



New Vision News

March 12, 2013 | Volume 6, Issue 2

www.newvisionfl.org

Make a donation to New Vision today!

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This newsletter is in large print, APHont 16pt font. It is also available electronically or as an audio recording on newvisionfl.org/newsletter.php, or as an audio recording on cassette upon request.

39 days to Dining in the Dark

*Countdown to this third annual
fundraising event*

Tickets are still available to this unique dining experience!

The third annual Dining in the Dark fundraiser for New Vision for Independence will host Paralympic bronze medalist Donte Mickens as the event's keynote speaker.

Served in total darkness, the third annual Dining in the Dark for New Vision event will be a unique expedition in to a world of smell, taste, sound and texture. The dinner is designed to raise awareness and funds for New Vision for Independence, a local non-profit agency that provides rehabilitation, community education, and support services for people with blindness or low vision.

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Dining in the Dark, continued



Keynote speaker Donte Mickens competed on the United States goalball team in the Athens and Beijing Paralympics and earned a bronze medal. As a legally blind athlete, an advocate and mentor for the blind, and a successful financial analyst, Mr. Mickens will speak about overcoming adversity.

Held at Lake Receptions in Mount Dora on April 19, 2013, the evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a reception, silent auction, and cash bar. New Vision will also feature tactile, touchable art by local artist Lois Crisp-Stover during the event's reception.

The dining experience including salad, entrée (London broil or vegetable lasagna), and dessert will be served at 6:30 p.m. The lights will be turned off and volunteers from the Lake County

Can't make it to Dining in the Dark? You can still support the vital services for babies, toddlers, teens, adults, and seniors with visual impairments. Please donate today!

Sheriff's SWAT team, as part of a training exercise, will serve the entrée wearing night vision goggles.

Individual tickets for general seating are available for \$50, or a private table for eight may be reserved for \$360. Tickets or tables may be purchased by calling New Vision at 352-435-5040 or online via PayPal at www.newvisionfl.org.

Spotlight on what we do: Training for seniors

Imagine what would happen if you, your parents, or your grandparents lost their vision? How would you do those every-day activities like get around your house, cook breakfast, pick out an outfit, pay bills, or get to the grocery store?

75% of the individuals we work with are age 55 or older. And many of these individuals have lost their vision as a result of an age-related ailment, such as macular degeneration, glaucoma, or cataracts. The Independent Living program serves adults over age 55. The goal of the program is to help older adults stay as independent as possible with vision loss.

What if your elderly loved one lived alone and had to re-learn new ways to do tasks they've done their entire lives?

There is hope. But we can't do it without you. Please consider making a donation today to help someone maintain life after vision loss.

New grant received

The Mount Dora Community Trust awarded New Vision a grant for \$1,500 to help serve 10 Mount Dora residents with low vision.



Jack, right, learns about white canes, a tool for independence and safety.

FDA approves first retinal implant to restore partial vision to the blind

Published February 14, 2013 | Reuters (edited for space)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the first artificial retina, an implanted device that replicates some of the function of the retina, helping to restore vision to people blinded with a rare genetic disorder, the agency said Thursday.

The device, made by privately held Second Sight Medical Products Inc of Sylmar, California, is intended to replace the function of light-sensing cells in the retina destroyed by retinitis pigmentosa, an inherited degenerative disease that affects about 100,000 people nationwide.

In a healthy eye, the retina, which lines the back of the inner eye, works a bit like film in a camera, converting images that come through the eye's lens into electronic signals that

are relayed to the optic nerve in the brain.

To replicate this, the Argus II device consists of special glasses outfitted with a video camera and a video processing unit that sends signals to a wireless receiver implanted in the eye.

Although it does not completely restore vision, the implant helps with daily activities, such as locating objects and recognizing large letters and shapes.

Brian Mech, vice president of business development at the company, said the system will cost more than \$100,000 when it is launched in the United States, sometime this year. Mech said the company is working with insurance companies and Medicare to win coverage and ease out of pocket expenses for patients.

UPCOMING EVENTS

“See It My Way” Tactile Art Exhibit

The Mount Dora Center for the Arts has partnered with New Vision to host a tactile art exhibit titled “See It My Way—Sight Unseen.” This exhibit, almost two years in the making, will be fully interactive, allowing anyone to appreciate the art without relying on vision. Audio descriptions for each piece will also be available.

When: March 11 thru April 12, Monday—Saturday from 10-2

Where: Mount Dora Center for the Arts, 138 East 5th Avenue,
Mount Dora

For more information, contact the Mount Dora Center for the Arts at (352) 383-0880 or visit their website at www.mountdoracenterforthearts.org.

Thank you for your service!

Staff Anniversaries

Robert Schott, 6 years

Bebe Chudeusz, 6 years

Theresa Tabone, 5 years

Volunteer of the Quarter

Troy Singer

Employee of the Quarter

Jenna Pruett

FOR SALE

Large Print Calendar \$10

The 2013 Large Print Calendars are available at New Vision office for \$10. If you would like it mailed you, add \$2.50.

EZ Eyes Large Print Keyboard \$10 ▼

Enlarged black letters on yellow keys for improved readability, less eye strain, and better accuracy. New in the box.



Donated printers/ scanners:

- Visioneer 4800 USB Scanner \$50
- HP 4315 AIO Print/Fax/Scan/Copy \$60

5x Necklace Magnifier \$6

Jordy \$350

Enables people with low vision to see objects at a distance, up close and at any range in between. This battery operated system can be worn like a pair of glasses or used as a DeskTop CCTV when placed on its docking stand. Donated.

Enhanced Vision Merlin LCD Video Magnifier \$1,000

Less than 2 years old. Color. Donated.

Extreme Reader \$100

Computer-scanner combo allows for easy access to printed materials. Donated.

Donated lamps:

- Table clip-on magnifier lamp 2x - 3.5x \$20
- Dazor floor lamp \$30
- Weighted table lamp with magnifier \$30

Internet Use Cuts Depression In Elderly, Study Finds

Source: E-Access Bulletin Live

Elderly people who regularly use the internet are less likely to suffer from depression, new research has found. The research, from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, found that regular internet usage in retired Americans aged 50 and older reduced depression by 20-28% and helped promote mental well-being among this group.

"Internet use and depression among older adults" was compiled by Shelia Cotten, George Ford, Sherry Ford and Timothy Hale using existing data from a survey covering both internet usage and health among US adults aged 50 and older, conducted as part of the Health and Retirement Study (HRS), an ongoing study into aging by the University of Michigan.

The new research concludes: "Internet use reduces the probability of a depression categorization for older adults by about 20% - 28%. The effects of Internet use on depression are large and positive."



Computer training at New Vision can help older adults with low vision be more independent and, as this study shows, reduce depression.

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Free Matter for the Blind

Thank you to our community supporters



Lake Sumter
State College



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Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8-5