



ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 1, 2022 - MARCH 31, 2023





s we reflect on this past fiscal year, we are inspired and proud of all that has been accomplished as a result of your dynamic partnership with Vision Forward.

YOU are helping to transform lives by making cutting-edge services and technology accessible to all those impacted by visual impairments. As a result, Vision Forward will continue to be at the forefront of helping individuals with vision loss grow, excel and achieve greater independence.

As we transition our leadership roles to David Lobo, the new Board President, and Jacci Borchardt, the new CEO, we do so with great confidence. We know their strong leadership will ensure that Vision Forward remains rooted in our mission to expand opportunities for infants, children, adults and seniors living with vision loss not only in our local community, but also throughout the state and country.

It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve this unique, client-centered organization, and we thank you for your partnership, commitment, and passion over the years. Together we have forged a vibrant, innovative and progressive organization that has strong roots and a clear vision for the future: all individuals living with vision loss reach their full potential to lead active, independent lives. We can all be proud.

Our sincerest thanks,

Scott Marr BOARD PRESIDENT (through 12-31-22)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (through 03-31-23)

Your generous support means more than 4,000 individuals were served across the state, including:

- 131 infants and toddlers who received early intervention services
- **61 school-age youth** who received a range of services to address their unique social, developmental, and emotional needs
- **687 adults** who received low vision, technology, orientation and mobility, support, daily living, and braille services
- **500 individuals** who received education and training through our national program TEC Connect Live!

Leadership

Board of Directors

- David Lobo, **PRESIDENT**
- Dee Mellor, VICE PRESIDENT
- Korina Harman, TREASURER
- David Strelitz, SECRETARY
- Guillermo Baena
- Douglas Brodzik
- Michael Dante
- James Dobrinska
- Dan Lococo
- Scott Marr
- Kathleen Meyer
- Joseph Schwenker
- Joseph Skotarzak
- Crocker Stephenson
- Nicholas Tosi, M.D.
- Lisa Whitmore (TERM ENDED 12/31/2022)
- Sonja Williams



Events

Milwaukee Milkmen



Vision Forward was the featured nonprofit for the Milwaukee Milkmen vs. Lake Country DockHounds baseball game on Wednesday, August 17th, at Franklin Field. Bryce Jensen, one of our youth vision rehabilitation clients, was given the honor of throwing out the first pitch at the game, and Vision Forward volunteers sold tickets for the 50/50 Raffle and in-game Ball Toss. A combined portion of the game's ticket sales, 50/50 raffle and ball toss netted Vision Forward **\$763 to support our mission** and ensure that anyone who needs our lifechanging services can receive them.

Vision Connections



Vision Connections was held on Thursday, October 7th, at the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Racine County in Sturtevant, Wisconsin. This free, in-person event focused on common vision concerns and ways to make everyday life with vision loss a little easier. Sessions presented information on the low vision evaluation and the many uses of the Amazon Echo. Vision Connections was made possible by a grant from the Irving L. Chortek Charitable Fund in Memory of Robert & Jenny Chortek of the Jewish Community Foundation of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation and from the Racine Community Foundation.

Dining in the Dark



Dining in the Dark was a sell-out event, hosting 243 guests for an evening of fine dining under blindfold at the Wisconsin Club on Thursday, November 3rd. Emcee Mark Baden, Chief Meteorologist for WISN-Channel 12, kept the energy high as guests took a journey into the world of vision loss, gaining a greater understanding and awareness of the impact of visual impairment on everyday life. Presenting partner IBVI along with supporters and guests of Dining in the Dark helped to raise more than \$165,000 for educational, therapeutic, vision and support services for individuals of all ages who are blind and visually impaired.



Edison Wedl: A Vision of Hope

n June 2021, Shandell and Robby Wedl of Fort Atkinson welcomed their fourth child, a boy they named Edison. He was a ray of sunshine on an otherwise cloudy day and rounded out their children to two girls and two boys.

After Edison passed all his newborn screenings, the Wedls took their son home to enjoy being a family of six. As they settled into their new routine, however, Shandell noticed that Edison's eyes seemed different—different in both movement and size. Edison's first checkup was scheduled for that Friday, so Shandell planned to bring it up with their pediatrician.

And that's when life was flipped upside down.

At the appointment, Edison's doctor sent the Wedls directly to Children's Hospital in Madison where, for the next eight hours, Edison endured some grueling tests. And then the diagnosis came: bilateral microphthalmia.

Bilateral microphthalmia is a rare developmental disorder in which both eyes are abnormally small and not fully developed. The condition develops while the baby is in utero, and the outcome is often severe vision loss or blindness. In Edison's case, he is blind.

"The first thing was just accepting that we would have this major unknown in our life," shares Shandell. "It was a hard struggle to adjust to having a special needs child."

"We don't want him to just survive. We want him to thrive."

SHANDELL, EDISON'S MOM



Edison Wedl enjoys a ride down the slide.



Edison's Story, continued



Edison joyfully strums his ukulele.

The Wedls were connected with Vision Forward through the Birth to 3 program, and Tina Mekeel, one of our teachers of the visually impaired, did her first vision evaluation with Edison in their home when he was barely five weeks old. Tina coached Shandell and Robby on exposing their son to different sensory experiences and describing their surroundings to help him begin to build concepts.

In addition, to ensure that Edison could continue to progress, Tina visited Edison's day care center and went over specialized learning strategies with his teacher, giving her guidance on how to help Edison within the classroom.

"Vision Forward has given us the confidence to help Edison, to know how to guide him," states Robby. "We don't want him to just survive. We want him to thrive."

And thriving he is!

Edison is two years old now and developmentally on track. He is walking on his own and gaining new words every week. Like most two-year-olds, he loves to play and enjoys discovering the world alongside his siblings. And he loves going to the park!

"Edison is fully capable of doing everything that any of our other children can do," asserts Shandell. "Without Vision Forward and all the other therapies and resources we have, Edison wouldn't be thriving like he is today."

Team Edison all the way! •



Rainbow Day Camp: A Colorful Experience for Kids

Kids who are blind and visually impaired often have questions about how life unfolds for people who can't see. They commonly wonder about how to achieve their goals and dreams as they compete with peers who are fully sighted. And they wish for opportunities to interact with other kids who are living with vision loss.

To address these issues, Vision Forward created a summer camp to help youth with vision loss come together to experience a variety of recreational and social activities as well as to just have fun and be a kid. Now held in conjunction with the Jewish Community Center and known as Rainbow Day Camp, this four-day experience is held at a beautiful 110-acre campus in Fredonia, Wisconsin.

Rainbow Day Camp is designed to help youth who are blind and visually impaired develop their physical potential through a variety of adaptive sports and recreational activities along with health and nutrition sessions. The goals of the camp are to empower kids to be physically active, improve their overall health and fitness, and build their self-confidence.

"They give you a second chance in life, like how they give you new activities and help you learn new things," remarks Sonyn Legary of Milwaukee.



Vision Forward campers enjoy water activities at the Albert and Ann Deshur JCC Rainbow Day Camp in Fredonia, Wisconsin.

"We want to be treated like regular people and have the same opportunities to do stuff. Our disability doesn't define us."

MICHAEL DIAZ, FORMER CAMPER AND CURRENT VOLUNTEER



Camp, continued

To ensure inclusivity, all camp activities are adapted specifically for youth with vision loss. Additionally, specially trained volunteers and coaches are present to assist with all the events, enabling campers to participate in ways similar to their sighted peers.

Reflecting on his experience, former camper and current volunteer Michael Diaz of Muskego says, "I'm doing everything that I want to do, and I'm not letting my disability get in the way." He adds, "We want to be treated like regular people and have the same opportunities to do stuff. Our disability doesn't define us."

A main highlight of the camp is that it gives youth who are visually impaired a chance to learn, practice and hone their motor skills in a safe environment that focuses more on cooperation than competition. Through daily activities, kids can learn new skills, further develop existing skills, build friendships and socialize with peers.

"It's so fun and energetic," says Bryce Jensen of Racine. "You just get to be with super awesome people, and I've made best friends from this camp."

Overall, Rainbow Day Camp delivers a powerful and transformative experience for youth with vision loss—one that is both motivating and inspiring.

Samuel Yuan of Mequon sums up his camp experience with this: "It makes you feel like you don't have to face the world alone."

We couldn't ask for a better outcome! •

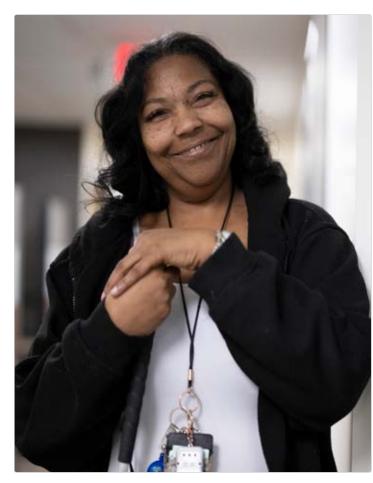


Campers take a break with a camp volunteer.

70% of school-age children who are blind NEVER participate in any sport or physical activity.



Ashanti Hall: Success Through Collaboration



Ashanti Hall on the job at IBVI.

hen Ashanti Hall started her job with the U.S. Postal Service, she had a definite career goal—to be a postal inspector. Her strong work ethic and dedicated, no-nonsense approach to work made her the perfect candidate.

But at the age of 34, retinitis pigmentosa (RP) derailed her life plan.

It all started back when Ashanti was in her late twenties. She experienced a temporary vision issue but was still able to continue her daily routines of life and work. Six years later, a trip to the eye doctor for blocked tear ducts resulted in a routine eye exam and a referral to see a specialist. The doctor suspected she had retinitis pigmentosa.

Her appointment with the eye specialist confirmed she had RP. In fact, the specialist very bluntly told her she was going blind. Ashanti left the doctor's office in a state of denial. Although she had lost her peripheral vision, she could still see, and she thought she was functioning fine. Soon after, she discovered she was missing people in the room—they were there, but she couldn't see them because they were outside her field of vision.

To help her cope with the diagnosis, a friend took her to Illinois to see a well-known ophthalmologist. He thoroughly explained RP to her, breaking down the different stages of the eye disease and helping her understand the phase she was in.

Meanwhile, the Postal Service informed her there was no appropriate job at the management level for someone with vision loss, and she was disability retired. And then her family took away her car keys, and she could no longer drive.

She was devastated.

"Look out for angels and angels' helpers, like DVR, IBVI, Vision Forward and the eye doctors... Don't ever give up!" ASHANTI HALL



Ashanti's story, continued

But Ashanti enjoys working, so she put her business degree to work and started her own company, serving as a business manager for small day care centers. The Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) secured the tools to make her computer technologically accessible and referred her to Vision Forward for special training on the equipment.

The assistive technology enabled Ashanti to run her own company, providing accounting, tax and general office services to her clients. Eventually, though, without special training, she could no longer see well enough to keep her business going.

She felt benched again.

Then one day when she was at the bank, a man noticed her white cane and mentioned that his mother had vision issues and worked at Industries for the Blind and Visually Impaired (IBVI).

Ashanti was astounded. She had no idea there was a place of employment for people who are blind and visually impaired. She quickly found her way to IBVI and secured a job, putting her back in the workforce, surrounded by opportunities for growth.

Today, Ashanti continues her work at IBVI, recently completing an internship in IBVI's Contracts department. To help her succeed in her internship, she received additional on-the-job computer and keyboard instruction from Vision Forward through a training contract IBVI arranged to benefit its employees.

For her own personal and professional development, Ashanti is also enrolled at Vision Forward for further training adaptive daily living (ADL), orientation and mobility (O&M), braille, and advanced technology.

Reflecting on the collaboration of agencies and services that has helped her get to where she is today, Ashanti exclaims: "Look out for angels and angels" helpers, like DVR, IBVI, Vision Forward and the eye doctors. Your life is not over. It's just beginning. Don't ever give up!" •



Cory Ballard, one of Vision Forward's technology experts, helps Ashanti strengthen her keyboarding skills.



Technology Creates Possibilities: A National Training Program in Assistive Technology



ision Forward, with support from the Lavelle Fund for the Blind of New York, has developed a national training program called Tech Connect to provide high quality and accessible assistive technology (AT) training for individuals impacted by vision loss. The program includes online videos, podcasts, and live sessions for AT users, trainers, or anyone in the visually impaired community seeking information about products, equipment, and systems that are designed to enhance learning, working, and daily living for persons who have visual impairment. The program is available nationally and serves as a unique, go-to resource for demonstrations of AT that can help individuals who are blind or visually impaired lead full, active and independent lives.

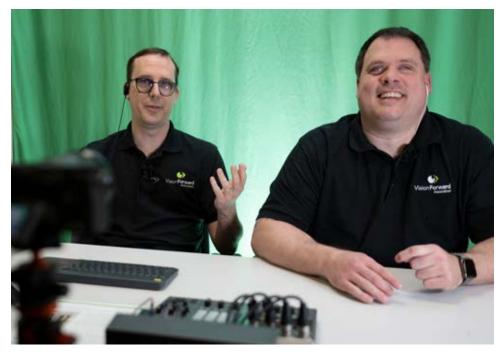
Support from the Lavelle Fund for the Blind has allowed Vision Forward to expand online video programming and add audio content, as well as make everything available to a broad national audience. Current programming consists of the following resources:

- Videos that provide a device overview and highlight specific tasks. These short videos range in length from 5 to 15 minutes and describe how to use AT in performing a specific task. Tasks may range from how to access print using a smart phone to how to order groceries online using magnification or a screen reader.
- **Tech Connect Live!** These one-hour, live sessions are hosted by Vision Forward's AT experts. The sessions, available on YouTube, focus on introducing, describing and demonstrating various AT devices.
- Professional webinars and training sessions. These sessions, 30 to 60 minutes in length, provide training and are geared to professionals such as Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVIs), Certified Low Vison Therapists (CLVTs), and AT specialists, etc.

Audio-only versions of our Tech Connect Live! sessions can be downloaded as a podcast. We also employ searchable text transcripts and chapters for quick navigation.



Technology, continued



Cory Ballard and Luke Scriven, Vision Forward AT experts, conduct a Tech Connect Live! session.

"Learning how to overcome the challenges of vision loss through the use of AT devices is an incredible asset for everyday life."

TECH CONNECT PARTICIPANT

All of this impactful programming is hosted on a single, accessible, online learning management system designed from the ground up by and for individuals with a visual impairment. Browsing through resources, tracking progress within courses, and management of continuing education certificates are all possible with this cuttingedge resource.

A regular participant in Tech Connect shares: "Tech Connect Live! is a great resource that helps people learn about the latest AT in a jargonfree, entertaining format. Learning how to overcome the challenges of vision loss through the use of AT devices is an incredible asset for everyday life!"

The overall goal of Tech Connect is to expand AT training beyond the borders of Wisconsin to reach across the country and even the globe. Because vision loss does not discriminate—it affects people everywhere, regardless of age, race, gender, economic status and educational level—we want to ensure that all people have access to critically important resources that can make life with vision loss a little easier.

The Lavelle Fund for the Blind supports programs that help individuals who are blind or visually impaired lead independent and productive lives. •

Learn more about Tech Connect:

@VisionForwardTechConnect

Free learning materials at: techconnect.vision-forward.org



Older Adults with Vision Loss: The Big Data Project



Nationally, 97% of older people with visual impairment do not receive vision rehabilitation

services.

BIG DATA PROJECT

n today's world, data is a big deal. It helps us comprehend the complexities of society, giving us a greater understanding of the past and allowing us to better forecast the future. It also guides us in decision making and problem solving, helps us determine what works and what doesn't, and leads us in creating strategies to achieve the results we desire.

"Without data you're just another person with an opinion." W. EDWARDS DEMING, STATISTICIAN

As W. Edwards Deming implies, data establishes credibility.

Data has been especially important in predicting trends and outcomes relating to blindness and visual impairment. There has been, however, a lack of data in the field of aging and vision loss.

When VisionServe Alliance (VSA), a consortium of nonprofit Executive Directors/CEOs of vision loss organizations in the United States, realized this, it partnered with the Ohio State University College of Optometry to create a solution. And the Big Data Project was born.

The Big Data Project is working to produce state-level data regarding the rate of blindness and low vision among people 65 years and older. The end-goal is to be able to provide a comprehensive report for each of the 50 states.



Big Data, continued



Resulting data for Wisconsin shows that an estimated 4.2 percent of people over the age of 65 report severe vision impairment or blindness, with women more likely to experience vision impairment than men, and African Americans three times more likely than Whites to report vision impairment. Findings also show that people in the state who are older and visually impaired report a higher prevalence of chronic conditions, poorer overall health, and poorer health-related quality of life.

Vision Forward CEO, Jaclyn (Jacci) Borchardt, serves as co-chair of the Data and Research subcommittee of VisionServe Alliance's Aging and Vision Loss National Coalition (AVLNC). Borchardt firmly believes that the data produced by the Big Data Project will not only help vision

"Already, the report on Wisconsin is providing Vision Forward with important information that is influencing how we structure and conduct our outreach and awareness activities throughout the state."

JACCI BORCHARDT, VISION FORWARD CEO

loss organizations better plan and execute their programs, but also assist policy makers in more fully understanding the characteristics and circumstances of older adults with vision loss in each state.

To date, the Big Data Project briefings are the only studies to provide comprehensive descriptions of older adults with vision impairment at both the state and county levels in one document. The briefings play an important role in targeting services to those who need them most and in developing programs to improve the lives and independence of older people living with vision loss. These are critical pieces because, as the Big Data Project reports, nationally 97 percent of older people with vision impairment do not receive vision rehabilitation services.

> The Big Data Project's work in advocating for equal access and quality of life for older Americans with vision loss is a huge step in preparing for the future: it is predicted that by 2050 our country will see a 118 percent increase of people with vision impairment with the greatest increase among women, older people, African Americans, and Hispanics.

Learn more about the Big Data Project, at visionservealliance.org/reports/. •



The Fox Family: Connections of the Heart

t's been said that seeing a single fox is considered good luck. So, how does that translate to having a whole fox family in your corner?

For Vision Forward, it's been more than just good luck—it's been decades of dedicated service and support.

Our fox family undoubtedly is no ordinary pack. It's led by Janet Fox, a teacher of the visually impaired (TVI), who has more than 34 years of service with Vision Forward (including her work at the Center for Blind & Visually Impaired Children prior to the merger), and her husband, Stanley, a retired manager of CT clinical development at General Electric Healthcare.

As individuals, both Janet and Stanley demonstrate a high level of empathy and have passed this quality on to their two children, Joshua and Emily. As a family, the Foxes have all taken on the mission of Vision Forward, providing support in a number of ways. "We all want to make a difference," says Stanley, referring to his family's gifts of time and money. "We want to support an organization that has a good mission, and we want to know that our donations are well spent."

For Janet, what started out as a college major with classes that were convenient in both campus location and start time in other words, it was initially attractive because classes were close to her dorm and didn't start too early—became her life's work and her passion.

Janet is very fervent and selfless in her work with children. In fact, when she started volunteering at the Center for Blind & Visually Impaired Children in 1988, it took a whole year before the staff finally convinced her to become a paid employee. She truly loves what she does and can't imagine ever retiring!

Stanley was on board with Janet's passion for being a TVI and has been a regular contributor of his time and talents,



From left: Stanley, Janet, Collin, Joshua, Katie, Anna and Emily Fox



The Fox Family, continued



Janet helps three-year-old Juniper develop shape recognition.

building and reconfiguring products to accommodate the needs of Janet's students in the classroom. Additionally, while Stanley was working, he used their annual contribution to Vision Forward to qualify for a matching gift from his employer, doubling the impact of their support.

Reflecting on their life and work, Stanley shares, "We both enabled each other to have careers we were passionate about."

Additionally, as their children pursued careers, they also took on the heart of their mother's profession. Joshua, his wife Katie, and Emily have all become Vision Forward donors and have leveraged support from their employers as well. In addition, they share the family desire to make a difference and are active volunteers and fundraisers in their own communities. For Janet, her work as a teacher isn't just a job: it's a steadfast commitment that carries over into her everyday living. She continues to spread the message of the importance of specialized services for children who are blind and visually impaired, and she has even involved her grandchildren, Collin, 8, and Anna, 5, in helping with projects that support the important work she does.

Even after more than 40 years, Janet's career as a TVI continues to give her purpose. "I wish more people would pursue learning to be a vision teacher," she states. "Along with colleagues trained in special education and a variety of therapies, you can really change a child's life."

The entire Fox family is making a positive difference for people living with vision loss, and we are truly grateful! •

"We want to support an organization that has a good mission, and we want to know that our donations are well spent."

STANLEY FOX, DONOR AND VOLUNTEER



Karen Koscinski: Master of the Game



Game leaders Norman and Karen Koscinski The fabric of Vision Forward comprises threads of all the people who have woven their service and stories into our 104-year history. And if some of that fabric was used to create a volunteer quilt, Karen and Norman Koscinski would be represented by a block right in the middle—colorful, unique, and central to the whole design.

The Koscinskis were introduced to Vision Forward through one of Norman's friends who lived in Hawley Ridge Apartments. He liked to play bingo at Vision

Forward (then known as the Badger Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired), so eventually Norman and Karen joined him in the fun.

In 2006, Norman took on the job of bingo caller, with Karen as his assistant. Both were also volunteering in other areas—Karen with the Life Skills program and Recreation and Welfare Committee (RecWel) and Norman with property maintenance. Fast forward to 2013 and the Koscinskis could be found most days of the week in the lower-level meeting halls conducting not only bingo, but also popular games such as Uno, Who Wants To Be A Millionaire, Farkle, and Family Feud, as well as a variety of themed trivia games (Wisconsin Trivia, Christmas Trivia, Food Trivia, etc.).

The highlight, the granddaddy of all the games, was Marathon Bingo, which was an all-day event held once a year. Not only did Karen and Norman host, but they also purchased prizes and brought snacks, desserts and beverages to go with the sandwiches each player brought to eat. It was a day filled with fun and camaraderie, and the players looked forward to it all year long.

But when COVID-19 hit in March 2020, all recreational activities were suspended indefinitely in an effort to keep participants, volunteers, staff and clients safe and healthy.

And then Norman died unexpectedly in March 2021.

Karen lost her best friend and life partner of 55 years.



Karen, continued



Karen leads a game of *Farkle* for Brett and other players.

"I really enjoy it, they're just like a family."

KAREN KOSCINSKI

The players lost a dear friend and missed their weekly connection to others. And there was lingering uncertainty about when games might resume and who would lead them.

But, when the games returned in July 2021, so did Karen.

Karen took on game days by herself and was grateful for meaningful work to keep her busy. She admits it was a lot easier to manage everything when she and Norman shared the duties. However, she says seeing people happy and doing something they enjoy makes it all worth the effort.

This past March marked the two-year anniversary of Norman's death. As a special tribute, Karen and her two children, Dawn and Dan, as well as her son-inlaw, John, hosted Marathon Bingo in Norman's honor, replete with special food and prizes, some made

specially by her daughter-in-law, Linda. It was a great celebration of a life well-lived!

In her 17 years of volunteering, Karen has proven herself to be more than just a game leader—she is a good friend to all. From escorting players to the game room, to providing encouragement and a listening ear, to bringing treats to share with the group, Karen is a true comrade. Her volunteer service has allowed her to really get to know the participants and share in their lives, both the happy times and the sad.

"I really enjoy it," says Karen about her volunteer role at Vision Forward. "I enjoy the people. They're just like a family. We're like a family."

And Karen, you are a very valued member of our Vision Forward family! •



Vision Forward provides life-changing services to people of every age and at every stage of vision loss. Because visual impairments affect each person differently, our listed programs and services are specially designed to address the unique needs of each individual who comes to us for assistance.

Children's Program

- Functional Vision Assessments
- Vision and Sensory Training
- Special Education
- Music Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Speech-language Therapy
- Orientation and Mobility Training

Youth Program

- Music Lessons
- Rainbow Day Camp
- Braille Games
- Braille Challenge
- Beep Baseball

Adult Vision Rehabilitation Services

- Low Vision Clinic
- Technology Training
- Orientation and Mobility
- Braille Instruction
- Activities of Daily Living
- Support

Vision Forward Store

The Vision Forward Store is one of only a few resources in the state that carries both high-tech and low-tech products as well as adaptive everyday items that make independence a little easier to achieve for those living with vision loss.

Community Outreach

Vision loss is a public health issue, so we provide presentations and product demonstrations throughout the community to raise awareness about visual impairments and access to vision loss services. Our staff use their expertise to actively engage in the community, sharing knowledge about assistive technology, vision services, and common eye diseases.



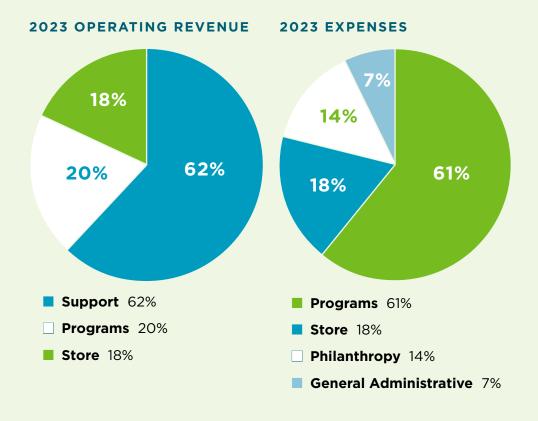
Renee Wigen works on her travel skills with Steve McAuliff, Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Specialist.

O&M training teaches people who are blind or visually impaired how to use a white cane (long cane) to detect obstacles, drop-offs, and changes in ground surface. O&M helps people with vision loss gain the skills and confidence to move about their home and community safely, effectively and independently.



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Statement of Activities YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2023

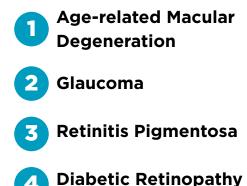


Support Revenue		
Contributions & Grants	\$	1,561,568
Special Events		145,463
Program Revenue		
Vision Rehabilitation Services		554,857
Vision Forward Store		495,116
Other Income		960
Total Operating Revenue	2	2,757,964
Investment Income (Loss)		(301,201)
Total Revenue	\$ 2	,456,763
Operating Expenses		
Adult Rehabilitation Services	\$	917,689
Children's Program	-	1,090,975
Enrichment		39,122
Vision Forward Store		608,754
Philanthropy		479,959
General Administrative		227,759
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 3	,364,258
Change in Net Assets	(907,495)
Net Assets - Beginning of the Year	6	6,688,055
Net Assets - End of the Year	\$ 5	,780,560





Top Diagnoses for Adult Clients





The average number of miles our dedicated transportation vehicles travelled each month to ensure people received critical services.

1,581

Number of community members attending our 62 Outreach Presentations in 2022.

142

Number of unique Wisconsin zip codes served, including 7 of the 10 highest poverty areas in the state.

Most Accessed Adult Services

35%
Technology
Training

Services



Thank you, Volunteers!

ur mission to Empower, Educate and Enhance the lives of individuals impacted by vision loss is greatly strengthened by the dedicated service of our wonderful volunteers. We could not accomplish all that we do without you!

Thank you for giving so freely of yourselves and working with us as vital partners in our mission to provide opportunities for full inclusion to those living with vision loss. You are truly making a difference!

During fiscal year 2022-2023, 92 volunteers provided 2,268 hours of service valued at \$72,122.40.

(Independent Sector)



Members of the New Berlin Lions Club help with activities at Dining in the Dark.



Students from Divine Savior Holy Angels high school make tactile holiday cards for individuals who are blind and visually impaired.



Thank You!

You, the donors, make our work possible at Vision Forward. Your thoughtful support positively changes lives, making critically important services accessible to individuals who are blind and visually impaired, regardless of their ability to pay. Your gift, no matter the size, is making a difference for those in our community living with vision loss, and we are truly grateful! **Thank you for your generosity!**

INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous (34) Aamer Ahmed **Eleanore and Dean Alioto** Steve and Melissa Backus Mark and Heather Baden *Isabel Bader, PhD Abolghasem Baihaghi Cory and Jessica Ballard **Ronald Ballard and** Josephine Vallone John and Katharine Barry **Richard and Diana Barthel** Allan Bassett and Catherine Hav Bassett Carol and Donald Bauer Dawn Baumann Tiffany Beinemann Lee Beitzel and Jill Ritterbusch Laureen Bentzien Howard Berliant James Berzowski and Robin Wyman Diane Betti and Larry Herrera

Cornelius Bettinger Diane Bishop Bonnie and Brian Boettcher Lynne and Charles Bomzer, M.D. Nancy Bonesho Jaclvn M. Borchardt **Richard and Marilyn Borree** John Bosbous and Brenda Moore Brett and Kathy Bostrack Karen Rose Bradley and John Weber Suellen Brahm Paul and Bertie Brauch Nancy Breckenfelder Joan Brenk **Thomas Brochhausen Douglas Brodzik and Deborah Sobczak** Andrew and Laura Brusky Vicky and Daniel Bunchkowski **Barbara and Thomas** Burton, M.D. Patrick T. Butler

Kim Bynan

Barbara and Richard Calland Michael Carnell Tom Carroll David Cartwright Keith Chmielewski Joan and Thor Christensen David Cimpl Elizabeth Cleek Kathrvn and Charles Collins Scott and Jacqueline Conklin Susan and Thomas Connor, M.D. Nick and Andrea Costello Brian and Hillary Cothroll Claire Cukla Ed and Eileen Curley Nick Czaplewski and **Kristin Cotter** Alvin Czysh Michael Dante Richard D. Davenport, M.D. Terri and Michael Davis Karol Dean and Ralph Cataldo **Richard and Jane Dean**

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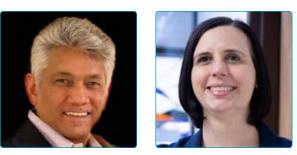
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s we look to the future of Vision Forward, we are filled with excitement. Scott and Terri built a strong foundation, for which we are grateful, and there is much promise ahead. We

are honored to lead Vision Forward and are truly thankful for our donors, volunteers, members, staff, and community partners.

This past year, we served more children and adults than ever before. This speaks not only to the vital nature of our services, but also to the recognized value of our education, training, and support services.

Moving forward, we:

- are working to ensure that all individuals who can benefit from our services, particularly those in historically underserved communities, have access to them
- project continued growth in our statewide Birth to 3 program as we address the unique needs of babies and toddlers throughout Wisconsin who are blind or visually impaired
- look forward to having our contracted optometrist of more than 20 years, Dr. Heather Hinson, join us as a full-time member of our team
- will have the capacity to serve more low vision clients each week, as well as provide routine eye care services

The generous support of donors is what allows us to expand our successful programs and reach out to more individuals across Wisconsin. Thank you for your commitment to our mission—we could not do this valuable work without you.

With gratitude and enthusiasm for the year ahead,

David Lobo BOARD PRESIDENT (as of 1-1-23)

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How You Can Help

Make a referral

Refer someone living with vision loss to Vision Forward.

Come for a tour

Visit our facility and see firsthand how Vision Forward positively impacts the lives of individuals with vision loss.

Give a gift

Support Vision Forward's life-changing work by making a donation.

To put your contribution to work today, make a secure, online gift at *vision-forward.org/donate*.

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From Juniper and everyone at Vision Forward, thank you for your support.



We appreciate you!



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