



## Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **Scout Creates Sensory Garden at Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services**

The grounds at Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh (BVRS) have been spruced up with the addition of a sensory garden created and designed by Matthew Scotti, a Mt. Lebanon Eagle Scout candidate. The garden, near the front entrance of the Homestead building, is a beautiful space for clients, visitors and staff to enjoy different types of flowers, herbs, a water fountain, wind chimes, and benches.

A sensory garden is a garden or other plot specifically created to be accessible and enjoyable to persons with a disability and provides individual and combined sensory opportunities that they may not normally experience.

Last summer, Matthew was a volunteer for Blind & Vision Rehab's summer program for teenagers who are blind or vision impaired. His volunteer experience led to the idea for a sensory garden. He raised more than \$2,500 for his Eagle Scout project, along with donations of topsoil, stones, and the water fountain. The 16-year-old will be a junior at Central Catholic High School in the fall. Matthew is a Life Scout with Boy Scout Troop 65 in Mt. Lebanon and expects to earn his Eagle Scout rank this fall.

### **MORE ABOUT BVRS**

Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh, a 103-year-old private nonprofit, is 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 training, independence skill building, in-home instruction, low vision services, children's vision screening, prevention of blindness services, and an industrial employment program. BVRS is a United Way Impact Fund Award for Excellence Agency and is accredited by the National Accreditation Council for Blind and Low Vision Services (NAC).

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