

“Celebrating 25 years of serving People with Vision Loss!”

A CHANGE IN BOARD LEADERSHIP!

Spectrios Institute’s Board of Directors combined business and pleasure when they held their Board Meeting at White Sox U.S. Cellular Field on May 19th. At this meeting, Doug Eyles was recognized for his outstanding leadership over the last three years as he stepped down as Board Chairman. During his tenure, Doug was committed to helping us expand our services with the establishment of our Plymouth Place satellite clinic in LaGrange Park. Doug will remain on the Board of Directors as Immediate Past Chair and has passed the gavel to newly elected Board Chairman, **Peter Whinfrey**.

Pete Whinfrey is a longtime Spectrios Institute patient who is passionate about our mission. He has seen first-hand how visual rehabilitation can transform your life. During his chairmanship, Pete is excited to be leading the Board of Directors as they tackle projects such as getting our Planned Giving Program in full swing, continuing to keep our Technology Department (Eye Tec) a state-of-the-art facility, and expanding our services with the establishment of an in-home services (exams and training) program and additional satellite clinics. We are grateful to Pete for taking on this important position in our organization.

BOARD OFFICERS ELECTED

Doug Eyles, Immediate Past-Chair; Peter Whinfrey, Chairman; Dorothy Troyer, 2nd Vice-Chair – Special Projects; Jim Whitlock, 3rd Vice-Chair – Finance & Treasurer; Dave Gotsch, 1st Vice-Chair, Fundraising Projects and Secretary (not pictured).



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EDITORIALS & SPECIAL COLUMNS

Special articles are written by Spectrios Institute's staff members, board members and volunteers. We hope you will enjoy their special insights.

The following articles can be found in this issue:

- **“Internet Resources”** by Leah Gerlach, M.S., Staff Member, 7 page
- **“Touch Screen Technology”** by Leah Gerlach, M.S., Staff Member, page 11

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Those of you who have come to Spectrios Institute (Deicke Center) know how important our program is and how important getting the proper tools will help. If you know of someone who would benefit from our program or if you haven't been back in a while, we can help!

Funds are currently available to help eligible low income individuals and seniors on fixed incomes with the cost of our program fee and also with the cost of glasses, magnifiers and other specified devices. All funds are on a first-come first-served basis and during these difficult economic times they are in great demand.

Contact: Diane Levine, 630-690-7115, Ext. 12 to request financial assistance prior to making an appointment.

We hope you will share this information with everyone you know!

TECHNOLOGY OPEN HOUSE

Each quarter, Spectrios Institute for Low Vision holds a Technology Open House to familiarize people with different types of tools and technology that are available to assist people with vision loss to do many things important for their independence.

This Fall's Technology Open House is

- September 10, 2011
10:00 am until 2:00 pm
at Deicke House, 219 E. Cole Ave.
Wheaton, IL 60187

See the technology department's editorials on pages 7 and 11, to learn Internet resources and touch screen technology!

Spectrios Institute Welcomes New Board Members:

from left to right
Mark Broaddus,
Bob Wahlgren,
Ed Farmer and
B.J. Armstrong
(not pictured).



B.J. Armstrong, a former basketball player, played 11 seasons for four different teams including the Chicago Bulls as a starting point guard. He was an integral part of the Chicago Bulls reign during the 1990's which earned him three championship rings. After his retirement in 2000, he was hired by the Bulls front office as Assistant to the Executive Vice-President of Basketball Operations until 2005. Currently, B.J. is a certified NBA agent and Vice-President of Basketball Management for Wasserman Media Group. In his role as agent, he is responsible for developing the client's brand, building partnerships and negotiating deals with companies. He also is responsible for preparing clients for the NBA draft.

Mark Broaddus is a principal with Chuhak & Tecson, P.C. and concentrates his law practice in estate, trust administration and litigation; estate planning and asset protection; healthcare, and litigation. He counsels individuals, families and financial and medical institutes in planning for, managing and resolving death, dying and disability issues. Also representing families, financial institutes and medical care providers in resolving guardianship issues with a focus on contested guardianship. Mark is a Board Member on the National Accreditation Council Serving People with

Blindness or Visual Impairment. As a Spectrios Institute patient, Mark understands the value of our visual rehabilitation programs and is committed to helping us reach more individuals with vision loss.

Ed Farmer is in his 19th full season on the White Sox Radio Network and his fifth handling play-by play duties. During his years in baseball, he was a major league relief pitcher playing for nine major league teams including the White Sox from 1971-1981. He was also a scout in the Orioles organization for three years between 1988-1990. Ed has a passion for our mission and has been advocate and supporter of Spectrios Institute for many years.

Bob Wahlgren retired from Continental National Bank in 1989 after 25 years of service. He then concentrated his efforts on volunteer work co-founding Bridge Communities, a transitional housing program for homeless families. He was their Board Chairman for 20 years and is still on their board at present. In 1997, Bob was hired as Executive Director of Community Housing Director of DuPage (CHAD), (a not-for-profit rental housing organization), and served in that capacity for 13 years. Bob is known for his innovative way of thinking, which combined with his non-profit experience will be a tremendous asset to our organization.

We are thankful this dynamic group of new Board Members are willing to share their time and talents to impact the lives of children and adults with vision loss.

Spectrios Institute for Low Vision celebrated its 25th Anniversary at their Gala on April 30th

The gala was the most successful fundraiser in our history. This outcome would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors:

Executive Director, Dr. Tracy Williams (left) presented Dr. David Gieser (right) with our Partners with Vision Award for his twenty-five years of steadfast support of individuals struggling with permanent vision loss. Dr. Gieser was introduced by his friend the Honorable Bob Thomas, Illinois Supreme Court Justice (center).



Daphne, a Spectrios Institute patient, shared her story about living with vision loss and how our program enabled her to find the devices to continue working and raise her family.



Wheaton Lions President, Terri Lightbody joined our celebration with her husband Scott. Terri presented us with a check for \$15,000 on behalf of the club.



Dr. Mark Daily, a prior Partner with Vision award recipient, and his wife Karen came out to show their support.



Bartlett Lion, John Hilliard (pictured right) was honored as our Volunteer of the Year.



The Gala was a time for Board and Former Board Members to gather and celebrate our accomplishments over the years.

Former Board Member Wally Filkin (left) catches up with Jim Anderson a Charter Board Member and Honorary Gala Chair .



Board Member Dr. Elliot Politser (center) welcomes Charter Board Member & Emeritus Director, Dr. Weldon Thomas and his wife Juanita.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Gala to ensure our friends with vision loss live the highest quality of life.

HONORING OTHERS

You can honor your family members, friends and/or special occasions by making a donation to Spectrios Institute for Low Vision.

Please use the enclosed envelope or go to our website (www.spectrios.org) to make a donation online!

ALI SETORK RETIRES FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman Doug Eyles (not pictures) and Executive Director, Dr. Tracy Williams recognized Dr. Ali Setork for his outstanding support of our mission upon his retirement from our Board of Directors in April. Ali served as Board Secretary from 2006-2011 and was Gala Chairman for five years. No matter what job Ali undertook, he approached it with great enthusiasm.



He will be greatly missed!

WALK FOR SIGHT!

Our “Seeing Is Believing” children’s program depends on the support of the Lions Clubs in Illinois. Enjoy a fun day by participating in one of their walks which are open to anyone who wants to support people who are visually impaired.

- October 2, 2011: St. Jacob Township Park, St. Jacob, IL (St. Louis area)
Registration starts at 1:00 pm
Contact person: Lydia Ellis at 618-980-7482 or lellispdg@yahoo.com
- October 16, 2011: Lake Story Park, Galesburg, IL (western Illinois)
Registration starts at 2:00 pm
Contact person: Tawny Hall 309-695-6160 or www.walk4sight.org

Contact them directly to help the Lions support Spectrios Institute’s children program!

INTERNET RESOURCES

Websites can be a great resource!

- Here are some websites about descriptive video for movies.
 1. www.mopix.org Lists theaters equipped with the technology and current films that have descriptive narration,
 2. www.captionfish.com Allows users to search for accessible theaters by ZIP code and also lists show times.
 3. www.describedmovies.org/ Lets you search for DVD and Blu-ray versions of many popular movies that also have an optional DVS track.
- Amazon.com is releasing a new version of Kindle for PC that adds accessibility features designed for blind and low-vision customers. If a screen reader is installed on your computer, all English-language books in the 750,000 book collection can be read with the program's own synthesizer. Some free books are available, but the vast majority are for purchase for reasonable prices. www.amazon.com/kindle/accessibility
- If you are in the market for a new range, DVD player or dishwasher, know that the National Federation of the Blind has just updated the Usable Consumer Electronics list, which lists a variety of easy-to-adapt mainstream appliances and devices. The list describes the product interface, and what makes it usable to blind consumers, as well as giving model numbers to make it easier to find each device. More generally, the

list will help consumers identify what brands and product lines are likely to be workable for you. We hope it's helpful! www.nfb.org/nfb/accessible_home_showcase.asp?SnID=2110542689

- Visit the new home of Accessible Games, and get any one of 10 great games for only \$9.99! www.GamesForBlind.com
- Did you know there is an incredible, free online resource that will help people figure out those often confusing labels on medication bottles, including dosages, safety information and side effects? What if they could easily figure out the various ingredients in common household food items like macaroni and cheese and even have free recipes to download?

www.directionsforme.org, developed by Horizons for the Blind partnering with Hadley School for the Blind, puts accessible consumer packaging information for more than 350,000 products at your fingertips.

Try it out - just type in a common household medication or food product and check out the vast amount of information that is available to help you be informed consumers.

By Leah Gerlach, M.S., C.R.C.

SPECTRIOS INSTITUTE 25TH ANNIVERSARY GOLF CLASSIC

**Butterfield Country Club, Oak Brook, IL
Monday, August 15, 2011**

Presented By  **Trust
Company
OF ILLINOIS**

If you love to golf and you want to help children and adults with permanent vision loss to remain independent, then our 25th Anniversary Golf Classic is for you! Come play a full day of golf at the prestigious Butterfield Country Club in Oak Brook. The club features three courses which is the perfect setting for our 27-hole Ryder Cup Style format. Each course will challenge your skill with no repeat of holes! As in our prior golf outings, players will attest it is a unique and fun event that also provides a great opportunity for networking. White Sox fans are sure to enjoy mingling with our White Sox celebrities.



White Sox Broadcasters **Ken “Hawk” Harrelson and Ed Farmer** are again our co-chairs and team captains. Ed and Hawk, along with **Broadcaster Darrin Jackson**, will be on-hand prior to the shotgun start to give their annual pep talk. During the evening cocktail hour, you can look forward to a former White Sox player sharing entertaining stories about his career.

Here’s your chance to win a retro style 2002 Thunderbird. No one won Dr. Tracy Williams’ beloved “inspiration yellow” Thunderbird in our last Golf Classic. He is willing to give you another shot to win it in our hole-in-one competition this year.



If you don’t golf, why not join us for our cocktail reception and dinner. Can’t be with us? Then we hope you will consider making a donation.

The golf classic raises significant funds that are essential for the growth and operation of our vision rehabilitation programs.

Further event details and registration form are in this newsletter. Sign-up early as space is limited. Contact Diane Levine at 630-690-7115, Ext. 12 or by E-mail: DPL316@spectrios.org.



25TH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

Presented by
MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2011 AT 8:30 AM
BUTTERFIELD COUNTRY CLUB, OAK BROOK



THE FORMAT

Our unique **Ryder Cup Style** format is based upon two teams of golfers. Each team will be led by one of our two **celebrity captains, White Sox Broadcasters, Ed Farmer and Hawk Harrelson**. Foursomes will be assigned to a team upon arrival at Butterfield Country Club on the day of the event.

Three nine-hole matches will be played. Foursomes will be split into two pairs and in each match a pair will play against two players from the opposite team. Each member of a foursome will play one 9-hole match with each of the three other members of their foursome. Players will be re-paired after each nine-hole match. Handicaps for each match will be generated by the club pro.

The three matches are:

Match 1	Best Ball	9:30 AM
Match 2	Singles Matches	12:30 PM
Match 3	Alternate Shot	3:00 PM

A point will be awarded to the team winning each match and one-half point awarded for a match halved. Tie breakers have been defined by the club pro in the event of a tie.

EVENT SCHEDULE

Registration/continental breakfast	8:30 AM
Shotgun start	9:30 AM
Lunch buffet on the course	
Cocktails/Hors d'oeuvres reception	6:00 PM
Dinner, program and auction	7:00 PM

To reserve your place contact:

Diane Levine, Director of Development
 Spectrios Institute for Low Vision
 219 E. Cole Avenue, Wheaton, IL
 p. 630.690.7115 x12 fax 630.690.9037
 Email: DPL316@spectrios.org

SPONSORSHIP/GOLF PACKAGES

Official Black or White Team Sponsor **\$5,000**

Benefits Include:

- One foursome
- Company logo included on signage
- One hole signage display

Name recognition on Spectrios Institute website and *Bright Side* newsletter

Classic Package **\$2,500**

Benefits Include:

- One foursome
- One hole signage display

Foursome **\$2,200**

Individual Golfer **\$ 550**

Golf cart, continental breakfast, lunch, beverages, dinner and gift are included with your golf package.

Benefactor Sponsorships (individual or combine with a golf package)

Item Sponsor (Premium gift for golfers) \$2,000

Beverage Sponsor **\$2,000**

Luncheon Sponsor **\$2,000**

Cocktail/Dinner Sponsor **\$2,500**

Benefits to Benefactor Sponsor include:

Signage display

Name recognition at the reception and during the program and in the Spectrios Institute *Bright Side* newsletter

Hole Sponsor **\$ 400**

Includes hole signage

Dinner Guest **\$ 120**

“TOUCH, TABLET, & E-BOOK TECHNOLOGY”

Welcome to a new column in the Bright Side Newsletter!

With the paradigm shift in technology to tablets, touch screens, and e-book readers, there is much to learn and share about the accessibility of these devices. When touch technology came on the scene, it was a tremendous barrier for people with vision loss. Now through screen reading, screen adjustments, and voice recognition these devices are accessible and useable. Whether you are an Apple user (I-Pad, I-Pod touch, or I-Phone) or an Android or Windows based product user, these devices are totally accessible either through accessibility features built-in to the product or through the addition of applications which make the products user friendly.



Over the next few issues of our newsletter, we will be exploring different products and applications which are becoming such an important part of everyday life. Our Fall issue will focus on accessibility of the I-Pad and I-Pad 2. If you have specific topics or questions, please contact me so that I can add them to the column. Leah Gerlach 630-690-7115 Ext 24 or LAG324@spectrios.org.

THE LOW VISION CONFERENCE

Many of you remember the Discovery Low Vision Conferences held in the past, and may be wondering when the next Low Vision conference will be scheduled. So mark your calendars!

This year the Low Vision Conference has a **new** name “**enLIGHTen**” and is partnering with ATIA the Adaptive Technology Industry Association. The conference is being held on November 2 – 4, 2011, at the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center in Schaumburg, Illinois. The sponsoring agencies for the conference are: Spectrios Institute for Low Vision, Hadley School for the Blind and The Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

We will be having informative workshops, and nationally renown keynote speakers, as well as access to one of the nation’s largest technology exhibit halls. For further information, check out this website: www.atia.org/2011chicago/enlighten or you can contact Leah Gerlach at Spectrios Institute 630-690-7115 Ext. 24 or email LAG324@spectrios.org.

Watch our website for more detailed information! We Look forward to seeing you there!

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



For 25 years John Hilliard has worked as an Auctioneer specializing in Estate, Consignment and Antique Auctions. When he began doing benefit auctions, like many auctioneers, he

charged for this service. In August 1995 an event changed his focus forever.

John and his wife Susan, owned an Auction House in rural central Illinois. When their neighbor's son, Brandon age 14, was diagnosed with a brain tumor with a doubtful prognosis, the whole community was devastated. In a short period of time Brandon's family accumulated huge medical bills. That's when the neighbors decided to help by holding a benefit auction at the Hilliard Auction House.

Although Brandon died a few months after the Auction, that event changed John's focus in auctioneering. He had been amazed at the amount of good that was generated by Brandon's Auction and he was determined to use his auctioneering skills to enhance the service he had been giving through Lions for 35 years.

When a fellow Lion and Spectrios volunteer heard John auctioneer at a Lions District 1J Convention and learned that he often donated his skills to non-

profit organizations, our Director of Development recruited him! After his first auction for us; John felt an immediate comfort and identity with Spectrios because of the philosophy and caring attitude of the doctors, staff and volunteers. The testimonials of current and former patients were inspiring and John's heart was especially touched by "Seeing Is Believing", the Spectrios program for school children who struggle daily with severe vision loss.

Since the Bartlett Lions had been long time supporters of Spectrios, the decision to donate his services here was not difficult. John Hilliard has become a welcome presence to the Spectrios Gala each Spring and the Spectrios Golf Outing every Autumn. We are proud to honor him as the 2010 Volunteer of the Year!

CHICAGO WHITE SOX CHARITIES AWARD



Once again the Chicago White Sox Charities presented Spectrios Institute for Low Vision with a check for \$15,000 to be used for our children's program, "Seeing Is Believing." It was presented at their annual recognition ceremony held on the field prior to the game on May 4th. The Chicago White Sox, because of their concern for the children of Chicago, have been longtime supporters of Spectrios Institute for Low Vision.

PARTNER WITH VISION

Dr. David K. Gieser is a man who makes things happen. He was present on a Saturday afternoon in the spring of 1986 when his father, Dr. P.K. Gieser, presided over the dedication of a unique Center for Visual Rehabilitation. David was a member of the Board of Directors as his father chaired the first meeting. When his father died in August of that same year, David became Board Chair and set about making his father's dream of a Low Vision Center happen. He served as Board Chairman for 14 years.



David began to make things happen by selling his father's dream to the Wheaton Eye Clinic doctors. They immediately caught the vision and readily referred patients, whose vision could not be improved medically, surgically or with conventional lenses. They also made generous contributions, without which the center may not have survived those early years.

In the beginning, the Center had one doctor and one receptionist and a Board of Directors. David nurtured his father's relationship with the charter Board Members and recruited new ones, asking only that they believe in the need for low vision rehabilitation. David made things happen by utilizing the resources available to him. He asked the WEC staff to handle tasks for which the fledging Center had no personnel or funding. For those first years they prepared payroll, assisted with audits, kept records and provided storage space. The Board Room was made available for Board Meetings, adaptive training sessions for our low vision patients and newsletter mailings. The Optical lab fabricated lenses for our patients at cost.

A popular lecturer in the field of ophthalmology, David used those opportunities to market the need for low vision services to ophthalmologists nationwide. He encouraged them to set up "Low Vision Corners" in their offices, for which David provided the resource materials.

Well known locally and throughout the state of Illinois, David piqued the interest of Illinois legislative officers, corporations, and organizations as he explained the philosophy of providing rehabilitation services to persons who were visually impaired. David's enthusiastic appeal resulted in the significant grants and donations needed when we launched our capital campaign.

Because David believed in his father's dream, this year we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Spectrios Institute for Low Vision at Deicke House. He inspired a wide circle of support that helped to make it happen. Dr. David K. Gieser has truly been a Partner with Vision.

SUMMER 2011 SUPPORT AND LEARNING GROUP SCHEDULE

Spectrios Institute's Support and Learning groups are opportunities for people with low vision, their families and friends to come together to gather new information and to share with others with similar vision loss.

Guest speakers are often invited to present topics to the groups to learn about and discuss. There are two support/networking groups, one in Carol Stream and one in LaGrange Park.

These are "open" groups, which mean that new members are welcome to come to the group at any time and as often as they prefer. These groups are a complementary service provided by Spectrios Institute.

Our summer group topics are:

- July 10, 2011: "**Medicare, Medicaid and What You Should Know**" at Belmont Village Center, 545 Belmont Road, Carol Stream, IL 60188. Mr. Don Davia, Benefits and Legal Service Coordinator for the DuPage Center for Independent Living will be our speaker. He will help us better understand Medicare, Medicaid, our rights/responsibilities, and insurance fraud issues which impact people with disabilities.
- July 24, 2011; "**Computer Access and Skills**" at Plymouth Place Senior Living, Creative Arts Room, 315 N. La Grange Road, La Grange Park, IL 60526. Leah Gerlach of Spectrios Institute will bring several computers to demonstrate effective use of a computer using screen

magnification and screen reading software. There will be time for hands-on practice and questions. There will also be a brief demonstration of the I-Pad and its accessibility. **Please RSVP** if you plan to attend.



- August 14, 2011; at Belmont Village Center, 545 Belmont Road, Carol Stream, IL 60188: Our "**Annual Ice Cream Social**".

This is a great time to make new friends and reconnect with all of your Spectrios friends. To ensure that we have enough refreshments and seating for everyone, **RSVP** by calling 630-690-7115 and ask for Leah.



FUTURE ARTICLES ...

- The story of "Sight for the Road" Driving Program - helping people with vision loss maintain their independence behind-the-wheel.
- The story of our Residency Program - the residents' research and why educating the future low vision practitioners are so important to Spectrios Institute.

THE LAST WORD ...

Twenty years ago visually impaired school children in Illinois were being “mainstreamed” rather than segregated in special schools or classrooms. The environment was more normal for these children, but more stressful for the teachers. These children could not see the chalk board or their teacher’s face. Large print books helped, but classroom participation was complicated. Teachers, already overloaded, were frustrated and they appealed to Lions of Illinois Foundation for help. Each child’s needs were unique. Traditional eye exams were ineffective. Each child had to be evaluated to determine useable sight. Prescriptions were needed for appropriate devices and “how to” instructions were needed for their use.

Lions of Illinois appealed to Spectrios. Only five years old, our unique philosophy was just what the kids needed. Lions of Illinois Foundation was willing to be a major funder, but how did we make our program available? We secured a van and took the program for visually impaired school children to the schools. “Seeing Is Believing” was born.

Twice a week the van was loaded with diagnostic equipment, magnifiers, telescopes, sunglasses and frames for prescription glasses. Teachers scheduled the clinics right in the schools. The first year 89 children were evaluated and given telescopes for checking out the chalk board, magnifiers for reading text books,

high powered reading glasses for doing assignments, sunglasses to reduce glare and when prescription glasses were needed, they were ordered and put in frames the children selected, all at no cost to the child’s family or to the school.

For twenty years, Illinois children have participated in our “Seeing Is Believing,” funded not only by Lions of Illinois, but also by grants from the Chicago White Sox, Central DuPage Hospital, Local Lions Clubs and other private sources.

In 2002 “Seeing Is Believing” received the ***Hod Ogden Award for Excellence*** from the Center for Disease Control. “Seeing Is Believing” has made it possible for over 5,000 Illinois school children to improve scholastically and pursue higher education. Many are now working as teachers, counselors, technology experts, musicians, architects and lawyers.

We have not yet heard the last word from these very special young people!

R. Tracy Williams, O.D.
Executive Director





at Deicke House
219 E. Cole Ave.
Wheaton, IL 60187

Non-Profit Org
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Carol Stream, IL
60188
Permit No. 1558

“Celebrating 25 Years of serving People with Vision Loss!” **2011 COMING EVENTS**

Technology Open Houses:

Check our website for special demonstrations and times.

- September 10, 2011 at Deicke House from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Annual Golf Classic:

- August 15, 2011 at Butterfield Country Club, Oak Brook, IL

Watch for more up coming activities and events on our website!

www.spectrios.org

Support & Learning Groups:

Check our website for each day's topic. (A special article on page 14.)

- August 14, 2011 at Belmont Village, Carol Stream, IL from 1:45—3:30 p.m.
- September 11, 2011 at Belmont Village, Carol Stream, IL from 1:45—3:30 p.m.
- September 25, 2011, at Plymouth Place, LaGrange Park, IL from 1:30—3:00 p.m.
- October 9, 2011 at Belmont Village, Carol Stream, IL from 1:45—3:30 p.m.

