

NJ Foundation for the Blind

Helping adults with vision loss live a full and meaningful life: adjust to vision loss, acquire independent living skills, and regain physical and mental wellness.

Update

EMBRACING LIFE AFTER VISION LOSS



New Site in Denville Opens

After almost a year of sharing space with another organization, we've relocated to a new headquarters.

The new facility offers first-floor convenience, and easy access to a fenced outdoor area for alfresco lunches and horticultural programs. "When you can't see, you really appreciate not dealing with steps and elevators," says Suzanne Sytsma, technology volunteer. A thorough sprucing up and systems update has transformed the former pre-school facility into a working administrative

and program center for NJFFB, complete with a sunny auditorium for large programs like yoga and group drumming, a commercial kitchen for teaching cooking skills, small quiet spaces for iPad-iPhone trainings, and a spacious room with natural light and running water for the art and pottery studios.

The new NJFFB center is leased from Church of the Savior on 155 Morris Avenue, Denville, about one mile from the former site of Diamond Spring Lodge. "The sale of the old campus and move to this space will help us maintain a lean operation while we continue to expand programs into other counties," explained Kris Marino, NJFFB Executive Director.

We'd love to see you at our Open House – watch for date and time!

Contributions can Provide Vital Training this Fall

If you know someone with vision loss, you know it's vital to relearn even basic tasks like making coffee, doing laundry and getting around safely. NJFFB is committed to piloting a new Comprehensive Core Program that will provide many vitally-needed skills for adults and seniors.

The new program will meet for shorter days and will include outside presenters on topics of particular interest to individuals learning to live with vision loss.

Your support will help us deliver this key program.

Artistic Soccer Mom Loses Vision, Learns iPhone

Nine years ago former art teacher, Lissette, suffered a ministroke during the birth of her twin son and daughter. She spent 3 months in a medically-induced coma and awoke without central vision to her new role as "mommy."

Coping with vision loss has been difficult, but now that her children are in school, Lissette finds loneliness her worst enemy. "I live in a rural area, and obviously, I can't hop in the car and go. I am so thankful to NJFFB for the weekly wellness classes I take." Not surprisingly, her favorite class is the Artist Studio, but she also loves the iSee Program where she is learning to use an iPhone. As a "soccer mom," learning to text by voice has helped immensely when she must quickly coordinate schedule changes with the moms who drive her kids to the practices and games.

Lissette is very sincere in her appreciation of the help she receives, saying, "I don't know what I'd do without this program in my life."



Lissette in the Artist Studio.

SUPPORT **NJFFB**

Help those learning to help themselves.
Donate online at www.njffb.org

NJFFB Programs are held in Denville, Montclair, Ridgewood and Sparta.



"Healing through Drumming" at the NJFFB Montclair site.



Verma, one of the Montclair wellness participants, enjoys drumming.



Natasha enjoys yoga and drumming.



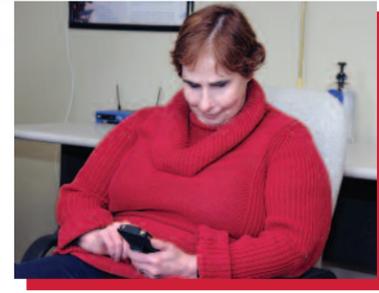
Members of the Apps Club each present favorite apps including readers, talking books, and GPS.



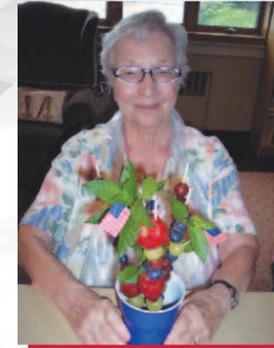
Instructor Kate (right) troubleshoots technology with Roseline.



Denise and Linda in weekly one-one-one iPad class.



Diane learning iPhone gestures.



Muriel shows a horticultural project at Ridgewood site.



Buddy learns to use raw ingredients for nutritious meals in Healthy Options class.



Rebecca loves pottery class. Class volunteer, Chris, looks on.



Instructor Jerilyn shares kitchen tips with Solomon.



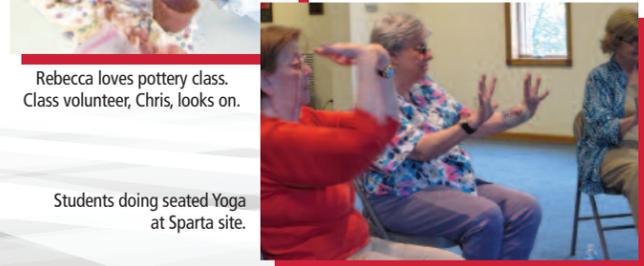
Horticultural Instructor, Karen, (left) guides Marjorie in constructing a topiary.



Instructor Peg teaches low-impact aerobics and yoga for overall fitness.



Denville program offers a wonderful art program.



Students doing seated Yoga at Sparta site.

NJFFB Student Invents Safety Product



Ed Larson, student-inventor.

Life can turn upside down in the blink of an eye or the scratch of a cat. Ask Ed Larson, who lost most of his sight as a young man when a stray cat scratched his arm. The infection went to his eyes robbing most of his sight. Over the years and through many surgeries, he has taken NJFFB classes to build his skills and confidence. He credits NJFFB for giving him the tenacity to patent his idea.

When he first became vision impaired, Ed thought, "This is it, I'll spend my life sitting on the couch. NJFFB taught me to never to give up. Now I've done something really important that may even save lives. I want to thank everyone who supports NJFFB. It has made a tremendous difference in my life," he said.

"I've done something really important that may even save lives."

Ed's Invention

The concept for Ed's *Harness for Vehicles* was born when he was a passenger in his mother's car. When she braked, her purse fell and spilled the contents under her feet. He was struck with how dangerous this could be. Ed soon came up with a simple invention to secure purses, or other objects in cars or boats while keeping them accessible. He expects it to be manufactured soon.

WORTHY OF NOTE

On behalf of all those helped, join us in applauding these supporters:

- Lydia Collins deForest Charitable Trust for their recent grant of \$10,000 for general operations
- Saddle River Valley Lions Club for underwriting the \$10,000 cost of three semesters of iSee Technology training and Apple devices for students
- An anonymous donor of a \$1,000 contribution to provide downloads of the KNFB Reader, a highly rated reading 'app' for 10 students with vision impairment.

PROGRAM GLIMPSES

- Third-semester students in the iSee Program are so advanced on their iPhones and iPads, we've developed a "Graduate" program for them to share best practices to further enhance their abilities.
- The NJFFB Art Studio now boasts 6 "air pens" for student use. The pens create 3D art by releasing a firm string of paint in the air above the canvas.
- Three students are being trained as volunteer assistants in the iSee Technology Program. Congratulations Kath, Marvin, and Omar.

JOIN THE DIAMOND SPRING HERITAGE SOCIETY

Bequests of all sizes, given from the heart, have helped us continue our mission for over 72 years. Join the **Diamond Spring Heritage Society** by including NJ Foundation for the Blind in your estate plans, and please let us know by calling 973-627-0055, Ext. 323, so we may say thank you.

Sample Language - "I give, bequeath, and devise (amount or percent of residual estate) to NJ Foundation for the Blind, a 501(c)3 charitable organization, located in Denville, NJ, to be used for its general purposes."

*Not intended as legal advice. Consult your attorney or financial advisor.

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*NJFFB has moved to
155 Morris Avenue
in Denville!*



Students Advise Morris Museum



NJFFB students enjoyed participating in the recent Morris Museum Touch Tour. Shown standing (l to r) are Carmen, Associate Curator Angela Sergonis-Melchionne, Diane, Accessibility Coordinator Nancy Romain, and Suzanne. Seated are Joyce and Mary with tribal mask. The group provided feedback to the Museum staff on methods of serving patrons who are vision impaired.

SAVE THE DATES

Open House at the new Denville site. Date to be announced.

November 8 – Free Opening Reception 11 am – 1 pm for the NJFFB Student Art Show and Drumming Demonstration at JCC Metrowest Center, West Orange, NJ

May 20, 2016 – Justin Kauflin Trio in Just Jazz 4 – The Bickford Theater at the Morris Museum

Be sure to check our website and social media for updates and new events.