

MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION
for the
Blind and Visually Impaired

CONFIDENT LIVING WITH VISION LOSS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Paul Twitchell

Director of Communications and Marketing

email: ptwitchell@mabcommunity.org | phone: 617-732-0264

**MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED RECEIVES
GRANT FROM GIBNEY FOUNDATION FOR \$119,000**

Brookline, MA, (April 22, 2019) – [The Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired \(MABVI\)](#) is pleased to announce it has received a \$119,000 grant from [The Gibney Family Foundation](#) (TGFF). TGFF partners with organizations to develop sustainable resources that foster independence, primarily for those who are blind. The funds will support MABVI's statewide volunteer program.

The grant, which will be distributed over the next three years, will enhance MABVI's statewide volunteer program through which individuals who are blind or visually impaired are matched 1:1 with community volunteers who provide in-home support. Trained volunteers help older adults accomplish daily activities of their own choosing including wellness activities, technology support, reading print information, shopping for groceries, or serving as sighted guides at the gym—all of which foster autonomy and enable older adults to remain active in their communities.

Over the past few years, the volume of MABVI volunteer requests has burgeoned, as a growing number of aging adults experience vision loss but want to remain active. This three-year grant will allow MABVI to expand recent recruitment and retention solutions to meet the enormous need for volunteers, sustain its family volunteer program which involves youth in community service and blindness awareness, and design a new leadership initiative for volunteers and individuals with vision loss.

MAB CEO Barbara Salisbury expressed her sincerest appreciation for this grant award. "The Gibney Family Foundation's investment in MABVI over the years has had a profound impact on our ability to meet the needs of a growing number of individuals who are aging into vision loss. As a funding partner, they continue to play an important role in helping to shape robust healthy aging strategies for these individuals."

Sassy Outwater-Wright, MABVI Executive Director echoed these sentiments, sharing: "This multi-year commitment from TGFF will make a significant difference for MABVI as we work to expand access to in-home volunteer services for individuals with vision loss throughout Massachusetts, and pilot innovative peer leadership and advocacy roles to keep people engaged in their own communities."

About Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Founded in 1903, [Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#) is one of the oldest social service organization in the country supporting adults and seniors who are blind or low vision. A division of MAB Community Services, Inc., MABVI is a leading provider of integrated medical, social, and rehabilitation services for adults and seniors with vision loss. MABVI empowers individuals and

MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION
for the
Blind and Visually Impaired

CONFIDENT LIVING WITH VISION LOSS

offers them the tools they need to accomplish their goals by helping to remove barriers and increasing access to services. MABVI partners with numerous medical, elder services, and community agencies to create high-impact, cost-effective services for over 1500 for blind and low vision people across the Commonwealth.

About the Gibney Family Foundation (TGFF)

[The Gibney Family Foundation](#) partners with charitable organizations in support of people who are blind and visually impaired and with other nonprofits who serve those facing a number of other challenges. In the partnering process, TGFF seeks to attain sustainable solutions for independence for the nonprofit partners and the clients they serve.

###