

ENSIGHT

Skills Center, Inc.

for visual rehabilitation



February 2012

Happy Valentines Day! Did you know that

studies have proven support is one of the best things a person can have when dealing with a life change. For many of our readers, vision loss is a common life change. That is why Ensign and Curtis Strong strive to provide our communities with support and education group. We are now able to hold support groups in Fort Collins at Ensign, in Loveland at Sugar Valley Estates, in Greeley at Curtis Strong and now in Denver at our Ensign office. We offer these groups to you all free of charge. It is a time and a place that you can come socialize with other individuals who are suffering from vision loss. You can also share and learn valuable information with your peers.

It always amazes me to watch interactions among our group members as they help each other out. Our groups are a great chance to problem solve and find helpful solutions. So if you haven't ever been we would love to have you. Just pick the closest most convenient one and come on down. If you do already attend and have a friend or family member you would like to bring please do. The more the merrier! The support group information including time and dates can be found the next page. We hope to see you there!

Ensign Skills Center: 970-407-9999

3307 S. College Ave, #108

Fort Collins, CO 80525

Denver Office: 303-757-4500

6000 E. Evans Bld.3, Ste.012

Curtis Strong Center: 970-353-9417

918 13th Street, Suite 4

Greeley, CO 80631

www.ensightskills.org

Upcoming Support Groups Information

The Fort Collins E-Squared education and support group will meet on February 23rd. The guest speaker will be [Lyndsey Burmeister from Home Instead Senior Care](#). Also, don't forget that February is [Age-Related Macular Degeneration \(AMD\)](#) Awareness Month. An estimated 10 million Americans show evidence of AMD, a progressive eye condition that impairs central vision and impacts function in everyday activities. Please join us to learn more about AMD and maintaining independence at home. The E-Squared group meets from 10-11:30am on the fourth Thursday of each month.

The Loveland group will meet February 2nd from 10-11:00 at [Sugar Valley Estates](#) 4320 Georgetown Drive in Loveland. Our topic will be Age-Related Macular Degeneration. This is our second meeting so we are still meeting and greeting. This group is open to the community and not just for Sugar Valley residents. Please call Melody @ 970.310.9665 for more information.

The Denver group will begin meeting in February! The first meeting will be Wednesday February 15th from 10-11:30. The topic will be AMD Awareness/Magnification Aides Show & Tell. The group will meet the 3rd Wed of every month at our Denver office located at 6000 E. Evans Ave. Building 3 Suite 012 in Denver. For more info on the Denver group call 303-757-4500.

Greeley Group is on a small hiatus but will continue meeting soon. 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 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.

Latest and Greatest in Assistive Technology Devices



One of the greatest assistive tech options is ZoomText Magnifier/Reader. Many of our clients use it and our executive director, Denny, could not do her job without it. ZoomText Magnifier/Reader combines the revolutionary new features of ZoomText

Magnifier with a powerful set of reading tools, gives you the total computer access solution. See and hear what you're doing in all of your applications, and give your eyes a rest while ZoomText reads your documents, web pages and email – right through your computer's speakers. With ZoomText Magnifier/Reader, your computer is easier to see, hear, and use. You can check it out at Enight.

[Click here to read more about ZoomText!](#)

February is Low Vision and AMD Awareness Month!

Age-related macular degeneration, often called AMD or ARMD, is the leading cause of vision loss and blindness among Americans who are age 65 and older. Because people in this group are an increasingly larger percentage of the general population, vision loss from macular degeneration is a growing problem.

AMD is degeneration of the [macula](#), which is the part of the [retina](#) responsible for the sharp, central vision needed to read or drive. Because the macula primarily is affected in AMD, central vision loss may occur.

About 1.75 million U.S. residents currently have advanced age-related macular degeneration with associated vision loss, with that number expected to grow to almost 3 million by 2020.

With vision rehabilitation, people with low vision can learn new strategies to accomplish their daily activities. With new techniques and devices, people with advanced vision loss can regain their confidence and live independently. If you or someone you love is struggling with vision loss, Ensign and Curtis Strong are here to help. You can call today to make an appointment. Vision rehabilitation can change your life! Don't let vision loss take away your independence.

Websites to check out for info on Macular Degeneration:

[All About Vision](#)

[AMD Alliance](#)

[Macular Degeneration Partnership](#)

[National EYE Institute](#)

and of course our website www.ensightskills.org!

How You Can Help Ensign

Ensign is a non-profit organization and relies on the kindness and willingness to donate to our centers. Any money received goes into funding our programs and continuously helping those in need of our services throughout Northern Colorado. If you would like to donate on-line please go to our website www.ensightskills.org and click on the fundraising menu. There is a donate button that will lead you into our PayPal's account. Any and all amounts are greatly appreciated. If you would like to donate in person please bring your donation to the Ensign office located in Fort Collins, Greeley and Denver. We are now open at this location Monday-Friday from 10am-5pm. Remember, all donations are tax deductible.

Acknowledgement

Ensignt would like to thank the following contributors:
The Loveland Noon Lions and the Fort Collins Lions Foundation.
Also, a special thank you to all of the Lions in the Denver area that are working hard with us. 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 970-310-9665 for Melody.

Serving the Low-Vision Community Since 2001!

Ensignt's Consignment Program

Ensignt is looking for any used assistive technology components that are in need of a home. If you are in possession of a CCTV or low vision aides and would like to get rid of them we have a great program. Bring the equipment into Ensignt and we will put it on consignment. This means once we sell it you will get a percentage back.

This is a great way for us to find affordable equipment that we can pass along to our clients. If you have questions about dropping off, picking up, or the consignment process call Ensignt:970-407-9999. Also, you can donate any equipment that is no longer useful to you.

Ensignt's E-Newsletter

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