

ENSIGHT

Skills Center, Inc.

for visual rehabilitation



February 2013

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence" -Helen Keller.

Ensignt would like to make two big announcements. First, Ensignt just received a five year accreditation from NAC. This organization, The National Accreditation Council for Blind & Low Vision Services is the standard setting and accrediting body that works with agencies and schools providing services and programs to people who are visually impaired. This was a wonderful reward for the staff, the board, as well as all of those we serve. The second big announcement is that Ensignt just received a grant from the Lions Club International Foundation to move forward with our new Onsite program.

This funding will allow Ensignt to grow this program throughout Colorado and make our services more available to the population. The funding also gives Ensignt the opportunity to go mobile. We will be purchasing a mobile unit that will be used to provide screening and exams at Health Fairs, community centers, and rural areas. Thank you to all of you who supported this grant. This includes Lions of Colorado. Ensignt's next big Onsite Clinic will take place at the Heritage Center in Sterling, Colorado on Wednesday March 13th. To schedule an appointment please call Ensignt.

Ensignt Skills Center: 970-407-9999
3307 S. College Ave, #108
Fort Collins, CO 80525
Denver Office: 303-757-4500
Curtis Strong Center: 970-353-9417
918 13th Street, Suite 4
Greeley, CO 80631
www.ensightskills.org

Age-Related Macular Degeneration and Low Vision Awareness

Throughout February Ensign will be honoring AMD and Low Vision Awareness month. It is a time for us all to share stories, facts, and other helpful information. Talk to others and let's raise awareness. Conservative estimates suggest that there are at least 3.5 to 5 million Americans who are visually impaired, and more than 1 million of these are legally blind. The leading causes of visual impairment in infants and children are retinopathy of prematurity, deficits in the visual centers of the brain, and structural ocular abnormalities such as cataract and retinal abnormalities.

The leading causes of visual impairment are diseases common in elderly persons, including age-related macular degeneration (AMD), glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, cataract, and optic nerve atrophy. "I encourage anyone with low vision to seek guidance about vision rehabilitation from a low vision specialist," said National Eye Institute Director Paul A. Sieving, M.D., Ph.D. "For many people, vision rehab can improve daily living and overall quality of life." Ensign believe this. This is what we are here to provide. Rehabilitation that can lead to independence.

The chances are good that you, the reader, knows someone suffering with a visual impairment. It may even be you. I am confident that with your help we can increase public awareness. Spread the word about Ensign and you may change someones life for the better. Now get out there and share!

Acknowledgement

Last month Ensign was thrilled to receive donations from the Loveland Lions Club, the Berthoud Lions Club, and the Fort Collins Lions Foundation. We also received a donation from the Colorado Youth Chorale and the Northern Colorado Medical Center Foundation. Thank you all!

Did you know that you can access the 50+ Marketplace News online by going to www.seniormarketplacenews.com/ Check it out!

Our Wish List

Enight and Curtis Strong Center would like to ask those who have an interest in donating items to help us stock up on the following necessities. These are items that we use to help run our offices.

* Batteries (especially the "AAA" and "C" sizes) * Paper towels and toilet tissue * Copy paper* Postage stamps* Trash bags. Right now Enight is very much in need of paper towels and postage stamps. These items can be dropped off at our Greeley or Fort Collins locations.

Upcoming E-Squared Support Groups

- The Fort Collins E-Squared Education and Support Group will be meeting again on Thursday, February 28th from 10-11:30am. This group meets on the fourth Thursday of every month at Enight's Fort Collins office.
- The Denver E-Squared Education and Support Group will meet next February 21st from 10-11:30am. The group will meet the 3rd Thursday of every month at a NEW location! The NEW address is 1880 S Pierce St, Suite 11 in Lakewood. For more info on the Denver group or directions to the new location call 303-757-4500.
- The Loveland group will meet the 2nd Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be held on February 14th from 10:30-11:30 at Sugar Valley Estates 4320 Georgetown Drive in Loveland. This group is open to the community and not just for Sugar Valley residents. Please call Melody @ 970.310.9665 for more information.
- A new Greeley group will begin to meet in March. Stay tuned for more information. Check out Enight's website and the March newsletter for the time and date.
- If you are interested in hosting a low vision support group with Enight, contact Melody Glinsman-
Email:melody@ensightskills.org or Phone:970-310-9665

Ensign Skills Center
3307 S. College Ave Suite 108
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Free Matter
for the Blind

Serving the Low-Vision Community Since 2001!

Ensign's Consignment Program

Ensign is always 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 Ensign and we will put it on consignment. 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 Ensign: 970-407-9999. Also, you can donate any equipment that is no longer useful to you.

Ensign's E-Newsletter

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