Our mission at Vision Loss Resources is to create a community of services, skills, and support for people with vision loss. That community looked different in 2020 and 2021; most of our programming happened virtually. But our dedicated staff remained flexible and creative to ensure continuing support and services. We reached over 440 working age adults and elderly people living with low vision or blindness.

Our DeafBlind Services Minnesota program also had unique challenges serving the needs of deafblind adults, youth, and children. Through adapting to a continuously changing context, we reached over 100 people in the deafblind community.

As we continue to adapt your support is more important than ever. We are looking forward to holding in-person support groups, community events, and reaching even more people in the low vision, blind, and deafblind communities. On behalf of everyone at Vision Loss Resources and DeafBlind Services Minnesota I send my heartfelt thanks for your partnership.

With gratitude,

A Message from CEO Kate Grathwol

BELOW: Kate leads a volunteer, outfitted with goggles that simulate vision loss, through sighted-guide training at our recent Volunteer Summit. Volunteers help VLR clients be active in their community and independent at home.

2021 By the Numbers

**70** support groups held

**1,562** volunteer hours

**455** individuals reached through Community Services

**7,295** hours of instruction in the Rehabilitation Center

**844** individuals attended 43 presentations about the services VLR offers

**112** DeafBlind adults served

**33** new students enrolled in our Rehabilitation Center

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Student Spotlight: Tara Anderson

VLR’s Rehabilitation Center helps working-age adults adjust to blindness and learn to live independently. Tara Anderson, a recent Rehab Center graduate, first came to Vision Loss Resources in 2004. She enjoyed her time here but wasn’t ready to throw herself into orientation and mobility.

But Tara loves to travel, so in April 2022 she tackled Adjustment to Blindness training one more time – and crushed it. As Tara worked with her Orientation & Mobility instructor, she conquered her fear of cars which lead to greater confidence and independence. She also honed her kitchen skills as a model student that went home and practiced – with great results! Technology class opened her world further as she mastered using accessible tools.

Tara isn’t sure where her next steps will take her, but she is looking forward to giving back.

Your support directly impacts the lives of young women like Tara, giving them the tools and resources to adapt, connect, and thrive.

DBSM helps me connect with friends and participate in activities.

—Dane, DBSM teen client

Community Services

We are thrilled to re-starting classes and activities that were shuttered over the past two years. Recent offerings include:

Bingo
Book Club
Caregiver Support
Fantasy Football
Intermediate Technology
Low Vision Support
Women’s Group
Under 35 Social Support

For details, go to visionlossresources.org.
Supporter Spotlight

We are so grateful to our corporate and community partners for their support! These organizations contributed $2,000 or more in 2021.

- Virgil Adkins Trust
- Otto Bremer Trust
- Willis C. Helm Charitable Trust
- Jessie F. Hallett Charitable Trust
- Vivian E. Bomsta Charitable Trust
- Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation
- Ray Edwards Memorial Trust
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- The Nash Foundation
- Steven Leuthold Family Foundation
- Minneapolis Kiwanis Foundation
- Otto C. Winzen Charitable Fund
- The Mendon F. Schutt Family Fund
- The Bruning Foundation

New location this fall!
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