



Seeing HopeSM



APRIL 2026

TODAY

Stories of Hope: Meet Marcia Harvey

By Kiersten McCollum

Stories of Hope highlights people who continue to pursue their passions while adapting to vision loss.

In 1986, Marcia Harvey left her home country of Trinidad and Tobago to begin a new chapter in the United States. Years later, she was diagnosed with Stargardt's Disease and eventually joined the USA Women's Blind Cricket Team. Stories like Marcia's reflect the resilience and independence of people living with vision loss.

While her passion for cricket was not new, the rules of blind cricket are very different from the traditional version she grew up playing. In the Caribbean, cricket is woven deeply into the culture, and Marcia was first introduced to the sport as a child by her father.

"Being from the Caribbean, every kid grows up playing cricket," Marcia says. "It's in our blood."

(Continued on next page)

**Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington®
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Like many people who grow up playing sports, Marcia eventually set cricket aside as her professional life took center stage. Years later, that passion would lead her back to the sport in an unexpected way.

When Marcia discovered blind cricket in 2024, she realized it offered something special: a chance to reconnect with the sport she had loved as a child.

Marcia first learned about blind cricket when a men's blind cricket team from India visited Washington, DC, as part of a U.S. tour. Curious, she attended a demonstration game and watched as players navigated the field using sound and teamwork.

Seeing the sport in action opened her eyes to a new possibility. It was the first time she realized the game she had loved growing up could still be part of her life. For Marcia, the moment was both surprising and exciting, showing her that the sport she loved could still be part of her future.

Today, she plays as part of the USA Women's Blind Cricket Team, competing with athletes from across the country. The team brings together athletes with different levels of vision who share the same love of the game and the determination to keep playing.

Blind cricket adapts many elements of the traditional game so athletes with visual impairments can participate fully. Instead of a standard cricket ball, players use a hard plastic ball filled with small beads that create sound as it rolls across the field. This allows players to track the ball by listening for it, while other rule adjustments make the game accessible for athletes with all levels of vision.

Players rely on sound, communication, and teamwork to follow the ball and stay connected to the rhythm of the game.

For Marcia, vision loss did not change who she was. It simply meant finding new ways to participate in the activities she already loved.

“Do not let your vision stop you,” she says. “If you have an interest, just go for it.”

Marcia’s story is a reminder that you never know what you are capable of until you take that first step. By reconnecting with the sport she loved as a child, she has discovered opportunities she never expected. Her journey shows that vision loss may change how we experience the world, but it does not end the things that bring us joy or the passions that shape our lives.

Do you have a **Story of Hope** to share? We’d love to hear from you! Email Tara Aziz at taziz@youreyes.org or call **(301) 951-4444**.

Calendar of Events

APRIL 2026

To register for an event, call **(301) 951-4444**
or visit www.youreyes.org/events.

**WED
8**

Medication Management (In-Person Event)

2 p.m. - 3 p.m. • Leisure World Lions Group
Join Representatives from the **Blind Industries
and Services of Maryland** to discuss how
to manage your medication and learn to use
accessibility tools like ScripTalk.

Leisure World Clubhouse II - Rossmoor Room
3300 N Leisure World Blvd., Silver Spring, MD

**FRI
10**

Accessing the News (In-Person Event)

1 p.m - 2 p.m • Low Vision Support Group
Join us to discuss how to avoid feeling left out
of the current news cycle. Learn how to access
your favorite newspapers, shows, and more.

Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library
5005 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA

**TUE
14**

Glaucoma Education (Virtual Event)

11:30 a.m - 12:30 p.m

Low Vision Support Group

Join **Catherine Liu, M.D., Washington National Eye Center Ophthalmology Resident**, to learn about glaucoma and how to navigate life after diagnosis with practical tips and resources.

Hosted by **Washington National Eye Center**.

**TUE
14**

Embracing Nature (Virtual Event)

6 p.m. - 7 p.m. • Stargardt's Network

Join us to explore safe ways to enjoy nature.

Learn helpful tips for walking, gardening, hiking, and other outdoor hobbies and activities.

**WED
15**

Accessible Lighting (Virtual Event)

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Seeing Hope Low Vision Town Hall

Join **Greg Guarnaccia, LC, LEED AP, Founder of International Light Studio**, to learn practical home lighting strategies and tips you can use in and around your home to make everyday tasks easier when living with low vision.

(Additional events on next page)

**THU
16**

Spring Cleaning (In-Person Event)

11 a.m. - 12 p.m. • Low Vision Support Group

Join us to discuss practical ways to stay organized with low vision. Share tips, strategies, and tools that can help you manage clutter and keep your space easier to navigate.

To RSVP, call **(301) 656-2797**.

Friendship Heights Village Center

4433 South Park Ave., Chevy Chase, MD

**TUE
21**

Automate Your Home (Virtual Event)

1 p.m. - 2 p.m. • Seeing Hope Tech Talk

Join **Melissa Emery** to discover how home automation can make your home more accessible, including tools she uses in her own home as a person with low vision.

**FRI
1**

Seeing Hope Book Club (Virtual Event)

11 a.m - 12 p.m.

Join us for **Soundtrack** by **Jason Reynolds**, a story of friendship and creativity. Stuy, a young drummer inspired by his mother's band, discovers how music can change everything. To register, visit **pobreads.org** or call **(301) 951-4444**.

Seeing Hope with Vision Loss

Seeing the News Differently

By Tara Aziz

For many of us, keeping up with the news is part of daily life. But long hours staring at bright screens or small text can strain the eyes, worsen fatigue, and even affect sleep.

Instead of forcing our eyes to work harder, it helps to explore alternatives: listening to audio versions of articles, adjusting screen contrast and text size, or using screen readers and voice assistants.

Breaking news presents another challenge. Many news websites and broadcasts still rely heavily on visual graphics, small captions, or fast-moving text that can be difficult to follow with vision impairment.

Vision loss can make the news feel different. Images, charts, footage, and visual storytelling may not translate easily, leaving gaps in understanding.

Remembering that human side can help us engage with the news more thoughtfully; behind every headline are stories about people and their communities.

We can use our hearts to help us see.

Call the **Seeing Hope Resource and Information Hotline** at **(301) 951-4444** to speak with a Resource Navigator.

Resource of the Month: Accessibility Podcasts

Podcasts are one of the most accessible forms of entertainment. In addition to having their own podcast, the accessibility platform **Be My Eyes** has a list of podcasts covering topics for people with low vision, such as assistive technology, accessible design, and daily life.

You can stream the **Be My Eyes Podcast** on Spotify, Apple Music, iHeartRadio, or directly on their website.

For additional information and their list of accessibility podcasts, visit bemyeyes.com/community/podcasts.

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