In Fiscal Year 2022, the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI) saw success not only in continuing to offer adaptive services due to the ongoing pandemic, but also in resuming normal operations. As COVID-19 vaccines have become widely available, we are now able to offer in-person options for many of our programs and services. Peer-Assisted Learning and Support (PALS) groups were able to meet in person when deemed safe, and the Intensive Residential Living Experiences (IRLE) camp for kids and teens visited Upstate New York. Our signature fundraising event, Dancing with the Burlington Stars, returned to the Flynn for the first time since its debut in 2019. We have also started work on our Second Century campaign, which will commemorate 100 years of VABVI’s good work. VABVI truly rose to the occasion of 2022, a transitional year promising a bright future ahead. Thank you, as always, for your support!

Steve Pouliot
Executive Director

Letter from the Executive Director

Our Mission
The Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI) was founded in 1926 to enable Vermonters who are blind or visually impaired to be more independent, cultivate adaptive skills, and improve their quality of life.

Donations in Tribute & Honor

Jacqueline Ackel
Antoinette Arms
Mr. & Mrs. George Arnold
C. & G. Ash
Barbara Bissonnette
Wesson Bolton
Patricia Bonnett
Oscar & Therese Boucher
Harry Browe
Wilma Brown
William B. Buck
Jason Burleson
Berkeley Buzzell
Patricia Carruth
Norman Case
Timothy Cawrse
Claude Chaloux
Elizabeth Collins
Wilfred Commo
Maurice Cook
Jules Cote
Margaret Coty
Leonard Courcelle
Emma Cross
Rose Crowley
Evelyn Davis
Parker Davis
Joann De Reyna
Una Donnelly
William Donnelly
John Dorey
Ida Fischer
Mary Flannagan
Carlton Floyd
Kim French
Silvia D. Fuller
Rebecca Gibson
Jackie Gilman
Don Giroux
Helen Goldstein
Stan Greenburg
Gloria Griffith
Azel Hall
Dr. Fred Harrington
Shirley Hartley
Paulita Heath
Arnold Highfield
Maureen Johnson
Floyd Lapidow
Mary Larose
Margaret & Sheridan LaFebrve
Charles Leonard
Albert Lysak
Nicholas Mangieri
Joan McDonald
Thomas McConnell
Betty Miles
Priscilla Mocek
Marie Monroe
Strew Niklasson Otis
Dorothy Parker
Helen Paul
Beatrice Phalen
Luther Pirkin
Dolores Poole
Pony Pornelos
Orilla Powell
Willie & Annette Racine
Howard Reynolds
Matthew J. Richard
Ted Richards
Lillian & Marcel Riendeau
Edgar Robinson
Yvonne Sargent
Jere Scanlon
Irene Schillhammer
Robert & Jane Schultz
Merrell & Winnifred Sherburn
William Sullivan
Kevin Taylor
Neil Taylor
Marcelle Viens
Harry Von Tuyl
Marcella Walsh
Doris Whitcomb
Greg Wilcox
Edward Young
Thank you to the generous donors who make our services possible.

$101 - $500 (Continued)
Kuno E. Olson
Louise Peach
Jason Perreault
Lisa A. Pizzagalli
Ronald Plante
Mary & John Pratt
Charles R. Putney
Shirley M. Reid
Lyse Rienadeau
Andrea Rogers
Joshua Sassi
Leo Schiff
Alan Schillhammer
Melvin Shakun
Melvin W. Simmons
Mark Spatz
Walter Stugis
James Taylor
Thorpe Trust
Sheila Thurston
Norbert Vogl
Daniel Walsh
Elizabeth Warren
Todd Webb
Joseph Welch
Wanda Wilking
Elizabeth Woods
William Wright
American Legion Post 91L
Vermont Eastern Star Home, Inc.

$501 - $1000
Gary F. Berian
Frederick Buechner
Ilene Chase
Margaret F. Coty
Margaret DeRivera
Elizabeth Edmonds
Hubey Folsom
David Gaylord
William P. Herbst
Lynn Miles
Penny Peterson
James Pizzagalli
Steven P. Pouliot

What is VABVI?
VABVI has provided clients with life-changing services for nearly a century. While we are best known for our direct services, our organization also connects clients to a larger network of resources and additional support. We are proud to both provide services and act as a gateway for our clients as they become more independent, cultivate adaptive skills, and improve their quality of life.

VABVI Services
- Orientation and Mobility
- Volunteer Transportation
- Adaptive Equipment and Technology
- Peer Assisted Learning and Support (PALS)
- Low Vision Services and Vision Rehab
- SMART (Speech, Magnification, Access, Reading, and Telecommunications) Device Training
- Infant and Toddler Family Service Planning
- IRLE (Intensive Residential Life Experiences) Program
- HAPI (Helping Adolescents Prepare for Independence) Program
- Partners with LEAP (Learn, Earn, Prosper) Program
- Special Education
- Provides professional support to Vermont Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI) clients
- Refers clients to the ABLE Library for large print, electronic, braille, and audio books
During the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the pandemic continued to impact the daily lives of Vermonters. Despite this, adults with vision loss continued to need to travel in the community and learn to maximize their low vision to live independently. We taught them how to use nonvisual techniques to manage their medications, safely cut vegetables, manage their blood glucose levels and more. We helped connect seniors and adults with the VT Audio Braille Large Print and Electronic (ABLE) Library. We helped others gain access to the news, through the online and telephone resource “NFB Newsline.” VABVI hosted its annual Technology Fair, for the second year online, to ensure that despite the pandemic, Vermonters were still aware of the continued advances in assistive technology. Our volunteer transportation program continued to help people get to the grocery stores, pharmacies, medical appointments and more. In total, VABVI delivered 1176 services to adult Vermonters with vision loss.

Barre PALS attend a presentation from the ABLE Library.

A white cane on the pavement.

FY22 Donors

Thank you to the generous donors who make our services possible.

$1 - $100 (Continued)

Don Robbins
Richard Robinson
Henry Romanovsky
Kathleen Ross
Selma Ruskin
Carmine Sargent
Donald B. Sargent
Karla Saunders
Arlene Scanlon
Jeremy Schrauf
Katherine Scribner
Charles Seguin
John Senning
Fanonne Seilen
Don Seville
Cecile R. Sherburn
Bernie & Barbara Shoone
Raymond Sicotte
Geraldine Siple
Vera Sjolander
Janice Smith
Willard F. Smith
Erika Smith
Fred G. Smith
Jeffrey Soleau
Susan Solts
Katheryn Soons
Kenena Spalding
Barbara Spencer
Ruth Spencer
Mark L. Sperry
Lee & Byron Stooky
Melody Strong
Douglas Stuart
John Sullivan
Brigid Sullivan
Sara Sussman
Margaret Sussman
Carol Tandy
Wallace Tapia
Marjorie Taylor
Stanley Teale
Gordon & Perry Thom
John Thomas
Carmen Thompson
Dean Todd
Robert Tortolani
Robert Townsend
Krystyna Tuckerman
Raymond Turgeon
Kenneth & Susan Turgeon
Richard Turner
Chee Chee Tyrrell
Alice Van Tuyl
Susan Van Wie
Bruce T. Venner
Steven B. Vittum
Aline Washburn
Marjorie Westphal
Walter Wheel
Janice Whitemore
Linus Wiles
Susan & Duncan Wilkie
Deanna Wilcox
Ron Williamson Jr.
James Winter
Martin & Vivian Wisda
C.F. Witherell
Patricia Woel
Robert Wolfbach
Robert H. Wood
Ruth Woodside
John D. Yarnall
Jocelyn Zezza
Donald Zilch
F.A. Zimmer
Jeanne Zimmerman
Ann Ziter
American Legion Post #3
Elks Club #1665
Elks Lodge #1499
Fraternal Order of Eagles #1861
Fraternal Order of Eagles, Auxiliary #2445
Gay & Lesbian Fund of Vermont
Grewal Family Charitable Fund
Hannaford #343
Ladies Benevolent Society
Lionheart Trust
Manosh Corporation
Mt. Holly Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc.
Mt. Lebanon Lodge #46
F & AM
Mutuo Inc.
New England Vision
Northfield Savings Bank
rk Miles, Inc.
South Newfane Baptist Church
Strafford Area Lions Club
VELCO
Veterans of Foreign Wars
White River Lodge #90

$101 - $500

Rachel Baron
Paul Barton
Max Bassett
Elizabeth Beardsley
Richard H. Becken
Betsey Berryman
Carl Bickmore
Raymond G. Bolton
Elisabeth Bossi
Frank Braile
Timothy Bryant Sr.
Adam Bunting
Ricky Burleson
Donald M. Buschman
Linda Campany
Tanya Cimoneeti
Chris Clark
Florence Clark
Community Bank
Ann & Fred Curran
Herbert Di Gioia
Laura Donahue-Liban
Susan Egerton
Patricia Emery
Willet Foster
John E. Fothergill
Robert W. Frey
Dundeen Galipeau
Terry Geffert
Lois Green
Joseph Guerin
Ann & Robert Hallowell
Norman Hanson
Jane Harding-Gumey
David Hauke
Gerald Hefferman
Patricia Henderson
Mary Ellen Johnson
Maureen Johnson
Pat Jordan
Russell Laslocky
Robert Lecours
Karen Lefkoe
Harold Legacy
Al Ligouri
Shawn Lipenski
Mary & Gary Marlow
Jeanie Martin
Frank Melendi
Liza & Shawn Mercy
Alice Michalak
Stephanie Mills
Eunice Newell
Jean O’Connor

Barre PALS attend a presentation from the ABLE Library.

A white cane on the pavement.
In its fifth year, the SMART Device Training Program is needed more than ever. We continue to see an increase in the population of Vermonters who are seniors. We continue to have an increasing demand to help this age group learn how to use the accessibility features that are built into smartphones, tablets, and computers. The demand for this training was already on the rise prior to the pandemic, dramatically increased during the lockdowns, and has yet to subside. While VABVI has secured partial permanent funding from the State of Vermont for this program, we continue to seek full funding through the Second Century campaign to sustain this critical program well into the future.
In 2022, we had 16 staff members (full and part-time) in the Children's Services Department including licensed Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVI), Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialists, and Certified Assistive Technology Instructional Specialists. VABVI staff provided services to 240 students, ages birth through high school, with a wide range of visual impairments. During the summer of 2022, TVIs provided summer school services to 25 students throughout the state.

Children's support services include instruction in the use of assistive technology, braille, orientation and mobility, independent living skills, social skills, and sensory efficiency skills.

**Spotlight on Students**

A VABVI TVI taught auditory speed listening skills to a high school student who is now listening and comprehending 600 words per minute, who then inspired an 11 year old at the VABVI camp to learn this super power too.

Virginia Goodman and Jeanne Neu advocated for a trial run of an eye gaze device for students who have quadriplegia and a visual impairment. They are elementary aged students who are communicating their choices using their eye gaze, for the first time in their life! See photo (left) below:

VABVI will provide services to any Vermonter. From infants to seniors, anyone directly experiencing or connected to a person experiencing vision loss can contact us for information and assistance.

**Support Our Services**

**Online Giving**

Online donations allow donors a hassle-free process and the knowledge that donations are put to work immediately. **It's easy to donate online.**

1. Visit our simple, secure online donation form at [www.vabvi.org/make-a-donation/](http://www.vabvi.org/make-a-donation/)
2. Select the "Donate Here" option.
3. Choose your amount. Every dollar helps.
4. Provide your contact information, payment method, and any optional details.

**Leave Your Legacy**

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. For more information on making VABVI a beneficiary in your will, please visit [http://vabvi.org/planned-giving/](http://vabvi.org/planned-giving/) or call John Thomas at (802) 863-1358 Ext. 224.
VABVI provided services to 240 children and 1,179 adults in Fiscal Year 2022.

**Students Served in FY22**

- **Legally Blind Students**: 49.2%
- **Mildly Visually Impaired Students**: 47.1%
- **Completely Blind Students**: 3.7%

**Events in FY22**

**Intensive Residential Life Experience (IRLE)**
June 21-23, 2022 • Great Escape Lodge, NY

IRLE is a fun, instructional camp that intertwines recreation and socializing with peers with lessons and experience in practical needs for independent living and future employment. This year VABVI staff and 11 students stayed at the Great Escape Lodge in Lake George and enjoyed the water park, rail biking, bowling, pizza and ice cream, all while learning valuable living skills such as cooking. The IRLE camp was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Freeman Foundation and DBVI.

**Dancing with the Burlington Stars**
September 11, 2022 • The Flynn, Burlington

VABVI's signature fundraising event took place on September 11th, 2022 at the Flynn and was a shining success! Congratulations to winners Serena Magnan O’Connell and Jon Bacon, runners-up Tino Rutanhira and Alexis Kamitses, and fan favorites Adam Bunting and Olivia Schrantz, as well as all who participated and attended. Next year’s event will take place on September 17th, 2023, and the official Reveal Party is on May 7th, 2023!

**White Cane Awareness Day**
October 15, 2022

Several White Cane Awareness Day events took place in the state of Vermont on and around October 15th this year. In Barre, a group walked through the downtown area and concluded with a PALS meeting with a representative from the ABLE Library. In Burlington, a similar walk down Church Street led to a screening of the documentary film Vision Portraits. Other WCD events occurred in Springfield, Rutland, and Montpelier. Thank you to everyone who attended, and we hope to see you again next year!
### Revenue

- Children's Services Grants: $653,267
- Adult & Senior Services: $745,000
- Volunteer Services: $121,837
- Donations: $217,374
- Various Agency Services: $1,348,645
- Other: $1,806,345
- **Total Revenue:** $4,892,468

### Expenses

- Children's Services: $1,704,572
- Adult & Senior Services: $998,081
- Volunteer Services: $150,166
- Development, Public Ed. & Administration: $220,409
- **Total Expenses:** $3,073,228

*Note: financial information shown above represents unaudited results*