

offering hope  
& maximizing  
quality of life  
for people with  
vision loss

# VIC NEWS



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

Winter 2012

## Annual Fundraiser a Success

Vision for Independence Center held its 4th annual Fundraiser, Dinner in the Dark, on October 19, 2012 at the Yakima Valley Museum. 136 blindfolded guests attended the event enjoying a delicious meal while learning and sharing in this unique experience of dining without sight. Thanks to the generous support of businesses and community members, our 2012 fundraiser was the most successful to date. Together we raised over \$22,000!



the guests as they bid on over 90 silent auction items. At dinnertime, guests were blindfolded and guided to their tables by volunteers from VIC and area Lions Clubs. Tricia Eyerly, the evenings' MC, kept the crowd entertained and special guest speaker Lou Miley spoke about the services he received from VIC, allowing him to return to driving. The evening meal was catered by New Hope Industries. Beautiful table centerpieces were donated by The Findery.

The funds raised will allow us to continue offering low vision examinations and equipment to people regardless of their finances. Your support will also help us to reach our current goals of expanding the selection of low vision devices and extending clinic and store hours to better serve our patients and their families.



The evening began with hors d'oeuvres and sparkling cider, along with wine generously donated by Wine-

glass Cellars. Steve & Gloria entertained

### \*\*\*\*\* Special Dinner in the Dark Thanks \*\*\*\*\*

**Main Event Sponsor** \*\*\*Yakima Lions Club

**Platinum Sponsor** \*\*Calcoe Federal Credit Union \* Washington Fruit & Produce Company

**Gold Sponsor** \*\*Pacific Cataract and Laser Institute \* Naches Lions Club, in memory of Don Kilpatrick

**Silver Sponsor** \*\*Elliott Insurance Service \* Naches Sunshine Lions Club \* Abbott's Printing \* Noel Communications \* Vision Craft \* Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital \* Dr. Richard Ehlers, Ophthalmologist

(Sponsors continued page 3)

# Grant Makes Software, Computer Available to VIC

Three much-appreciated items have been purchased by VIC, thanks to a Project Support Grant from the Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight and Hearing.

Two awards from the Foundation, \$2500 each, were used to purchase a desktop computer, software and a new type of CCTV.

With help from the Northwest Lion Foundation, VIC now has a desktop computer with new Medisoft practice management software. This program allows us to have an electronic database of our VIC patients and to provide more efficiency with billing insurance companies and other administrative jobs. The new software frees up the clinic manager to invest her time in other areas that will allow VIC to grow and better serve those with low vision.

The new desktop computer for the director allows our volunteers to

use the current laptop computer for projects that better utilize their talents and abilities to serve VIC.

With the Project Support Grant, the VIC store also purchased a simpler, semi-portable CCTV called the Presto Lite. In recent years the standard tabletop CCTV's, which are used for magnification of reading material, have become smaller and more manageable. The more affordable Presto Lite will appeal to clients who are less comfortable with technology.

It is through the assistance of organizations, such as the Northwest Lions Foundation, that VIC continues to improve its services to Yakima Valley and offer clients an opportunity to try out new technology that comes into our store.



## Happy Holidays to You

This holiday season, we are reaching out to our community and asking for your support in our continuing efforts to provide services to our low vision population. We serve patients regardless of their income or whether they have insurance. We strongly rely on grants and donations for our existence and we are looking to you for financial support so that we may continue our services, and to grow. Please consider a tax-deductible contribution to VIC this Christmas. Any financial assistance you can provide will be greatly appreciated by VIC and the clients we serve. May you be blessed and have a joyful holiday season.



From *VIC Staff & Board of Directors*

## 2012 Dinner in the Dark Event Sponsors continued

### Bronze Sponsor

Les Schwab, Ellensburg \* Dennis Foster, Vision Matters \* Terrace Heights Lions Club \* Central Washington Insurance \* Community Health of Central Washington \* Graf Investments \* AmericanWest Bank

### Table Sponsors

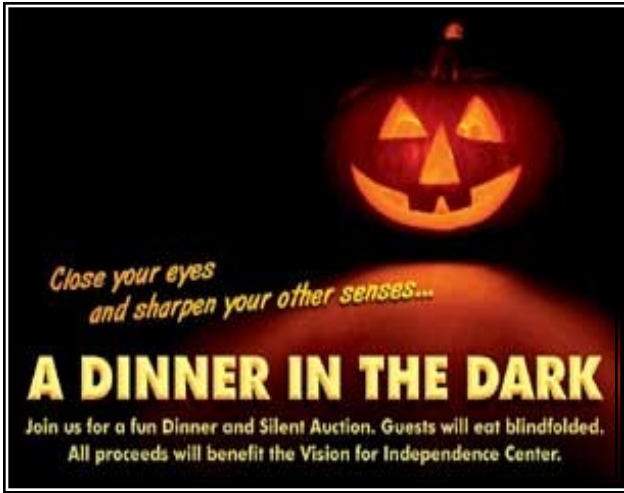
Bruce Heiser, MorganStanley SmithBarney \* Susie Temple \* John Kupanoff, Michelsen Packaging \* Wine Glass Cellars

### Special Thanks:

Tietons Lions Club \* Fred Meyer \* Bruce Heiser \* Doran Riehl, DDS \* The Findery \* Linda Roth, State Farm Insurance \* 9<sup>th</sup> Street Domino's Pizza \* Costco \* Starbucks, 72nd Avenue \* 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Kentucky Fried Chicken \* Sara Courtney \* Nob Hill Safeway \* Robert V. Lance, OD, retired

### Volunteer Thanks:

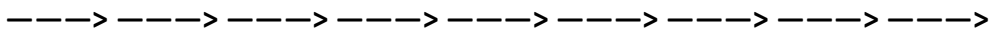
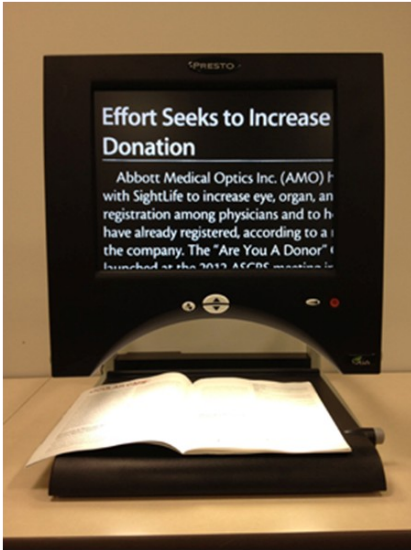
Lowell Kinney Photography \* Tieton Lions Club \* Chinook Pass Lions Club \* Yakima Lions Club \* West Valley Lions Club \* Naches Lions Club \* Naches Sunshine Lions Club \* VIC volunteers, board members & friends



\*\*\*\*\*

## New Video Magnifier in Store

Thanks to a grant from the Northwest Lions Foundation, **Presto Lite** is the newest video magnifier in the VIC store. It is an economically priced tabletop magnifier, perfect for those who prefer a device with basic features and who don't want or need extra complicated features that will go unused. The Presto Lite is a lightweight monitor, camera and table all connected together, which can be transported from room to room. The magnification range is 3x to 21x. The integrated camera is always auto-focused, and uses LED illumination bulbs that never need replacing. The 15" diagonal display is anti-glare for crisp, clean images and text.



**This coupon is worth \$100 off the purchase price of the Presto Lite! Just bring your newsletter to Vision for Independence Center during store hours and present it for your discount!**



## VIC's New Year's Resolutions



As the VIC Board of Directors plans for their January Strategic Planning meeting, we reflect on past resolutions:

- \* Increase board membership. Our board is now ten members strong, with a wide range of experience as it is important to have a variety of talents on any board. We are looking forward to adding members with experience in legal, fundraising, and non-profit organizations.
- \* Increase number of volunteers. VIC is always happy to welcome new volunteers to help support the clinic, store, and fundraising efforts. We have added many volunteers and have seen many move onto new employment opportunities. We appreciate our dedicated volunteers and enjoy their many talents and personalities. We hope to increase the store hours as well as clinic days, which will require more volunteer support.
- \* Increase clinic days per month. This summer, an additional day was added in August to cover the many appointment requests. Dr. Christopher Babin, optometrist and VIC board member, has joined the volunteer staff offering low vision evaluations.
- \* Increase marketing efforts. It is important to the VIC team that the community is aware of our efforts so that we can touch the lives of those who need our services. You will find us at health fairs, speaking to community groups and at the Low Vision Support Group meeting at Orchard Park Retirement, to name a few. We enjoy favorable word-of-mouth support from our many patients.



Thank you, Abbott's Printing, Inc., for a great job on our newsletter and all of our printing needs. Abbott's is the printer of choice for VIC.

Insert Logo