



Living With Blindness Keeping Pace With Technology

An interview with Kimberly Stumph by Judy Carlson

NHAB: Congratulations, Kim, on your new position as specialist of the Association's Assistive Technologies Center. Please explain what your new role entails?

KS: Thanks, my role here has changed. My official title is now: **Assistive Technology Specialist/Low Vision Therapist.** I will still be seeing clients as a Low Vision Therapist, as I have done for the past 5 years, but I'm also going to be handling the technology evaluation and teaching that Ross Doerr did prior to his move out of state. Eventually, another Low Vision Therapist will take over some of my low vision caseload, and my focus will be the exciting new assistive technology now available.

NHAB: What do you mean by assistive technology versus computer technology?

KS: Computers are now mainstreamed into our society. The technology generated from computers touches every facet of our lives. Technology



Freedom Scientific's Pacmate QX400 was purchased with a generous grant from the Parker Nelson Foundation.

is an important part of daily life, and there are more assistive technology products and options available for persons who are blind or have low vision. As a result, the needs of our clients are changing as well.

NHAB: Will any of the Association's current services be eliminated?

KS: No, the improved **Assistive Technology Center** will offer everything we do now, plus more. Computer instruction will still be essential to our program, but we plan to emphasize the new technology available for

clients with more demos from which they may learn.

NHAB: How about the Technology Users Group, will it continue?

KS: Yes, the Technology Users Group will continue, but we'll talk about all forms of technology from cell phones and MP3 players, talking microwaves and digital books to GPS Systems.

NHAB: GPS Systems? Please explain.

KS: GPS stands for Global Positioning System. It is the latest innovation used in devices that aid orientation
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and mobility. The GPS works with the satellites in our skies. A signal bounces from the device to the satellite and back again. Then it pinpoints the location of the device. Many vehicles have GPS equipment and now the world of assistive technology offers them as well.

NHAB: *This all sounds very exciting, but how will it impact clients directly?*

KS: The technology that is now available is influencing the choices we can offer clients through all of our programs. From a service perspective there are more cross-discipline choices, which encourage coordination. The constant communication between all direct service staff helps us under-

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stand client's needs and provide a high quality of service.

NHAB: *Then, the Association is focusing more energy on demonstration and training in the new assistive aids and devices coming on the market. Is anything else happening in the department?*

KS: As part of the Association's Technology Upgrade Project 2006, the Access Center's computer lab is being upgraded. The computer hardware, software, and adaptive devices are being replaced by current technology. Much of the Association's Technology Upgrade Project 2006 is possible through a grant from the Gibney Family Foundation, but we have also received grants from the

Agnes M. Lindsay Trust and the Parker Nelson Foundation to support the computer lab equipment and software upgrades. By **keeping pace with technology**, the Association's technology program services are getting better and bigger!

For assistive technology information or referrals contact:

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Current newsletters and Annual Reports are available in Braille, on disk, and on audiocassette. If you prefer to receive future editions of our publications in one of these alternate formats, please call the Association at 1-800-464-3075.



LEAVE A LEGACY®

A gift to the Association at the end of your lifetime provides important support for critical client services in the future. This year we are again members of New Hampshire/Vermont Leave A Legacy program, and are pleased to be included in the 2005–2006 Magazine. The short piece shares the impact of one special bequest, and its lasting impact on our mission and those we serve.

You have the power to make a difference in the lives that follow, in ways you cannot imagine today.

For more information on planned gifts to the New Hampshire Association for the Blind, or to request a copy of the magazine, contact George F. Theriault, CFRE, President and CEO, at 1-800-464-3075 or gtheriault@sightcenter.com



Seacoast Services Update

The Association's Seacoast Services office at 127 Parrott Avenue Place for Seniors in Portsmouth, now includes an adjacent Low Vision Resource Room designed to be a workroom where clients may utilize electronic magnification devices, hand-held magni-

fiers, or books on tape any time the facility is open.

The Seacoast Peer Support Group meets monthly and currently has 19 members, with about 12 persons attending each meeting. The attendees' ages range from early 20's to late 70's, with most aged between 30 and 50. This group is proving to be an excellent local resource for area consumers, and one that links them to other services. Call 603-431-9401 for further information.

Our sincere appreciation and thanks go to the **Roger R. and Theresa Thompson Endowment Fund** and the **United Way of the Greater**



CAPTION TO COME

Seacoast for their on-going generous support, which is instrumental in making these new Seacoast community-based opportunities for service delivery, personal growth, and enhanced independence possible. 🦿

The Association Remembers Special Friends...

Carl B. Noyes (below), a resident of Manchester, had a distinguished banking career before his retirement as CEO of the First NH Banks. Carl was very active in the Manchester community, and held numerous volunteer posts throughout his life. He was elected to the



Association's Board of Directors in 1987. On October 21, 1999, with over ten years of unwavering leadership and service on the board, Carl was given the title of Director Emeritus. Carl, a loyal patron, was 89 years old, when he died on November 10, 2005. Carl's energy and his ongoing dedication to our mission as a staunch ambassador will always be appreciated and remembered.

John F. Starrett, a resident of Center Harbor, died on November 12, 2005. In the 1970's, John was a senior vice president for Concord Savings Bank. He moved to the Lakes Region in the 1980's, and

resided over several area banks. He retired from the presidency of the Meredith Village Savings Bank in 1999. Throughout his life, John was involved in many charitable and community activities. John served as an Assistant Treasurer by Board appointment from 1976 to 1980, but didn't become a Board member until FY1980. He served three, 3-year terms, which ended in 1889. John was Treasurer of the Association's Board of Directors from 1980 to 1983. During the years, since his tenure as a board member, John's support of the Association remained strong. John will truly be missed. 🦿

Memorial and Tribute Gifts

These thoughtful gifts are in memory of a loved one or honor special occasions or individuals. They represent another important way to support the mission of the Association and essential vision rehabilitation services. Tributes to the following individuals were received from June 1, 2005 to December 14, 2005, and we extend warmest thanks to all donors.

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Annual Meeting

The New Hampshire Association for the Blind held its Annual Meeting on November 17, 2005. The Association welcomed four new Board members and officers for the FY 2005/2006. Carroll E. Winch, Chairman of the Board of the New Hampshire Association for the Blind, announced the appointment of four new Board Members. The new board members are: Richard Chevrefils of Concord; Peter Labombarde of Bedford; Guy Lessard, O. D. of Manchester; and Jerry Vaccaro of Londonderry. Board Officers elected are: Robert Cholette, 1st Vice Chairperson; Jo Adcock, 2nd Vice Chairperson; Joyce Meisel, Secretary; and Amy Nichols, CPA, Treasurer.

Richard Chevrefils is Director of the AARP New Hampshire, and served a full term as board member of the Association in the early 1990's. Chevrefils received his BA from Saint Anselm College and his Masters Degree in Social Work from Boston College. He retired in 2003 as Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services with 35 years of service for the State, during which time he served on the Governor's Commission on Disability. His community involvement has also encompassed volunteer work with



William N. Sirak (left) with Robert Cholette, First Vice Chairperson of the board. Bill holds the plaque presented to him at the annual meeting in appreciation for his dedicated service (1989–1998) as a board member and chair.

Seniors Count of Easter Seals, NH Catholic Charities, United Way, Salvation Army, the YMCA, and the State Employees Charitable Campaign.

Peter Labombarde is VP & Trust Officer and the Capital Region Market Manager for Citizen's Bank. He earned his BA from Colby College in Maine, an MA from Cornell University, and an MM from Florida State. Labombarde is the President of the NH Preservation Alliance and recently served as the Treasurer for the American Cancer Society, New England Division.

Guy Lessard, O.D. is owner of Willow Eye Care & Optical in Manchester. Dr. Lessard graduated from St. Michael's College in Vermont and Pennsylvania College of Optometry, and is on the Board of Directors, and

recently served as President of the NH Optometric Association. He is also a member of the American Optometric Association and the Queen City Rotary Club.

Jerry Vaccaro is an Account Executive for Restmore Inc., of Brockton, MA. He studied Business Administration at Husson College in Bangor, ME. Vaccaro was named the Hudson Lion Club's Lion of the Year, and is a NH Lion's Sight and Hearing Foundation Director.

The following staff members were recognized for their years of service:

Sarah Dorsch	30 years
Jewett O'Connor	10 years
Jennifer Morgan	5 years
Kim Stumph	5 years
Ken Howes	5 years
Ross Doerr	5 years



SAVE THE DATE! PRE-REGISTER!

Join us for the 3rd Annual
Blind Awareness Walk

Saturday, June 3, 2006 — 11:00am–2:00pm

**FUN FOR THE WHILE FAMILY!
BE PART OF A CORPORATE TEAM!**

Tee-Shirts 🐾 Prizes 🐾 Great Food and Refreshments 🐾 Treats for Dog Guides 🐾 Post-Walk Reception

New Option this Year: Longer Route to State House

For more information on how you can get involved:

1-800-464-3075
(toll-free in NH)
603-224-4039

development@sightcenter.com



✂ CUT OUT FORM AND RETURN

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM:

(Brochures with more details will be mailed in March)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

_____ **Adult Registration: \$10**

T-shirt Size: XXI XL L M S

_____ **Child Registration: \$5**

T-shirt Size: Y-L Y-M Y-S

Register by May 12 to be guaranteed a T-shirt

Registrations accepted the day of the Walk

_____ I am interested in volunteering to help with the Walk's success!

**Mail to: New Hampshire Association
for the Blind,**

25 Walker Street, Concord, NH 03301
OR Fax to Development (603)228-6046

Gifts & Grants

Our corporate and foundation partners play a critical role in helping our clients regain and maintain their independence.

These funding partners are all committed to helping blind and visually impaired New Hampshire residents be active participants in their communities, maintaining the tradition of Granite Staters helping their neighbors in need. The following gifts have been received between June 1, 2005 and December 14, 2005. On behalf of our clients, the Association's Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers, thank you!

For General Service Provision

Ann DeNicola Trust
Benjamin Cohen Trust
Dixie Wonders Revocable Trust
Franklin Savings Bank Foundation
Florence B. Mudgett Trust
Harry A. Nichols Trust
The Greenspan Foundation
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For Comprehensive Service Delivery in Greater Manchester

The Mary Gale Foundation

For Seacoast Services

Roger R. & Theresa A. Thompson Fund
United Way of the Greater Seacoast

For Technology & Low Vision Aids/Devices

Agnes M. Lindsay Trust
Autodesk, Inc.
BAE Employees Community Fund (*Greater Nashua clients*)
Concord Eye Care (*Large Print Calendar*)
The Gibney Family Foundation
Parker Nelson Foundation





New Hampshire Association for the Blind McGreal Sight Center

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We are compiling a list of email addresses to send timely information, and possibly future newsletters. If you wish to be included in this directory, please contact Karen Jantzen at kjantzen@sightcenter.com.



Glenn Gunn (above with daughter Katie) received the **2005 NE/AER Award of Excellence for Direct Services to Adults with Visual Impairment** from the *Northeast Chapter of the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired* at the Awards Banquet of the NE/ AER conference held last November in Manchester. Glenn has worked as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist for the New Hampshire Association for the Blind since 1978.

Association Employee, Glenn Gunn, Wins Coveted Award

Upon completion of his Master’s Degree in Education, Glenn began to travel throughout the state teaching the Association’s clients how to safely navigate in their environment. Glenn adapts his instruction method and approach to each client’s specific circumstances. “Twenty seven years ago, when I started teaching persons who are blind or severely visually impaired, the world was a different place,” said Gunn. “Tremendous changes have occurred in this time span: the environment is busier, the pace and attitudes have become frenetic, and the traffic has increased significantly,” he stated. “Receiving this award is validation that an impact is being made, that my work is

making some difference. After all these years, it is a great award to receive.”

The prestigious award is given to “an individual whose dedicated service and innovative approach have been outstanding in the field of vision rehabilitation.”

The NE/AER has over 350 members from all over the New England region and Canada. Each award candidate is nominated by peers and may receive a maximum of five more letters of support. Marybeth Dean, NE/NER Awards Chair said, “Glenn’s award nomination was supported with letters of praise from his bosses, his colleagues, and his grateful clients.” Congratulations Glenn! 🎉