

Contact: Rick Schwartz
Phone: 212-625-1616, ext. 128
Email: rschwartz@visionsvcb.org
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**VISIONS Received Grant Support from Reader's Digest
Partners for Sight Foundation**

VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired is a recent recipient of grant funding of \$75,000 from the Reader's Digest Partners for Sight Foundation in support of VISIONS' Intergenerational Program (IGP).

VISIONS Intergenerational Program was initiated in 1987 to assist isolated blind elders to perform daily chores. Under the program, VISIONS recruits New York City high school students to make weekly visits with blind or visually impaired older adults in their homes. Both the elders and the youth build a relationship that overcomes stereotypes, encourages connections where seniors become role models and educators to the teens, and young people offer helping hands to blind elders.

The assistance includes shopping, reading/writing, escorting, technology/computer help, trips and activities that enable blind seniors to remain safe, engaged, active and independent at home. Preventing social isolation and depression through group activities, the youth develop their skills and sensitivity to working with seniors with vision loss.

VISIONS has been selected by the NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA) to operate a congregate senior center designed to meet the needs of blind and severely visually impaired older adults. Beginning on January 3, 2012, the new VISIONS at Selis Manor Senior Center, that will be located at the VISIONS at Selis Manor Center, 135 West 23rd Street in Manhattan, will provide meals Monday through Friday and a full

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schedule of programs and services for seniors with vision impairments. VISIONS Intergenerational Program will be incorporated into the senior center. The grant funding will support a smooth transition for the program.

For information about the VISIONS Intergenerational Program, contact Carrie Lewy at 212-625-1616, ext. 147, or by email at clewy@visionsvcb.org. Ms. Lewy will be the director of the new senior center.

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