



VABVI

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

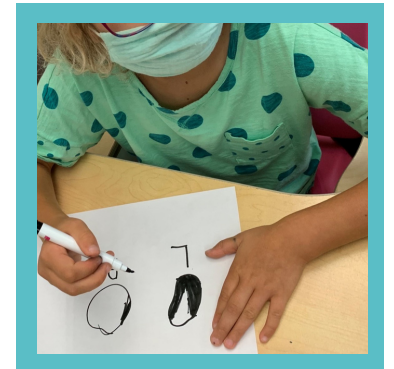
Free Matter  
for the  
Blind & Print  
Handicapped



# The Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired

## VABVI Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2022 (July 2021 - June 2022)



## Letter from the Executive Director

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



### 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.

## Tributes & Honors

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Evelyn Davis  
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Una Donnelly

William Donnelly  
John Dorey  
Ida Fischer  
Mary Flannagan  
Carlton Floyd  
Kim French  
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Ted Richards  
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## \$501 - \$1000

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 Town of Wells  
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 Town of Williston



# 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



# Adult Services

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

## \$1 - \$100 (Continued)

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# FY22 Donors

## \$1 - \$100

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# Adult Services

## SMART Device Training Program

(Speech, Magnification, Access, Reading, Telecommunications)



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.



# Children's Services

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:



# Get Connected

[www.vabvi.org](http://www.vabvi.org) • [general@vabvi.org](mailto:general@vabvi.org)

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.

 @vabvi802  @\_VABVI  @vabvi802

**South Burlington**  
60 Kimball Ave  
South Burlington, VT 05403  
(802) 863-1358

**Rutland**  
1 Scale Ave, Ste 117 #18  
Rutland, VT 05701  
(802) 775-6452

**Brattleboro**  
130 Austine Dr, Ste 280  
Brattleboro, VT 05301  
(802) 254-8761

**Berlin**  
13 Overlook Dr, Ste 1  
Berlin, VT 05641  
(802) 505-4006

## 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/> or call John Thomas at (802) 863-1358 Ext. 224

# FY22 Statistics

VABVI provided services to **240 children** and **1,179 adults** in Fiscal Year 2022.

**64**

clients participated in PALS groups across 8 counties in Vermont.

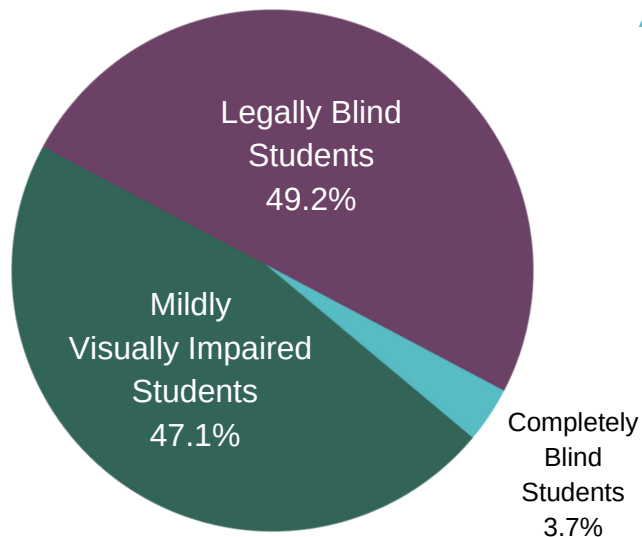
**70**

towns and cities supported VABVI with \$27,704 in donations.

**47**

volunteers donated 2,733 hours of service and drove 39,691 miles.

## Students Served in FY22



**755**

tickets sold to Dancing with the Burlington Stars, and \$51,000 raised to benefit VABVI

# 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

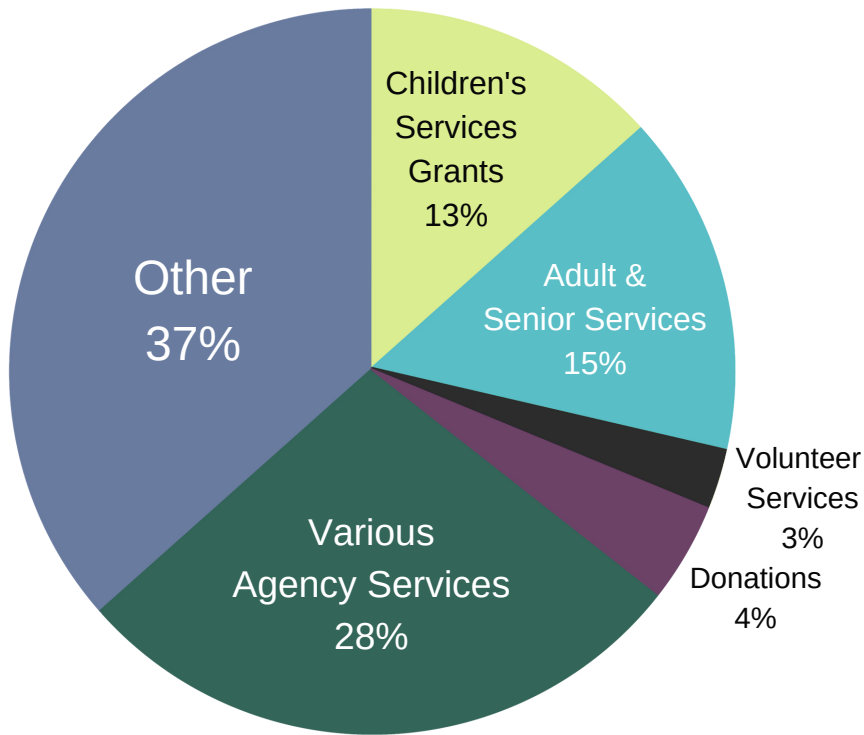
Several White Cane Awareness Day events took place in the state of Vermont on and around October 15th this year. In Barre, a group walked through the downtown area and concluded with a PALS meeting with a representative from the ABLE Library. In Burlington, a similar walk down Church Street led to a 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,892,468</b>



## Expenses

Children's Services	\$1,704,572
Adult & Senior Services	\$998,081
Volunteer Services	\$150,166
Development, Public Ed. & Administration	\$220,409
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,073,228</b>

