

ENSIGHT

Skills Center, Inc.

for visual rehabilitation



October 2011

Happy Autumn Folks! This summer just flew by, but we are thrilled to have a jam packed October and November. Fall is a busy month for Ensignt with many resource fairs, seminars, and of course our SIT 4 SIGHT Fundraiser. We hope that many of our supporters will join us for the festivities.

Also, for those of you who know are wonderful Dr. Mark DeGeorge, we regret to announce that he will be taking a medical leave which will take effect immediately. Please keep him and his family in your prayers and well wishes. I have included a letter from Dr. DeGeorge for you all.

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918 13th Street, Suite 4
Greeley, CO 80631
www.ensightskills.org

UPCOMING EVENTS :

October 6th (Thursday) 9am to noon "Magnifeyed Living" Series Presents Low Vision and Hearing: Balance and Aids for Daily Living. Location: Connections, 1331 8th Ave., Greeley, CO Cost: FREE with refreshments provided!

Call Ensignt to reserve your space: (970) 407-9999

October 14th (Friday) 9am to Noon "Vision Matters" 2011 Estes Park will be held at the Estes Park Senior Center on Friday. We will have speakers at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, and 11:00 am. You can make reservations with Ensignt up to the 10/13.

November 12th (Saturday) 11-3 Ensignt's Annual SIT 4 SIGHT FUNDRAISER at the Lincoln Center in Fort Collins. We are looking for team captains and team members. It's going to be a fun-filled family-oriented day. There will be a magician, music! Will you pledge to SIT 4 SIGHT?

A letter from Dr. Mark DeGeorge

Dear Patients,

Most of you are aware that I was diagnosed with a blood cancer known as Multiple Myeloma on January 19, 2010. I underwent a series of chemotherapy and radiation treatments leading up to a Stem Cell Transplant in August, 2010. By December, I was celebrating a "complete response" to the therapy and returned to work more regularly. In July, 2011, it became apparent that the response to treatment was not as enduring as hoped for. It is now necessary to repeat the Stem Cell Transplant procedure during December and it appears the preparatory therapies will be more aggressive, possibly involving hospitalizations for four and five days at a time. The Stem Cell Transplant will be followed by more chemotherapy and finally a Stem Cell Transplant in the spring using donated Stem Cells (the prior two use my own cells). I am immensely fortunate in that my brother is an HLA matched donor and it is anticipated that the immune system I gain from the final transplant will be able to keep the myeloma cancer cells in check. It has been my privilege and honor to partner with each and every one of you in your eye care; you have made my job a pleasure. Given the escalation in cancer treatment that is necessary, I find that I will need to take an indefinite medical leave of absence. I hope that I will be able to return to the office in late summer, 2012; depending upon my response to treatment. Ensign's other two doctors, Dr. Carolyn Smith and Dr. Jennifer Everett will be seeing patients in my absence. I have absolute confidence in these fine doctors and am certain you will enjoy meeting and working with them. Should any questions arise, I will be available by telephone for consultation. My cell phone number is (970) 218-7210. My personal contact information is also listed in the telephone directory.

Many of you were able to follow my journey on a web site called Care Pages. I plan to continue updating that web site.

It is easy to create an account so you can view my page. Log on to www.carepages.com and click on "become a member" for directions to create a user name and password. Once you have access to the site, my page name is my initials...MAD (rather appropriate, don't you think, I am pretty mad about this whole cancer thing). Written by Dr. Mark DeGeorge.

Enight's E-Newsletter

Did you know that we can send our Enight newsletter right to your email? If interested in switching to our e-newsletter please send a request to Melody@ensightskills.org.

By switching to the e-format, you will not only help us save money, but you can pass along our newsletter to friends and family. The e-newsletter is also more interactive and allows our readers the ability to access links to other organizations and agencies with one click. Also put something in there about if they get the e-newsletter they can save us hundreds each month and have the ability to send it to others. They will also get links to other agencies and organizations for information about vision loss. Then let them know they can still donate by following our link to our website.

Acknowledgements

Enight would like to thank the following contributors: This month we would like to acknowledge the Fort Collins Lions Foundation for their donation as well as North Colorado Medical Foundation and the Colorado Department of Human Services. Thank you! We appreciate your support and would love to come visit with your club or organization. If you are interested in a speaker you can send an email to Melody@ensightskills.org or call at 970.310.9665.

If you would like to donate to Enight we accept monetary donations as well as supplies. We appreciate your support. Thank you!

Ensign Skills Center
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Fort Collins, CO 80525

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Serving the Low-Vision Community Since 2001!

Support Groups for October 2011

Fort Collins E-Squared education and support group will be Thursday October 27, 10-11:30am at Ensign Fort Collins. The topic will be "2011: What's New in Low Vision Research". Come and here Cassie share some of the amazing research that is being conducted and what it means. There will be no November group because of Thanksgiving.

Greeley Group will meet Monday, November 28 @10-11:00am. This is a bi-monthly meeting so there is no October group scheduled. This group meets at Curtis Strong in Greeley, located at 918 13th Street, Suite 4.

- If you would like to receive an e-mail or telephone reminder about the next support group meeting in Fort Collins or Greeley, just let us know and we'll put you on the reminder list.**
- For more information about our new look "E-Squared" support group meetings give us a call at 970-407-9999.**