Vision Loss Resources 2021 Impact Report

A Message from CEO Kate Grathwol

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 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,

Kate

Quote from a DBSM client: “DBSM services allow my child to connect with his community and be his own person.”

Community Services

We are thrilled to be 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

2021 By the Numbers

70 support groups held

7,295 hours of instruction in the Rehabilitation Center

844 individuals attended 43 presentations about the services VLR offers

33 new students enrolled in our Rehabilitation Center

112 DeafBlind adults served

455 individuals reached through Community Services

1,562 volunteer hours

2021 Revenue

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Revenue Type | Amount | Percentage |
| Individual | $298,811 | 10% |
| Foundation | $73,813 | 3% |
| Public and Private Grants | $1,252,100 | 44% |
| Contract Production Services | $1,231,769 | 43% |
| Total | $2,856,493 | 100% |

2021 Expenses

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Expense Type | Amount | Percentage |
| Rehabilitation Program | $531,093 | 23% |
| DeafBlind Services Minnesota | $691,467 | 30% |
| Community Services | $331,609 | 15% |
| Administration & Development | $718,201 | 32% |
| Total | $2,272,370 | 100% |

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 Vison 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.

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

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Ray Edwards Memorial Trust

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New location this fall!

3230 Spruce Street

Little Canada MN 55117