



Vision loss is isolating. Our services keep people connected.

Last year, we hosted more than **300** social and recreational activities to build community among people living with vision loss.

While we are proud of statistics like these, the real impact happens behind the numbers, in the stories that unfold when our clients come together. Our peer mentors are people with vision loss who connect with those new to the vision loss journey. Joyce, a peer mentor, discovered that she and her new client Allie shared a passion for knitting. Joyce invited Allie to our weekly knitting group, where Allie quickly discovered a new circle of friends who could understand exactly what she is going through. Allie said this about Joyce:

**“It was like talking with a long-lost friend
who understands me completely.”**

This is one of countless stories of support sparked by our community-building activities, from Peer Mentorship to Support Groups to informal activities like card games and movie nights. In this way, Vision Loss Resources brings people together to navigate this new stage in their lives.

The mission of Vision Loss Resources is to create a community of services, skills, and support for people with vision loss.

Vision Loss Resources serves people with uncorrectable vision loss living in the nine-county metropolitan area.

DeafBlind Services Minnesota, LLC, serves children and adults with combined vision and hearing loss living in Minnesota.

Independent-Living Training:

We help people adapt to blindness or vision impairment through rehabilitation services and skills training. More than **350** people received in-home assessments, and we hosted **36** independent-living skills sessions and **47** technology training sessions.

- **56** working-age adults attended well over **19,000** hours of vision rehabilitation classes to adapt to their vision loss and prepare to return to school or the workplace.
- **845** individual clients received **4,289** total services.
- **13** blind attendees practiced social networking skills to gain a competitive edge in the workplace through a workshop, "Blind & Socially Savvy," in partnership with State Services for the Blind.

Community-Building and Outreach:

We brought people with vision loss together for social and emotional support and taught the wider community about the services we offer.

- We hosted **224** support groups and **339** social activities, and engaged **120** volunteers.
- We provided **74** trainings/presentations to older adults, and groups of professionals who work with people with vision loss. In **2018**, we gave **61** informational presentations to seniors and professionals, and **11** hands-on trainings for professionals who work with people with vision loss, throughout the Twin Cities metro area. This represents a **57%** increase over 2017; and the **985** individuals who attended. In 2019 we will continue to reach out to community organizations to establish mutually beneficial trainings and support.

DeafBlind Services Minnesota

The only program of its kind in the country bringing one-to-one support to deafblind individuals of all ages.

- **78** deafblind adults received **10,764** hours of direct services from Service Support Providers to help them communicate with others and access information.
- **56** deafblind children and youth were served with **6,717** hours of direct service from interveners to learn communication strategies and integrate into their community.

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