December 20, 2013

Dear Friends of GDABVI,

Happy Holidays to each of you from the Greater Detroit Agency for the Blind and Visually Impaired (GDABVI). We hope this letter finds you in the best of spirits and enjoying time with family and friends.

In 2013, GDABVI staff continued to work hard at improving services, cutting costs, enhancing skills and meeting fiscal goals. Plus, we are successfully upgrading our outdated and slow computer hardware that will increase efficiency and reliability.

One of our strongest achievements this year is GDABVI’s increased visibility and participation in southeast Michigan communities as an advocate for persons who are blind and visually impaired. We have expanded our outreach activities at senior health fairs, supported Lions Club fundraisers, and led numerous presentations on vision loss prevention and support services. The quality and visibility of our work across public and private sectors is gaining valuable recognition.

Our building is also becoming a popular location for community groups and Lions Clubs to host meetings that share GDABVI’s mission. Collectively, this extended public presence and support have strengthened our relationships with stakeholders, non-profit groups and businesses. For instance, GDABVI was awarded this summer a $5,000 grant from AT&T to provide adaptive aids to low income, vision impaired residents of Detroit. The Lions Club of Metro Detroit also gave the Agency $5,000 to support outreach efforts.

GDABVI works tirelessly to help those in need and now we look to you for assistance to continue our efforts. The need for blind and vision-impaired services is increasing while funding sources are making cuts. There is no miracle cure for blindness but our commitment is unwavering. Please consider GDABVI this holiday season.

We at GDABVI want to thank you for your continued support and appreciate your friendship.

Sincerely,

Victor A. Arbulu, MBA
Managing Director