



2024 Annual Report

Since 1914 Vision Loss Resources has served Minnesotans with low vision or blindness. In 2005 we added DeafBlind Services Minnesota to our organization. Together, these two organizations serve Minnesotans with our clients at the center of everything we do. Our training, our approach, and our results are all aligned to adapt to the needs of our clients. Over 100 years of service!

Each year we summarize what we have accomplished, but rather than just giving you the “numbers,” (although we will do that as well!) we’d like to give you some insight into what our services, with your support, have meant to our clients.

Vision Loss Resources

Felix, a client at VLR, says that “My education at VLR has gone so far beyond the Adjustment To Blindness I came for and will continue to positively impact my life for years to come. I have learned that I am an empathetic leader, an articulate advocate, a creative problem solver, a driven student and so much more.” Felix plans on attending college to obtain a master's degree and national certification in Rehabilitation Teaching for the Blind. Felix would like to become an Orientation and Mobility trainer.

Let us know when you graduate Felix, we’ll be hiring!

Yendri is 24 years old and moved from Nicaragua to Minnesota earlier this year. She did not know any English and had no idea what to expect from Minnesota winters. She uses a Spanish interpreter as she takes Adjustment to Blindness training at VLR. In just a few short weeks, Yendri has learned a lot of English along with skills and adaptive equipment to assist her with her daily life and future employment goals. Yendri wants to pay it forward and become a translator. She is excited for her future.

Sounds like you will be translating for us in the future!

DeafBlind Services Minnesota

Rocky, a client of DBSM, told us “I worked with [two SSP staff] during the NFB of MN State Convention the weekend of November 1. The NFB of MN State Convention, though smaller than the NFB National Convention, is a relatively large-scale event which presents challenges in both navigation and access to the environment. Not only did I have several meetings I desired to attend at the conference; I also had several responsibilities, including facilitating a meeting of the NFB of MN DeafBlind Group. Using Support Service Providers available through DBSM enabled me to fulfill my responsibilities and



participate actively in the conference by ensure my access to my environment and my ability to affectively navigate the physical layout of the conference. "

DeafBlind Services Minnesota is the only provider for Deafblind adults, children, and their families statewide.

One family sought intervener services primarily to support their child's access to community events throughout the past summer. Some of the events included attending the Benton County Fair, visiting a Splash Pad, exploring the Safari North Wildlife Park, spending time at the Lion's Handicapped Accessible Park, visiting a hobby farm, shopping at the mall, and taking part in the Miracle League baseball league.

Sounds like a great time!

By the Numbers!

- In 2024 VLR had over 120 events, ranging from support groups to movie days, planting an outdoor barrel garden to a Halloween party.
- Our VLR instructors taught braille, orientation and mobility, cooking, technology, and keyboarding to almost 100 students. And our graduation parties, well, they are legendary!
- Our oldest VLR student was 73! Our youngest student was 19. The average age of our student body was 44.
- We served 8 VLR students with deafblindness.
- Where do our students live? All over the Twin Cities metro!
- Our DBSM team served 23 children and 52 adults across the state of Minnesota.
- Between our two organizations we employ 125 full and part time dedicated professionals. With expertise and compassion, our staff enable and encourage our clients to live their own lives, creating the independence that we all desire.

What comes next for us? The same thing that has powered us for over a century. Compassion for our clients with a focus on training and encouragement to live their best lives.

With your support we can not only do this in 2025, but for another hundred years!

Thank you for a wonderful 2024 and looking forward to 2025!