



Annual Report 2014



Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh



***Changing the lives of persons with vision loss
and other disabilities by fostering
independence and individual choice.***

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WELCOME

2014 was an exciting year marked by extraordinary relationships at the agency.



Erika Arbogast
President

Throughout the year, we celebrated partnerships: those that have sustained us, the new ones that assist us in advancing our mission, and the future partnerships that will help us to change the lives of persons with vision loss and other disabilities. In reflecting on these relationships, we are reminded of a quote from Chuck Noll, the legendary Steelers coach who served as our board chairman in the 1990s:

"I can't tell you how much you gain, how much progress you can make, by working together as a team, by helping one another. You get much more done that way..."

As a 104-year-old organization, we have been blessed to have many existing partnerships that help to sustain us. This year, our long-term affiliation with Giant Eagle led to a new opportunity to create jobs for young adults with disabilities through an agency job coach working on-site to provide support to the new employees and to Giant Eagle staff and management. In addition to generating financial support, our ongoing relationships with St. Lucy's Auxiliary to the Blind and The Auxiliary, BVRS created volunteer opportunities and fostered excitement for our relocation efforts. Additionally, the Lions Clubs continue to provide financial support that strengthens our programs year after year.



Louis A. Lobes, Jr., M.D.
Board Chairman

As we move to our next chapter and location, we are grateful for our long-term partnership with PNC, who has helped finance our new building and helped us secure revenue for our project through a federal tax credit program. Finally, BVRS "Dream Team" — A. Martini, Stantec and Oxford Development — has guided us through this relocation process every step of the way.

Each one of our partnerships has benefitted us greatly and we are certainly appreciative of all the relationships BVRS has been fortunate enough to establish, not just those mentioned above. It is very clear to us that these collaborations are successful only because of the people behind them — people who care about our mission and are part of the team to help us succeed. Thank you for being our partner.

With the move to our new building anticipated in early fall 2015, we will experience a whole new system of partnerships. We look forward to getting to know all of those remarkable people who will join our team in carrying out the mission, as well as sharing our successes with those who helped us get to where we are today.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Consolidated Statements of Activities years ended June 30, 2014 and 2013

	2014	2013
Unrestricted Net Assets:		
Support and revenues:		
Service income	\$ 1,887,893	\$ 1,925,449
Sales	1,831,739	2,368,793
Donations and grants	1,324,865	1,393,820
Investment income	501,643	526,930
Realized/unrealized gains (losses)	1,042,805	518,124
Other revenues	159,396	133,617
Net assets released from restrictions	75,247	142,568
Total support and revenues	<u>6,823,588</u>	<u>7,009,301</u>
Expenses and losses:		
Program services:		
Industries	1,710,756	2,057,859
Rehabilitation	1,347,564	1,293,487
Vocational services	962,284	1,019,379
Community and support	224,281	261,740
PBA Products and Services	308,285	295,877
Total program services	<u>4,553,170</u>	<u>4,928,342</u>
Management and general	968,448	984,160
Development	428,366	475,427
Total expenses	<u>5,949,984</u>	<u>6,387,929</u>
Loss on impairment of building	1,000,000	-
Total expenses and losses	<u>6,949,984</u>	<u>6,387,929</u>
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>(126,396)</u>	<u>621,372</u>
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets:		
Donations and grants	254,955	57,336
Net assets released from restriction	(75,247)	(142,568)
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	<u>179,708</u>	<u>(85,232)</u>
Permanently Restricted Net Assets:		
Realized/unrealized gains (losses)	493,352	274,974
Change in Net Assets	546,664	811,114
Net Assets:		
Beginning of year	<u>17,028,930</u>	<u>16,217,816</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 17,575,594</u>	<u>\$ 17,028,930</u>

INDIVIDUALS SERVED IN 2014

Since its inception in 1910, Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh has nurtured a commitment to enhance the quality of life for persons with vision loss, including those with additional disabilities. This dedication has established the foundation that allows the agency to grow and to meet the community's changing needs with valuable services, effective programs, advanced technology and, ultimately, success stories. Last year, we served more than 14,000 children and 900 teens and adults in our comprehensive and personalized computer instruction, employment and vocational services, 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.



COMPUTER TRAINING LOW VISION REHABILITATION ADJUSTMENT TO BLINDNESS TRAINING INDEPENDENCE TRAINING COMPUTER TRAINING LOW VISION REHABILITATION ADJUSTMENT TO BLINDNESS TRAINING INDEPENDENCE SKILL BUILDING IN-HOME TRAINING COMPUTER TRAINING LOW VISION REHABILITATION ADJUSTMENT TO BLINDNESS TRAINING INDEPENDENCE SKILL

Rehabilitation Programs

594

TEEN SCHOOL-TO-WORK PROGRAM INDIVIDUAL & EMPLOYER SUPPORT SERVICES DEAF-BLIND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM EMPLOYMENT TRAINING SERVICE INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM INDIVIDUAL & EMPLOYER SUPPORT SERVICES DEAF-BLIND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM EMPLOYMENT TRAINING SERVICE INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Employment Programs

181

CHILDREN'S VISION SCREENING ADULT VISION SCREENING SPEAKERS BUREAU STRUCTURED DAY PROGRAM CASE MANAGEMENT CHILDREN'S VISION SCREENING ADULT VISION SCREENING SPEAKERS BUREAU STRUCTURED DAY PROGRAM CASE MANAGEMENT CHILDREN'S VISION SCREENING ADULT VISION SCREENING SPEAKERS BUREAU STRUCTURED DAY

Community Programs

14,421



Every day, **John** arrives for our Community Transition Program, which develops, improves and expands life-long learning opportunities for adults who have physical impairments or developmental delays. In a warm and nurturing home-like environment, John and others benefit from a structured day program with activities geared to meeting their individual needs and development goals. John's enthusiasm is unlimited and we are fortunate to have him in our program.

BEYOND TH



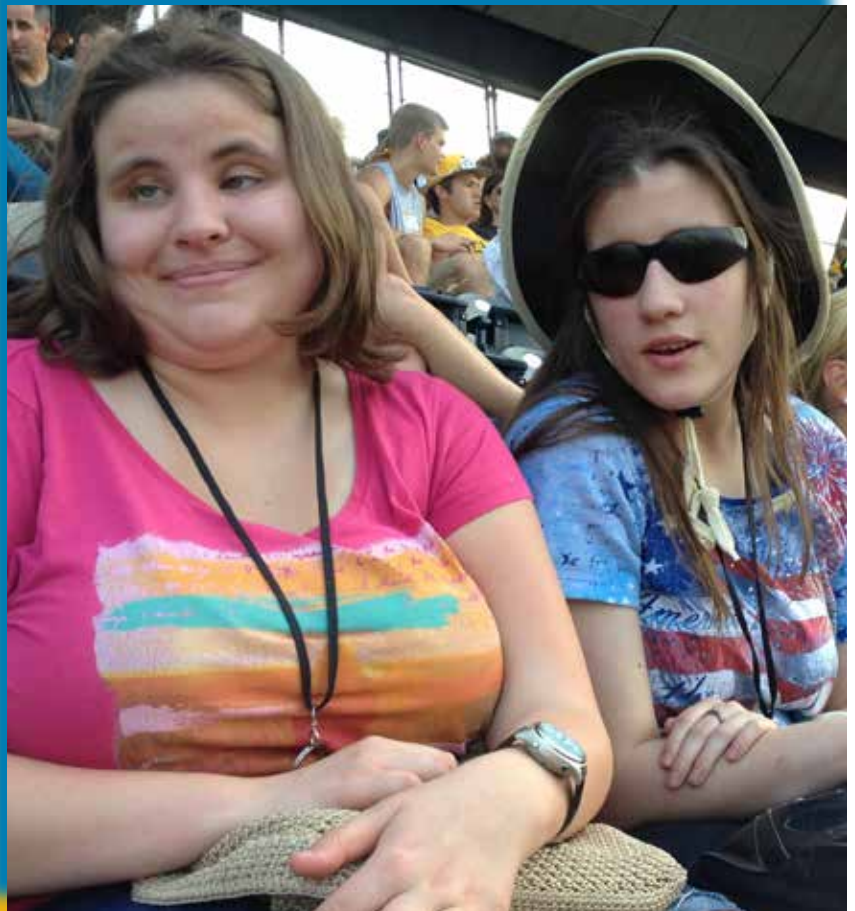
There is magic in the three rivers that will pull you back," **Brian** says of the waterways in his hometown of Pittsburgh. That "magic" and a nationally recognized adjustment to blindness training program brought him back to Pittsburgh for the intense, individualized training offered at Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh. Brian's goal is to find employment in Pittsburgh's arts community, and he believes his training here will help him do that.



As a musician, it's rather nice to be able to read the music," **Marie** says. She founded a band a number of years ago, but no longer can read the music because of macular degeneration. Yet, Marie continues playing electric bass by memory and ear, and is determined to one day regain some vision with a miniature telescope implanted in her eye. Right now, she is not eligible medically for the implant, but she continues to work with our low vision team to find special devices that best serve her particular needs.

E NUMBERS

Each summer, teenagers like **Olivia and Sikira**, who are blind or vision impaired, descend on our facility and share our space as they get ready to enter the working or college worlds beyond their home and high school nests. We help them develop the skills they need to independently manage their lives with vision loss. Among other things, the teens learn braille, adaptive computers, safe cooking, and maintaining a home or apartment. They also get to do fun things, like going to Pirates baseball games. This place is even more energized for five weeks every summer, and for that we are grateful to our teens.



THANK YOU

THE CHUCK NOLL ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE SOCIETY

The Chuck Noll Road to Independence Society was established to pay tribute to Mr. Noll, who served as chairman of the Board of Directors of Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh following his retirement as Steelers head coach. Members of the Society pledge unrestricted gifts of at least \$1,000 per year for five years.

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+deceased

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The Society was established to honor the volunteer work of individuals committed to the mission of Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh.

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Diana Kay Bills	Julia Sheridan Gleason	Mary Ann McKnight
Regina M. Callahan	Terry Jancisin	E. Patricia Constantin Orringer
Helen Hanna Casey	Mary Ellen Maher	Roseanne Wholey
Annie Hanna Engel	Elizabeth McCarthy	

Donations were made during fiscal year 2014. While every donation is appreciated, only donations of \$50 or more are listed due to printing costs. Thank you for your understanding.

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84 Lumber
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NEXT YEAR...



The Board of Directors of Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh has approved a plan to consolidate the organization's two locations at a single, centralized site in the Uptown section of Pittsburgh. While the consolidation will provide a significant cost savings for the agency in the long term, the primary rationale for the decision involves the benefits to both our clients and employees. Our new home is being designed specifically to deliver services in a more efficient way with a "client-centric" and holistic approach. The five-story, 87,000-square-foot headquarters building and functional rooftop will give us much more space in which to operate. By enhancing our current programming and adding additional services, we will be providing a "community" of support for our clients, which research tells us will result in an increase in the numbers we serve.

Additionally, the new location is easily accessible by public transportation for our clients and employees. Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services has already acquired the new building, and rehabilitation began in summer 2014. We expect to occupy the new site by late summer 2015.

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