



Vermont Association for the
Blind and Visually Impaired

FY20 ANNUAL REPORT

children with visual impairments, has a
2 years to 19 years. Her students have
students who are braille readers. She sees
portion of her time with them. Mary's
eral who use enlarged print, auditory m
has 5 students who are in special educ



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:

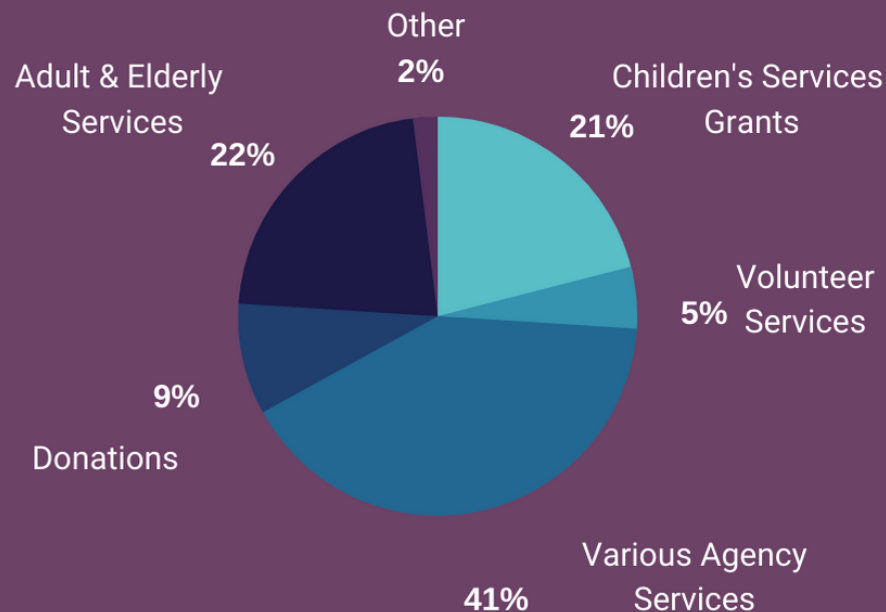
development@vabvi.org
802-863-1358 x 224



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
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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 VABVI's "seamless" transition to a 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 (TVI) 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 meets 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 while supporting the education of their children.

We are thankful for the incredible effort that the TVI team made 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 helped 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.

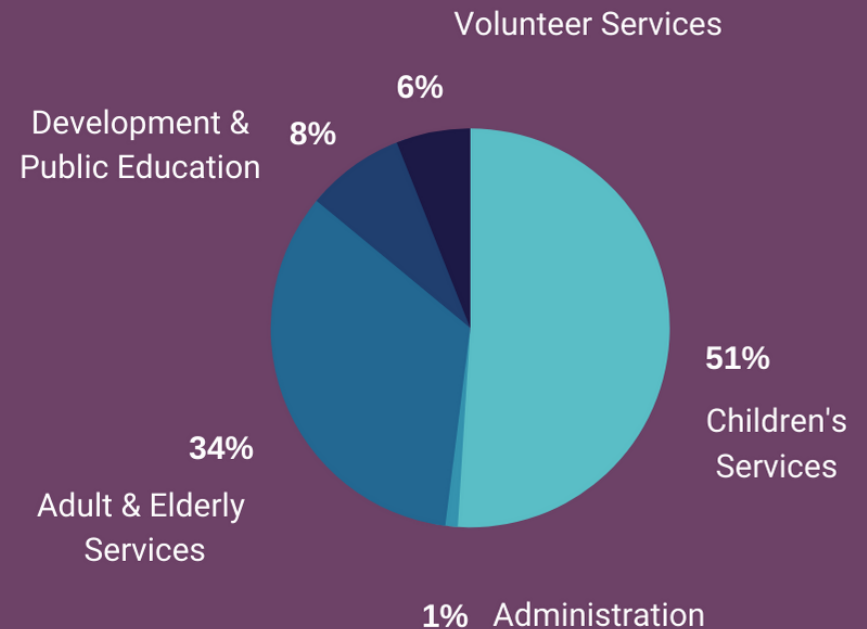
When COVID19 prevented our teachers from being able to visit the homes of clients, we provided services through the phone and internet. Our SMART training (Speakers, Magnification, Accessibility, Reading, Telecommunications) has helped people to not only communicate with medical professionals, but to 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 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
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TOTAL	\$3,018,424



\$500+ Level Donors

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