



97%

of participating clients improve their ability to perform daily activities.



oact cts



95%

of our clients reside outside an assisted living facility.

94%

of participating clients improve the use of their existing sight.



95%

of participating clients gain greater acceptance of their circumstances.

96%

of participating clients gain better access to medical care, food, and resources in their communities.





One of our greatest lessons from the COVID emergency stays with us years later. When we wondered when to restore in-person services, our clients encouraged us to do so quickly because they missed connecting with each other. We became more aware of clients, especially newer clients, struggling with depression and anxiety. We received phone calls from people with visual impairments who had contacted mental health professionals and were directed to us because of their physical circumstances.

In short, we realized the critical role that we, and most service organizations, play in advancing mental health. What we do every day has the power to improve emotional well-being. When we transport someone to a medical appointment, they receive the care they need, and a burden is lifted. When we teach a person to cook again, their life feels a little more normal. When one of our caseworkers listens, supports, and encourages someone, they no longer feel alone.

During our 2023-2024 year, our focus on emotional health drove us to add a second counselor for individualized help, add a bi-monthly support group held exclusively by phone, include a private counseling room in our new Lehigh Valley client activity area, and allow our caseworkers to spend more time with clients with acute needs.

An important skill for a healthy outlook is gratitude. In that spirit, we offer our greatest appreciation and present this report on what you helped make possible.

Sincerely yours,

Dennis Zehner

Executive Director and CEO

Kate Raymond

Board of Directors President

Our Mission

To provide people with visual impairments the skills, supports, and solutions that advance their self-sufficiency.

Our Vision

To transform the lives of people with visual impairments by removing the barriers to their independence and success.

On the Covers

Front Cover: Artwork by Sights for Hope client Mary Ellen Stoyanov. A yellow and black bird sitting on an open purple flower in a field.

Back Cover: Photo from a Sights for Hope prevention program. A young child holding a C. Well Bunny stuffed figure.

We Strengthen Skills



Program Sessions Held

Life Skills Education 854
Socialization Activities 1,943
Support Groups 544
Counseling 327
Community Education 4,566

Group programs comprise multiple sessions.

We help our clients strengthen their adaptive skills for daily life and their emotional wellness skills. Our clients learn that there is little they cannot accomplish with confidence and the mindset to approach tasks differently. Our community education programs teach people that they can preserve their eyesight and how to do so.

Our Programs

- Life skills education in group and one-on-one sessions.
- Socialization activities for the application of skills learned.
- Camp I CAN! summer program for clients ages 13 and under.
- Teen Transitions program for pre-teens and teenagers.
- Support groups and counseling for coping and emotional management skills.
- Community education programs, including our signature C. Well Bunny Goes to School program for pre-kindergarten children.



Our Highlights

- We held 854 life skills education and 1,943 activity sessions in 2023-2024. The combined total of 2,797 sessions was a 20% year-over-year increase.
- Our number of support group sessions increased by 27% over one year with the creation of an additional group.
- Our number of counseling sessions increased by nearly 95% with the addition of a second counselor.
- More than 31% of our clients participated in these skills education programs.
- Our number of community education sessions increased by 68% over one year.

New Client Activity Area

We opened a client activity area at our Lehigh Valley Services Center in April 2024. This area includes a space for hands-on projects, a lounge, and a counseling room. Furnished courtesy of PPL Corporation, the area allows us to conduct more client programs and activities and facilitate our growing personal counseling service. It also provides a place where clients can feel safe and bond with others who face the same challenges.



73%

of American adults
with visual impairments
have difficulties with
daily activities.

64%

of Sights for Hope
clients are ages 65 and over,
and older Pennsylvanians
with visual impairments are
approximately twice as likely
to suffer a stroke, Diabetes,
Cancer, and kidney disease
than their sighted
counterparts.

Focus Facts

66%
of Americans believe incorrectly that vision loss is an inevitable part of aging.

Both the American
Council of the Blind and the
National Federation of the Blind
recognize the development of
self-confidence as a critical
need for people who
experience visual
impairments and
blindness.

90%

of workplace eye injuries and 90% of Diabetes-related blindness cases in American adults are preventable.

Data Sources: The Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins University study, 2012; American Council of the Blind white paper, 2020; National Federation of the Blind Nonvisual Election Technology Training Curriculum, 2014; Sights for Hope services database, 2024; The Ohio State University and VisionServe Alliance study, 2023; American Academy of Ophthalmology infographic, 2024; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) facts page, 2024; American Academy of Ophthalmology study, 2024

We Deliver Supports



We deliver supports that assist with daily life when needed and increase access to essential resources. We believe that every person needs assistance with something and we help our clients be confident that they are not alone. Our dedicated professionals understand the specific needs of people with visual impairments and blindness and how to guide them toward brighter lives.

Our Services

- Guided transport service that provides access to medical care, food, and additional community resources.
- Caseworker services that provide clients with individualized support.

Support Services Provided

Casework Services 1,695

Guided Transports 3,306

Our Highlights

- Our caseworkers provided services to more than 79% of the clients we engaged in 2023-2024.
- We provided guided transports to 51% of the clients we engaged in 2023-2024, and our number of transports increased by 5% over the prior year.

New Monroe County Transport Vehicle

Our Monroe County guided transport service was bolstered by the contribution of a specially equipped Dodge Grand Caravan by Elaine Bartholomew of Emmaus, PA. The van had been converted with a lift and space for a wheelchair to accommodate Elaine's late husband, Richard Bartholomew, a former President of the Emmaus Lions Club. The vehicle is in excellent condition, and it allows us to provide more flexible transport options for our Monroe County clients.



Focus Facts

66%

of American adults with visual impairments interact with others less frequently due to a lack of transportation.

35%

of American adults attend fewer medical appointments due to a lack of transportation.

41%

of American adults shop for groceries less often due to a lack of transportation.

Data Source: National Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision at Mississippi State University study, 2015

We Champion Solutions



Solutions Gained

Functional Vision Exams 166
Assistive Devices 182

Vision Screenings **5,977** for Pre-K

Eye Exams for Pre-K 93

Glasses/Treatments **52** for Pre-K

Each recipient is counted once in each category.

We champion solutions that extend capabilities and inspire self-confidence. Our specialists source assistive devices that possess the power to transform attitudes and lives. Our vision screenings and partnerships help more children start school with proper eye care and the confidence to read.

Our Programs

- Assistive device distributions, including functional vision exams by an expert optometrist and arrangements for financial assistance.
- Vision screenings for pre-kindergarten children in preschools, daycare centers, and kindergarten orientation events.
- Focus Futures program that helps families in need obtain eye exams, glasses, and other treatments for pre-kindergarten children.



Our Highlights

- Our expert optometrist provided 166 functional vision exams in 2023-2024, a 15% year-over-year increase.
- Our number of pre-kindergarten vision screenings increased 27% over the prior year.
- We referred 829 pre-kindergarten children screened, or 14%, for professional eye exams.

Partnerships in Sight

Our Focused Futures partnerships connect families of pre-kindergarten children we screen to the help they need.

Through our collaboration with Valley Health Partners (VHP), Lehigh Valley families of children referred for eye exams receive phone calls from VHP to help schedule appointments. VHP's community health center in Allentown, PA, offers optometry and ophthalmology services, including eyeglasses. Valley Health Partners' fees are determined

from a sliding scale based on patient income.

Our partnerships with Stroudsburg Eye Specialists,
Bangor Eye Specialists, and the Tannersville Lions
Club make free eye exams and glasses available for
Monroe County families who qualify.

For families throughout our service area, we can secure free short-term vision insurance for families through the Pennsylvania Vision Foundation and gift certificates for services through the VSP Eyes of Hope program.

49%

of Sights for Hope clients live below or near the federal poverty threshold.

Focus Facts 55%

of working-age adults with visual impairments have a household income of less than \$25,000.

63%
of Americans
do not have
vision
insurance.

85% of children start school without receiving an eye exam.

14%

of pre-kindergarten children in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley and Monroe County have eye problems that can impact their development of critical literacy skills.

Data Sources: Sights for Hope services database, 2024; The Ohio State University and VisionServe Alliance study, 2023; American Optometric Association infographic, 2020; NVISION Eye Centers survey, 2022

Our Thanks

We thank these organizations and individuals whose support makes the world bigger, bolder, and brighter for those we serve. This list reflects contributions from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

\$250.000+

Pennsylvania Association for the Blind Sights for Hope Endowment Foundation

\$100,000-\$249,999

Pennsylvania Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services

\$50,000-\$99,999

County of Lehigh

\$25,000-\$49,999

Anonymous Foundation

The R. Dale and Frances M. Hughes Foundation

Luther J. Hottle Fund of the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation

Phillies Charities

Pocono Mountains United Way

United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley

\$10,000-\$24,999

Paulette Bobersky Estate

County of Monroe

County of Northampton

Carol Hafner Estate

Paul and Susan Miller

Reba Pike Estate

Charles and Margaret Shackelford

Harry C. Trexler Trust

Two Rivers Health & Wellness Foundation

Grace and Albert Zeky Memorial

Endowment

\$5,000-\$9,999

Lester G. Abeloff Foundation

Buehler Memorial Trust

Emmaus Lions Club

Fleming Foundation

Julius and Katheryn Hommer Foundation

J. Robert and Sandra Lovett

Pennsylvania Lions District 14-K

Martin and Sandra Lang

Lehigh Township Lions Club

LVHN-Pocono Foundation

Edward and Rosalie Vogrins

\$2,500-\$4,999

Air Products Foundation

Bartlett Foundation

Emmaus Lioness Lions Club

Mary Gourlay Charitable Trust

The Charles H. Hoch Foundation Charles and Figa Kline Foundation

Sylvia Perkin Charitable Trust

Pocono Lions Club

Strategic Arc Limited Upper Lehigh Lions Club

Walmart Foundation

Michael and Mila Wambaugh

Dennis Zehner

\$1,000-\$2,499

AllOne Charities

ASx Partner, Inc.

Bath Lions Club

Bethlehem Township Lions Club

Ross and Wendy Born

Phil Burks

Crayola Corporate Giving

Todd and Linda Donnelly

Easton Lions Club

Hellertown Lions Club

Fred J. Jaindl Family Foundation

Kevin Karpuk

Daniel Lombardo

Moore Township Lioness Lions Club

Mountainville Lions Club

John Joseph Sagi

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Steven and Linda Savino

Frank and Yvonne Schweighardt

Shafer Family Charitable Trust

John and Jill Sharkey

Slatington Lions Club

James and Louisa Soos

Hattie S. Speck Trust

Tannersville Lions Club

Moses Taylor Foundation

West Lehigh Area Lions Club

\$500-\$999

Jacqueline Agostinho

Anonymous

ASR Media

Coplay Lions Club

Cornerstone Advisors Asset

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The Cuddle Zone Learning Center

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Kuhnsville Area Lions Club

Lehigh Township Lioness Lions Club

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Sandra Richard

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Denise and Lamar Shaffer

Diane Snyder **David Torrey**

Ray and Laurie Venable

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James and Linda Wimmer

\$250-\$499

Alburtis Lions Club

Anonymous

Bushkill Smithfields Lions Club

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Devin Darby

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Jacquelyn Gregg

Steven and Margaret Grimes

Melissa Grube Kempton Lions Club

Charlotte Kresge, Ed.D.

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Lehigh Valley Community Foundation

Lehigh Valley Community Lions Club

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Moore Township Lions Club

Anthony Muir, Esq.

Palmer Township Lions Club

Carol Salgado

Salisbury Middle School Interact Club

Anthony Silvetti, O.D.

John and Mary Ann Stasik

Gary Stone

Barry Sutch

Upper Saucon Lions Club

Judith Venezie-Gagliardi

Carolyn and Stephen Wentzel

Richard and Catherine Wiscount Gail Wotring

Joseph Yeakel

Jeffrey and Kathy Young

Teresa Zink

\$100-\$249

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Karen and Antonio Angello

Anonymous

Bangor Lions Club

Bonnie Banks-Beers

Madeline Barkman

Dorothy Billger

Bonterra Tech

Donald Bortz Karen and Chip Buck Elaine and Daniel Burgess

Dennis Butz Robin Capoor Stewart Carrington **Ruth Chaplis** Jennifer Damico

Michelle Damiecki and Kevin Tran

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Richard Kern Audrey Kershner Kids Day Out Preschool Kobrovsky Family Fund James Kondravy

Anne Krutulis Carol Kuhns

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Lehigh Valley Council of the Blind

Lehigh Valley Sights for Hope Lions Club

G. Arden Link Charles Lombardi Lower Lehigh AARP 4150

Andrew Miller

Jeffrey and Noreen Mohler

Monroe Sights for Hope Lions Club

Louise Morrow Sandra Mugridge

Nativity Lutheran Church Early Childhood Education Center

Jane Norelli

Northern Lehigh High School Leo Club Bill and Mary Beth Numbers

Susan Numbers

Thomas and Marley Numbers

Annie Ocasio

Raymond and Barbara Osborn

Peter Oswald

Loanne and Robert Parr Garv and Brenda Posch Katherine and Herbert Rach

Karen Reddick

Frederick and Edith Ressler

Robert Robertson

Sacred Heart Family Medicine Program

Michael and Lynn Savage

Robert Schmell Theresa Schoch Eleanor and John Seng Senior Misfits

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Ronald and Megan Skinner

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Pamela and Bruce Smith

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Sultana and Eugene Swavely

Walter Toth

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Wegmans Food Markets Whitehall Lions Club Carol Williams

Wilson Borough Lions Club Katherine Yanushefski

Marie Yardley

Linda and Jeffrey Yost Douglas Young

Janet Young Barbara Zehner

Shirley and Mark Zeleski

\$1-\$99

Accessible Pharmacy Services

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Anita and Steven Ambler

Nancy Anderson Crelia Anoia **Anonymous** Jeffrey Appleby Kenneth Baatz Carolyn Barthelenghi Mary Ann Bartone Carole Bauder

Beverly and Stephen Becker

Ursula Behrens Catherine Bertin Ronald Bloch BoardSpot

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Lynnette and Mark Jefcoat Jewish Community Center of the

Lehigh Valley

Marsha and Brian Johnston

Albert and Catherine Kalbach

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Robert and Joan Kern

Gerald Kessler Kacey Kibler Susan Kibrik Carol Klement Barbara Kmetz

Marian Kordopatis

Linda and Bob Kovacs

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Samuel Smith

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Dennis and Cheryl Sommer

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Lorraine Tacardon

Ann Taylor Tina Tillou Gary Todd John Toms Charles Tumpey Mary-Byrne Turk

Reema and Sanjeev Vasishtha

Meela Verma Joseph Vincent James Vivian Janet Ward Nancy Weaver Svetlana Mas Wegele Joan Weidner

Peter and Maria Welsh

Kim Williams Lori Williams Frances Worman Cindy Yesalusky

Douglas and Andrea Yingling

Earl Young

Mary and Edwin Youtz

Their Joy in Music is **Limitless**

Several Sights for Hope clients have formed a band called Limitless. The band has performed publicly and rehearses regularly at Sights for Hope facilities. Many band members were proficient musicians before losing some or all their eyesight. The band's guitar- and percussion-driven sound treats several folk and classic rock classics lovingly. The creation of Limitless reflects our dedication to empowering people with visual impairments and blindness to live independently and pursue opportunities to do what they love.



Our Financials

Sights for Hope's financials are managed by Buckno Lisicky & Company, CPA of Allentown, PA, and audited by Campbell, Rappold & Yurasists, CPA of Allentown, PA.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenue and Gains	2023-2024	2022-2023
Private Contributions and Grants	\$464,810	\$567,839
Government Grants	\$22,000	\$15,000
Program Contracts	\$370,907	\$320,732
Net Program Revenue	\$53,161	\$19,826
Endowment Allocations	\$350,000	\$400,000
Other Revenue	\$57,406	\$308,438
Additional Gains	\$47,384	\$11,087
Total Revenue and Gains	\$1,365,668	\$1,642,922
Expenses	2023-2024	2022-2023
Program Expenses	\$1,051,548	\$1,002,641
Administrative Expenses	\$256,539	\$271,723
Fundraising Expenses	\$294,824	\$194,073
Total Expenses	\$1,602,911	\$1,468,437
Net Earnings	-\$237,243	\$174,485
Asset Depreciation	\$69,522	\$72,980
Net Earnings without Depreciation	-\$167,721	\$247,465

STATEMENT OF POSITION

Endowment Net Assets

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,865,466	\$2,060,468
Total Net Assets	\$1,730,639	\$1,967,882
Restricted Net Assets	\$706,123	\$639,229
Non-Restricted Net Assets	\$1,024,516	\$1,328,653
Net Assets	2023-2024	2022-2023
Total Liabilities	\$134,827	\$92,586
Other Liabilities	\$2,187	\$0
Deferred Revenue	\$3	\$10,628
Accrued Wages	\$89,934	\$42,289
Accounts Payable	\$42,703	\$39,669
Liabilities	2023-2024	2022-2023
Total Assets	\$1,865,466	\$2,060,468
Investments	\$679,859	\$634,965
Land, Buildings, and Equipment	\$804,647	\$847,160
Prepaid Expenses	\$1,078	\$9,118
Inventory	\$31,719	\$16,636
Annuities Receivable	\$53,196	\$67,402
Accounts Receivable	\$120,791	\$60,586
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$174,176	\$424,601
Assets	2023-2024	2022-2023
OTATEMENT OF TOOTHOR		

\$2,969,655

\$2,813,435

Note About Our 2023-2024 Financials

When we created our 2023-2024 budget, we anticipated the receipt of approximately \$308,000 in IRS Employee Retention Credits at the end of the 2022-2023 fiscal year or the start of the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Therefore, we chose to make some investments during 2023-2024 – including renovations to our Lehigh Valley Services Center and educational equipment.

Nearly all of the investments were contained to the 2023-2024 year. However, the timing of the IRS credits in June 2023, these investments, and other short-term circumstances affected our financial performance. Fortunately, those circumstances will not affect Sights for Hope in its 2024-2025 year or the following years.

Note: The affiliated Sights for Hope Endowment Foundation is a separate nonprofit organization with its own IRS 501(c)(3) status and Board of Directors.

^{*} Other revenue in 2022-2023 includes IRS Employee Retention Credits.



Board of Directors

President: Kate Raymond, PPL Corporation

Vice President: Paul Miller, Active Learning Centers

and Lehigh Valley Martial Arts

Treasurer: Daniel Lombardo, *Richard B. Ryon Insurance* **Secretary:** Devin Darby, MS, OTR/L, *Good Shepherd*

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Michael Savage, Savage Financial Group

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Denise Shaffer, *Pennsylvania Lions District 14-K* Nicole Williams, O.D., *Valley Health Partners*

Executive Leadership

Dennis Zehner, Executive Director and CEO Jennifer Pandolfo, Associate Director and Director of Services

Lists as of December 31, 2024





Our Values

Independence: We champion every individual's right to control their life and pursue their personal success.

Impact: We advance solutions specifically for the people we serve and challenge ourselves to make our communities stronger.

Dignity: We demonstrate a person-first mindset toward those we serve and honor their strengths.

Character: We listen, pursue all that is possible, carry ourselves with sincerity and humility, and are inclusive without bias.



"It was the first place that made me feel like it wasn't the end of the world."

We live in a visual world. So it was pretty scary for Paul Miller to wake up without sight in 2014. When Paul connected with the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, which is now Sights for Hope, he learned invaluable orientation and mobility skills. But for Paul, the impact was more profound.

"It was the first place that made me feel like it wasn't the end of the world. People here are so incredibly kind. They understand that people who are blind or visually impaired want most to be treated like normal people. Sights for Hope is the only organization of its kind that gives people who are blind or visually impaired the ability to feel normal. Everybody deserves that."

Paul is right. Everybody deserves that. However, the services that make it happen simply cannot exist without your help. Please contribute today so blindness and visual impairments cannot stand in the way of normal and promising lives.



Paul Miller is the Founder and CEO of Active Learning Centers and Lehigh Valley Martial Arts – two thriving businesses with more than 150 employees that he started after losing all his sight. Paul is a fifth-degree black belt in karate who has trained more than 1.000 black belts. He is Sights for Hope's Board Vice President and recipient of its 2024 Titan of Hope Award which recognizes people with visual impairments who distinguish themselves professionally and exemplify the indomitable power of hope.

Go to SightsforHope.org to make your contribution today or use this QR code.

Paul Miller and Felton



