



New Vision News

March 31, 2014 | Volume 6, Issue 8
www.newvisionfl.org

Remember New Vision in your estate plans!

In this issue:

Dining in the Dark

Talking Rx Labels

CVS/Caremark
grant for babies

Accessible IRS Free
File Applications

Upcoming Events

Stroke Month

Support Us...

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.

Tickets Still Available for Dining in the Dark 2014

Served in darkness, New Vision's fourth annual Dining in the Dark 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's vision rehabilitation programs for people of all ages with low vision or blindness.



Held at Lake Receptions in Mount Dora on May 2, 2014, the evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a reception, silent auction, and cash bar. The dining

Continued

CVS/pharmacy Now Offers "Talking" Prescription Labels Through its Online Pharmacy

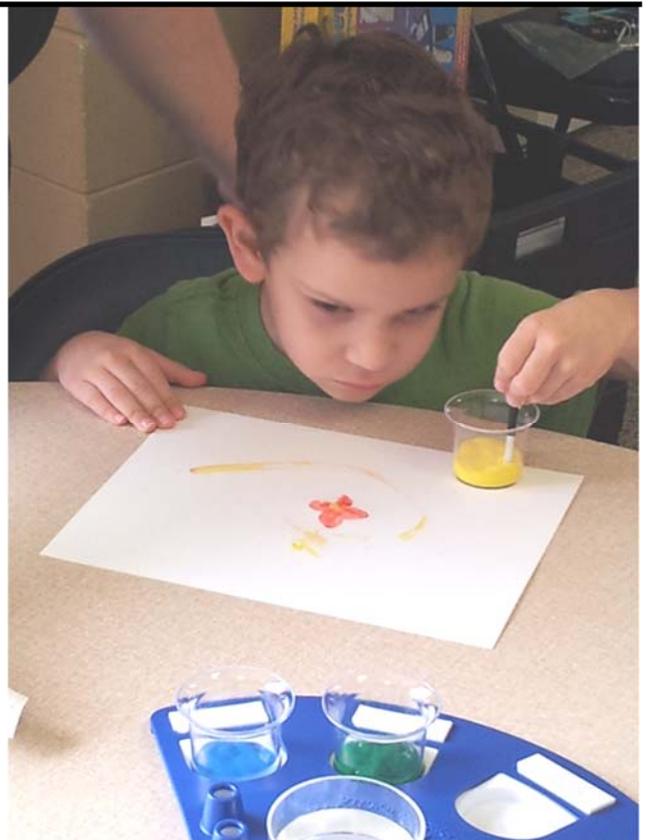
Source: www.visionaware.org (edited for space)

CVS/pharmacy announced on March 18 that it now provides ScripTalk talking prescription labels for prescriptions ordered for home delivery through its online pharmacy, CVS.com. The ScripTalk labels provide a safe and convenient way to access information on prescription labels for individuals who cannot

read standard print. The ScripTalk labels are free to CVS.com pharmacy customers who are blind or visually impaired. Customers can also obtain a free ScripTalk reader from Envision America that will enable them to listen to the information on the ScripTalk label.

New Vision receives \$5,000 CVS Caremark grant

Funds will be used to provide early childhood intervention services to babies and toddlers with low vision or blindness, as part of New Vision's Blind Babies program. Right: Andres uses a braille painting kit during our first monthly playgroup meeting.



Accessible IRS Free File Applications

By Dennis Walsh | Source: AFB Access World (edited for space)

Touted by the Internal Revenue Service as fast, safe, and free, since 2002 Free File has enabled millions of taxpayers to prepare and file their individual income tax returns electronically. After more than a decade, however, the IRS Free File Alliance has delivered tax preparation choices that are limited at best for taxpayers who are blind and visually impaired.

As a former tax practitioner and experienced JAWS user on the hunt for accessible tax software, I evaluated each of the 14 Free File offers for 2013. If you haven't already identified a Free File solution, the results of these assessments will hopefully help save some time and frustration.

After leaving the Free File home page and proceeding to the product selection page, you are greeted with a brief explanation of Free File criteria and a list of

the current IRS-approved vendors, along with more specific eligibility requirements for each product. The order of the vendors is shuffled with each visit to eliminate any suggestion of preference. Each Free File partner sets its own eligibility criteria, based on income, age, state residency, eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit, and military status. The IRS advises that once at the company's website, you should review its information to assure the offer meets your needs.

For 12 of the 14 current vendors, accounts were set up without any significant snags. The exceptions were Tax Simple and 1040NOW, which landed on inaccessible screens after executing the control to create a new account.

Once in a particular program, the vendor provides some com-

Accessible IRS Free File Applications, continued

bination of screen-sensitive help for the associated input, as well as links to such resources as a Q&A knowledge base, IRS form instructions, e-mail support, or telephone help.

In my judgment, 5 of the 14 current Free File offerings are sufficiently accessible to enable you to prepare your return independently. This is not to say, however, that these programs do not have serious shortcomings.

It is noteworthy that the Free File software offered by four of the leading names in the tax preparation industry, H&R Block, TurboTax, TaxAct, and Liberty, were each found to be inaccessible. A common problem with these four programs is the controls for moving back and forth between screens.

Of the five accessible programs,

the top choices are 1040.com and FreeTaxUSA. These programs are tab-key friendly with adequate descriptions. Movement between fields is fluid and natural. Certain data fields pre-populate with a likely response. Radio buttons are preselected with the typical response, saving time and a lot of extra keystrokes.

Other recommendations to try out are Free1040TaxReturn.com, efileTaxReturns, and TaxSlayer. These programs are generally accessible as long as you are willing and able to work with some shortcomings in the Form W-2 input screens, and are willing to routinely perform back-and-forth arrow key navigation to read questions and descriptions, as opposed to hearing a field description with tab key movement alone.

For the full article, visit Access Word Magazine: <http://www.afb.org/afbpres/pub.asp?DocID=aw150308>.

Dining in the Dark, continued from p. 1

experience, including salad, entrée (London broil or pasta Primavera), and dessert, will be served at 6:30 p.m. The lights will be turned off and volunteers from the Lake County 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 \$60, or a private table for eight may be reserved for \$440. Visit newvisionfl.org to purchase tickets. Names, email addresses, and meal preferences needed for each guest; e-tickets will be sent to each guest.



Please contact New Vision for more information: 352-435-5040 or info@newvisionfl.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Phone Support Group

Join our monthly low vision/ blindness phone support group from home —all you need is a phone.

When: Monday, April 14 and May 12, 10-11 a.m. (second Monday monthly)

Call in information:

1-866-740-1260,
access code: 4355040
(New Vision's phone number)

Contact Jayne Maravola for more info about this and other low vision support groups in Lake and Sumter counties: 352-435-5040.

May is Stroke Awareness Month

Source: National Stroke Foundation, stroke.org

In honor of Stroke Awareness Month, here is some information about stroke-related vision loss.

Vision loss is also referred to as visual field loss, an area within the field of vision that a person cannot see. Specific visual field loss conditions are differentiated based primarily on the size and scope of the visual disturbance. A stroke that occurs in the left hemisphere can inhibit the ability to see the right visual field of each eye, while right hemisphere stroke can impair the left visual field of each eye.

Hemianopia means blindness in one half of the visual field. The most common form of this is homonymous hemianopia, which means that the vision loss is on the same side of each eye. Research shows that eight to ten percent of stroke survivors have homonymous hemianopia.

Quadrantanopia means blindness in a quarter of the visual field.

Scotoma refers to an island-like area of blindness, typically smaller than hemianopia or quadrantanopia.

Tunnel vision means that peripheral vision is lost. Medically, this is known as bitemporal hemianopia. The outside half of the visual field in each eye is blind.

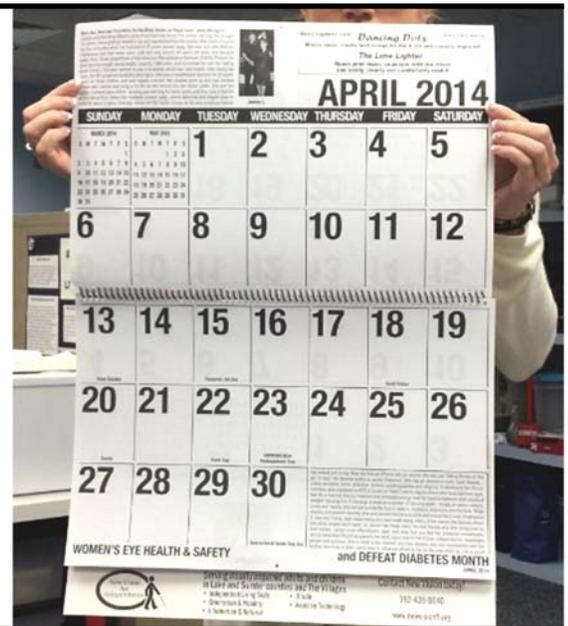


SUPPORT US ON AMAZON.COM

If you frequently shop on online store Amazon.com, you can support New Vision for Independence via their AmazonSmile charity program, which offers up to 0.5% of all purchases towards a charitable institution of your choice. Visit smile.amazon.com. Below: a screen capture of the AmazonSmile website.

Calendars on sale

Large print 2014 calendars on sale for \$5 each (add \$2 if you want it delivered). We only have a few left—get yours while they last!



Other Ways to Support New Vision in the community

@ the Driver's License office: make a contribution to "Senior Vision Services" to support New Vision's services.

@ the Lake County Tax Collector's office: buy a candy bar to support New Vision's blind babies program. You can also purchase "A State of Vision" license plate or make a contribution to "Blind Babies" to support us.

New Vision for Independence
9501 US Hwy 441
Leesburg, FL 34788

Free Matter for the Blind

Thanks to our supporters



Annual Report

New Vision's fiscal year 2013 annual report is now available online at newvisionfl.org.



Contact Us

Mailing Address:

9501 US Hwy 441,
Leesburg, FL 34788

Physical Address:

Lake-Sumter State College,
Lake Hall, Room 140, Leesburg

Phone: 352-435-5040

Fax: 352-435-6303

Email: info@newvisionfl.org

Web: www.newvisionfl.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/newvisionfl

Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8-5