



Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh

1800 West Street
Homestead, PA 15120

412-368-4400
800-706-5050
TDD: 412-368-4095
Fax: 412-368-4090

www.BlindVR.org

March 18, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Michael A. Romano Fitness Center Opens at Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh

Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh (BVRS) announces the opening of its refurbished fitness center named in honor of Michael A. Romano, the agency's former board chairperson and retired senior vice president of risk and administrative services for Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield. The Michael A. Romano Fitness Center opened in a new and larger space with new exercise equipment with funding from Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, the Robert & Mary Weisbrod Foundation and the William B. McLaughlin Charitable Trust.

"A fitness regimen is an essential rehabilitation component for persons who have lost or are losing their vision," said BVRS President Erika Arbogast. "As these individuals lose mobility and confidence in using their remaining senses, they are especially at risk of injury from falls and chronic illness. Our new center provides a larger and brighter exercise area, along with state-of-the-art fitness equipment for our clients."

Individuals who go through personal adjustment to blindness training at BVRS are offered an adapted physical education program in the specially designed fitness center. While the center is currently open to staff and clients for balance training and fitness activities, plans are to make the center available to the community.

"As a company that's committed to creating stronger, healthier communities, Highmark is proud to support BVRS' new fitness center, which will serve as a key community resource for individuals who are visually impaired throughout Allegheny County," said Evan Frazier, Highmark's senior vice president of community affairs.

BVRS is the sole nonprofit agency in Allegheny County providing rehabilitation services for individuals who are blind or vision impaired.

MORE ABOUT BVRS

Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh, a 103-year-old private nonprofit, has been a leader in programs and services for people of all ages who are blind, vision impaired or have other disabilities. We believe in independence through rehabilitation. Our mission is to change the lives of persons with vision loss and other disabilities by fostering independence and individual choice.

We offer comprehensive and personalized computer instruction, employment and vocational services, personal adjustment to blindness and deaf blindness training, independence skill building, in-home instruction, and low vision services for persons with vision loss. BVRS is a United Way Impact Fund Award for Excellence Agency and is accredited by The National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving People with Blindness or Vision Impairments (NAC).

Contact:

Debra Meyer
dmeyer@PghVis.org
412-368-4400, ext. 2287

Helping people who are blind, vision impaired or have other disabilities achieve their goals.