



CONNECT

OFFERING HOPE & MAXIMIZING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE WITH VISION LOSS

We have Moved - Come See our New Office Location!

We are very excited to announce our new, and bigger, office location. In November, thanks to the generous support of a \$16,035 grant from Yakima Valley Community Foundation (YVCF), the VIC office relocated to 311 N 4th Street, Suite 104. Just as the mission of YVCF is to connect people, resources, and ideas; this grant will allow VIC to reach and serve more low vision people in Yakima and Kittitas counties. Our new office includes an evaluation room, a technology lab, and designated retail space.

We are equally excited to show off our new office to the many dedicated supporters, clients, and those interested in low vision services:

You are invited to our Open House on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 to see our space and meet our doctors. The Open House will be from 4:00pm to 7:00pm and there will be snacks and door prizes!

Our thanks go to the many volunteers that assisted with the move and set-up of our offices, and we especially thank the office of Dr. Heinz, recently retired, for the donation of office furniture and supplies. We also thank the Dispute Resolution Center for the use of their office space at our previous location which enabled us to provide services to our valley's low vision population for over six years.



6th Annual Dinner in the Dark Raises over \$29,000!

The first year Vision for Independence Center held their inaugural *Dinner in the Dark* fundraising event was 2009 and donations exceeded \$4,000. It was exciting to experience such generous support. At that time, VIC was a nonprofit, only three years old, providing a service like no other in the community. The success of the 6th annual *Dinner in the Dark* brought not only more awareness to more participants than ever, it also raised more than six-fold the donations of the first dinner! The charitable contributions of so many dedicated supporters helped us to raise over \$29,000! Our heartfelt gratitude to every person that volunteered, every person that participated, and every person that contributed. Every dollar does indeed allow us to continue serving those with low vision. Our special thanks to these sponsors:

Yakima Society of Optometric Physicians
Pacific Cataract & Laser Institute
Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital
Wells Fargo Insurance Services
Central Washington Eye Clinic;
Dr. Abel Li, M.D.
Washington Fruit & Produce Co.
Elliott Insurance Service, Inc.
Kinmark Auto & RV Service
Naches Sunshine Lions Club

Terrace Heights Lions Club
Central Washington Ins.
Les Schwab, Ellensburg
West Valley Lions Club
Mike and Brenda Mills
Graf Investments, Inc.
Abbot's Printing, Inc.
AmericanWest Bank
Pacific CA Systems
Yakima Lions Club

Zillah Lions Club
Matson Fruit Co.
The Eye Center
Susie Temple
Banner Bank
Bruce Heiser
Vision Craft
Lisa Plath
US Bank

We would also like to thank:

Windy Point Vineyards; Wine
New Hope Industries; Catering
Rob Arnett; Photography
Bud Kohl; Speaker

Yakindo Web Designs, Danielle Surkatty; Wine
Dennis Clauss; Entertainment
Lowell Kinney; Photography
Tricia Eyerly; MC

And we thank first-time event staff volunteers: Wine Country Crushers



Apps and Devices Make "Reading" Money Easier

Smartphone Apps

Visually impaired individuals may experience difficulties determining the difference between the values of U.S. currency because bills are the same size and weight.



EyeNote is a free mobile device application that is now available to assist with this task. It is built for the Apple iOS platform and allows users to scan Federal Reserve notes and communicate its values back to the user. The app is available as a free download at the Apple App Store. The Android version, **IDEAL Currency Identifier**, is available as a free download at Google Play.

Currency Reader Device

As the U.S. currency is redesigned, the Secretary of the Treasury has approved methods to provide blind and visually impaired individuals with meaningful access to U.S. currency. The approved methods include adding a raised tactile feature, as well as large high contrast numerals and different colors to each denomination. To provide more immediate relief, a U.S. Currency Reader Program will be implemented. Currency readers will be available free of charge beginning in 2015, to individuals who are U.S. citizens or legally reside in the U.S. and who are blind or visually impaired.

The **iBill Talking Banknote Identifier** currency reader device is a compact "key-fob" design that allows it to be carried in a pocket or purse, clipped to a belt, or attached to a keychain. It is fast, accurate, and easy to use. Just insert a Federal Reserve note into the device, press the button on the side, and the denomination is announced in one of three ways: a clear natural voice, a pattern of tones, or a pattern of vibrations for privacy. It does not identify counterfeit banknotes.



Applications for ordering are available online at <http://www.bep.gov/>

Please contact VIC at 452-8301 with any questions.



Have you seen our new Public Service Announcement on TV? The PSA, courtesy of KIMA, will run through the month of January. It can also be viewed on our website; visit www.vicyakima.org

Bring in this newsletter for 20% off any item in the VIC store. *An exclusion applies to electronic magnifiers.*



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