

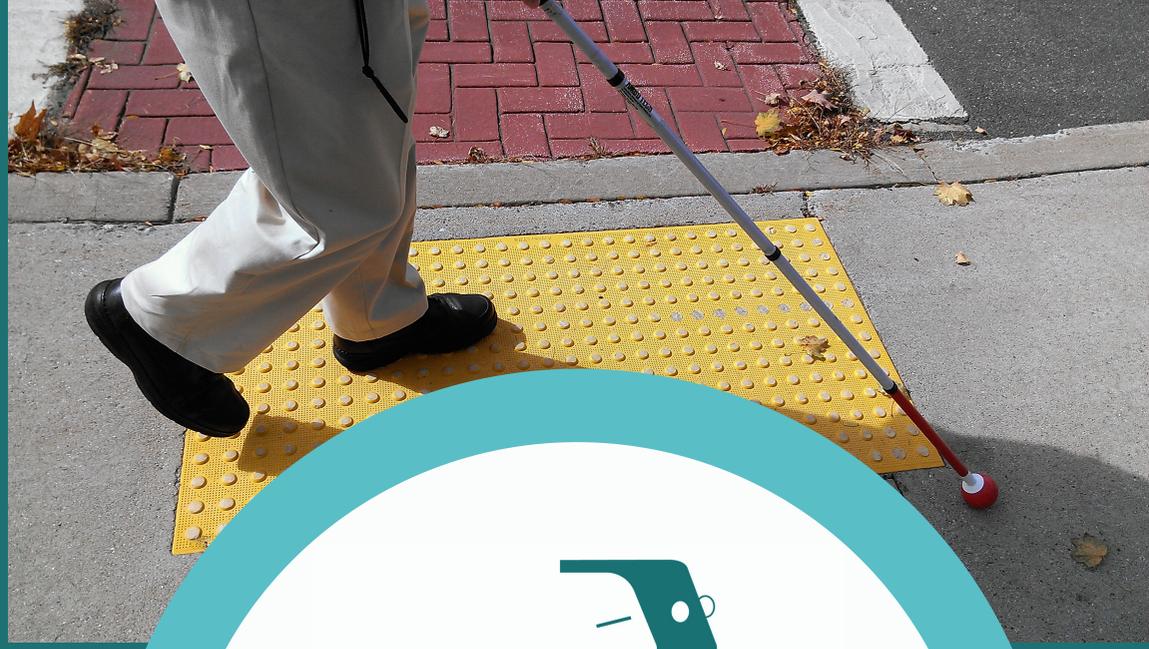
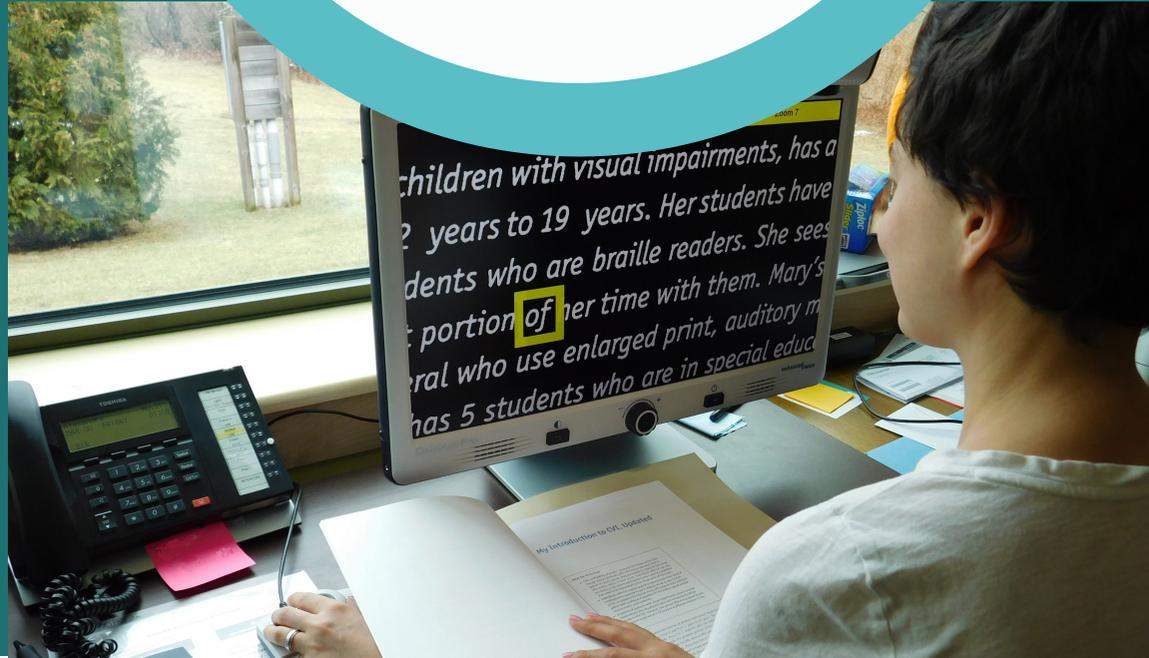
VABVI

Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired

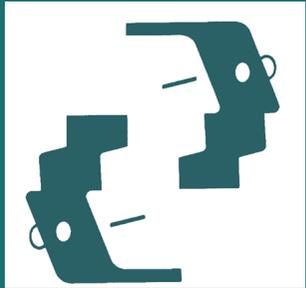
60 Kimball Avenue

South Burlington, VT 05403

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



Vermont Association for the
Blind and Visually Impaired
FY20 ANNUAL REPORT



Our Mission:

To enable Vermonters, whether blind or visually impaired, to be more independent, to cultivate adaptive skills and to improve their quality of life.

The last fiscal year has truly been one for our record books. It began with our successful first Dancing with the Stars of Burlington event and concluded with our other fundraising events being cancelled, and the agency adjusting to the pandemic and delivering services remotely. I am proud of our skilled, professional staff, that modified and adapted our services for online, remote learning.

While it has not always been easy, our expertise, flexibility, creativity and professionalism enabled us to overcome unprecedented challenges to deliver state-wide services to 1,509 adult and children that kept both our clients and staff safe. We look forward to the time when things are back to normal and we can do more in person training.

We need your support more than ever. Please consider VABVI in your charitable giving this year to help your blind and visually impaired neighbors receive the services they need. Best wishes for the coming year.

- Steve Pouliot, Executive Director



For more information about ways you can support blind and visually impaired Vermonters, please contact our development department:

development@vabvi.org

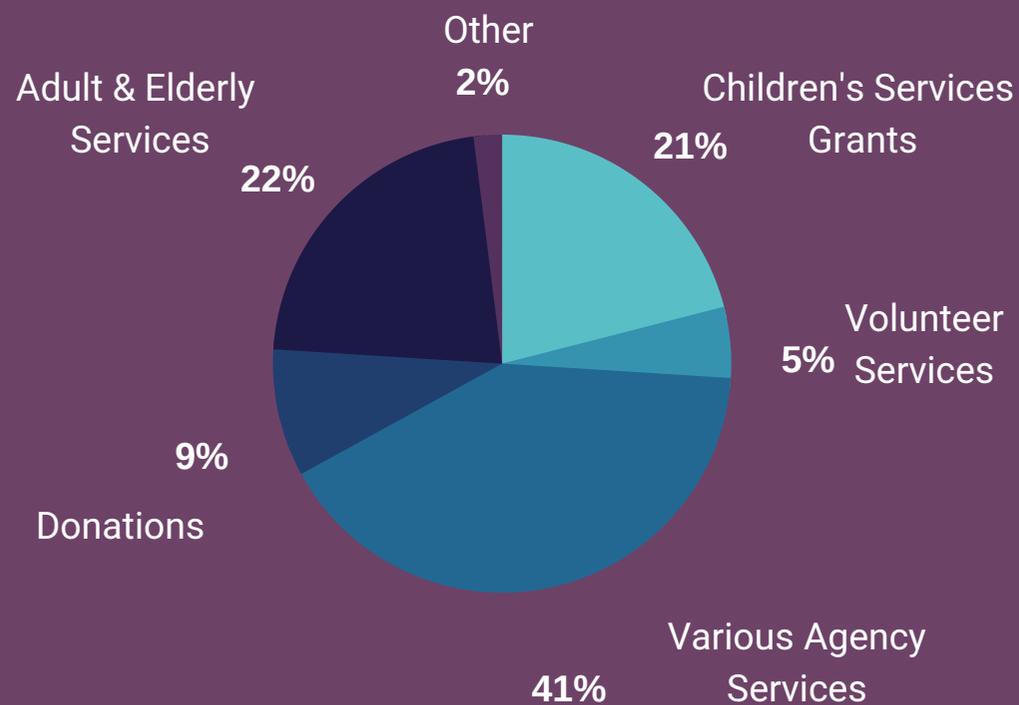
802-863-1358 x 224



Financials: July 2019 through June 2020

Revenue

Children's Services Grants	\$625,958
Adult & Elderly Services	\$640,261
Volunteer Services	\$141,092
Donations	\$271,606
Various Agency Services	\$1,186,281
Other	\$46,519
TOTAL	\$2,911,717



Children's Services

How did COVID impact the education of students with visual impairments? - Updates from Stephanie Bissonette

Families reported their appreciation for the “seamlessly VABVI transition to the remote model.” It afforded parents the opportunity to understand their child’s visual impairment better and to appreciate their child’s abilities and the impact of effective accommodations.”

Learning to teach braille to a totally blind child remotely required some creative thinking. Tactile materials were designed and mailed to the home. Teachers of the Visually Impaired created adapted digital books for their students. They were able to use screen sharing to read these books together. In addition to student Zoom lessons, our TVI team meet weekly to share their successes with each other during these unusual teaching experiences. Many schools were impressed with the level of instruction from the TVI’s in all areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum, including braille instruction, orientation and mobility, assistive technology, infant/toddler support, early childhood skills, independent living skills, and career education for students with and without additional disabilities. Of course, we provided remote parental support too, as parents tried to balance their jobs and supporting the education of their children.

We are thankful for the incredible effort the Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVI) placed towards maintaining academic progress and providing support to students, families and schools through the pandemic. Their commitment to the agency and students was impressive. There were 12 cases where VABVI staff were providing the only services to the child, Overall, 303 students received either weekly, monthly or consultation services by 12 TVI’s. VABVI received 29 new referrals in the past year of which 16 were ages birth to 2.5 years of age and 13 referrals were ages 3-22.

Adult Services

Updates from Dan Norris - Director of Adult Services

Over the past year, Adult Services has been able to help Vermonters adjust to their vision loss and maximize their independence. We have done this by addressing key factors affecting their independence.

Through training in orientation and mobility services, many have regained the ability to travel through their neighborhoods and between cities with confidence using white canes and taking public transportation. We have paired clients with volunteer drivers to access places public transportation cannot reach. We have taught people to cook and clean, reclaim management of their own finances and learn how to manage medications. But probably the most important thing we have done in 2020, was to help people stay connected through the use of technology.

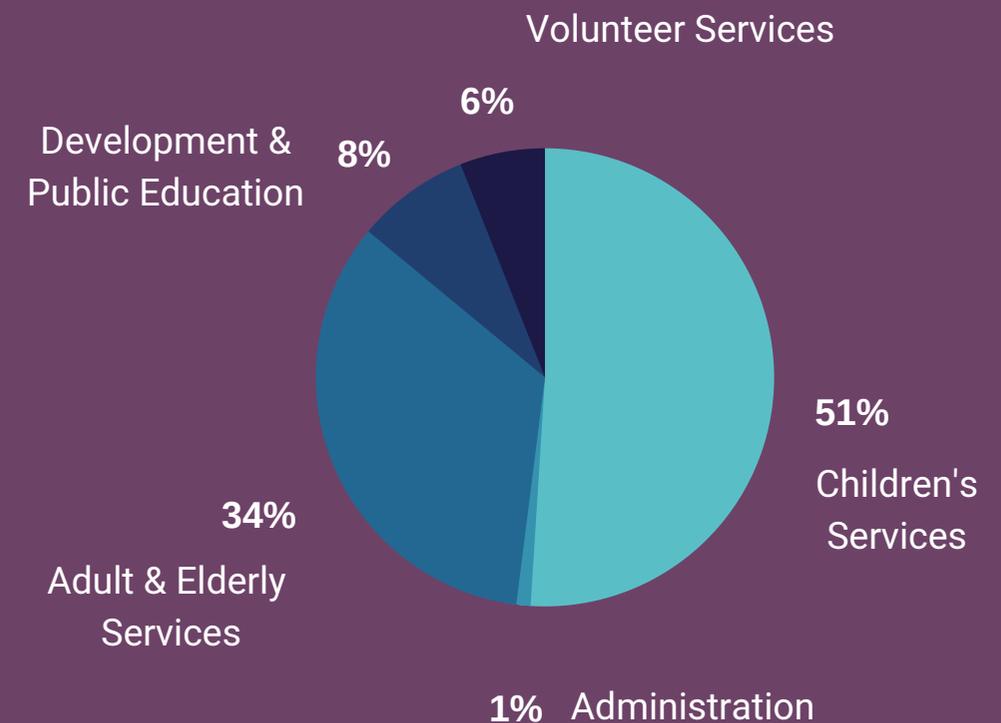
When COVID19 prevented our teachers from being able to visit the homes of clients, we provided services through the phone and internet. Our SMART training (Speakers, Magnification, Accessibility, Reading, Telecommunications) has helped people to not only communicate with medical professionals, but to reach out to friends, and play games with grandchildren over a video conference calls. Our support groups, though not able to meet in person continued to sustain its members through zoom teleconferencing. VABVI helped people stay connected while physically apart. As June came to a close, we were granted the ability to begin providing services again in their homes or meeting place of choice, with proper protective equipment, sanitation, and physical distancing guidelines from the CDC. We are very proud that our clients have been able to continue to benefit from our services, whether remote or in person.



A student in our Children's Services department prepares for his Zoom lessons

Expenses

Children's Services	\$1,532,043
Adult & Elderly Services	\$1,030,868
Volunteer Services	\$174,300
Development & Public Education	\$259,755
Administration	\$21,458
<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$3,018,424



\$500+ Level Donors

Mr. & Mrs. Gary F Berian
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Bessy
D. Michael Boardman
Robert Brinckerhoff
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Buechner
Daniel Cook
Kim Cooper
Ray and Mary Doyle
Patricia Emery
Dr. & Mrs. Stephen A. Feltus
Adam Fischer
Joseph Guertin
Elizabeth Hazen
Mr. & Mrs. David C. Henderson
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Horner
Dr. & Mrs. Gerry Martin
Thomas McConnell
Mr. & Mrs. Robert McEwing
Mr. & Mrs. Ormand Mongeon
Marion Mueller
Steve Pouliot
Mr. & Mrs. James Pizzagalli
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Schillhammer
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Schroeder
Eugene & Lili Walsh
Marjorie Westphal
Alma Gibbs Donchian Foundation
Ben & Jerry's Foundation
BlueCross BlueShield VT
Byrne Foundation
C&S Wholesale Grocers, Inc.
Charitable Foundation of Bryant Chucking
Grinder Co

Comcast Corporation
Concept 2, Inc.
Essex Junction Lions Club
Estate of Bertha Whitham
Estate of Daniel Hillard
Francis & Louise Nichols Foundation
Freeman Foundation
French Foundation
George W. Mergens Foundation
The Gibney Family Foundation
Hope Hubbard Irrevocable Trust
J&E Gifford Memorial Fund
Kinney Drugs Foundation
Kinney Pike
Morris and Bessie Altman Foundation
National Life Group Charitable
Foundation
Northfield Savings Bank
Oakland Foundation
People's United Bank
Pizzagalli Foundation
SCHIP
Shred This Inc.
Swenson Granite Company
TD Bank Foundation
TD Charitable Foundation
Troy Area Lions Club
United Way of Northwest Vermont

Town and City Funding

Town of Albany
Town of Alburgh
Town of Arlington
Town of Berlin
Town of Bethel
Town of Bloomfield
Town of Bridport
Town of Brighton
Town of Brookline
Town of Cabot
Town of Calais
Town of Cambridge
Town of Castleton
Town of Charlotte
Town of Clarendon
Town of Craftsbury
Town of Danby
Town of East Montpelier
Town of Eden
Town of Enosburgh
Town of Essex
Town of Fairfax
Town of Fairlee
Town of Fayston
Town of Glover
Town of Granville
Town of Hartford
Town of Highgate
Town of Holland
Town of Jay
Town of Lowell
Town of Lunenburg
Town of Manchester
Town of Marshfield

Town of Middlesex
Town of Middletown Springs
Town of Milton
Town of Moretown
Town of Mt. Holly
Town of North Hero
Town of Northfield
Town of Orange
Town of Pawlet
Town of Peacham
Town of Poultney
Town of Randolph
Town of Readsboro
Town of Richford
Town of Roxbury
Town of Royalton
Town of Saint Johnsbury
Town of Shaftsbury
Town of Sharon
Town of Shelburne
Town of Sheldon
Town of Starksboro
Town of Stowe
Town of Thetford
Town of Tunbridge
Town of Waterbury
Town of Weathersfield
Town of Wells
Town of Weston
Town of Williston
City of Barre
City of Montpelier
City of South Burlington