

ENSIGHT

Skills Center, Inc.

for visual rehabilitation



June 2009

Low-Vision Computer Training Underway

June marks the beginning of a new and exciting addition to Ensign's program of services for its clients with low-vision. Joseph Wheaton, our assistive technology specialist, is now meeting with interested clients for one-on-one evaluation and training sessions.

During these sessions, Joseph determines the client's computer interests and skill levels in areas such as keyboard typing, e-mail, internet, etc. He then develops a training plan that determines the amount of training and equipment needed. Follow-up training can then be conducted at the client's home or workplace, or at Ensign training centers in Fort Collins and Denver. The initial evaluation/training session is provided free of charge, and we're keeping subsequent training costs as low as possible. Give us a call for more information.

Cathy Sands Retires from Ensign in May

One of Ensign's veterans has decided to call it a career. Cathy Sands has been with us almost from the beginning, first as a volunteer and then as a valued staff member. For many years, she was the first person you'd meet when you came to our Fort Collins office. In addition to keeping the Ensign ship afloat on a daily basis, she also served as a prime example of someone who overcame low-vision challenges to thrive in a work setting. So now, Cathy is going to catch up on her rest, her reading, and do some traveling with her husband Sam. Thank you dear lady, for all your hard work.

Ensign Skills Center
3307 S. College Ave, #108
Fort Collins, CO 80525
970-407-9999
Curtis Strong Center
918 13th Street, Suite 4
Greeley, CO 80631
970-353-9417

The “Thank You” Corner

As a non-profit organization, we are constantly amazed at the generosity of our supporters in helping Ensign thrive. We’d like to recognize some of these folks:

The Fort Collins Lions Club band known as the “Funke Trio” provided the musical entertainment at the May 20th Denver Lions mixer, held at the Ensign Denver office. The music was wonderful and many thanks to these three gentlemen.

As some of you know, we are remodeling the Fort Collins office, including a brand-new, low-vision friendly, paint scheme. A local painting contractor, Evan Gilmartin, is providing all of the painting services, **free of charge**. This is the second time over the years that Evan has agreed to help us with painting our office. The results have been outstanding, and we highly recommend his work.

Hey, It’s Summer! Let’s Go to the Theater!

There will be several excellent Denver theater productions in the next several months that are audio-described. Audio description is the verbal translation of visual information to make theater events more understandable for people with low vision. The describer provides concise descriptions of key visual elements of a performance into the natural pauses of the play’s dialogue. The audio description is delivered through a radio headset.

Upcoming events for June and July are:

“Rent” on June 14th (Sunday), 2:00 p.m.

“A Bronx Tale” on June 21st (Sunday), 2:00 p.m.

“Quilters” on July 11th (Saturday), 1:30 p.m.

“Man of La Mancha” on July 26th (Sunday), 2:00 p.m.

“Chitty Chitty Bang Bang” on July 26th (Sunday), 1:00 p.m.

For more information about audio-described theater, the shows themselves, and ticket prices, call **303-893-4100**.

“Co-Pilots” Tandem Bike Rides for June/July

June 8th (Monday) beginning at 5 p.m. at Lee Martinez in north Fort Collins.

July 13th (Monday) beginning at 5 p.m. at the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) on east Drake Road.

If you like to sign up as a “back-seater” for one of these tandem bike rides, just contact Joe Bagley at New World Sports (970-224-5857).

Mark Your Calendars

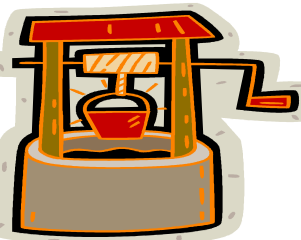
The 4th Annual Colorado VisionWalk, sponsored by the Denver chapter of the Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB), is scheduled for Saturday, October 3rd, at Denver City Park. Registration will begin at 9 a.m., and the walk will start at 10 a.m. If you’re interested in forming a team or just participating in the walk, please contact FFB at 303-799-1501.

Save Us Some Money, and Get Your Newsletter Faster!

The Ensign newsletter mailing list is now up to almost 1600, but only about 50 of those folks get their newsletter via e-mail. Consider having your newsletter delivered to you online. You can help us save some paper and postage, and you get the latest news before everyone else. Just contact Steve Norton at Ensign with your e-mail information, and we’ll get you set up. Thanks.

Our Wish List

We need several items to help run our office but have limited funds. Please consider helping us with these items from our current wish list. Thank you!



- * Batteries (especially the “C” size)
- * Kleenex tissues
- * Copier paper
- * Postage stamps and envelopes (business-size)

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3307 S. College Ave
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Ensign -- Empowering Independent Living

Support Groups for June 2009

Greeley - June 18th (Thursday) 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Bonnell Good Samaritan Center. The topic is "Sunshine, Sunglasses, and What Works".

Greeley - June 22nd (Monday) 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Curtis Strong Center. The topic will also be "Sunshine, Sunglasses, and What Works."

Fort Collins - June 25th (Thursday) 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Ensign Skills Center. The topic will be "Summer Travel Near and Far."

The Fort Collins Tuesday evening support group has been discontinued for the time being, as we try to increase attendance. Again, the support groups are open to everyone, and refreshments will be served. For more information, call **970-407-9999**.