blind and Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh’s enhanced Employment Opportunities Program. The BNY Mellon Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania and BVRS will work collaboratively to build and enhance this relationship and positively impact the communities we serve.
Based Training and transportation together to provide Community modifications to qualified individuals. 

Together Pittsburgh BVRS is collaborating with Rebuilding in their own homes.

In his practice. Thomas McAloney, Superintendent of the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children and his Board of Directors were increasingly concerned about the difficulty that the school’s graduates had in finding employment.

From their efforts, the organization that became the Pittsburgh Association for the Blind was founded in 1910 to provide employment to persons who were blind, and to promote blindness prevention.

Nearly 60 years later, Father Paul Lackner learned that the US Army and the Veterans Administration had developed systematic training methods to rehabilitate blinded soldiers. Father Lackner was the Director of the Catholic Guild for the Blind and responsible for transportation and social services for adult Catholics without vision.

Under the leadership of Bishop John Wright, a non-denominational rehabilitation center called The Greater Pittsburgh Guild for the Blind was formed in 1959 to bring training to blind adults in Pittsburgh. Its mission was Independence through Rehabilitation.

With PAB and The Guild, vision-impaired Pittsburghers were well served. Over time, however, the ability to sustain both agencies became an increasing challenge. In 1997, the Boards of both agencies decided to consolidate into one agency that became Pittsburgh Vision Services.

In 2005, the consolidation was completed when the buildings of both agencies were sold and the new agency was renamed Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh. At that time, our programs and administration offices were relocated to our current home, the former Homestead Hospital located one mile from the Waterfront Shopping Center. Our Industries programs were moved to a North Side industrial park where there is easy shipping access and room for growth.

BVRS Celebrates Centennial—100 Years of Service

Continued from front page their families or begged in the streets to survive.

At the time, preventable blindness was growing rapidly. A leading cause of this was ophthalmia neonatorum, a condition that newborns contracted when exposed to harmful bacteria in the birth canal. Not many people knew that a few drops of silver nitrate placed in a baby’s eyes would kill the bacteria and prevent blindness.

Three private citizens stepped up to confront these problems. Phoebe J. Ruslander, a prominent Pittsburgh community leader, responded to the call of her organization, the National Council of Jewish Women, who sought to address the needs of adults who were blind. William Wightman Blair, a Pittsburgh ophthalmologist, wanted to do something about the growing number of blind people that he was seeing in his practice. Thomas McAloney, Superintendent of the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children and his Board of Directors were increasingly concerned about the difficulty that the school’s graduates had in finding employment.

From their efforts, the organization that became the Pittsburgh Association for the Blind was founded in 1910 to provide employment to persons who were blind, and to promote blindness prevention.

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BVRS to Receive New United Way Funding

We are so excited to receive funding for this project and to have the opportunity to partner with Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh! Many thanks to United Way for recognizing the value of our work and the needs of seniors throughout Allegheny County.
Erika Arbogast, BVRS Volunteer receives Heinz Award

Continued from front page

"It is truly a wonderful experience to help new, unsure clients when they arrive and then see confident individuals when they leave," said Mrs. Schepis. "This organization has given me so much more than I have ever been able to give them."

Dr. Richard Welsh, former agency president, said Mrs. Schepis’ contribution has been priceless.

“When I invited Nancy in 1990 to consider a position coordinating all of the volunteers for The Greater Pittsburgh Guild for the Blind, she was reluctant at first. She considered that it was beyond her skill level, but I disagreed,” he said. “It was typical of Nancy to accept this challenge that would require her to stretch and grow, and she grew into these responsibilities beautifully. This prepared her to challenge and invite many other volunteers to take on new responsibilities and grow in new ways, just as she has grown as their leader and supervisor. She is a worthy recipient of the Senator John Heinz Award.”

Surrounded by family and friends, Mrs. Schepis received the award at a November 8th private reception at the UPMC Center for Connected Medicine. The event was held by the United Way’s Tocqueville Society which every year recognizes a Southwestern Pennsylvania volunteer whose efforts exemplify the late Senator’s heartfelt commitment to, and support of, local families. The reception was also sponsored by UPMC Health Plan.

BVRS needs donated cars, boats, RVs, or trailers running or not! We’ll get that old vehicle out of your driveway and you’ll get a tax deduction.

For further information, call the Development Department at 412-368-4400.

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enewsletter@pghvis.org

We will begin offering electronic copies of the newsletter in 2011.

Erika Arbogast Named BVRS President

Continued from front page

good candidates, but she stood out,” said Mr. Romano, Senior Vice President for Procurement and Administrative Services at Highmark. “Not only does she have the skills needed for this job, but she brings a great deal of energy and excitement and is not afraid to tackle new ground. She has what it takes to move BVRS into its next 100 years of service to the community.”

Mrs. Arbogast, a Mars native, earned a Bachelor’s Degree in psychology from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master’s in Professional Leadership, Concentration in Nonprofit Management from Carlow University.