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Smithtown Residents Help Lead Foundation for Sight & Sound

Mitch Shapiro and **Nino Vlacich** of Smithtown, and **Karen Perry** of Commack, have assumed volunteer leadership positions with The Foundation for Sight & Sound (www.mitchsdream.org), a Smithtown-based charitable organization launched last year to support efforts to enhance the quality of life for individuals with visual and hearing impairments.

The Foundation for Sight & Sound organizes an annual “Blind” Tug-A-Jet Challenge (Sunday, May 15 at Republic Airport in Farmingdale) and “Blind” Wine Tasting Gala (Sept. 26 in Woodbury). Monies raised go towards awarding grants to various nonprofit organizations for specific research projects and support services that directly benefit people that would have otherwise been unfunded.

“We envision a world in which people with visual and hearing challenges have no limits,” says Shapiro, the president/CEO and guiding force behind the foundation who is, himself, afflicted with Usher syndrome, the leading cause of deaf blindness.

Perry, who serves as vice chairwoman of the foundation’s board of directors, and Vlacich, the foundation’s treasurer, are president and executive vice president, respectively, of Event Journal, Inc., which produces customized online sponsorship journals as fundraising tools for special events. Perry also is an account executive for WLNY-TV 55, while Vlacich is a computer consultant to small- and medium-sized companies.

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