

# THE VOICE

NEWS FROM THE VERMONT ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

NEWS

EVENTS

TIPS

SUPPORT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Year in Review Challenge Results



Thank you to those who joined VABVI for a successful year of fundraising! **Our Spring Appeal Challenge has reached its goal of matching a \$10,000 gift from an anonymous foundation.** We could not have done this without generous businesses, individuals, service clubs, and clients like you! By making a contribution, you help with our mission, enabling Vermonters with blindness or visual impairment to

achieve and maintain independence. All gifts – large and small – are greatly appreciated!



## Outstanding Education Support Staff Award

TVI Allie Fuddy presents the Outstanding Education Support Staff Award of Franklin County to Doni Longley. She works with the Richmond Elementary School. *Congratulations Doni!*



### BERLIN

13 Overlook Drive  
Suite 1  
802-505-4006  
Toll-Free: 1-877-350-8838

### BRATTLEBORO

130 Austine Drive  
Suite 280 (Holton Hall)  
802-254-8761  
Toll-Free: 1-877-350-8840

### RUTLAND

80 West Street  
Suite 202  
802-775-6452  
Toll-Free: 1-877-350-8839

### SOUTH BURLINGTON

60 Kimball Ave.  
802-863-1358  
Toll-Free: 1-800-639-5861



## Thank You For Supporting Us

Thank You to all who joined VABVI at our 2017 Annual Dinner & Auction at the Burlington Country Club on May 25. With your help we are able to continue our mission. This year, we introduced mobile bidding and sold over 80 exciting items, many of which are local to Vermont or handcrafted by clients.

### THANK YOU!

Thank you to ALL of our table sponsors for supporting blind and visually impaired Vermonters.

**GOLD SPONSOR**  
Vermont Mutual Insurance

**SILVER SPONSOR**  
Essex Junction Lions Club

FedEx

Neagley & Chase Construction

Robert & Polly McEwing

Tom Frank & Janet Dooley

### BRONZE SPONSOR

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Northfield Savings Bank

People's United Bank

TD Bank

## Awards

VABVI's Outstanding Paraprofessionals Award is given out annually by our Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVI) to amazing Educators throughout the state of Vermont! Here are the 2017 Outstanding Paraprofessionals Award Recipients:



### Richford Elementary

Doni Longley

by TVI Allie Fuddy



### Westford School

Dave Gross

Lee Lichtenstein

Sally Conant

Kristy Pigeon

by TVI Amy Gates



### Westshire Elementary School

Ashley Bean

by TVI Dan Howarth



### Mary Hogan Elementary School

Meghan Miele

Sherry Bristol

Deb Martin

Taylor Royals Wedge

by TVI Rishi Connelly



### The Little School

Gretchen Scranton

by TVI Eric Shaw



### South Burlington High School

Nicole Rocheleau

Renee Gardner

by TVI Hope Watson



### The New School of Montpelier

Roya Millard & Nicole Beaudoin

by TVI Stephanie Carmichael



### State Street School

Julie Cahoon

by TVI Rishi Connelly



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*Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.*

– Helen Keller

## Make a Planned Gift to VABVI, Make A Difference!

Many of our supporters have discovered that with a little planning, you don't need to be wealthy to make a profound difference to VABVI's mission. We're here to help you explore the various donation methods to ensure your future gift is tax effective and takes your family's needs into consideration.

Your gift can be tailored to your personal, financial and tax circumstances and we can work with you and your advisors to make sure your wishes can be met and are consistent with VABVI's goals.

To begin this conversation, please contact Erika Farmer, Development Director at 802-863-1358 ext. 224 or email [efarmer@vabvi.org](mailto:efarmer@vabvi.org).

Already arranged an estate gift to VABVI? Please let us know by contacting Erika Farmer.

## A Few Ways You Can Give:

- 1. Bequest** - A gift in your will is a simple way to support a charity that's dear to your heart. No matter how much money you have, you can make a difference for people who are blind or visually impaired through a will or trust.
- 2. Charitable Gift Annuity** - A charitable gift annuity (CGA) is created by transferring a lump sum to VABVI, a portion of which is your tax-deductible donation to VABVI. You will immediately start receiving guaranteed monthly, semi-annual or annual payments — and those payments will continue for life.

**Please note:** It's important to remember that you'll need to use our full legal name when making a gift in your will. Please use "The Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired" on all legal documents.

# EVENTS



## The Music Man

August 16, 2017 // 2:00 PM

The Vermont Council of the Blind is sponsoring a one day trip to The Weston Playhouse 703 Main Street, Weston, VT on August 16, 2017 for a 2:00 PM matinee of "The Music Man". Lunch will take place before the show at 11:00 AM at the Java Babas located at 57 Pond Street in the Okemo Market Place, Ludlow, VT 05149. The cost for lunch and the theater ticket is \$30.00 per person. As always, drivers of the visually impaired are the guests of The Vermont Council. Send your check, payable to VCB, as soon as possible, but no later than July 15 to: Carol Ann Richman, Treasurer, The Vermont Council of the Blind, 15 Yandow Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403. If you have questions, or wish further information, contact Carol by phone at 802-862-8558, by email [carolannrichman@gmail.com](mailto:carolannrichman@gmail.com), or at the above address.



## Bowling in the Dark

October 2017

Bowling in the Dark with the Brattleboro PALS Group will take place in October, 2017 at a Brattleboro Bowl. Keep a look out for more information on our website and Facebook page or contact VABVI staff Andrea Evey ([aevey@vabvi.org](mailto:aevey@vabvi.org)) or 1-877-350-8840).



## Virtual Auction

October 2017

VABVI will be hosting a State-wide Virtual Auction from October 5<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> in honor of White Cane Awareness Day on October 15, 2017. We will have items from across Vermont. If you are interested in donating an item to the Virtual Auction, please contact Katie Shappy, Development Officer at [kshappy@vabvi.org](mailto:kshappy@vabvi.org) or 863-1358 ext 219. You can participate in the Virtual Auction by bidding on a smartphone, tablet or computer from anywhere!



## VABVI Annual Dinner

May 2018

VABVI Annual Dinner 2018 will be held at The Sunset Ballroom Event Center located at 1712 Shelburne Road, South Burlington, VT 05403 on May 24, 2018.



Vermont Association for the  
Blind and Visually Impaired  
60 Kimball Avenue  
South Burlington, VT 05403

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Burlington, VT  
Permit #182



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### New Faces

#### VABVI Welcomes New Staff in FY2017

**Stephanie Carmichael**  
*Teacher of the Visually Impaired*

**Jerry Doody**  
*PALS Facilitator*

**Erika Farmer**  
*Director of Development*

**Allie Fuddy**  
*Teacher of the Visually Impaired*

**Aldona Petrenas-Mann**  
*Certified Vision Rehabilitation  
Therapist*

**Monica Sanchez**  
*Vision Rehabilitation Therapist  
Assistant*

**Linda Steinmiller**  
*Aids & Appliances*

**Jack Trainor**  
*Orientation & Mobility Instructor*

**Sharon Wille-Padnos**  
*Adult Service Provider (new role!)*

Learn more about our extensive  
services, volunteer opportunities, or  
make a donation today!

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