



# guidepointe



## 100 Years: A Legacy of Service

*Dear Friends:*

Many of you are probably unaware of Alphapointe's humble beginnings. Alphapointe started in 1911 when a determined group



Reinhard Mabry

of people, led by our founder Catherine Hale, decided that the American

dream of an independent and productive life should be attainable for all people, regardless of their ability to see. Dissatisfied with depending on the kindness of family or suffering the prejudices of employers, these capable and enterprising workers formed the Kansas City Association for the Blind Workers and began making straw brooms in a cramped warehouse.

Today, Alphapointe is the largest employer of people who are blind in the state of Missouri, and the only provider of the

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## The Celebration Begins ...

**F**or 100 years, Alphapointe Association for the Blind has been providing employment, education and advocacy to the more than 60,000 people living with vision loss in our community.

In those 100 years, Alphapointe has grown from a determined group of individuals to the largest employer and the leading provider of services for people who are blind or visually impaired in the state of Missouri. And we think that is something to celebrate!

Throughout 2011, Alphapointe and presenting sponsor UMB will host a series of events and activities open to everyone in our community. Come help us celebrate our first 100 years!

**Tactile Tours of the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art:** Through an innovative new partnership between Alphapointe and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, people who are visually impaired will have the unique opportunity to experience different art forms through the sense of touch monthly.

A 60 minute, docent-led tour will allow participants to touch various works of art while wearing gloves. Alphapointe is proud to sponsor the Tactile Tours at the Nelson in an effort to increase accessibility to all art forms for people who are blind or visually impaired. Reservations must be made by calling (816) 751-1ART.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Alphapointe Classic

**Golf Tournament and Instructional Clinic:** Alphapointe will host what has become a tradition for many of our city's best and biggest golf enthusiasts, the four-person scramble tournament at Loch Lloyd Country Club. Prior to lunch and the shotgun start, David Meador, a member of the US Blind Golfer's Association, will once again host an instructional clinic to teach people living without sight how to golf without sight. David will also bring his personal message of perseverance and triumph over his own adversities, and how those challenges have helped him to bring

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The Blind Boys of Alabama will be the featured performers at The Party 100 Years in the Making at the Midland Theatre on Nov. 12.

# Dining in the Dark Enlightens the Community

On Nov. 4, more than 240 adventurous guests, protective aprons securely fastened around their waists, lined up arm to arm at the entrance of a darkened maze, waiting to be led into a pitch black ballroom at the Westin Crown Center Hotel, eagerly anticipating the most talked about event in town: Dining in the Dark.



Chad Rohr, recipient of the 2nd Annual Alphapointe Scholarship, shares his story with attendees.



Guests at Dining in the Dark linked up, awaiting entrance into the dark.

Presented by Alphapointe and United Healthcare, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dining in the Dark event was a smashing success. Funds raised help support programs and the new Low Vision Clinic at Alphapointe that provides specialized low vision evaluations to anyone experiencing vision loss.

“Dining in the Dark is a singular experience,” says Pasquale Trozzolo, who along with his wife Joan, served as Honorary Chair of this year’s event. “Dark doesn’t even begin to describe the atmosphere in the room. For 90 minutes, we were given an opportunity to truly walk in the shoes of someone who is blind.”


Guests were guided to the tables by their waiter, a person who is, in fact, blind and trained especially for the event in just eight hours prior to the start of the evening. Guests learned to depend on their waiter for more than just a refill of water or a clean fork; these people, many of them employees or clients of Alphapointe, became the guests guide through the meal. Tasks



Reinhard Mabry, Sheri Johnson, Joan and Pasquale Trozzolo, Honorary Co-Chairs

as simple as buttering a roll or locating the right wine glass presented a big challenge to many but the waiters were there each step of the way, instructing the diners on how to navigate their way in total darkness.

Later in the evening, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Alphapointe Scholarship was presented to Chad Rohr, a student at the University of Central Missouri who lost his vision seven years ago in an ATV accident. Chad received training and education services from Alphapointe through both youth programs, STEP and PREP.

Alphapointe thanks all of the sponsors of this year’s Dining in the Dark for their continuing support of this event that you have to “not see” to believe. 

## Dining in the Dark 2010 Sponsors

### *Presenting Sponsor*

United Healthcare

### *Gold Sponsors*

State Street

### *Silver Sponsors*

Cavanaugh Eye Center

Kutak Rock

RED Development

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Trozzolo Communications Group

### *Table Sponsors*

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# Ask the Expert

## Q: How do I know if I need to be evaluated at the Low Vision Clinic?

A: Typically, patients are referred to the Low Vision Clinic by their eye care provider when corrective lenses and surgery are no longer effective and their quality of life is being adversely affected by the vision loss. Maybe you have difficulty reading the newspaper or computer screen, or writing a check or reading your mail. Perhaps tasks that were once routine, such as taking medication or driving, are now frustrating and challenging. A low vision evaluation can help you find the right tools to allow you to perform your normal daily activities.



Angie Bowers, OTR/L

## Q: What happens during a low vision evaluation?


A: The evaluation is quite different from the basic eye health and refractive examination you would routinely receive from your primary care optometrist. Once you have been referred by your doctor for a low vision evaluation, our specialists will review your medical records and history, and conduct a comprehensive assessment. Visual fields are evaluated and a dilated examination may be performed. The entire evaluation typically lasts between one and two hours.



Dr. John Metzger and a patient in the Low Vision Clinic.

The doctor will then counsel you on how your condition will affect your vision and what you may do to enhance and protect your remaining vision. Independent living aids will be reviewed to meet your specific needs.

After the exam, you will meet with the occupational therapist at Alphapointe who will provide training on the use of a variety of devices such as lighted magnifiers, specialized glasses and other aids to increase your independence.

Following your evaluation, you will have an opportunity to get some hands on experience with several different types of equipment designed specifically to address your particular vision needs. Alphapointe operates an on-site retail store called Connecting Pointe that carries many of the aids and devices that can enhance your quality of life. Therefore, you will have immediate access to the items you need to start living a better quality of life. 

*Angie Bowers, OTR/L, is an occupational therapist at Alphapointe with nearly 10 years of experience providing low vision rehabilitation. Along with Dr. John Metzger, low vision optometrist, Angie sees clients on site as well as in their homes. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (816) 237-2041 or send an e-mail to [lowvision@alphapointe.org](mailto:lowvision@alphapointe.org).*

## The Celebration Begins ...


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the message of the power of possibilities to thousands of people living with vision loss. This clinic is free of charge, and is open to anyone with vision loss in the community. This year's golf tournament is scheduled for May 24.

**Homecoming Picnic:** Come share a memory as we welcome back past employees, board members, friends and students for an old-fashioned picnic at Alphapointe's Life Skills Campus. Scheduled for September 2011.

**Alphapointe at the Library:** Alphapointe is proud to partner with the Kansas City Public Library to offer a series of events and reading programs to educate and inform the community about Alphapointe, vision rehabilitation and advocacy for people who are blind. Events and classes may include a children's summer reading program, historical lectures, a film series and much more. All of these events are free and open to the public. Dates to be determined.

**The Party 100 Years in the Making:** Alphapointe is throwing open the doors to the historic Midland by AMC Theatre, and you are invited! *The Blind Boys of Alabama*, one of our country's treasured musical talents, will be there to blow the roof off as we blow out 100 candles in honor of 100 years of service and advocacy to our community. Food, drink and surprises will abound as we raise a glass to our next 100 years. This ain't your Mama's gala, so put on your dancing shoes as we dance the night away at the party everyone will be talking about!

For more information on how you can become a part of the Centennial Celebration, please go to [www.alphapointe.org/centennial](http://www.alphapointe.org/centennial). 



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Kansas City, MO 64132

## Our Mission

To empower people with  
vision loss to maximize  
their independence.

(816) 421-5848  
www.alphapointe.org

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## Centennial Calendar

Presented by **UMB**

Tactile Tours of the Nelson-Atkins  
Museum of Art

Call (816) 751-1ART today to sign up  
for the next session.

Monthly, beginning Jan. 15

Business to Business Networking  
at Alphapointe

March 1, 2011

Blindness Isn't Black  
Art Exhibit and Reception

Truman Medical Center  
April 7, 2011

7th Annual Alphapointe Classic Golf  
Tournament at Loch Lloyd Country Club

May 24, 2011

Centennial Homecoming Picnic –  
Come share a memory.

September 2011


The Party 100 Years in the Making!

Featuring *The Blind Boys of Alabama* at  
*the historic Midland* by AMC Theatre

Nov. 12, 2011

For more information: [www.alphapointe.org](http://www.alphapointe.org)  
or (816) 237-2099. 

## Pointes of Interest

- **Joyce Smith** and **Randy Becker** have been named the 2010 Employees of the Year. Joyce and Randy have both displayed superior commitment to both quality and customer service in their roles as Quality Control Inspector and Switchboard Operator, respectively. Joyce and Randy will represent Alphapointe at the NIB Training Conference in New Orleans where they will be in the running to be named the National Industries of the Blind Employees of the Year along with more than 100 other NIB affiliate employees.
- Alphapointe is pleased to announce the appointment of **Sheri Johnson** to the position of Chair of the Board of Directors. Sheri has been on the board of Alphapointe since 2006, works as a vice president at Morningstar Communications and is a graduate of the prestigious Centurians program through the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. 

## A Legacy of Service

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education and rehabilitation services necessary for people who are blind to live, work and be independent.

Throughout 2011, we will be honoring the legacy of 100 years of hard work and innovation that began in Catherine Hale's living room with a series of events and activities open to anyone in our community. I invite each of you to join us at one of the many programs that have been scheduled to celebrate Alphapointe's first 100 years of service to the Kansas City community.

This is a unique opportunity to experience history, arts and culture as well as to learn more about the power of what is possible for any person, regardless of a disability, with the right education and opportunity. It is also an opportunity for you to become part of the legacy that began 100 years ago, in Catherine Hale's living room; a legacy that has empowered thousands of people over the years to live independent, productive lives.

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