

Annual Report 2007

Achieving Independence

JUNIOR  BLIND[™]
OF AMERICA



Mission

Helping children and adults who are blind or visually impaired achieve independence.

Values

- Students and their families first
- Dignity through independence
- Building upon strengths
- Partnering for success
- Commitment to excellence
- Touching more lives



We could not be more proud or more grateful. With the support and encouragement of friends like you, Junior Blind of America provided nearly one million hours of direct service free of charge this past fiscal year to thousands who are blind or visually impaired and their families.

In particular, over half of these hours were offered by our two on-site residential facilities, the Children's Residential Program and the Davidson Program for Independence.

Junior Blind is also delighted to have once again increased the number of children and family members we served by the hundreds. As we continue to focus on the importance of early intervention, we find it especially significant that our Infant-Family Program experienced one of the greatest degrees of growth.

But figures only tell so much. It is the stories that we cherish most.

At Junior Blind, helping others achieve independence is our mission. Yet it is also our reward. The successes we witness inspire us daily, and we could think of no better celebration than to share these triumphs with you.

In the pages that follow, we invite you to meet several students achieving independence. As each has faced extraordinary barriers, it means so much to see them now shine with the joy of self-confidence and accomplishment that is entitled to all of us.

Once again, we send our sincerest gratitude to everyone who has made this remarkable year possible. As touching one life means plenty, we are overjoyed at the extent to which Junior Blind has been able to meet challenges and invoke change in the lives of many.

Thank you for sharing our vision.

Harold A. Davidson, D.B.A.
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Miki Jordan, M.S.
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Harold Davidson



Miki Jordan

Infant-Family Program

Our in-home, early-intervention program serves children with visual impairments and other disabilities, from birth through age three. Junior Blind's highly trained staff, known as Infant-Family Specialists, integrate learning into family life with individualized vision assessments, infant development therapy and low vision support.

Number of Infants and Family Members Served Fiscal Year 2006-2007:

1,420

Direct Service Hours Provided:

19,596



When three-year-old Joshua Ocharan graduated from Junior Blind's Infant-Family Program this past May, he was not the only one who had grown. His mother, Janine, feels equally transformed.

"At first, I didn't know what resources were available. All I wanted was for someone to help my son."

Referred by the Harbor Regional Center, Joshua was one-year-old when he and his parents began receiving weekly visits at their home in Norwalk from Diana, one of the program's Infant-Family Specialists. His condition, Oculo-Auriculo-Vertebral Syndrome, meant Joshua had several needs requiring immediate attention—visual impairment, hearing loss and leg length discrepancy.

The most unfortunate result of his condition was that Joshua was a little boy who had yet to learn how to play. His poor vision kept him from recognizing what his toys were, and he lacked the fine-motor skills necessary to even begin to grab and hold on to them.

However, little by little, Joshua began to respond to the therapy Diana provided, and there is now no stopping him. Today, like any child his age, you'll find him building with blocks, riding his tricycle and enjoying his swim lessons. In fact, his fine motor skills have improved so much that his occupational therapist told Janine, "If I didn't know Joshua was visually impaired, I wouldn't know anything was wrong."

For Janine, one very special element about the program was the family-centered nature of the sessions. Sitting side-by-side with Joshua, she and her husband were able to learn skills and techniques that they could continue to practice with their son each day to further his development and independence. Sign language was one such example.

"When Joshua was having a hard time talking, he would get very frustrated. The sign language Diana taught all three of us really helped us to communicate better. Also, by doing the learning activities together with Joshua, my husband and I



were more fully able to understand how we could best help our son."

Janine also feels the program enabled her to become a better advocate for Joshua. She is now familiar with what she should be expecting in regards to his progress and the services that are available to continue his growth.

Joshua recently began preschool in Moreno Valley and is adjusting wonderfully. Reflecting on all the advancements she has seen Joshua make, Janine says, "Junior Blind enabled my son to grow up."

"Junior Blind enabled my son to grow up." —Janine Ocharan, Mother of Infant-Family Program Graduate

Reaching Families at Home—Far and Wide

Each year, Junior Blind's Infant-Family Program (IFP) proudly reaches nearly **300 children and more than 1,100 family members** in homes throughout Los Angeles, Ventura, San Bernardino, Riverside and Kern counties.

As demand for our services continues to rise, introducing more IFP Specialists into more cities has allowed us to make a difference in the lives of more infants and families like the Ocharans. In fact, last fiscal year alone, we were able to **increase the number we served by 12%**.

Since researchers estimate that about 80% of early learning depends on sight, severe vision loss can have a devastating effect on an infant's overall development,

especially on an infant with multiple disabilities. This is why we emphasize early intervention as essential to correcting and preventing developmental delays. For example, Junior Blind's own specialists have often discovered that infants diagnosed as blind actually do have some residual vision. Through prompt and appropriate therapy, these children may one day be able to see with glasses.

While IFP Specialists assist with modeling proper therapeutic techniques, **it is our ultimate goal to make the family the infant's primary teacher.** Utilizing the in-home nature of the program, weekly visits focus on incorporating intervention strategies for the child into the family's natural daily routine. In this way, children receive the benefit of learning from the very people, objects and events that make up their everyday environment.



Counties Served Fiscal Year 2006-2007

JUNIOR BLIND OF AMERICA

Special Education School

In our certified, nonpublic school, students with visual impairments and other disabilities, ages three through 21, receive instruction from a caring staff with highly specialized training. Backed by an Individualized Education Plan, each child is encouraged to achieve his or her maximum independence and educational ability.

Number of Children and Family Members Served Fiscal Year 2006-2007:

240

Direct Service Hours Provided:

65,520

At age six, Alister Ellrod has found a new beginning.

Diagnosed with microcephaly with chorioretinopathy at birth, Alister has struggled with several conditions associated with the syndrome. Retinal folds, retinal detachments, glaucoma and cataracts have left him severely visually impaired. He was born severely mentally impaired as well.

However, none of this was Alister's biggest challenge.

In 2005, Alister, then four, began attending a public preschool in his district. Already exhibiting violent tantrums at home, Alister did not transition well into his new environment. His mother, Linda, recalls the difficulties they faced.

"Alister would enter these rages at school, just like at home, where he was determined to bite himself and anyone else who got in his way. He bit his teachers, his aides and his therapists. Sometimes it would take three people to hold him down. It was like he was uncontrollable. The school really tried hard to do their

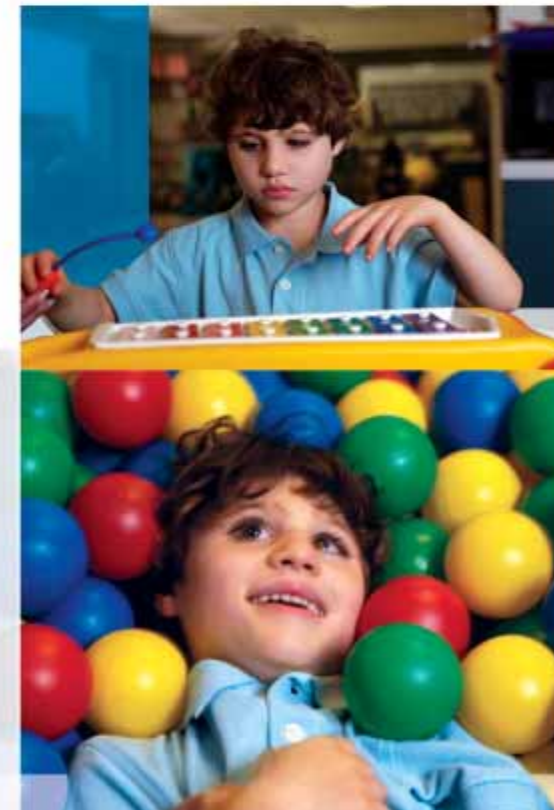
best, but they just weren't prepared to deal with a child of his magnitude."

Linda knew her son needed an alternative. At the suggestion of Alister's psychiatrist, Linda enrolled her son in Junior Blind's Special Education School the following year. The improvements in Alister's demeanor were almost immediate. She credits the staff and their ability to anticipate his episodes as an important reason for his success.

"These are people that really want to help, that want to make these children better and more independent. Alister went from being an irritable little boy to a happy little boy. Now, you'll find him smiling, laughing and clapping hands."

Most importantly, the change in Alister's behavior means that he is better able to learn. Without the constant interruption of the tantrums, Alister, his teachers and his aides can really focus on building the basic daily living skills, such as self-feeding, walking with a white cane and learning sign language, that will increase his independence.

"I see immense potential in Alister," echoes Myisha Griggs, a member of his special education teaching team. "Everyday, he continues to make great strides, all the while bringing a warmth and sweetness to the classroom that is a joy to have around."



"These are people that really want to help, that want to make these children better and more independent. Alister went from being an irritable little boy to a happy little boy. Now, you'll find him smiling, laughing and clapping hands."

—Linda Ellrod, Mother of Special Education School Student



Special Needs, Special Components

As a nonpublic school, Junior Blind's Special Education School (SES) provides some of our community's most involved children with a setting especially designed to meet their unique needs. Rather than an academic curriculum, SES focuses on providing each student with the independent living skills necessary to participate actively in community life and develop a positive self-image.

SES is most grateful to those whose generosity allows us to supplement the funding our students' school districts provide and, in turn, offer the highest standard of personalized instruction and attention. These gifts from private donors ensure our children at SES benefit from:

- A 1:2 staff to student ratio in elementary and middle school classrooms and a 1:3 staff to student ratio in high school classrooms. When necessary, 1:1 assistance is also available.
- Orientation and mobility instruction, as well as access to behavioral therapists, occupational therapists, psychologists and other special services.
- A state-of-the-art Sensory Stimulation Center designed to help partially sighted children learn and enhance perception skills.

Dedicated to helping all students in need of our services, we are pleased to have enrolled children in recent years from the following 19 school districts throughout California:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Antelope Valley Union High | Norwalk-La Mirada Unified |
| Azusa Unified | Oakland Unified |
| Compton Unified | Oxnard |
| Culver City Unified | Palmdale Union High |
| Hawthorne | San Diego Unified |
| Inglewood Unified | Santa Monica-Malibu Unified |
| Long Beach Unified | Sweetwater Union High |
| Los Angeles Unified | Walnut Valley Unified |
| Lynwood Unified | West Covina Unified |
| Newhall | |



Children's Residential Program

Our residential program offers individualized, round-the-clock care to children, ages five through 21, with visual impairments and other disabilities. Through a range of educational and recreational experiences, residents gain daily living skills and the chance to develop to their fullest potential.

Number of Children and Family Members Served Fiscal Year 2006-2007:

215

Direct Service Hours Provided:

362,232

After 13 years in Junior Blind's Children's Residential Program (CRP), Michael Hill-Thompson's upcoming graduation means more than moving on. It celebrates growing up.

Since he was 8 years old, Michael has called CRP "home," and the staff at CRP have called Michael "family." Like family, they have seen Michael develop and mature into the sweet, capable young man he is today. And, like family, they also remember how the road to achievement has not always been easy.

In fact, Douglas Paalam, Children's Residential Program Supervisor, recalls the difficulties of Michael's first year at CRP especially well—it also being Douglas' first year with Junior Blind.

"He was resistant toward everyone and everything and had a terrible habit of self-injurious behavior. At any given time, he would bang his head on any hard surface he could find."

Diagnosed with blindness due to retinopathy of prematurity and a severe developmental disability, Michael had



"Michael started off like a toddler and has grown to become a fine gentleman."

—Douglas Paalam, Children's Residential Program Supervisor

many motor, language and social delays that needed attention as well. He couldn't walk, couldn't express himself and didn't want to interact with others.

However, collaborating with Michael's teaching team at Junior Blind's Special Education School, Douglas and the other caring staff at CRP worked hard to put into practice a daily plan of instruction, intervention, redirection and positive reinforcement personally tailored to help Michael succeed and become more independent. Now, at age 21, he is a changed man.

These days, when asked to describe Michael, staff do not hesitate to use such words as "peaceful," "easy-going" and "cooperative." He readily follows directions and his attempts at self-injury have almost completely disappeared.

Moreover, as a result of orientation and mobility training, Michael loves to walk

and uses his white cane to travel throughout Junior Blind's campus assistance-free. He has also grasped key words in sign language to better express his needs and is a lot more social with both Junior Blind staff and his fellow CRP students.

Like a proud family member, Douglas cannot help but light up when he reflects on Michael's extraordinary progress.

"Michael started off like a toddler and has grown to become a fine gentleman. While he was initially one of our biggest challenges, Michael is now truly one of our biggest success stories."

His mother, Vonda, agrees.

"I've seen an amazing change in Michael and would recommend CRP to anyone with a challenged child. It was so hard to separate from him at first, but the love and support he's received from all the Junior Blind staff have helped my son accomplish so much."

Incidence of Babies Born Blind and Multiply-Disabled on the Rise

Junior Blind's Children's Residential Program (CRP) is the only service of its kind in California dedicated to meeting the complex needs of youth who are blind and multiply-disabled. As this population continues to increase, we stand committed to filling the existing gap in residential care and providing the best assistance possible.

Each year, advances in medical technology enable more than half a million babies to survive premature and complicated births. However, with less developed organs, these infants are more likely to encounter multiple, serious health problems. In addition to vision loss, premature children face the risk of mental retardation, cerebral palsy, hearing loss and other impairments.

While not all children in CRP are born prematurely, they share the following common disabilities:

79% have mental retardation

35% have autism

35% have seizure disorders

18% have cerebral palsy

8% are deaf

Sadly, 25% of our forty students are referred to us by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), many taken from troubled homes where too often physical abuse serves as the cause of their disabilities. Despite the many challenges our students confront, we are most proud that, with time, 66% are able to leave CRP and transition either home or to lower levels of care as a result of our intensive support and training. Another figure we are proud of is our report card score of 100% from the DCFS for safety compliance. We believe these statistics are the best testament to our program's ability to provide skills that increase independence and encourage community integration.

Camp Bloomfield

For nearly half a century, our 40-acre camp in the Santa Monica Mountains has offered year-round inspiration to children and teens who are blind or visually impaired and their families. In this beautiful, natural setting, campers build independence, strengthen self-esteem and make life-long friends in the process.

Number of Children and Family Members Served Fiscal Year 2006-2007:

1,885

Direct Service Hours Provided:

74,683



As a teenager in the 1980s, Paula Diaz spent summers looking forward to Camp Bloomfield. She loves that the same feelings of excitement and anticipation now fill her daughters, Sammy and Vicky.

For seven years now, the 12-year-old twins from San Bernardino County have been faithful Camp regulars. (Their older sister, Katie, is a Camp alum as well.) And for seven years, Paula has seen Camp enrich their lives in much the same way it enriched hers.

Paula and her three daughters were each born with aniridia, a condition characterized by the underdevelopment of the eye's iris. Paula, Sammy and Vicky are also each affected by cataracts.

Growing up with a visual impairment, Paula remembers how important it was to have a place, like Camp Bloomfield, where she could feel safe and secure.

"At first, I was embarrassed to be in public. However, Camp Bloomfield helped me become much more comfortable with myself. It was as if I was a baby taking my first step. I knew that I

wasn't alone here, but I was finally doing things on my own."

Since first attending Camp, Sammy and Vicky have also learned to do many new things on their own. Horseback riding, archery, rock wall climbing, fishing and swimming now all come easily to the girls. Above all, their many accomplishments have instilled in them an ever-growing sense of confidence and independence.

At Camp, for example, Sammy and Vicky are always the first to volunteer to guide a fellow camper, even though "sighted buddies" are on hand to do just that. At school, their teachers have also noticed a difference in the way the girls interact with others.

"They've seen Sammy and Vicky become real go-getters. Kids can often be cruel. But with all their achievements at Camp, the girls have been able to show their schoolmates that they can do great things too."

Their father, Robert Diaz, who is fully sighted, feels just as deeply that Camp Bloomfield has changed him as

"...it was very helpful to have the opportunity to meet other parents and children going through the same thing. I learned a lot and left each session feeling inspired."

—Robert Diaz, Father and Summer Family Camp Alum

well. Having attended several Summer Family Camp sessions throughout the years, he found that these weeks served as the perfect initiation for parents, like him, who were new to Camp and new to raising a child with a visual impairment.

"In the beginning, I sometimes couldn't help but feel sorry for my kids. However, it was very helpful to have the opportunity to meet other parents and children going

through the same thing. I learned a lot and left each session feeling inspired."

So strong are the bonds formed at Camp that Paula and about 20 other former campers still gather once a year to celebrate their decades-long camaraderie.

As Paula says, "One of the best things about Camp Bloomfield is that you make friends from everywhere, and you keep them for life."



Camp: A Family Affair

We are overjoyed that nearly 400 children, adults and family members benefited from one of Junior Blind's four Family Camp sessions this past fiscal year.

True to our core values, Junior Blind believes strongly in the importance of working with families, like the Diazes, as partners in the growth and personal development of each student. As Robert related, Camp Bloomfield's Family Camps, and their focus on fellowship and community, provide the perfect environment to bring all those affected by a visual impairment together for both support and fun.

Summer Family Camp

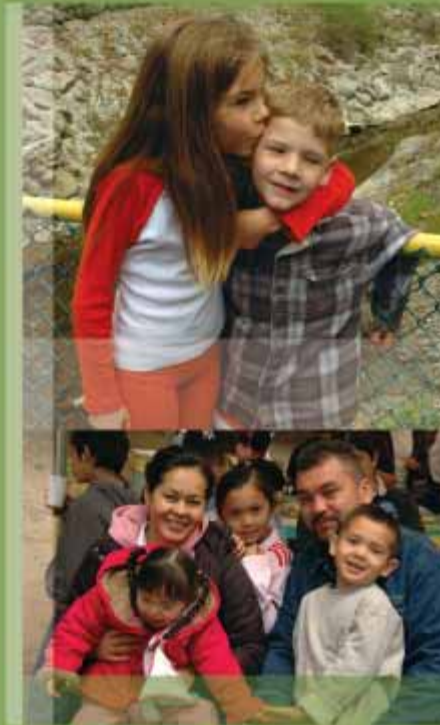
(2 SESSIONS): Beginning and ending the summer camp season, these six-day sessions allow children, parents and siblings the chance to acquaint themselves with Camp Bloomfield's facilities, activities and staff and meet others facing the challenge of having a loved one with a visual impairment.

Infant-Family Camp:

Parent and sibling support groups are an added bonus to this May weekend of fun and play designed for everyone involved in our Infant-Family Program. Many attendees find Infant-Family Camp to be their first opportunity to spend time with other mothers and fathers in similar situations.

Davidson Program for Independence (DPI) Family Camp:

Adult students and alumni of DPI gather each January with their families for a weekend of adventure, friendship and planning for the year ahead.



Visions: Adventures in Learning

Whether near to home or across the nation, Visions' life-building experiences are extraordinary. Children and teens who are blind or visually impaired participate in group adventures that inspire confidence, teamwork, calculated risk-taking and overall personal growth.

Number of Youth and Family Members Served Fiscal Year 2006-2007:

348

Direct Service Hours Provided:

37,584

Oregon? Check!
Las Vegas? Check!
Grand Canyon? Check!

This past year, 9th grader Grej Pesjaka has done more traveling than most of his classmates. Or most adults.

In fact, for two years now, Grej has been exploring the country and encoun-

tering new experiences as part of Junior Blind's Visions: Adventures in Learning program. To date, he's attended more than ten of these adventures, trying everything from cruising the desert in an ATV to downhill skiing through the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Given everything he's done, most would be hard-pressed to guess that Grej is completely blind in one eye and legally blind in the other. As he puts it,

"Many people expect someone who can't see to be really different. But that's not true."

Afflicted with a genetic eye condition known as FEVR (familial exudative vitreoretinopathy), Grej had full vision until the age of eight. Then, one morning, he woke up unable to see.

Six years and four surgeries later, Grej has made sure that his new world isn't too far different from his old. He stills plays basketball. He still goes swimming. And the Visions program has served as another way Grej has gone about maintaining a regular teenage life.



"Many people expect someone who can't see to be really different. But that's not true." —Grej Pesjaka, Visions Adventurer

"Everything about the Visions adventures is fun. You get to see new places, meet new friends and do new things. I liked to play sports before I lost my sight, so all the activities Visions offers really excite me."

Being away from home, Grej also finds these experiences have helped increase his independence.

"My mom isn't around to say, 'Be careful here.' or 'Be careful there.' Instead, I get to be the one taking care of myself."

His mother, Ludmilla, agrees that the Visions program has been of

tremendous benefit to Grej. As a working parent, it's not often that she has the time to plan such things herself. However, she is grateful to Visions for far more than just providing Grej with a list of new experiences. It's the inner change she's observed in her son that elates her the most.

"What happened to Grej changed his life. But, since going on these adventures, I've seen him become a stronger person. Visions is helping him take on life's challenges as a confident young man."

Promoting Athleticism for 50 Years

Since 1953, the cornerstone of Junior Blind has been its recreational programs, designed to instill independence among those who are blind or visually impaired. Athletic and adventurous, Visions participant Grej Pesjaka is an extraordinary example of the growth and confidence that can be achieved through physical challenges.

It is unfortunately more common, however, that young people with vision loss find themselves isolated and sedentary, lacking exposure to sports and other outdoor recreation fundamental to good health and self-esteem. At a time when childhood obesity is so commonplace that some scientists are predicting a decline in the overall lifespan, children with visual impairments can no longer afford to trail behind the average fitness levels of their peers.

As Junior Blind continues to promote recreational activities, we are pleased to have had participation at our Summer Games and Junior Blind Olympics increase by an average of 36% this past fiscal year. Highlights from both these days can be found below.

11th Annual Summer Games — JULY 9, 2006

More than 150 donors and friends of Junior Blind watched as campers with visual impairments, ages five to 12, teamed with "sighted buddies" at Camp Bloomfield to compete in such sporting events as track and field, aquatics and archery.



3rd Annual Junior Blind Olympics — APRIL 21, 2007

Following an exciting sendoff by the USC Marching Band and an inspirational message from silver and gold medal Olympic decathlete Rafer Johnson, more than 200 blind or visually impaired athletes took to the field, the pool and the gymnasium at our Windsor Hills campus. We are especially delighted that, for the first time, six blind and multiply-disabled students from our Children's Residential Program also had a chance to compete.



Student Transition & Enrichment Program (STEP)

As STEP participants, teens and young adults who are blind or visually impaired identify and explore their educational and career options, while receiving the work experience necessary to realize their dreams. During three-week and seven-week sessions, every student is inspired and empowered to maximize the abilities that will help them excel in college or at their first job.

Miriam Krieger has a voice that inspires both on and off the stage.

A gifted singer, her performance of “To Dream the Impossible Dream” before a crowd of fellow students and their families at Junior Blind’s

STEP Talent Show (which she also organized) merited an overwhelming ovation. Yet, it’s the drive and optimism that she voices everyday that really proves there is no dream that Miriam can’t accomplish.

The 20-year-old, who lives in San Diego, was born completely blind as a result of Peter’s Anomaly, a condition in which the center part of the cornea develops hazy. Corneal transplants allowed Miriam to have some vision until the age

of 16 when complications began to again deteriorate her ability to see.

Needing to prepare for whatever life might hold, Miriam was encouraged to enroll in STEP by her Department of Rehabilitation counselor as a way to build her independent living skills and ready herself for the working world. She has since taken part in two STEP summer sessions and has attended several of STEP’s bi-monthly educational workshops, such as the College Fair.

Quite simply, Miriam has found STEP to be “a really good opportunity to find out what you are capable of doing by yourself.”

Special instruction has helped Miriam improve such essential skills as cooking “without being afraid of the burner,” laundry and orientation and mobility. Most importantly, the focus on career exploration and job training has strengthened her outlook on the future.

Number of Young Adults and Family Members Served Fiscal Year 2006-2007:

910

Direct Service Hours Provided:

95,472

“For so long, I held the frame of mind that nobody would want to hire a visually impaired person. Now, I know that as long as I prove that I can do the job as well as anyone else, they will hire me.”

Miriam’s mother, Susana, has also noticed how STEP has made her daughter stronger. “I would say that Miriam has most importantly learned how to advocate for herself.”

Successfully completing her second semester at Grossmont Community College, Miriam looks forward to the many opportunities ahead of her. She plans to transfer to San Diego State University and continue pursuing her passion for singing as a Music major. Eventually, she hopes to use her experience and training to teach voice.

All in all, Miriam says, “STEP has made me more confident about myself and what I have to offer the world.”

With a positive attitude like that, Miriam is sure to reach the “unreachable star.”



“Now, I know that as long as I prove that I can do the job as well as anyone else, they will hire me.”

—Miriam Krieger, STEP graduate

Alarming Rates of Unemployment Strike Adults Who are Visually Impaired

The statistics concerning education and employment for those who are blind or visually impaired are nothing short of alarming.

- Only 45% of individuals who are blind or visually impaired have a high school diploma, paling in comparison to the 80% of sighted individuals who earn a diploma.
- In California, 74% of blind, working-age individuals are unemployed.
- Of those who are employed, 93% are Braille-literate. However, only 10% of blind individuals overall read Braille.

For more than 30 years, Junior Blind’s Davidson Program for Independence (DPI), and more recently its young adult program—STEP, have endeavored to equip our students with the skills, knowledge and training to succeed in spite of these staggering realities. DPI’s course requirements in Braille and adaptive computer use are direct attempts to counter these odds, preparing newly blind adults to reclaim jobs or find new ones. STEP, whose students are generally already Braille and computer literate, provides young people with the other essential keys to success—college preparation and real-life work experience.

In 2006, STEP TWO (Teen Work Opportunity) was launched to provide STEP graduates with an even more intensive seven-week career exploration. Made available through a partnership with the Department of Rehabilitation, students are responsible for everything from researching companies and submitting their résumé to going on interviews and accepting the final job offer. Through full-time employment and weekly support sessions, each participant receives critical opportunities to develop and strengthen the organizational, communication and interpersonal skills necessary to break barriers and further their future.



Davidson Program for Independence

Since 1971, this comprehensive residential program on our Los Angeles campus has helped thousands of adults, 18 and older, who are newly blind or visually impaired. Gaining independent living skills and pre-vocational training, students prepare for employment and a fully productive life.

Number of Adults and Family Members Served Fiscal Year 2006-2007:

312

Direct Service Hours Provided:

206,865

71-year-old Connie Campbell is reclaiming her life. And while she knew it would be hard work, she never thought she would enjoy the journey so much.

Graduating in May from Junior Blind's Davidson Program for Independence (DPI), Connie spent five and a half months training to regain the lifestyle her macular degeneration had taken away. With vision loss leaving her unable to work and unable

to care for her home, Connie saw DPI as an important opportunity to change her situation.

"I had always been a very independent person. But when I lost my vision, I couldn't comprehend how I could possibly continue to take care of myself. I felt completely reliant on others and was determined to find some sort of assistance to help me regain my freedom."

Living in DPI's residential facility, Connie mastered a daily curriculum of classes that did just that.

Braille now allows Connie to read with her fingers what she can no longer see with her eyes. Orientation and mobility sessions have taught her how to navigate the city without needing to drive. Daily living skills training introduced her to products and techniques that make running a household a lot more manageable. And, by learning adaptive computer technology, she is confident that she can return to a career in the real estate field.

"I just appreciate everything I received so much," Connie reflects. "The wonderful classes. The private room. The healthy meals. The beautiful grounds. I never imagined there was anything like this that I could attend. And attend free of charge."

More than anything, Connie is most grateful for the wonderful moral support she received from DPI's staff.

"Since most of the teachers are either blind or visually impaired, they never let



"It's been like being in a dark room and finding a door. Junior Blind has allowed me to walk into a new world full of possibilities and solutions."

—Connie Campbell, DPI Graduate

you feel sorry for yourself. Rather, you're inspired by learning how they've coped with and overcome their own disabilities."

Encouraged by others, Connie looks forward to encouraging others herself. Active in a local community club designed to help those who are newly visually impaired, Connie is eager to

share her newfound knowledge and raise awareness about Junior Blind.

"It's been like being in a dark room and finding a door. Junior Blind has allowed me to walk into a new world full of possibilities and solutions. I'm able to do the sorts of things I never thought I'd do again."

Junior Blind's Veterans Program

Sgt. Major Jesse Acosta lost his sight when he was hit by insurgent mortar fire in Iraq. However, he will be the first to tell you that he hasn't lost his vision.

Since 2004, the Davidson Program for Independence (DPI), through a partnership with the Veterans Administration, has provided rehabilitation to dozens of veterans like Sgt. Major Acosta. Assisting as many as are in need of our services, Junior Blind welcomes veterans of all United States military efforts, both recent and past. As these exceptional men and women adjust to life without sight, we stand committed to offering the personalized instruction necessary to help each individual best regain independence and prepare for the future.

For Sgt. Major Acosta, the Orientation and Mobility training that he has been receiving since February is one important step forward. Eager to master the white cane techniques and bus routes necessary to navigate his neighborhood and return to the workforce, the Sgt. Major was averaging 30 miles of travel per day within just three weeks of beginning his work with Junior Blind. Not to mention, completing the Los Angeles Marathon on the side.

"It's all about adapting," he says. "Life doesn't end. It's just a whole new life."

As for his next steps, Sgt. Major Acosta looks forward to learning Braille and "mingling with DPI's computer gurus" to become more familiar with adaptive software and technology.

He admits, "It's going to take time, but nothing is going to stop me. There are amazing programs here. That's what excites me."



Thank You to Junior Blind's 2006-2007 Benefactors

Junior Blind of America is grateful to the following donors whose gifts and pledges between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007 helped us provide critical services for thousands who are blind or visually impaired. Due to the generosity of these and other supporters, Junior Blind is able to offer all of its extraordinary programs and activities at no charge to our students.

\$100,000 and above

The Ahmanson Foundation
California Community Foundation

\$45,000 - \$99,999

Joseph Drown Foundation
The Karl Kirchgessner Foundation
The Rose Hills Foundation
We Are You Foundation/Stevie Wonder
And those who wish to remain anonymous

\$25,000 - \$44,999

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\$5,000 - \$9,999

The Cecile & Fred Bartman Foundation
Albert and Elaine Borchard Foundation, Inc.
The Louis L. Borick Foundation
Marie H. Brookreson Trust
Vera Brown
The California Wellness Foundation
Vera R. Campbell
Change a Life Foundation
Arnold & Kay Clejan Charitable Foundation
CVS/pharmacy
Louise Cooley Davis, M.D.
Brenda Diener
Elks of Los Angeles Foundation
Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation
Myrna and Howard Fabrick
Scott and Carin Farkas and Family
Jean B. Fields
Debi and Neal Harris
The Held Foundation/Robert Held
Ann Jackson Family Foundation
Hana and Richard Kaplan
LA84 Foundation
Ernest Lieblich
Jeannette and Jonathan I. Macy
Michael McBride
Theresa and Peter Menard
The Phelps Group/Joe Phelps
Myra and Kenneth Rimlinger
Robertson Properties
Neddy and Sol Rubin
Paula and Jason Russell
Lon V. Smith Foundation
Norman F. and Elise I. Swanton Family Foundation, Inc.
Marguerite and Cornelius Vanderstar
Vistas for Children, Inc.
Christopher V. Walker
Sam and Melissa Warner Foundation
Gina and Reg Wilson
The Ruth/Allen Ziegler Foundation
And those who wish to remain anonymous

\$2,500 - \$4,999

The Allergan Foundation
Anna Mary Bundy Trust
California Lutheran Homes
Barry Charles
Crane Aerospace & Electronics Foundation
The Georges & Germaine Fusenot Charity Foundation
Fred L. Hartley Family Foundation
E. Gregory Hookstratten
Deborah and Jon Jenkins
Miki Jordan and David Emehiser
Lyons Family Foundation, Inc.
Dena and Louis Marienthal
Native Daughters of the Golden West Children's Foundation
Violet Sachs
Judith and Andrew J. Weisz
David Westley
And those who wish to remain anonymous

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Carole and Kenneth Adashek, M.D.
Brian Alonge
Association of Airport Employees
The B & B Foundation
Bloomfield Foundation
Judy and Bernard Briskin
Mary Lou Burns
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Curt Craton
Credit Suisse
Hazel E. Daly Fund #2
Carolyn and Carl De Dionisio
Susan De Golyer
Paul Doehring
Downtown Lions Club of Long Beach
Richard Egan
Joseph K. & Inez Eichenbaum Foundation
James and Sally Elmlinger

Employees Charity Organization of Northrop Grumman
Mickey and Joseph Erhardt
Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary #2215 Pomona
Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary #2561 Fontana
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Gale Family Foundation, Inc.
Lloyd Graham
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Thomas Joy
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Kiwanis Charities
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The Dr. Henry and Lilian Nesburn Award
Nissenson Family Fund
Northrop Grumman Holiday Giving Program
Northwest Glendale Lions Charity Foundation
Orgel Construction Management
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Project Dynamics
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Shiloh International Ministries, Inc.
Frances M. Shloss
Lucille Ellis Simon Foundation
Sidney Stern Memorial Trust
The Stotsenberg Foundation
Tavilla Sales Company of Los Angeles
Mary Thompson
Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Thomson
Elaine and Ernest Warsaw
Sheila and Walter L. Weisman
Richard Wells
Janis and Wayne Wershow
Michael Wershow
West Covina Emblem Club #299
Whittier Host Lions Club
Sandra Arey and George Williams
Priscilla and Richard Wilson
Judy and Alan Zafran
Lisa and Robert Zeiger
And those who wish to remain anonymous

\$500-\$999

Joseph Alexander
Jay Allen
Alper Insurance Services, Inc.
Altadena Lions Club
Julie Andrews
Alan Arnold
Bertha Bailey
Belmont Shore Lions Club
Geraldyn and Burton Belzer
Stanley Block
Dennis Bordenave
Grace Brubaker
Beverly and Thomas Budds

Gregory Bush
Camarillo/Pleasant Valley Lions Club
Judy Carroll
Chino Valley Lions Club
Combined Federal Campaign
Costco Wholesale #020
Joe Daher
Catherine and Irwin Dahl
Patricia and Paul Dewenter
Norvelle and Walter Dubuclet
Susan and Stewart Epstein
Willetta and Thurman Fletcher
April and Gary Ford
Jacqueline and Stanford Furer
Tina and M. Robert Gale
F. Gaviña & Sons, Inc.
Gina and Carlo Gidikian
1993 Nathan Golden Trust
Beverly Gordon
Michael Gray
Seymour Grubman
Stephanie and Robert Grum
Geraldine and Philip Gutenag
Gilbert Haakh
Frances Hartman
Sandy and Alvin Haveson
Linda and Michael Hong
David Hou
Hutchison Corporation
Diana and Frank Jansen
Wilma Johansen
Rhoda and Marvin Kantor
Barbara Hale Katt
Keiter Family Foundation
Dan Kelso
Li and Theodore King
Donald Lagerberg
Laguna Niguel Lions Club
Lakeport Lions Club
Terry M. Lee
Joan and Jack Lescoulie
Aleen Leslie
Louise Lyon
Bahador Mahboubi
Janeen Maxwell
Renate and Gerber McBeath
Joe Miller
Mindlin Family Foundation
Bradley and Kathleen Morse
Moss & Company

Anita and John Mucci
P. Nakhirunkanok
Mr. and Mrs. J. Allyn Nelson
Grace and Louis Nevelle
Barbara and William O'Camb
Paramount Lions Club
Pasadena Host Lions Club
Pasadena Host Lions Club Memorial Trust Fund
Judith and James Perzik
Cecilia Potempa
Ruth Priest
Frank Randall
Robert Rehmar
Charles Rojo
Jackie and Robert Rosenberg
Richard Schulman
Mildred and Sherwood Schwartz
William Shark, M.D.
Marvin Silverman
Soroptimist International of Glendale
John Spach
Ralph Staunton
Eldeltrude and Robert Steiner
Madeleine and William Stock
Stoll Metalcraft, Inc.
Rena and Steven Stone
Gloria Swift
Barbara Terry
Harvey Thomas
Timberline Lions Club
T.L.M. Engineering
Ellen and Hans Turner
United Homeowners Association
United Way of Kitsap County
Elaine and Wallace Upshaw
VA Employees Homeless Center
Eilert Voge
Barbara Von Rosen
Wal-Mart
Michele and Clive Warshaw
Robert Weinstein
Mary Jo Wendorff
The Wesley School
Westchester Women's Club
Judy and Fred Williamson
Vickie and Steven Wilson
And those who wish to remain anonymous

Junior Blind Special Events 2006-2007 Fun, Fright and Fellowship

A pink poodle, a fireman and a mummy bride won the Costume Competition at Junior Blind's October 29, 2006 Halloween Carnival, but there were many winners in attendance that day. More than 400 of Junior Blind's current and former students, their siblings and their parents dressed up in costume and enjoyed a day of fun and fright.

"This was our highest attendance ever," boasts Debra Adams, Vice President of Programs. "It is so gratifying to see parents and siblings of a child with a visual impairment interacting with other families who struggle with the same challenges. This

opportunity for fellowship is really important and lets them know they're not alone."

In addition to being fun, a pitch black Haunted House, filled with sounds, scents and scary things to touch, had an added benefit. It gave sighted party-goers a deeper understanding and increased sensitivity toward maneuvering without sight and having to rely on other senses. Said one sighted sibling, "It was scary not to be able to see, but it really made me appreciate how well my little brother gets around everyday."

A Day of Many Gifts

A visit from two jolly souls—Santa Claus and Stevie Wonder—put smiles on the faces of hundreds of children attending Junior Blind's annual Holiday Carnival on Saturday, December 10, 2006.

Nearly 450 children and their families reveled in decorating cookies, making holiday ornaments and visiting with Santa—a Santa who, like many of the youngsters there, has been blind since birth. A former camper at Camp Bloomfield and now Director of Junior Blind's Davidson Program for Independence, Ken Metz loves being a role model as he plays the role of Santa each year.

For the fourth year in a row, another role model, Stevie Wonder, performed some holiday hits and a few of his own. After singing, Stevie posed for photos with many of his fans and made everyone's holidays brighter with a gift of \$50,000 to support Junior Blind's programs. Said one young Junior Blind student, "He is really cool. He makes me feel like I can be successful one day and help Junior Blind too."



Donors' Generosity Inspires Our Students to Give Back

As 80% of the population we serve is low-income, based on California Housing and Community Development guidelines, Junior Blind is committed to ensuring that socioeconomic factors are never a barrier to our students receiving the highest quality of care and support.

However, it is only through the generosity of private donations that our programs are able to offer their multitude of special components, all at no cost to our students. Supplementing the public funding we receive, these philanthropic dollars allow Junior Blind to go above and beyond in all our services and offer programs, such as Camp Bloomfield and Visions: Adventures in Learning, that would not be possible otherwise.

The importance of giving back is a value we also strive to instill in our students. For example, community service projects are part and parcel of each Camp session and Visions adventure. From cleaning beaches to collecting items for the needy, these opportunities allow each child to experience the joy of making a difference in the life of another.

Below: During a recent Visions experience in Portland, Oregon, Junior Blind students gave back to the community by helping prepare meals for the homeless at a local food bank.



Planned Gifts

We are grateful to the following benefactors whose bequest and trust gifts to Junior Blind were received in full or in part between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007.

Margaret Bush Alling	Delbert Edelmann	Marie and Leroy McCollum	Laura Sapp Trust
Selma Andrews Trust	Olive Elvin	Stewart McDonald Trust	Kenneth Slaybaugh
Rea Bailey	Barbara Engle	Vera McDonald Trust	Lillian Smith Trust
Bertha Bernstein	Frieda Goldstein	Roy McPhail Trust	Beatrice and Jerome Sonken
Elizabeth Bishop Trust	Hector Gonzalez	Blanche Parker Trust	Bernard Spitzer
Martha Brady	Eileen Gregory	Kathryn Pennock	Charlotte Spohler
Theresa Brady	Lillian Guay	Lester Phillips	Mack Stahler
Vivian and Ernest Braun	Lucille and Fred Hirsch	John and Sophie Pick Trust	John Stoicheff
Kay Brown	Dora Jablow	Elizabeth Rader	Luther Swink
Adrea and Victor Carter	Edna Jones	Elizabeth Ridgman	Joseph Wynn
Joseph Cereghino Trust	Earl Kellerup	Eleanor Ritz	Marian Zemon
Kathleen Cheleen	Dan Lahey	Constance Ropolo	
John De Benedetti	Ivy Maynier	Barbara Ross	

Legacy Society

Much of our success is due to the extraordinary support we have received over the years from planned gifts. The following individuals have made provisions for Junior Blind in their estate plans, and we are pleased to honor them through our Legacy Society.

Gladys A. Anthony	Helen Gehlke	Barbara B. Marks	Virginia and Samuel Shapiro
Mindy and Bryan Arenson	Thelma and Heinz Hanau	Marilyn J. McDonnell	Shirley and Stanley Smithtro
Lois F. Baham	Lieselotte Heilman	Paul McMahon	Fred S. Timinello
Edith Borge	Bernetta B. Hicks	Thaddeus C. Michalik	Margot and H. Geoffrey Tyrrash
Sinart Chaijenkit	Ning-Ning and Robert Hsieh	Susan and Victor J. Miranda	Eileen F. Ulrich
Meiling Chang	Jess Hudec	Albert L. Myers	Dorothy and James Valcarcel
Peter S. Clark	Helen A. Kahawaii	Dorothy D. Orwig	Dawn and Jean B. Valerio
Felipe N. Cuevas	Carole and Michael Kamper,	Yvonne M. and Donald E.	Alice and Ted Vandling
Zarui and Zeynal Darukyan	M.D.	Owens	Stephen S. Vaughan
Migdalia and Silvio Del Castillo	Nadia Kaplan	Sheryl G. Parker	Evelyn L. Weiskopf
West C. Delton	Samorntip and Khongsak	Amorette L. Preston	Lorna Wever
Jeannie L. Dimter	Khosawad	Barbara and James Rebolt	Susan and David Wilstein
Theresa M. Echiribel	Adele S. and Eugene A. Klein	Lela M. Rettig	Mrs. Jess Witt
Sheila and Jeff Evron	Bonnie J. Klempner	Marie and Isaac Richman	Celestine Woods
Elaine L. Finkel	Doris Knell	Fred Robbins	<i>And those who wish to remain anonymous</i>
Elaine B. Fischer	Emilie and Kenneth Lambert	Dolores W. Rogers	
Gary M. Fisher	Elizabeth Lange	Paula and Jason Russell	
Don Fraley	Eve D. Lapidus	Ong Sak	
Adele Freulich	Wanda R. Legan	Margaret Sawyer	

In-Kind Support

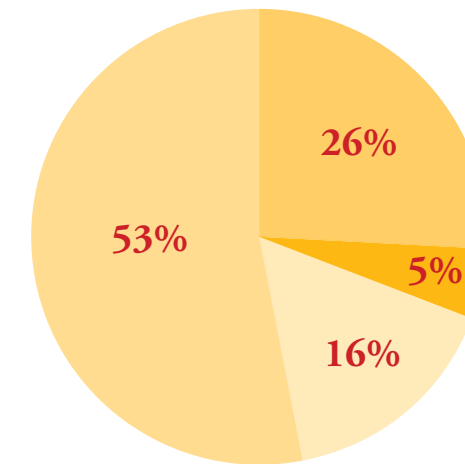
Junior Blind is grateful to the following donors whose generous in-kind contributions between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007 supported our efforts.

Francis Aberton
Akin Gump Strauss Howe & Feld LLP
All-Aire
Vera Brown
CVS/pharmacy
California Strategies
Julee Campbell
Vera R. Campbell
Cartoon Network
Cedarlane Natural Foods Inc.
Crescent Drugs Incorporated & Medical Nutritionals
Steve and Cindy Curley
Nadine and Harold Davidson
Brenda and Ryan Diener
E.A.G. Collection-Fabricated Textile Products
Kathy Enzimo
Sally Feathers
Jim Fenske
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Peter Kohama
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KWDZ Manufacturing, LLC (dba Knit Works/Beautees)
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John and Kelly Storer
Robert and Sue Sweetman
University of Southern California –
Disabilities Services and Programs
Verizon Call Center for Customers with Disabilities
Sanford B. Weiss
Stevie Wonder
Winston & Strawn, LLP

Every effort has been made to ensure that this donor list is correct and complete. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at (323) 295-4555, extension 234.

Our Students: At a Glance

We are pleased to have provided our services to hundreds more students this past fiscal year. From infants to adults, participants in our programs range in age as follows:



■ Birth to 5 years 16%
■ 6-12 years 53%
■ 13-20 years 26%
■ 21 years and older 5%

Reaching students from throughout California and across the nation, we are proud to cover the following geographic span:

California Counties Served

Alameda	Madera	San Joaquin
Butte	Marin	San Luis Obispo
Calaveras	Monterey	San Mateo
Fresno	Napa	Santa Barbara
Humboldt	Orange	Santa Clara
Imperial	Placer	Shasta
Inyo	Riverside	Solano
Kern	Sacramento	Stanislaus
Kings	San Bernardino	Tehama
Lake Tahoe	San Diego	Tulare
Los Angeles	San Francisco	Ventura

Other States Served

Arizona	Nevada	Texas
Florida	New Jersey	Utah
Georgia	Oklahoma	Washington
Missouri	Oregon	
Montana	Tennessee	

Community outreach and education continue to be priorities. This past fiscal year saw an overall increase in attendance at our community-based events by 50%. Family Resource Day, in particular, experienced a 90% increase in participation, allowing our workshops, support groups and resource information to educate and inspire even more of the public.

Summary of Financial Data JULY 1, 2006 – JUNE 30, 2007

Statement of Revenues

Support from the Public	
Contributions	\$1,738,112
Wills, Bequests and Trusts	\$2,545,993
Total	\$4,284,105
Program Revenue	
Program Service Fees and Contracts	\$5,899,180
Total	\$5,899,180
Other Revenue	
Investment Income	\$2,982,558
Miscellaneous Income	\$285,959
Total	\$3,268,517
Total Public Support, Program Revenue and Other Revenue	\$13,451,802

Statement of Expenditures

Program Services	
Infant-Family Program	\$890,965
Special Education School	\$1,316,601
Children's Residential Program	\$3,156,089
Camp Bloomfield, Visions and Other Recreational Programs	\$1,202,097
Davidson Program for Independence	\$1,538,144
Student Transition & Enrichment Program	\$226,502
Public Education	\$417,138
Total	\$8,747,536
Supporting Services	
Management and Administrative	\$1,207,530
Fundraising	\$1,181,696
Public Relations	\$270,743
Total	\$2,659,969

Total Expenditures \$11,407,505

Excess of Revenue over Expenditures (Board-Designated Investment Income)	\$2,044,297
End-of-Year Net Assets	\$39,012,047

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*After decades of service, Board Member Judge Andrew Weisz passed away on August 19, 2007. We are grateful for his longstanding generosity and leadership of Junior Blind.

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Junior Blind of America's 2007 Annual Report


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