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Our Mission...

Visually Impaired Persons of Southwest Florida is a non-profit rehabilitation center committed to ensuring blind and visually impaired persons have the tools, support and opportunities necessary to successfully achieve their desired level of independence.

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From the Executive Director's Desk

I would like to take this time to honor and thank one of our board members. This past September, Debbie Conrad retired after serving 6 years as president on the VIP board of directors. Debbie joined the board in 1995. Although she has retired from her position, Debbie continues to serve on the board as an immediate past president. During her 6 years as president Debbie has been a part of some amazing changes at the center and she continues to play an integral role.

Our incoming president this October is Evan Connell who works in the Intelligence Unit at the Lee County Sheriff's Department.

We would like to thank Debbie for all of her hard work and dedication.



(Doug Fowler and Debbie Conrad)

Sincerely,
Doug Fowler
Executive Director

VIP Client Wins First Place at Art Show

On October 25, 2011 Lee Memorial Healthcare hosted their annual Art by the disABLED Invitational Juried Art Show. The show features artists from around the community with varies physical and/or mental disabilities.

We are very proud to announce that this year, VIP's very own client and friend, Janet Ray took home first place.

Along with a blue ribbon and a \$500 check, Janet's artwork was also purchased by Lee Memorial's Rehabilitation Hospital it will also be featured on the Lee Memorial Health System 2012 Arts in Healthcare calendar.

Congratulations Janet! We look forward to another great show next year!



Welcome Susan Hoffman, VIP's New Office Manager

Visually Impaired Persons of Southwest Florida (VIP) welcomes a new member to their staff.

On February 28, 2011 Susan B. Hoffman joined the VIP team as our new Office Manager and Assistant to Director of Operations. The warmth and confidence reflected in Susan's manner makes staff and clients feel sure that any situation brought to her attention will be handled with professional expertise.

Susan's experience in the non profit field and the skill she exhibits is a tremendous asset to everyone at VIP.



Originally from Amityville, New York and now lives in Cape Coral with her husband Arthur of 26 years. She is also the proud mother of two children: daughter, Sara, and son, AJ.

Susan's hobbies include traveling, shopping, and reading. When asked what she enjoys about her job at the VIP, she replies, "I am very happy to be here, the VIP co-workers and clients are awesome people."

Please join us in expressing the same sentiments toward Susan!

2nd Annual Dining in the Dark a Great Success!

On Saturday, September 17th 2011 we held our 2nd Annual Dining in the Dark fundraiser. This year the event was held at Harborside Event Center and with close to 200 attendees the evening was a great success!

Along with raising funds for the center the event is also aimed at bringing awareness to those affected by blindness or visual impairment by blindfolding guests during their entire meal. Instructions on how to dine without sight are given throughout the evening.

For more information about the event or to see pictures, please visit our website at www.vipcenter.org.

A special thank you to this year's sponsors:

Executive Bullion, SNEAD Cataract, Southwest Florida Optometric Association (SWFOA), Rotary Club of Cape Coral, Myers, Brettholtz & Company, Messmer Florist, Stephen J. Laquis, Schlager Schlager

and Levin, GATES Construction, Florida Weekly, WINK TV, Retina Consultants, Marquis Wealth Management, Henderson Franklin, Mr. Donald C. Robertson, Mr. Hal Abelson, Mr. David Gundry, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Hanson, Borrás & Latino, P.A, and Ms. Connie Rivchun.



On September 6, 2011, Visually Impaired Persons of Southwest Florida learned they would become the recipients of FREE hurricane shutters through the "We Care" program from Storm Smart/Smart Companies.

This year the VIP Center was selected and because of the generosity of Storm Smart CEO, Brian Rist, they decided to provide shutters to the ENTIRE building. The estimated value for the shutters and labor is over \$20,000!

"As a non profit organization we could never have afforded to do such a project." said Doug Fowler, VIP Executive Director. "It is a great feeling to know that our building now has much better protection if a hurricane were to hit our area."

VIP would like to say THANK YOU to all our friends at Storm Smart. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated! For more information about Storm Smart's "We Care" program visit their website at [www. Stormsmart.com](http://www.Stormsmart.com).



VISUALLY
IMPAIRED
PERSONS
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
NEW BEGINNINGS IN SIGHT!



Click Here to

DONATE

Happy Holidays! Help VIP Help Others in Need!

Visually Impaired Persons of Southwest Florida Holiday Food Drive To Benefit Harry Chapin Food Bank

The VIP Center is conducting a food drive to help the less fortunate from now through the end of the year.

- Our goal is to collect 500 pounds of food.
- Donations of non-perishable items can be dropped off at the Visually Impaired Persons of Southwest Florida in North Fort Myers.
- Monetary donations can be made payable to the Harry Chapin Food Bank (note on memo line that it is for the Holiday Food Drive at VIP).

Please open your hearts, your pantries
or your checkbooks to help the less
fortunate in Lee County.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

***Be An Angel and help VIP fill Harry
Chapin's Food Pantry***



Donations can be dropped off or mailed to:

VIP Center
35 West Mariana Ave
North Fort Myers, FL 33903

Thank you to our affiliates!

