



# Vision Services

June 2019

**Our Clients Make Us Proud!**

## Featured Client: Elizabeth Hamby

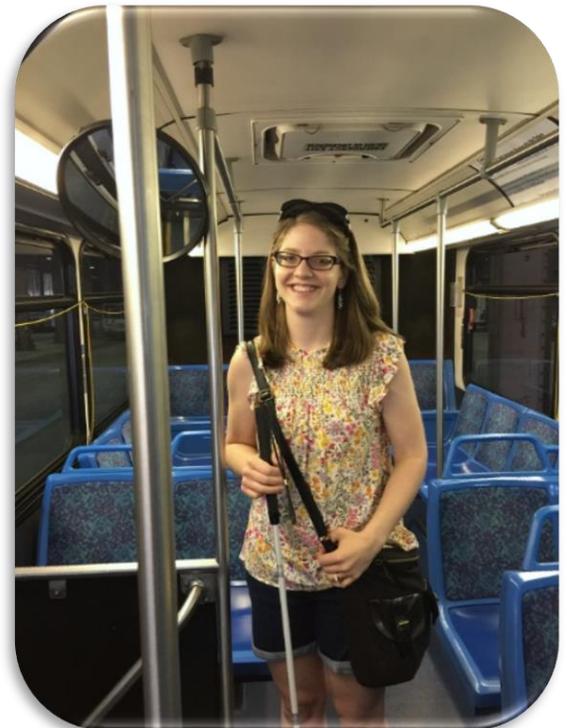
Elizabeth Hamby said she was nervous at first when she walked through the doors of the Bailey Avenue open house event with her husband and 18-month-old daughter, because she was not sure what to expect or how we could help her. But she came in anyway. She was motivated to learn about technology to help her live with her newly acquired vision loss.

The year before, this young mother had permanently lost some vision to glaucoma. She was having trouble feeling safe walking on uneven ground or going to new places. She wanted to explore technology options to help with her access the computer and print.

Elizabeth sought services through Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) of Georgia, and VR sent her to Signal Centers to see how we could help her. She enrolled in a full program of training with Signal Centers to learn about adaptive software and be able to safely navigate her environment. She completed 12 weeks of Beginning JAWS (Job Access with Speech) training, Orientation & Mobility (O&M) training with a white cane, and weekly Adjustment to Blindness, Braille and iOS App classes. And she made new friends.

Vision Rehabilitation Services at Signal Centers – Assistive Technology on Bailey Avenue is here to provide people who have had vision loss with the tools and skills to regain control over their lives. And we encourage and support our clients every step of the way. And when our clients, like Elizabeth, are ready to meet the challenge and learn and apply new skills and strategies in their daily lives, it makes all the difference. And our clients make us proud!

Elizabeth plans to use her new skills and confidence to return to college in the fall to complete her degree in Early Childhood Education.



Walking Companion  
and Coach Program  
for Seniors with Mild  
Vision Loss  
(Orientation &  
Mobility)

Seniors who have been diagnosed with an eye condition like Macular Degeneration or Glaucoma sometimes have trouble going outside for fresh air, to socialize and exercise because it's not as easy to see to walk.

Orientation and Mobility (O&M) for the Blind and Visually Impaired is considered a non-medical service in the United States (except when provided by the VA to Veterans). But O&M can keep you healthy by keeping you safe and active after vision loss.

We focus on your personal goals. It's about being active and making walks pleasant and fun!

For more information please contact Signal Centers at

423-698-8528 ext.  
501.

## USABLE BRAILLE with SUZANNE GOODEMOTE

Two young women who recently attended classes at Signal Centers – Assistive Technology Services, Elizabeth Hamby and Ansa Moon, share a similar journey. They both have eye conditions that may cause progressive vision loss, both committed to learning Braille last semester, and both are new moms.

Elizabeth has 2-year-old girl and Ansa will be having a little boy in a few short months.

At first, the two women each had said they were unsure about the potential for using Braille. As they learned the alphabet, they realized learning Braille for reading and writing requires practice and dedication. Then they discovered a great way to practice reading and create something special for their children in the process – add clear sheets of stick on Braille on the pages of children's books. Now these two moms can read directly to their children.

Elizabeth and Ansa are dedicated to creating memories their children will cherish. One day, their children may even brag to their friends that their moms read to them by touching dots!



## VISION ACADEMY CAMP

Our Vision Academy Campers went on great adventures this summer, including a challenging obstacle course and a canoe trip at Reflection Riding, and a trip to the zoo. Campers said they especially loved making braided pizza and learning to dance the Electric Slide!



Meet Our New JAWS  
(Job Access With  
Speech) Instructor/  
iOS Apps Instructor



W. Byron Meador

We asked Byron,  
“What do you think  
are the frequently  
used keystrokes for a  
JAWS user?”

Byron: In my opinion,  
the three most useful  
keystrokes that are  
JAWS commands are  
the pretty basic ones.

“Insert + t” reads the  
title of the page or  
application you are on.  
“Insert + h” reads the  
current sentence you  
are on.

“Insert + a” or “insert +  
down arrow” will read  
the entire page from  
the point where your  
cursor is down to the  
bottom of the page.  
Pretty basic, but  
probably the three I  
use most.

## Accessible Technology Summit

Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019

This year Signal Centers  
hosted our first Global  
Accessibility Awareness Day  
(GAAD) event at UTC in  
collaboration with corporate  
sponsors UNUM, Osborne  
Foundation and McKee  
Foods.

Professionals in HR, IT,  
marketing, web design, as well  
as educators and individuals  
with disabilities traveled from  
across the state to network with  
assistive technology vendors  
and experts.

Our esteemed and delightful  
keynote speaker, Haben  
Girma, was the first DeafBlind  
graduate from Harvard Law  
school.

Signal Centers received  
excellent feedback from  
participants, including: “The  
breadth of attendees,  
particularly for a first year  
summit, tells me not just our  
community, but the region is  
hungry for events and  
opportunities like these. I am  
thrilled Signal Centers took this  
on, and I think Chattanooga  
has an opportunity to put a flag  
in the ground, saying that  
accessibility, equity and  
inclusion are core tenets of  
what it means to be Gig City.”

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# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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## FEATURED EVENT: GLOBAL ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS DAY 2019



Ernest Tshisweka, a familiar  
face at Signal Centers –  
Assistive Technology, has  
been hired into a permanent  
position where he uses the  
computer skills and tools he  
acquired through our Vision  
Services program.



## Meet Our New Vision Rehabilitation Specialist



### Larisa DeZayas, COMS Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist

A Chattanooga native, Larisa received her BA from the University of Toronto, and later received her certification as an Orientation and Mobility instructor through Mohawk College in Ontario. Soon after, Larisa returned to the U.S. and worked in Milwaukee, Wisconsin while raising her two children, Irena and Tristan.

Larisa returns to Chattanooga with over 20 years of experience teaching living skills in schools, homes, assisted living facilities, the community, and for 10 years in Milwaukee's VA Medical Center.



## Vision Services Staff



**Lana Bazemore-Little, Director Assistive Technology Services**



**Bill Parker  
Administrative Assistant**



**Suzanne Goodmote**

**"Cooking Without Looking" Class Instructor**

**Braille Instructor**

### Job Access With Speech (JAWS) Instructors

**Robert Christie**



**Byron Meador**



### Assistive Technology Professionals (ATP)



**Beth Warren**



**Ezra Reynolds**



**Steve Powell**