



**COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT**

Blind and Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh helps people who have gone blind, or have had a recent visual impairment, learn life skills to help them continue to live independently. The people they help live on-site for several months while learning from instructors. BVRS also employs people who are blind and visually impaired in its manufacturing operation, making such things as PennDOT road signs, and pillow cases and sheets for state prisons. When they needed a new building to better serve their clientele, Commonwealth Cornerstone Group\* provided tax credits that helped them raise some of the needed capital.

**“This building...has made the difference between us dying a slow death...and being able to implement new programs, and grow and be able to serve a wider community....We wouldn’t have been able to do it without the tax credits.”**

**—ERIKA PETACH**  
President, Blind and Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh



**AN OPPORTUNITY  
TO DO MORE**



**Clockwise from top-left:** Student Kylan Johnson (left) is taught by instructor Spiro Pipakis to use helpful applications heard on his smartphone. ~ In the manufacturing area, employee Lance Ayers uses a “talking” tape measure. ~ Instructors Pipakis (red shirt) and Art Rizzino and their guide dogs enjoy the rooftop sensory garden. ~ BVRS’ new building.



\*Commonwealth Cornerstone Group is PHFA's nonprofit community development entity, created in 2004 to fund revitalization projects.