



Association for the Blind
and Visually Impaired SC

Contact:

Amy Asper
Communications Manager
843.410.1057
aasper@abvisc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired South Carolina (ABVI) receives funds to assist blind and visually impaired community members experiencing poverty
\$7,500 Grant Awarded from the Sisters of Charity Foundation of SC's 2019 Fall Caritas Grant

Charleston, SC - This Fall, the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired South Carolina (ABVI) was one of 77 nonprofit organizations to receive Fall Caritas Grant funding from the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina. The Fall Caritas Grant is issued to South Carolina nonprofits who meet the immediate needs of people experiencing poverty throughout South Carolina.

"Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina is inspired by the recipients of the 2019 Fall Caritas Grant. These nonprofits use grant funding to address immediate needs and enhance people's lives across our great state," said Tom Keith, president of the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina. "By being knowledgeable about their communities, our grantee partners are able to provide valuable services. They're also examples of good to the rest of us."

ABVI's mission is to enrich the quality of life of the blind and visually impaired. The grant from the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina will fund programming to support our *Own Your Life* program. Through *Own Your Life*, ABVI provides personal independence and vocational rehabilitation training for blind and visually impaired adults in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties.

"This is our sixth year receiving a grant from Sisters of Charity Foundation, and we look forward to using these funds to support the continued growth of our *Own Your Life* program," said Courtney Plotner, CEO for ABVI. "There are an estimated 15,000-20,000 adults living in the Tri-County with a visual impairment. Yet, our Association is one of the only nonprofits dedicated to helping these individuals lead the independent and fulfilled lives they deserve. We are grateful to the Sisters of Charity Foundation for recognizing the need to support this underserved segment of our community."

This cycle's Fall Caritas grant recipients serve all of South Carolina's counties, and several of these nonprofits provide services across the state.

About the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired South Carolina

The Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired South Carolina's (ABVI) mission is to enrich the quality of life of the blind and visually impaired. Through our *Own Your Life* program, ABVI helps blind and visually impaired adults in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties learn new approaches to daily life. **The *Own Your Life* program offers two tracks: Personal Independence** is for adults to learn how to navigate daily life with a visual impairment, while **Vocational Rehabilitation** helps clients who are ready to learn the adaptive skills needed to enter or re-enter the workforce. To learn more about ABVI's services, visit www.abvisc.org/services.

About Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina

Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina is a ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System, founded in 1996. Their mission is to address the various needs of those experiencing poverty throughout the state of South Carolina. Through the strategic use of resources, they seek to reduce poverty through action, advocacy and leadership.

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