Weigel Williamson Center for Visual Rehabilitation

A place for renewed hope and help for those with low vision
Millions of Americans live with low vision. For these individuals everyday tasks such as reading, shopping and recognizing faces are difficult.

Some of the most common causes of low vision include:
- Macular degeneration
- Diabetic retinopathy
- Glaucoma
- Stroke or brain injury

With low vision, one’s eyesight often cannot be improved with regular glasses, medicine or surgery. If you are living with low vision, vision rehabilitation can help you regain your independence. Training combined with low vision devices can help one to safely complete daily activities that are difficult because of vision loss.

At the Weigel Williamson Center for Visual Rehabilitation we are dedicated to helping individuals with low vision keep their independence, spirit and quality of life. Reading, writing checks, preparing meals and safely taking medications are just a few of the areas in which low vision rehabilitation can help. Using the latest advances in technology and training, our skilled physicians and therapists will develop a tailored program to assist you in maximizing the use of your remaining vision.

The Center has been designed with a unique home-like setting to showcase low vision adaptations. Our clients are given instructions on how to make similar adaptations in their own home.
Many devices are available to help people with low vision function better. Our team will prescribe devices to help you meet your goals, whether it's seeing objects at a distance, reading, watching television or writing. We'll train you in how to use the devices and we’ll even let you borrow some of the devices and practice with them at home prior to purchase.

Common devices or products that help make everyday activities easier include:

- High powered magnifiers, low vision reading glasses and telescopic devices
- Electronic video magnifiers
- Devices that can scan and read aloud printed materials
- Computers, tablets and smart phones
- High-contrast and large-number items such as telephones, watches and remote controls
- Talking clocks, timers and medical equipment

Our Team

John Shepherd, M.D.
Medical Director

Muriel Jepsen, O.D.
Optometrist

Evy Katz, OTR/L
Occupational Therapist

Stacy Thoene, OTD R/L
Occupational Therapist
Would you like to make a contribution to help support the Weigel Williamson Center?

If you would like to help support the services provided at the Weigel Williamson Center for Visual Rehabilitation, you can contact the University of Nebraska Foundation at 402-502-4921. You may also go to www.unmc.edu/lowvision.

Thank you.

Getting Started

If you are having difficulty performing common daily activities because of vision loss, your eye doctor may make a referral to the Weigel Williamson Center or you may call directly at 402-559-2463.

We encourage you to bring a family member or friend with you. A client will usually make two or more visits to the Center.

First Visit (2½ hours)
The first visit will include an interview, vision testing and a low vision exam. Your visual goals will be identified and the doctor will determine the devices and training activities that will help you to meet these goals.

Training Sessions (1 to 2 hours)
An occupational therapist will teach you skills that will help you maximize the use of your remaining vision and lead a more independent life. Although most sessions will be held at the Center, one or two sessions may be held in your own home.

Areas in which training may help include:
- Reading and writing
- Using magnification devices
- Preparing meals
- Doing hobbies and crafts
- Shopping

Medicare and most insurances cover our services, but not devices.

Low Vision Store

A low vision store also is located at the Center. The store has non-optical items available for purchase such as large number watches, calendars, playing cards, check guides, lamps and more.

The store is open Monday through Friday.
If you are living with low vision, let us offer you renewed hope and help.