



Looking Ahead to the Future

After graduating from Providence College, Jessica Laurie has her sights set on a Master's in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling.

Thanks to her drive and determination — and the help of her guide dog, Otis — Jessica earned a Bachelor's in Health Policy Management this spring. Today she is anticipating graduate work at Assumption College in Worcester, Mass., with the goal of establishing her career while offering guidance to others who are visually impaired.

"There aren't a lot of opportunities for people like me right now," she explained. "There's a shortage of vocational counselors to work with the blind in New Hampshire. I don't want to sit at a desk. I want to travel around, talk to people, and maybe support blind veterans who are trying to find work."



Jessica visits the Association with Otis and her boyfriend, Zachary.

Jessica knows firsthand that getting the right kind of help can make all the difference, especially at critical times in life. Since her childhood in the small town of Springfield, where she was the only blind resident, the Association has been with Jessica every step of the way, even when she transitioned to her college campus in Rhode Island. She joked, "I have to confess that I was a monster kid growing up, but that's why I advocate so strongly for myself today."

As she continues to reflect on her accomplishments, Jessica's passion about her future and about filling a need in New Hampshire is unmistakable. "When I was first going away to college, I couldn't wait to leave New Hampshire," she said. "Now I want to come back to live and work in the state where I grew up."

Visit sightcenter.org/what-we-do/success-stories for more about Jessica.



Jessica and Otis relax during summer break.





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Our Mission

To advance the independence of persons
who are blind or visually impaired.

*Have you included the New Hampshire
Association for the Blind in your will?*

President & CEO George Theriault to Retire



George Theriault, B.A., CFRE, plans to retire at the end of 2015, after working at the Association for 35 years. During his first 15 years, George functioned as Vice President for Development, and he was appointed to his current role by the Board of Directors in 1996. Throughout his career he led two successful capital campaigns, established the McGreal Sight Center headquarters, and initiated statewide public education and fundraising programs.

George has also been an active participant in several national forums for advocacy, legislation, and the promotion of vision rehabilitation services. As a member of the national Association of Fundraising Professionals, he earned the title Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE). Locally, he has served on many boards and professional groups.

Even in his retirement, George will remain dedicated to expanding the Association's mission. He believes that the Association is equipped to offer unique and necessary services for the many decades ahead, especially as a significant increase in severe vision impairment and blindness is predicted for those with health- or age-related conditions.

Saying Farewell to Our Other Retirees



Glenn Gunn, M.Ed., COMS Orientation & Mobility Instructor

Glenn Gunn retired this March, following 36 years at the Association. He received a Master's in Orientation and Mobility from Boston College in 1977. Throughout his time with the Association, Glenn's path intersected with many coworkers and clients.

Glenn had a personal adventure with every client he helped, as he got to walk a mile in their shoes. He humbly said, "It wasn't that I gave them anything. It was that the Association was there when people needed them." That human interaction was the highlight of his career.

Though a lot has changed over the years, one thing that stayed the same is the nonprofit status of the Association, which Glenn credits with allowing him to effectively serve his clients. He enjoyed being of assistance, getting to know people, and watching his work make a difference.



Jane Roy Donor Relations & Mail Program Manager

After 44 years in the Development Department, Jane Roy retired in May. She started with the direct mail program and watched it evolve. Jane recalled that the mail program was the first area to be computerized at the Association.

During her tenure Jane worked for three directors at the School Street and Walker Street facilities. She has countless stories about her time at the Association and how everything has shifted. "When I started there were seven girls," Jane said. Of those seven only she stayed.

One of the unique contributions Jane offered was being a trained brailist. She learned to type Braille by hand before managing automated printing onsite. Her various abilities and her personality were important to staff and volunteers alike. A lifelong Concord resident, Jane has not gone far away in her retirement, but her assistance to the Association is greatly missed.

Welcoming New Staff Members

Tesni Freed, M.A. Development Associate

Tesni Freed came to the Association with six years of combined administrative and communications experience in prosthetics and audiology. She completed her undergraduate degree at Geneva College and received a Master's in Professional Writing from New England College. This May, Tesni joined the Development Department as its primary writer.

Regina Mattrella, M.S.W., LICSW Social Worker

Regina Mattrella started at the Association in November 2014. With a bachelor's from Notre Dame College and a Master's in Social Work from UNH, her experience includes directing social services at Pleasant View Center and working at Casey Family Services for 15 years. Regina currently handles referrals, writes reports, and counsels clients.

David Trzaska, M.A., GDMI, OMS Orientation & Mobility Specialist

David Trzaska relocated from New Jersey in February, coming to the Association with 15 years of Dog Guide Mobility experience. He earned his bachelor's at Carson Newman University and a Master's in Orientation and Mobility from Western Michigan University. David promotes client independence through an emphasis on remaining senses and safe navigation.

Tracie Wilson, A.S. Business & Operations Coordinator

Tracie Wilson joined the organization in January, with an Associate's in Accounting from New Hampshire Technical Institute. Her previous experience includes bookkeeping and office management positions at the New Hampshire Historical Society and the UNH School of Law. Tracie helps with financial tasks and everyday operations at the Association.

And the Access Award Goes to...

On June 22, the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester was presented with the 2015 award for its accessibility to the blind. Each year the award is presented to a local individual, corporation, or organization demonstrating exceptional and innovative efforts to provide enhanced access and to eliminate barriers for those who are blind or visually impaired.

The Currier earned the Association's 2015 Access Award through its multi-year collaboration in producing an audio tour for many works of visual art in the Museum's collection. The tour provides detailed descriptions of objects, from paintings to sculptures, and attendees of the ceremony got to hear two samples. "It is such a pleasure to present the Currier with this award in an effort to honor the hard work and dedication they have exhibited to make art accessible to the visually impaired community," said George Theriault, President & CEO.



George Theriault and Susan Manchester present the 2015 Access Award.

Recap of the 2015 Walk for Sight



A group of walkers is ready for the course through Downtown Concord.

THANK YOU to the many walkers, volunteers, and staff members who came out for this year's walk! We had a total of 415 participants and raised more than \$73,000.00. The amount that each walker contributed was greater than any previous event.

Top Team: "Dog-Gone Best Team!" from Dog Guide Users of NH with \$4,920.00

Top Individual: Frank Haley with \$8,762.00 in 2015, for a grand total of \$54,181.00

Interested in helping to plan the 2016 walk? Join the Walk Committee! Contact Mary Chase at mchase@sightcenter.org.



Frank Haley poses with his relatives and Susan Manchester, Board Chair.

Save the Date

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| Knights of Columbus Seacoast Tournament, Pease Golf Course, Portsmouth | September 18th |
| "Cache-Ability" Geocaching, TBD, Seacoast Area | October 3rd |
| Ocean Gaming Casino Days, Ocean Gaming, Hampton | October 10th-12th |
| White Cane and Dog Guide Users Awareness Day, Statehouse, Concord | October 15th |
| Dinner in the Dark, Rudi's, Portsmouth | October 20th |
| "Cache-Ability" Geocaching, TBD, Manchester Area | October 20th |
| Dinner in the Dark, Giuseppe's, Meredith | November 9th |



New Hampshire Association for the Blind

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– Irene Reale, Volunteer

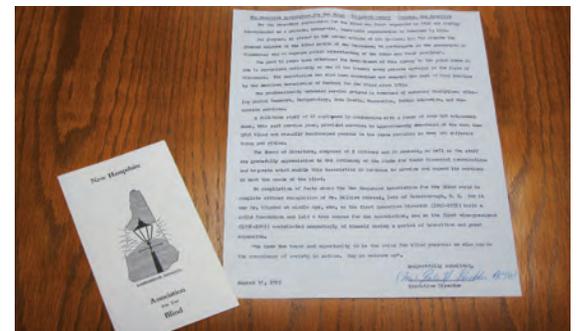
*Will you consider volunteering for the Association?
Call today to get involved!*

7/15

In Other News

Association Artifacts in the 1965 Concord Time Capsule

After being buried for 50 years, the Concord time capsule was opened to reveal a handful of historic items. Among the coins and newspapers were two artifacts from the Association: a brochure and a letter that was composed on the typewriter. A digital version will soon be available online, and ideas for the 2015 time capsule may be submitted to TimeCapsule@concordhistoricalsociety.org.



League of N.H. Craftsmen

signature of excellence

League of NH Craftsmen Presents "Insightful" Exhibition

From September 28–December 18, the League of NH Craftsmen will partner with the Association for a unique exhibit at the League in Concord. Art displays will be accessible to the sighted and the visually impaired. Everyone will be urged to touch various media, Braille text will be provided, and sighted participants can simulate vision loss. In 2016, "Insightful" will travel throughout the state, ending at the Association. Find the League online: nhcrafts.org.

ScripAbility Services Now Available at Hooksett Walmart

Walmart in Hooksett offers the ScripAbility Prescription Accessibility System that not only allows pharmacists to easily assist the blind and visually impaired but also ensures that individuals with vision loss can correctly maintain medications. Services include ScripTalk audible output, ScripView large-print materials, and BRL raised labeling. Learn more at envisionamerica.com/products/scripability.

**Scrip
Ability**[™]
Accessible Rx Labels