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In this issue: [Ron Adams](#), [GiveBIG](#), [Insight Expo](#), and [April Resources](#).



Washington Access Fund

Independence is priceless. We make it affordable.

Access Fund News

April 2014

Do you have a story to share? Is there something you would like to learn about? Send your ideas to info@washingtonaccessfund.org! We'll include them in our newsletter and/or on Facebook.

In remembrance of Ron.

Ron Adams, long time Washington Access Fund Board Member and champion of people with disabilities, died on March 16, 2014 at the age of 68.

Ron's life was devoted to serving others both in his long career (most recently as Manager of the Kitsap County Community Development Block Grant program) and, in his retirement, with the time and energy he devoted to the Washington Access Fund as an ever present and committed Board Member.

Ron served on the Washington Access Fund board for over six years and was serving as Board President when he passed away.



As Board President, Ron's contribution to our mission to give people with disabilities access to technology and economic opportunity, was always thoughtful and informed by years of experience in the nonprofit world. Washington Access Fund Executive Director, Jack Brummel, said "Ron had a passion for the work of the Access Fund and showed it by his tireless service to the organization over the years. He will be greatly missed." Ron's hard work and dedication to our mission will have a lasting impact on

the work we do as an organization moving forward.

Save the Date!

GiveBIG...

give
BIG



We will be participating along with 1600 other local nonprofits in the Seattle Foundation's day of online giving. On **Tuesday, May 6th** you can be a part of it all by going online to [The Seattle Foundation website](#) and making your donation to the Washington Access Fund! A portion of every donation made to the Washington Access Fund that day will be matched by The Seattle Foundation's GiveBIG! sponsors.

Want to be in the know? [Join our event on Facebook!](#)

Insight: A Low Vision Expo May 17

An invitation from SightConnection:

"Michelle's macular degeneration darkens her central vision and makes it impossible to identify her grandchildren. Jonathan sits depressed at home because he fears his glaucoma will cause him to fall on his favorite walking route. Maria's diabetic retinopathy obscures her reading and she fears she can't work any longer. These are the stories of SightConnection's low vision clients.



At SightConnection, we provide low vision rehabilitative services to older adults living with eye diseases such as macular degeneration, glaucoma, cataracts, diabetic retinopathy and other sources of low vision. In response to the growing numbers of people living with low vision, we created Insight: A Low Vision Expo to offer a whole day of discovering the best resources for low vision. Insight: A Low Vision Expo is the place for those with low vision to explore resources that can enhance their independence. We are excited to share with the readers of FOCUS the exciting features of Insight: A Low Vision Expo 2014.

Many people with vision loss experience "phantom images" that are often pleasant images such as butterflies, flowers, or even friendly faces. These visual hallucinations, while lovely, can be unsettling for the person experiencing them. The source of these

phantom images is known as Charles Bonnet Syndrome that mysteriously appears with vision loss. A former Harvard Professor, Dr. Mary Lou Jackson is an ophthalmologist and leading researcher on Charles Bonnet Syndrome; At Insight: A Low Vision Expo, she will present a morning keynote presentation titled “Phantom Vision: Charles Bonnet Syndrome” that will encourage anyone with low vision to speak up for their needs.

Low vision is a hidden disability which often perplexes individuals, families, and friends; but, when families and caregivers understand vision loss, people can adjust to their conditions in better, healthier ways.. Insight’s afternoon keynote speaker is Occupational and Low Vision Therapist Dr. Orli Weisser-Pike who has over seventeen years of clinical experience in vision loss and is the recipient of the American Occupational Therapy Association Recognition of Achievement Award for Leadership and Advancement in Low Vision. Dr. Weisser-Pike’s “Keeping Caregivers in Sight” keynote will discuss how to balance supporting and empowering your loved one with low vision.

Those attending Insight will also have a lot to learn at our all-day Assistive Technology (AT) Learning Lab, vendor fair and group topic sessions. This year’s AT Learning Lab is sponsored by Optelec, international provider of life-changing vision aids and will feature hands-on demonstrations of the best assistive technology available. In addition, Insight’s Vendor Fair showcases local businesses and organizations offering services. Led by SightConnection staff and guest speakers, group topic sessions will cover the relevant issues of fall prevention, everyday assistive technology, caregiver support, and answer questions posed in a Doctor Q & A Panel. Entry to Insight: A Low Vision Expo is by suggested donation of \$20 per person and includes lunch. To Register for Insight visit www.sightconnection.org or call 206-525-5556."

April Resources



Special Education Technology Center: The [SETC](#) offers webinars on various software programs and devices, they are a great way to learn about the different programs! Here is one upcoming webinar (be sure to check out the website for more!).

- **April 14th:** [Implementing AAC: Part 1: Choice Making and Vocabulary Building webinar](#)
- **April 23rd:** [Adapted Books for AAC and Language webinar](#)
- **April 23rd:** [Adapted Books for AAC and Language webinar](#)
- **May 1st:** [Resources for Alternative Computer Access webinar](#)
- **May 5th:** [iPad: Free and Cheap AAC Apps webinar](#)

April 26th: Assistive Technology Open House for Families at the [Department of Services for the Blind](#). Ever wondered what kind of technology is out there for a child who is blind or has low vision? Well here's your chance to find out! The Seattle Dept. of Services for the Blind is opening its doors to their Assistive Technology and Low Vision labs to provide you and your family with a hands-on experience. Come try out a wide range of tools, devices and technology to see what's out there. Staff will be on site to answer your questions so you can get the most out of your experience. Representatives from the [WA Assistive Technology Act Program](#) and [WA Access Fund](#) will also be present to provide information about their services. We will be offering three interactive presentations along with the general lab experience. Feel free to drop in for a specific presentation or anytime during the open house hours. Please RSVP by Monday April 21st to: Janet George at (206) 906-5530 or janet.george@dsb.wa.gov.

June 17th-19th: The Developmental Disabilities Administration is pleased to sponsor and announce the 2nd Annual Community Summit. This year the Community Summit 2014: Let's Take Action! will be located in Wenatchee, WA on June 17th-19th 2014. The Summit will offer a series of National and Local Headliners along with over thirty presenters. The session themes this year are: Cutting Edge, Transitions and Transformations and Citizenship and Engagement. For more information and to register, please visit: [Community Summit 2014](#) or get in touch with [WISE](#).

May 10th: Washington Relay presents - Taste of Technology. This FREE event is for everyone who is interested in learning about vendors that feature technology to meet the needs of people with many types of disability. Speakers will be showcasing technology and independence. Free lunch, ASL/Voice Interpretation & CART will be available. All attendees MUST register. Deadline: May 3rd. Registration limited. Hurry to register! For more information, contact Cindy cindy.2.campbell@sprint.com.

May 10th: Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? will be playing at Seattle Rep on May 10 at 2:00pm with an Audio Description Service. For tickets call 206-443-2222. The Audio Description Service is a project of Arts and Visually Impaired Audiences and is made possible with generous support from participating theaters, Jack Straw Productions, the Seattle Office of Arts and Culture, 4Culture, the Washington State Arts Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Our mission is to promote access to technology and economic opportunity for individuals with disabilities in Washington State. The Washington Access Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI).

Washington Access Fund provides: [Assistive Technology Loans](#), [Business Equipment Loans](#), [CCTV Rentals](#), and [Matched Savings IDAs](#)

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