

A3

A3 - Empowering People with Vision Loss is so grateful for the support of the Denver Senior Coalition. A3 offers education, training, support groups, financial assistance for low vision specialist exams and adaptive aid distribution/training to seniors in the comfort of their own home. The grant awarded to us is helping A3 expand the distribution/training of adaptive aids and providing low vision exams.

A simple example of how even the smallest adaptive aid can greatly impact a person's life is shared by Shirley Proppe, Area Resource Coordinator at A3. She has a 95 year old client who is the caregiver of her adult daughter who is developmentally disabled and nonverbal. The daughter goes to a day program, but the only way that this client is able to communicate information to and from the daycare is through a notebook that travels back and forth with her daughter. She was able to read the daycare's notes using a magnifier, but she was unable to write legibly back to them. This was becoming increasingly frustrating for her. Most all visually impaired individuals find writing very challenging. I worked with her using a writing guide and a low vision pen. She broke down and cried when she was able to read her own writing.

These funds will go a long way in helping our clients with adaptive aids and low vision OD exams. In the nearly 40 years that we have been working with older adults with vision loss, we have found that these two pieces of our program working with clients makes a big impact on their lives. These two components allow us to be very thorough and efficient when we provide daily living skills training to adapt and adjust to severe vision loss and maintain/improve the level of self-sufficiency achieving the goal to remain living independently at home.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping us help this population of seniors with such acute needs.

Barbara H. Boyer
Executive Director
<http://a3colorado.org>