

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

# VIC NEWS



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

Summer 2012

## VIC Teams Up With ESD

Thirty-five students with low vision and their parents participated in a Fun Night in April, hosted by Teachers for the Visually Impaired from ESD105 and the Yakima School District. Following a delicious catered dinner, the students enjoyed a movie while parents listened to inspirational speaker Maureen Mould talk about her own challenges with visual impairment and how she meets them. Dr. Christopher



Babin spoke briefly about Vision for Independence Center and then demonstrated, along with Clinic Director Marsha Lance, the electronic vision devices that may benefit the children.

In May, a Low Vision Screening was held for visually impaired students



in the Educational Service District 105. Two exam rooms were set up at the ESD offices complete with low vision devices for the kids to try out. Screenings were performed by the VIC volunteer optometrists: Dr. Christopher Babin, Dr. Dale Graf and Dr. Byron Thomas. Recommendations were then made to the school district regarding devices that may be beneficial to the students in the classroom.

## VIC Receives Legends Grant



A check for \$3,000 was presented from the Yakima Legends Casino to VIC during a recent celebration for 2012 grant recipients. VIC Board Member Paul Kauzlarich was present to accept this generous donation from Clifford Moses, chairman of the board of directors for Yakima Legends Casino. This grant will be used to expand VIC's programs for children, such as the recent ESD105 screenings .

## It's a Pebble!

Pebble is an ultra-portable video magnifier. Its small, lightweight design makes it the perfect companion whether you're traveling or at home. It easily reads labels, prescriptions, price tags, menus and bus schedules. The handle folds in so the Pebble doubles as a stand magnifier. Carry Pebble in your pocket, purse or strap it onto your belt. The only time you'll know it's there is when you need it.



The Pebble features include magnifications of 2x to 10x, LCD display of 3.5" or 4.3", adjustable brightness, 28 viewing modes, a freeze feature, and a two year manufacturer warranty.

**Summer Special\*\*\*** Pebble 4.3 at \$50 off suggested retail price with free shipping

**Clearance\*\*\*** Pebble 3.5 at \$150 off retail (only one unit left)



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### NEW...PEBBLE MINI

Introducing the Pebble Mini with an ultra-compact design that fits in your shirt pocket. With many of the features of the full-size Pebble, this unit has image capture with the ability to save and recall, as well as transfer the images to your computer. VIC price: \$299

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Both men received referrals from their eye specialists to the Vision for Independence Center where they underwent low vision evaluations and worked with the telescopes to determine the proper one to be mounted on spectacles for driving. "Thank goodness VIC had the diagnostic kit," says Miley. "It's strange to be driving again, but I'm real happy the way things have turned out."



## The VIC Store

A variety of adaptive devices and low vision aids are available to purchase in the VIC Store. Clients have the opportunity to try out devices with staff who can provide individual instruction prior to purchase. Items available include lighted magnifiers, telescopes, task lamps, sunshades, talking devices such as watches and clocks, and devices with large buttons and displays. The store is open for walk-in shopping. Hours of operation: Wednesday 9-1 and Friday 9-4.

## Area Clients Are Driving Again

After seven years without a driver's license, Lou Miley of Yakima is back to driving thanks to bioptic telescopic lenses that he received from Vision for Independence Center.

Because of vision loss, some drivers cannot see street signs or stop signs soon enough to make driving adjustments.

Bioptics are eye glasses with miniature telescopes mounted toward the top of the eye glass lens that improves the sharpness of



a person's far distance vision. The driver uses his own vision about 95% of the time but uses the bioptics telescope for brief views of distant traffic lights or distant objects.

"The bioptics gave me 20/30 vision

for distance sight," says Miley, "and I can see well enough with them to get my license reinstated." Just in time, it seems, as Miley is providing the transportation in the family while his wife recovers from foot surgery.

"First I applied for a learner's permit," Miley added, "and then after a month of practicing with them, I was ready to take the driving test."

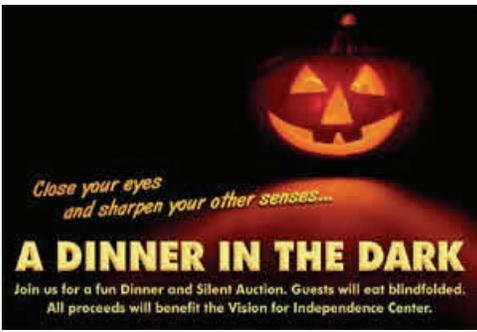
Michael Hanson of Selah, another VIC client who uses bioptics for driving, appealed when the state pulled his license. "Before I began using the bioptic lenses," Hanson said, "I was restricted on where I could go and the speed I could drive. I purchased the bioptics lenses from VIC, practiced a few weeks, then took the drivers test and met the state's vision requirements."

"These lenses are a blessing," Hanson continued. "I have better vision now than before I got them. I currently have no restriction except that I need to wear the Bioptics when I drive."

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### Driving With Bioptic Telescopes

In the state of Washington, to obtain a driver's license, bioptic lens users must pass an acuity test without the use of their bioptic telescope. If a standard of 20/40 is not met, the bioptic user is referred for a Special Examination which includes a vision screening consisting of testing both eyes together, left eye and right eye for acuity, horizontal field and color. Those failing this test are issued a Certificate of Visual Examination. The certificate must be completed by a vision specialist with exam information obtained within the past three months, and returned within 30 days. The DMV will determine whether the vision recertification should be cleared for an unrestricted license issuance. If the driver has a visual condition that could impair night driving, a daylight driving only restriction may be placed on the license. The DMV will contact the driver to advise them if a license can be issued or if they need to come in to take a written and/or drive test.



# Save The Date

The VIC Board of Directors and volunteers are busy organizing the fourth annual “**Dinner in the Dark**” to be held October 19, at the Yakima Valley Museum. Guests will enjoy a social hour with free wine, hors d’oeuvres and a silent auction. They are then guided blind-folded to their tables for a truly unique dining experience. This event sells out every year, so mark your calendars. Tickets will be available in August. Advance reservations are now being accepted at 452-8301. Proceeds will enhance VIC’s ability to meet its mission: Offering hope & maximizing quality of life for people with vision loss.

Event sponsorships are available in a variety of levels as well as table sponsorships. Please contact VIC by email at [vicinfo@vicyakima.org](mailto:vicinfo@vicyakima.org) or by phone at (509)452-8301. More event information is available on our website: [vicyakima.org](http://vicyakima.org).



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