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“I think Hadley is the best way to get the information that everybody who has vision loss needs.”—Alene Staley

 Hadley
Thrive

To read Thrive online, visit: HadleyHelps.org/publications

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Double Your Impact on Giving Tuesday – December 3, 2024



Angela Delgado

This Giving Tuesday, a global day dedicated to generosity, your gift to Hadley can make an even bigger difference. On December 3, all donations made will be matched, up to \$25,000, thanks to the generosity of Hadley's donors.

These contributions directly benefit individuals like Angela Delgado from New York, who has glaucoma.

“At first, I never wanted help. I was in denial,” Angela explains. But last year, she reached out to Hadley and joined our Peer-to-Peer program. Now, she and her peer, Susan, connect weekly. Sharing their fears, dreams, and experiences has made a world of difference to them both.

Reflecting on how her life has changed, Angela says, “I am more empathetic today. I am more compassionate today. I want to give back. To give what was so freely given to me: encouragement and hope.”



To make your donation to Hadley on Giving Tuesday, visit HadleyHelps.org/GivingTuesday.

Young Visionaries Swing into Action for Hadley

More than 30 golfers gathered on a sunny September Saturday to support Hadley at the Young Visionaries' 3rd Annual Golf Outing. The event took place at The Evans at Canal Shores in Evanston, Illinois, where participants played a shortened 12-hole course followed by pizza and refreshments.

Attendees enjoyed a fantastic day, and the event raised over \$2,000 to support Hadley's programs.

The Young Visionaries Board consists of people at the early stages of their careers or in post-graduate studies. They organize events and activities to support Hadley's mission. For more information about upcoming Young Visionaries events and volunteer opportunities, please reach out to YoungVisionaries@HadleyHelps.org.



Hadley Woman's Board Presents

2024 Braille Holiday Cards



The 2024 card features a partridge perched in a pear tree with ripe pears and green leaves. For tactile effect, the bird, some pears and branches have been embossed. The card carries the interior greeting, "Wishing you peace, happiness and the spirit of the season" in both print and braille.

The artist of this year's card is Susan Underwood. Learn more at susanunderwoodpaintings.com.

The sale runs until December 13. Order online at brailleholidaycard.HadleyHelps.org or call (800) 323-4238. Last day to order cards for delivery before Christmas is December 9.

Cards may also be customized with corporate or personal imprints. Last day to order imprinting is November 29.

If you prefer a custom photo card, use Hadley's promo code on Minted.com. You will save 20% on your order and Minted will donate 15% of your purchase to Hadley. Promo code and details can be found at brailleholidaycard.HadleyHelps.org.



Hadley Welcomes New CEO



Johnjoe Farragher
President/CEO

On behalf of the Hadley Board of Trustees, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Johnjoe Farragher as the President and CEO of Hadley. He succeeds Julie Tye, who retired this September.

Johnjoe is a leader in the education technology sector. Throughout his career he has consistently driven transformative growth and advancements. He is now excited to apply his exceptional experience to serve Hadley's target audience—older adults adjusting to vision loss.

Since 2020, Hadley's member base has grown by over 3000% as more than 100,000 members have joined the Hadley community. Our scalable model will allow us to help millions more.

Johnjoe is the ideal person to lead the organization towards these ambitious goals. He understands that transformative growth stems from a deep commitment to serving and exceeding the expectations of a well-defined audience. His strategic use of technology will allow Hadley to deliver on our organizational promise to reach and serve the millions of older adults with vision loss. Johnjoe looks forward to working with the Hadley team to achieve these objectives while continuing Hadley's mission, fostering innovation and maintaining solid financial stability.

Johnjoe's distinguished career includes founding two successful education technology services for the K-12 marketplace, which brought significant innovation and benefits to teachers and students. He has also held leadership roles at United Learning, Warner Bros./Discovery Communications, and Defined Learning.

Johnjoe is a graduate of Marquette University and Loyola University Chicago. He lives in Evanston, Illinois with his wife, Stephanie. They have two children.

Please join me in welcoming Johnjoe to the Hadley community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Stephan".

Mark Stephan
Chair, Hadley Board of Trustees

Meet Johnjoe Farragher

Hadley's new CEO, Johnjoe Farragher, answers some key questions.

Q. What excites you about Hadley?

A. It is important to help others. That is something I am passionate about.

The impact Hadley has on people with vision loss is nothing short of transformational, and there is incredible potential to extend our reach to help so many more.

I'm also excited to work with the outstanding team here. What they have accomplished since the Hadley platform was reimaged in 2020 is remarkable, and it's energizing to collaborate with people who are so committed to making a positive difference.

Q. What are your thoughts on Hadley's future?

A. Our mission remains steadfast. We provide outstanding resources and services to help individuals navigate life with vision loss. We will continue to invest in our offerings, so our members receive the help they need.

We will also continue delivering the highest quality of service and care. Our members should expect nothing less than excellence. We will continue to be innovative, creative, and compassionate to meet their needs.

However, millions of older adults who could benefit from Hadley's services aren't aware of us—yet. It is our responsibility to change that and make sure that even if they don't need help today, they know we are here when they do.

Q. Can you share a bit about how your background fits into these goals?

A. I've successfully built two educational technology organizations serving K-12 schools. While the audience was different, many of the lessons apply. I have experience scaling services to meet the evolving needs of diverse groups and consistently exceeding the expectations of multiple stakeholders. I also understand the delicate balance between harnessing the power of technology and addressing the unique needs of individuals.

I'm excited to bring this experience to Hadley to help the organization reach its full potential and help many more people.

Q. What else should we know about you?

A. My wife and I live in Evanston, Illinois. Our daughter, a recent college graduate, lives in Boston. Our son is at the University of Iowa. I am an enthusiastic chef. I also love sports, staying active and spending time outdoors.

In Her Own Words: Alene Staley Gains Confidence and Community with Help from Hadley

Alene Staley worked as an accountant, taught college and was a school administrator before retiring. When she was diagnosed with macular degeneration in 2020, state services recommended Hadley because they were not open for in-person help. Alene shares her experience.

Alene: Hadley has made such a huge difference. It

gave me so much information. People in my family have had macular degeneration, so I was familiar with how it worked, but I still was very fearful about how I would manage in this situation. I was retired, but I was quite worried about coping with everything and everyday life.



“Labeling is how I got into braille. I have benefited so much from the braille workshops.” —Alene (right) with her sister and brother-in-law

At first, I mostly read information on the Hadley website. It was encouraging and empowering to know there is something you can do. That was very helpful, especially in the beginning when I felt quite isolated.

Then, I started taking workshops. I would take one because I had a problem. For example, I had some clothes I needed to mend. I live in an apartment so I can go get someone to thread a needle for me, but I couldn't, or didn't think I could, do that myself. Then I did the workshop on sewing and mending things, and now I can always thread a needle! It is absolutely fabulous to know what to do.

Another thing that really helps me is labeling. Now, I have quite a few things labeled, like kitchen appliances. Where's the on button? Where's the off button? I label all that stuff because I can't rely on my eyes to see.

Labeling is how I got into braille. I have benefited so much from the braille workshops. I'm improving my reading skills, and I feel I'm quite adept at writing, too. I'm in a writing club, and sometimes I write poems in braille. Or I just write things I want to remember.



“A lot of the confidence that I’ve gained has been from those Hadley workshops.”

—Alene (left) on a camping trip with a friend

Recently I took a trip and stayed in hotels where I tried out my braille skills. The lighting was dim in the elevators and hallways so I wouldn’t have been able to function without a flashlight anyway. But it was so much easier to just read the braille.

Traveling with vision loss also brought other challenges, but people were helpful and, because I’ve done Hadley workshops on traveling and other things, I was able to navigate by myself there and back. It was really empowering. A lot of the

confidence that I’ve gained has been from those Hadley workshops. I also appreciate that there are ones just for fun because you need fun, too.

I always get a lot out of the monthly discussion group for people learning braille. It’s hard to find community when you have something like vision

loss, but I really get a sense at Hadley that I am in a community that understands my challenges. That’s really important.

Here in Maine, there are wonderful services, but they don’t have the facilities to do this kind of educational program. So, I think Hadley is the best way to get the information that everybody who has vision loss needs. I made a gift to Hadley because I am very grateful. I have limited means, and the fact that it is free is wonderful. I just really, really appreciate that. It makes a big difference.

Support Hadley

Be a Hadley GEM by **G**iving **E**very **M**onth. This is a great way to support Hadley’s mission consistently. As a thank you, GEMs receive a canvas tote bag.

If you would like to become a GEM, select the monthly option on the enclosed envelope or online at **HadleyHelps.org/Donate**. For questions, call Cheryl Sundheim at 847-784-2874.



Image for illustration only.

Donald Pojman Discovers Solutions through Hadley

As a forensic pathologist and medical examiner, Dr. Donald Pojman is skilled at finding answers. But when he began losing his vision, he acknowledges, “I had no clue what I was doing.”

Donald began by reaching out to a local agency in West Virginia. “They brought me literature that I couldn’t read and a talking watch that quickly broke,” he recalls. Frustrated, Donald continued his research and found Hadley online.

At that point, Donald still had some sight, but he knew it was likely to diminish further. Over the past decade he had more than 20 surgeries to fix multiple retinal detachments. Post-operative complications took the vision in his left eye in 2017, and he lost all but faint light perception in his right eye in 2023, at the age of 59.



“What I’ve learned from Hadley helps me get around.”
—Donald Pojman with his daughter, Krista

Since discovering Hadley, it has become an invaluable resource. “There’s so much I need to relearn, and Hadley has been great with everyday things,” Donald shares. Determined to continue doing the things he used to do, he has completed more than 100 workshops, many of them focused on technology. “I never would have known about technologies like screen readers or TalkBack without Hadley,” he notes. “I don’t know where else I would go for that.”

Donald is also dedicated to learning braille. He has completed Hadley’s Braille for Everyday Use series and is now working on contracted braille—a shorthand that uses abbreviations and special symbols to represent words and groups of letters. With these new skills, Donald hopes to return to work in the medical examiner’s office. Although he cannot resume all his previous tasks, he can be on call, helping to free up the department’s limited resources for active investigations. He credits Hadley with reopening this door: “Now, I can use a computer without being able to see it, and I can use braille to take notes. What I’ve learned from Hadley helps me get around.”



“... with Hadley, you’re not on your own.”

—Donald with his dogs, Latte and Pepper

Friendly and outgoing, Donald loves spending time with his wife and daughter and finds joy in helping others. So, for him, Hadley is about more than just learning—it’s about people, too. “Before losing my vision, work and family kept me busy. When work was gone, I had a lot of time on my hands, and it could get lonely,” he explains. “But with Hadley, you’re not on your own. You have this community. It keeps you talking to people and working on things.”

Hadley discussion groups provide welcome interaction. Donald enjoys adding his “two cents” and good humor to Embracing Braille, Resource Roundtable, Tech It Out, and Get Up and Go. “It’s interesting to hear how other people learn to cope. It’s a great place to share what I’ve discovered, learn from others, and bounce ideas off the group,” he remarks. As an avid and

experienced cook, his favorite group is What’s Cooking. “It takes me longer than it used to, but I love to cook.”

He is also using braille in the kitchen to organize his spice rack and make his recipe book accessible.

An optimist, Donald says, “I know I’m going to make it through. I have bad days but keep a positive attitude.” Hadley makes that easier, he declares: “It’s nice to know Hadley is there. I needed a friend, and that’s what Hadley is.”



Thanks to you, Hadley provides both practical and social/emotional help to older adults adjusting to vision loss, empowering them to adapt and thrive.

Because you care, thousands of people are discovering new ways to do things in their daily lives that are more difficult with vision loss.

Hadley offers more than 700 online workshops, discussion groups and podcast episodes that people can access 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And thanks to your generosity, all of Hadley’s programs are free of charge so cost is not a barrier.

Expert Advice Makes a Lasting Impact: Hadley's Philanthropy Advisory Council

Hadley's Philanthropy Advisory Council (PAC) is comprised of attorneys, financial planners and trust and estate professionals who volunteer their time and talents to strengthen our planned giving program. These experts provide counsel, educate supporters on donation strategies and act as ambassadors for our mission.

The group was created in 2011 by Lou Harrison of Harrison LLP. Lou has been interested in Hadley's work since his youth. Today, he is an active PAC member and Hadley Trustee.

An expert in trust and estate planning, Lou explains, "People are often confused about the rules behind charitable donations for tax purposes, as well as charitable donation strategies. We work on

simplifying the various techniques for donors to make contributions in creative ways that leverage best practices and tax-efficient strategies. This benefits both the organization and the donor." The PAC shares its insights through Foresight, Hadley's planned giving newsletter.

The PAC also provides important assistance directly to Hadley. Lou notes, "Charities, like Hadley, benefit from expertise on evolving giving strategies and changing tax laws." PAC members also spread awareness of Hadley across their own professional networks.

Brooke Voss, Hadley chief development officer, meets with the PAC regularly and calls upon members when legal advice is required. "The PAC has been very helpful when we have had bequests that aren't straightforward," she shares. "Their ability to navigate unique and sometimes complicated situations has been extremely valuable." And, because PAC members provide their counsel at no cost, Hadley can direct more resources toward its mission. Brooke concludes, "By sharing their expertise with Hadley and our supporters, PAC members play a vital role in ensuring Hadley's continued success and impact."

To learn more about planned giving or to receive Foresight, please contact Brooke Voss at 847-784-2774 or brooke@HadleyHelps.org.



You Can Make a Difference

Hadley's services are free of charge, so cost is never a barrier for anyone who turns to us for help. We are grateful for the gifts and caring of donors who make this possible. There are many ways you can support Hadley, including:

Gifts from Your IRA: You can make a direct transfer from an IRA to Hadley at age 70 1/2. The gift is not subject to taxes as it would be if you took the distribution. Contact the bank or broker holding your (non-Roth) IRA and ask them to send a gift to Hadley.

Donor Advised Funds (DAF) and Family Foundation Grants:

You can recommend a grant or recurring grants now through your DAF or a family foundation to make an immediate impact.

For information on making a gift through your DAF, visit HadleyHelps.org/donor-advised-fund.



Gifts of Securities: If you are considering a gift of appreciated securities, you can find instructions at HadleyHelps.org/gifts-securities.

Matching Gifts: Many employers sponsor programs that match charitable contributions made by their employees, and sometimes retirees. Find out if your company has a matching gift program at HadleyHelps.org/match-your-gift.

Monthly Gift: By making a monthly gift, you can spread your donation throughout the year. To set this up, visit HadleyHelps.org/Donate or contact CherylS@HadleyHelps.org.

If you have questions or would like information about making a planned gift or gift from your estate, please contact Brooke Voss (brooke@HadleyHelps.org).

To learn more about donating to Hadley, visit: HadleyHelps.org/donate or scan the code.

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Our Mission as a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization

Hadley provides both practical and social/emotional help to older adults adjusting to vision loss, empowering them to adapt and thrive.

Pat McCoy Gives Back

Pat McCoy made big life changes after losing her vision due to macular degeneration and cataracts. She stopped driving, retired, and moved into senior independent living to be near her daughter.

Still, adjusting to vision loss was tough. Then, her daughter found Hadley.

Pat began with workshops on using a white cane and managing everyday tasks. “The videos are short, comprehensive, and have helped me maintain my independence,” Pat says. “I learned things no one had ever taught me, even after years of looking for help.” Pat also joined Hadley’s Adjusting and Coping Together support group, connecting with others facing similar challenges.

Now, Pat is also a Hadley donor, explaining, “It makes me feel great to give back to a place that has given so much to me.”

To make a gift, visit **HadleyHelps.org/Fall24** or call **847-784-2825**.
Or scan the QR code.

