New England Low Vision and Blindness

For Immediate Release

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## New England Low Vision & Blindness Opens New Low Vision Rehab Clinic, Hires Doctor of Optometry

Worcester, MA (May 9, 2016) – <u>New England Low Vision and Blindness (NELV&B)</u> announces the creation of a new Low Vision Rehabilitation Clinic and the hiring of Dr. Kara Gagnon for the new position of National Director of Low Vision Optometry and Rehabilitation Services.

This new Low Vision Rehabilitation Clinic offers specialized services for people with vision loss to maximize their remaining vision. This clinic gives people hands-on access to the best distance, correction and magnification tools and the latest vision technology to boost their residual vision. The clinic also provides education and training on an individual's vision loss diagnosis, vision techniques and how best to work with optical lenses and low vision devices to enhance vision.

Dr. Gagnon is charged with running the Low Vision Rehab Clinic, providing visual rehabilitation eye examinations and consultations to find strategies to help people with vision loss better use their remaining vision to regain their independence.

"Hiring Dr. Gagnon as our first Doctor of Optometry was an easy decision for us," says Scott Krug, President of New England Low Vision and Blindness. "Her expertise in running our Low Vision Rehab Clinic will better enable us to meet our goal to help people with vision loss get functional again."

<u>Dr. Kara Gagnon</u> has a long history of working in Low Vision Optometry. She spent 18 years in the Department of Veteran Affairs Medical Center in Connecticut, serving as the Director of Low Vision Optometry at the Eastern Blind Rehabilitation Center and Director of the Optometric Acquired Brain Injury Clinic. Dr. Gagnon has taught at various colleges of Optometry, most notably as Assistant Clinical Professor of Visual Sciences at Yale Medical School's Department of Ophthalmology for more than a decade. Dr. Gagnon has also helped to write national policy on the delivery system standards of care for visually impaired, blind and traumatically brain injured veterans.

Dr. Gagnon has worked for years towards opening this type of unique Low Vision Rehabilitation Clinic. "I know how positive and life altering the outcomes can be with the type of Visual Rehabilitation Examination we are committed to," says Dr. Kara Gagnon. "We spend considerable time in educating the patient and their surrogate loved one—making sure they are fully aware of where their remaining vision is, how to access it and use it repeatedly without frustration."

The Low Vision Rehabilitation Clinic by New England Low Vision and Blindness is located at: 1077 Bridgeport Avenue, Suite 103 Shelton, CT 06484

Appointments for the newly-opened Low Vision Rehabilitation Clinic are available starting Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am until 5:00pm.

"Opening our new Low Vision Rehab Clinic is a major step forward in helping people with vision loss regain their independence," says Krug. "Having a consultation with Dr. Kara Gagnon, our National Director of Low Vision Optometry and Rehabilitation Services to learn tools and techniques to maximize their remaining vision and hands-on access to the latest in <u>low vision technology</u> is an experience that people with vision loss can get nowhere else."

The opening of this clinic and hiring of Dr. Gagnon is part of a six-month growth trend by New England Low Vision and Blindness that has included the acquisition of Vision Dynamics (making NELV&B New England's largest provider of low vision and <u>blindness aids</u> and training services), obtaining partnerships with Freedom Scientific and Sitecues and opening a second Low Vision Technology Showroom location.

and Blindness

<u>New England Low Vision and Blindness</u> is a full-service technology and training company that provides low vision and blindness products and training services to people who are blind and visually impaired and to the professionals who serve them throughout the six states of New England.

New England Low Vision and Blindness is headquartered in Worcester MA and has been a family-owned and locally operated low vision and blindness distributor since 2009.

For more information about this newly-opened Low Vision Rehabilitation Clinic or to make an appointment with Dr. Kara Gagnon, call 888-211-6933.

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## **About New England Low Vision and Blindness**

New England Low Vision

<u>New England Low Vision and Blindness (NELV&B)</u> is New England's one-stop solution to all blindness and low vision technology needs, providing assessments, products delivered direct to door and training services, enabling people who are blind and visually impaired to live independently. For more information email: info@nelowvision.com