

News for donors and friends of VisionCorps

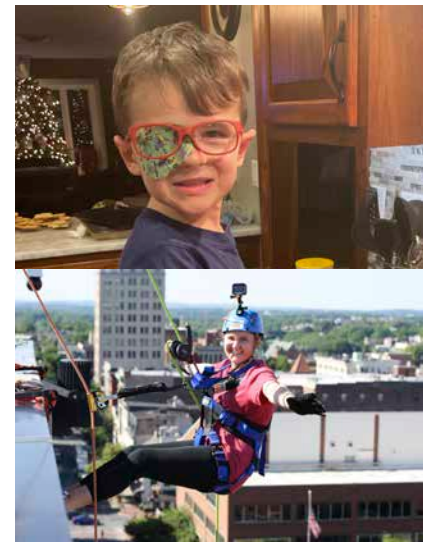
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*Serving Adams, Chester, Lancaster,
Lebanon and York Counties*

YOUR SUPPORT FOR VISIONCORPS KIDSIGHT SCREENING SAVED HIS SIGHT!

Thanks to your support, VisionCorps' KidSight Program annually screens more than 8,000 preschool-aged children for potential vision impairments. For one young preschooler, the experience was life-changing.

Sterling Slaybaugh was 3 years old when, thanks to a vision screening at his preschool, his family discovered he had a congenital cataract in one eye. Now, one year into recovery from cataract surgery, Sterling has re-gained 90 percent of his vision in the affected eye. His parents, Terra and Blake Slaybaugh of Biglerville, PA, credit the KidSight Program for alerting them to the problem so that it could be addressed before he permanently lost the sight in his eye.



"It never occurred to me that he had any problem with his vision," Terra said. "He's always been a very active child who loves the outdoors."

Post-surgery, Sterling needed to have eye drops administered every hour of the day and night. "He's such a sweetheart; he adapted to it quickly," Terra said.

When Sterling returned to preschool, he was sporting a face mask, an eye patch, and new red glasses. Although it may seem counter-intuitive, it is his "good eye" that is under the patch. The idea is to cover it so that his brain learns to interpret information it receives through the new lens. "We ordered several patches with colorful designs: watermelons, oranges, spaceships... He gets to choose. It helps make it more fun," Terra said. "There are other kids in his daycare who wear glasses, so the kids are used to that. But when people ask about the patch, he just tells them he has a new eye."

Terra has become a strong advocate for VisionCorps' KidSight Program. She'd like to see it expand to every preschool, daycare and nursery.

One of her family's businesses, Store It LLC in Biglerville, was a corporate sponsor of VisionCorps Eye Drop 2022 in June, and Terra herself secured over \$1,500 in community support by taking part in the event. "It was the first time I'd rappelled," she said. "But it wasn't as scary as I anticipated. I'm so grateful to VisionCorps for saving my son's sight!"

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VisionCorps, is a 501(c)(3) exempt organization. A copy of our financial statement is available upon request by contacting VisionCorps at 244 N Queen Street, Suite 301, Lancaster, PA 17603 or calling 1-717-205-4115. A copy of the official registration and financial information of VisionCorps may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

It's back to school season! And at VisionCorps, the fall season also signals upcoming events benefitting the agency!

Mark your calendar for the following events – all of these events are what we call “benefactor events” where individuals, clubs or organizations coordinate events and do the legwork to implement them, with VisionCorps receiving proceeds! With limited resources internally to host multiple events to provide revenue and support for our Mission, Benefactor Events are a welcomed and very much appreciated act of service!



There are three events this fall from which proceeds will benefit VisionCorps. There is something for everyone so please consider joining us in attending and supporting these events! Sponsorship opportunities are also available for all events, and donations of auction items are also being accepted as a way for you to promote your business.

- Monday, October 3: Shirk's Big Swing for Sight, Science and Education Golf Tournament. Conestoga Country Club in Lancaster with 12:00 shotgun start; lunch and dinner provided. \$125 per player. Hosted by Lisa Shirk; call 717-875-1516 for more information.
- Wednesday, October 19: Paradise Lions Dinner in the Dark. White Chimneys in Gap with 6:00 start time. Dinner with the opportunity to wear blindness simulators or blindfold with silent auction and raffles. \$40 per ticket. Hosted by the Paradise Lions Club; call Bill Dodds at 717-435-0706 or Heather Valudes at 717-278-5482 for more information.
- Saturday, November 5: First Annual Elksgiving. Lancaster Elks Lodge #134. Doors open at 5 pm. Heavy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, silent and live auctions, and live music. Event is for those 21 and older. \$50 per ticket. Hosted by the Elks Club; visit <https://www.lancasterelks134.com> for more information.

And, we can't forget the importance of caring for your vision; at this time of year, as kids are heading back to the classroom, please be sure to have your child's eyes examined by an eye doctor! If your child is between the ages of 6 months and 6 years, VisionCorps provides free screenings. If your child is in childcare or preschool and the facility is not working with VisionCorps to screen the classrooms, please share this newsletter with them and Terra's story to encourage them to contact us. Healthy vision is imperative to learning and we want to ensure every child is seeing the best they can to be as successful as possible in the classroom!

Thank you for your ongoing support of VisionCorps, and we hope to see you this fall!

Sincerely,


Megan Sofilka Tomsheck
VP | CDO

WHY I GIVE

LANCASTER ELKS VOLUNTEERS RAISE AWARENESS AND SUPPORT FOR VISIONCORP

Lancaster Elks Lodge # 134 has a long history of supporting VisionCorps services. This year, they are taking it to a new level by establishing the First Annual Elksgiving event to raise awareness and support for VisionCorps. Proceeds from the Saturday, November 5th event will be shared among three local nonprofits.

There's a lot of work involved in putting on an engaging evening of music, dancing and other activities, but for Event Co-chair, Anne Witkonis, it is a labor of love. "I have great women on my committee who are really intelligent and on the ball. It's a pleasure to work with them. We're a very social club with a strong civic and community conscience. We do a lot of work, but we have a lot of fun in the process!" Her committee volunteers are handling all aspects of the event: procuring items for the silent and live auctions, selling tickets, organizing and hosting. Getting involved in doing good is a great way to meet people, and membership in the club has been rising.

"I joined the Elks originally because of my father," Anne said. "He loved the organization and served as its treasurer for many years." When he became ill, she joined to take over his duties, in the hopes they could serve together. "As it turned out, his illness progressed and we never had that chance." She has carried on his legacy of volunteer service with the Elks for 13 years.

Neal Heisey is a member of the Lancaster Elks Lodge #134 and also serves on VisionCorps' Board of Directors. "As a member of the Board, I see first-hand the impact that the support of clubs like our Elks have on sustaining VisionCorps' mission. The two organizations are dedicated to strengthening our community by helping people get the services they need." Over the course of its history, Elks Lodge



The planning committee for Elksgiving recently toured VisionCorps.

#134 has raised and donated more than \$7 million in support of various nonprofit services that benefit the Lancaster community.

Anne said, "I've always known about VisionCorps, but I never realized the extent of their services." Recently her committee members toured the manufacturing facilities and saw VisionCorps employees in action at work. "I was thrilled with the variety of job opportunities offered and amazed at the new technologies that were being used," Anne said. Advances in adaptive technologies and training have opened a wide range of employment opportunities for people who are blind or vision impaired.

The Lancaster Elks Lodge #134 First Annual Elksgiving will help raise awareness and support for VisionCorps. And it will also give the Lancaster community a chance to do good while having a good time.

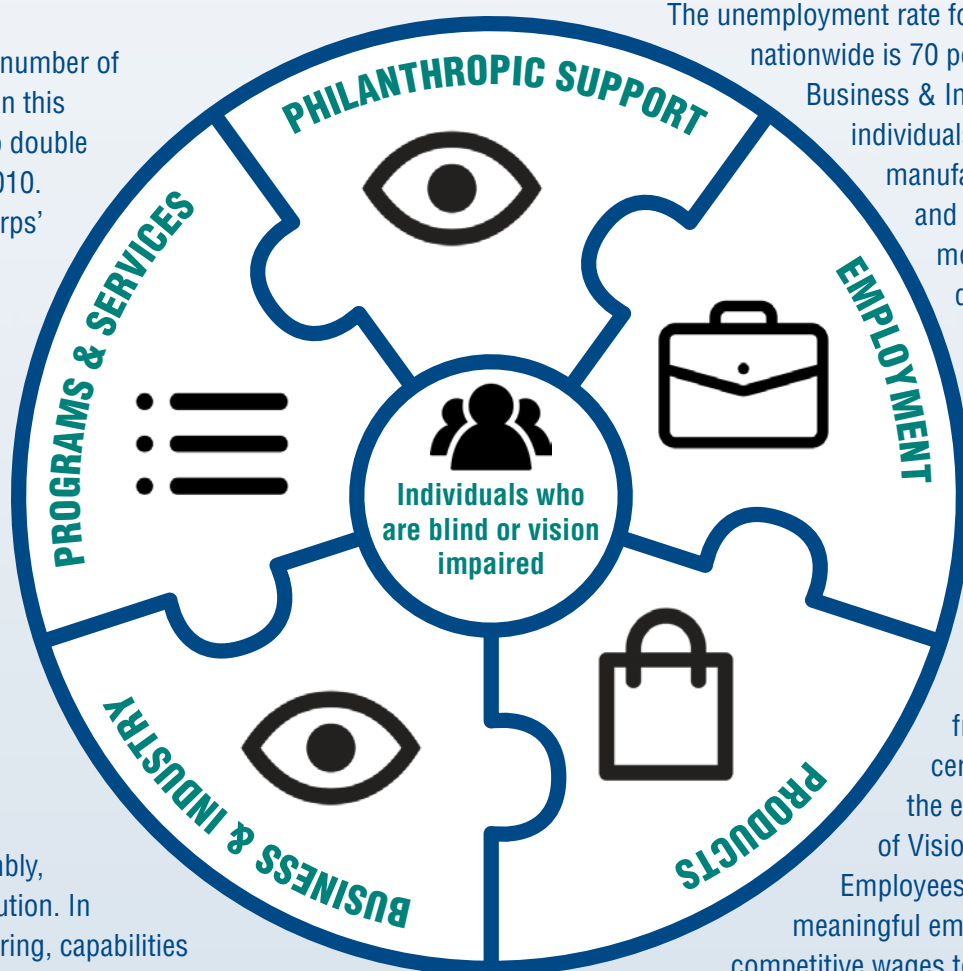
VISIONCORPS BUSINESS MODEL

VisionCorps relies on philanthropic support to make all its programs work. Below is an illustration of the several pieces of the VisionCorps puzzle that make services possible! For more information on this business model, visit www.visioncorps.net and click on "About Us."

VisionCorps relies on support from the community and VisionCorps works with donors to individualize giving opportunities. These fundraising programs help to secure the future of VisionCorps services as the need is expected to grow significantly with an aging baby boomer population.

By the year 2050, the number of people who are blind in this country is expected to double from what it was in 2010. Residents in VisionCorps' service area rely on the comprehensive services provided to them by specialized staff—and that need will continue to grow with the anticipated increased demand.

The Business & Industry Group fulfills contracts with manufacturing, assembly, packaging and distribution. In addition to manufacturing, capabilities of the group also include food processing and administrative services.



The unemployment rate for people who are blind nationwide is 70 percent. VisionCorps Business & Industry Group employs individuals who are blind in manufacturing, administrative and leadership roles—with more than 75% of the direct labor for our products performed by employees who are blind.

All products manufactured, packaged and shipped from our ISO 9001:2015 certified facilities are the end result of the heart of VisionCorps' Mission. Employees who are blind have meaningful employment and receive competitive wages to fulfill orders.

insights

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Insights is a publication of VisionCorps Foundation
Dennis Steiner, President

Questions?

Please contact **Megan Tomscheck**, VP & Chief Development Officer at **717-205-4115** or email megan@visioncorps.net

Please notify us if your contact information has changed.
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