



Partners for
Pediatric Vision
Keeping Kids in Sight

**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2020

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

The challenges of 2020 brought us together as providers and communities united in improving the lives of children and families in need. In this remarkable year, Partners for Pediatric Vision strengthened our Early Childhood, Youth and Transition Services to help a greater number of children with visual impairment overcome barriers and thrive.

551 families received our support to help their child achieve learning success and independence despite permanent vision loss and the significant disruption to medical, education and social services. Thanks to our generous donors and foundation funders, our resilient Partners for Pediatric Vision team adapted and expanded services including telehealth eye exams, low vision device donations, virtual vision education, parent support and outreach.

Our focus in the year ahead will be on increasing the early detection of vision loss for more children in need and providing the essential services and support that can change the trajectory of a child's life. On behalf of our staff, our Board, the families we serve and our professional partners, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to our donors, supporters and volunteers. Your investment ensures a healthy childhood and bright future for a growing number of children with vision loss and their families.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tori Schladen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tori Schladen

WHAT WE DO

Visual impairments change the way children obtain information about the world around them. Partners for Pediatric Vision matches Vision Educators with families of children who are visually impaired to provide comprehensive pediatric vision care, education and support services that remove barriers and help children on their path to success.



VALUES

Passion: We believe every family that has a child with visual impairment should have access to a comprehensive eye exam, vision education and resources that will help their child reach their full potential.

Equity: We provide low vision education, devices and accommodations that level the playing field for children with permanent vision loss and promote learning success.

Innovation: We establish Eye Doctor - Vision Educator partnerships to provide low vision rehabilitation for children with visual impairment and their families during exams and throughout childhood.

Partnership: We collaborate with community partners to heighten awareness and build strong resource and referral networks to find, identify and serve children in need.

2020 AT A GLANCE



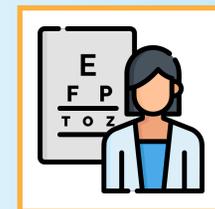
551

Children and their families received services



4

Partner Low Vision Clinic Locations



177

Children had an eye exam with a Vision Educator present



411

Professionals received training and outreach about Pediatric Low Vision

TYPES OF INTERVENTION

LOW VISION
DEVICE
DEMONSTRATION
AND
SCHOLARSHIPS

RESOURCE AND
REFERRAL

PARENT
EDUCATION

EYE DOCTOR -
VISION
EDUCATOR TEAM

TELEHEALTH
EYE EXAMS

VISION
INTERVENTION
PLAN

PSYCHOSOCIAL
FAMILY SUPPORT

MENTORING

PARENT
EMPOWERMENT

FAMILY EVENTS

COMMUNITY
TRAINING

OUTREACH

PUBLICATIONS

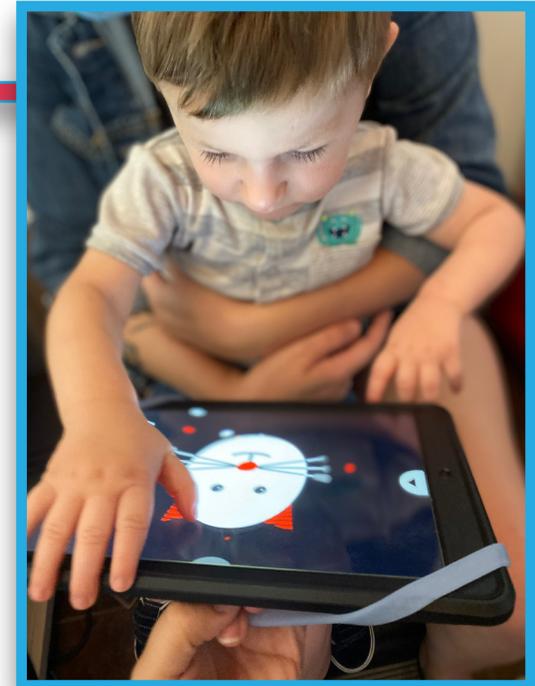
PROGRAMS

Early Childhood (Ages 0-5)

265 children received critical early intervention services.

Children ages birth to five received family-centered intervention from our Vision Educators focused on maximizing the use of functional vision together with accommodations for permanent visual impairment.

Our services quickly shifted this year to include virtual intervention to help families with early education and support while many providers were closed or less available. Early Childhood Services nurtured the emotional adjustment of our families during a time of isolation and increased stress for parents. A focus on early learning opportunities around the house helped our youngest children meet developmental milestones as part of their daily family interactions and routines.

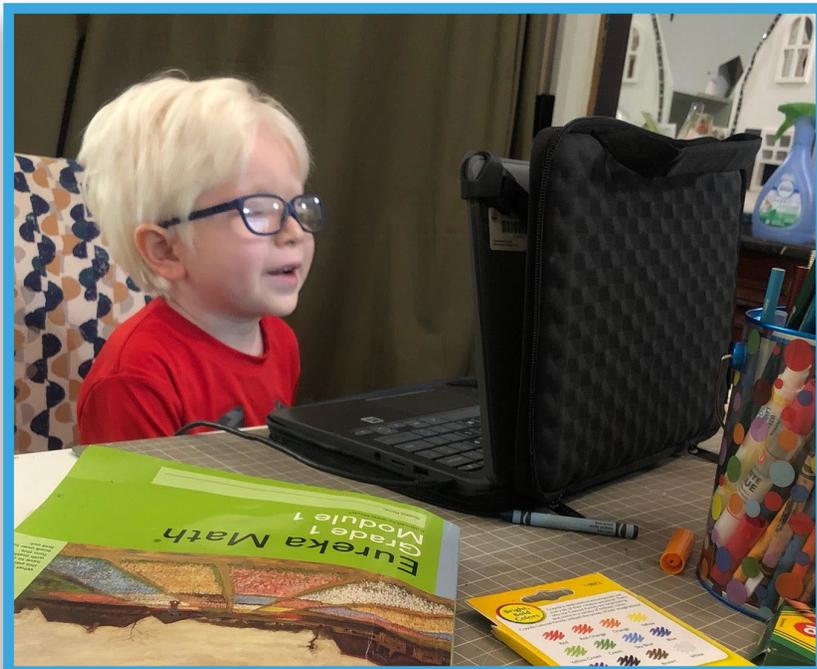
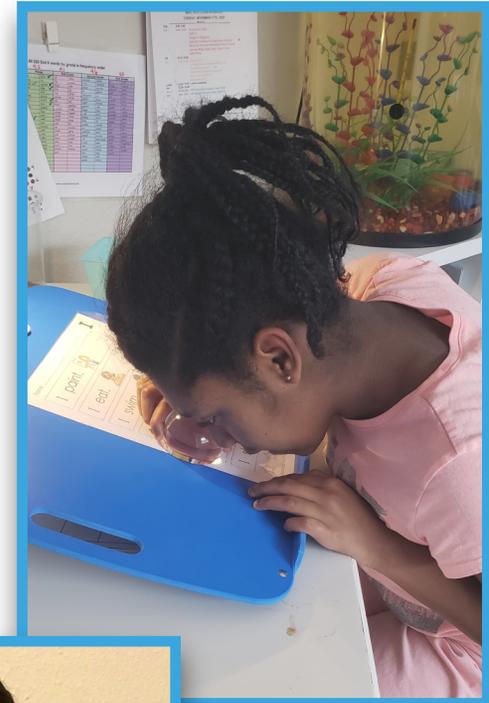


Youth Development (Ages 6-13)

205 children received services improving learning success.

School age children with vision loss and their families receive education, resources and support to help them achieve learning success, independence and self-esteem. Our Vision Educators help families implement individualized low vision strategies at home and at school.

This was a very challenging year for our children who have difficulty with virtual learning that relies on vision. Hundreds of hours were dedicated to helping parents learn how to access online learning and accommodations to maximize learning success. Advocacy information and guidance were provided to parents in our Youth Development Program to assist them in knowing what services their child is eligible to receive and help to successfully access what their child needs.



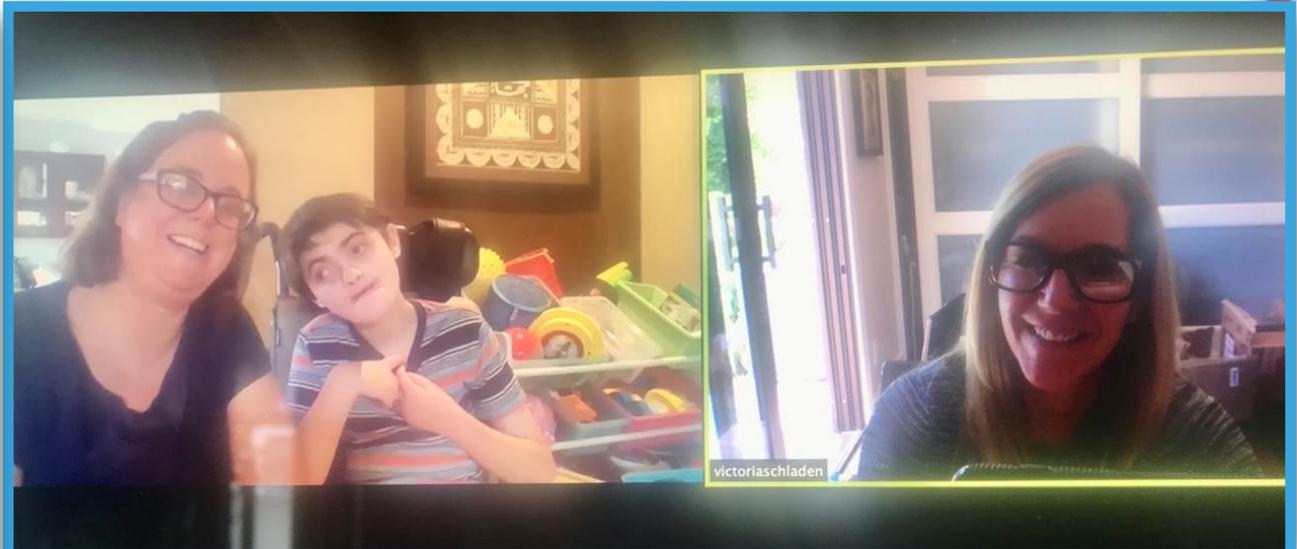
Teens in Transition (Ages 14-18)

81 children received services to build life skills.

The challenges faced by many of our teens and their families as they shifted to online learning this year were heightened because of their visual impairment or additional special needs.

Our Vision Educators played a pivotal role in working together with parents and professionals to support a curriculum that, in a school setting, is highly hands-on and individualized. Thanks to our donors and partners in the low vision community, we were able to quickly provide magnifiers, glasses, lighting, large print and other specialized assistance for our teens to keep their learning on track.

When our partner clinics reopened in June 2020, our Vision Educators were there to help demonstrate low vision devices including assistive technology to maximize learning achievement and strengthen self-advocacy skills. With so much time spent at home, we also provided guidance to families on meaningful ways to encourage independent living skills that will support their teen's transition to adulthood.



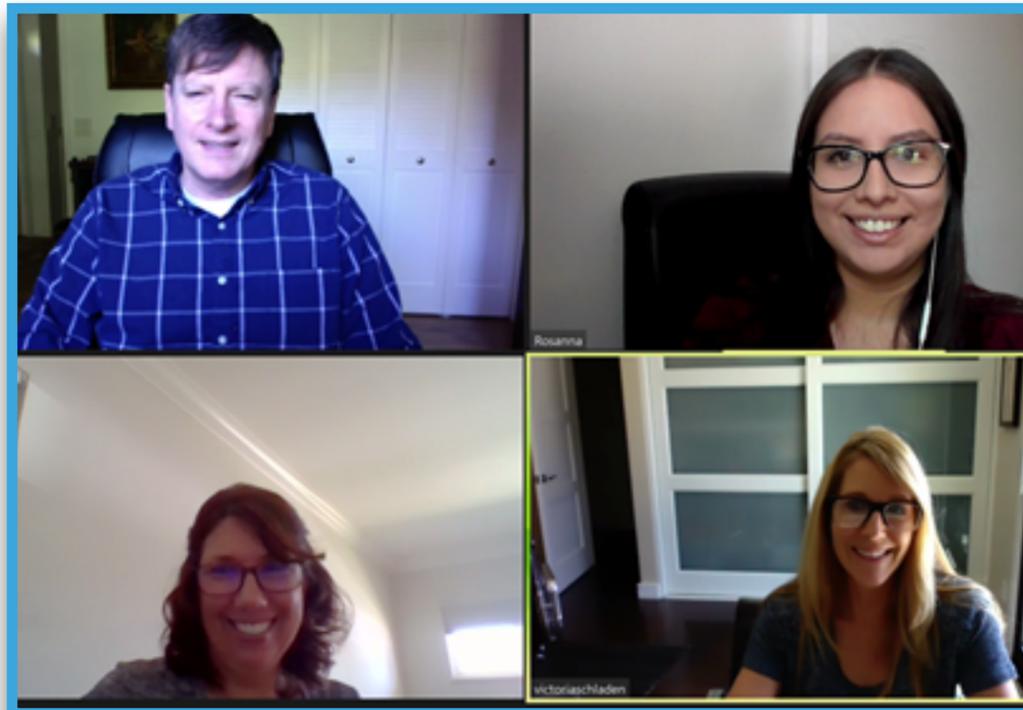
Community Training/Outreach

411 individuals received education about the importance of identifying vision problems.

As a result of our community training and outreach this year, hundreds of professionals in Southern California have a greater understanding of low vision, when and how to refer a child for a vision services and referral networks have been strengthened. The result was increased vision care for more children and families in need.

Partners for Pediatric Vision dedicated hundreds of hours of outreach services to vulnerable and under served families through our collaboration with Partners for Children South LA and other medical, education and social service agencies.

Partners for Pediatric Vision provided training on vision impairment, low vision education, resources and support for staff at the Braille Institute and Blind Children's Learning Center among others this year. We have expanded public awareness of the importance of addressing visual impairment to help identify and refer children who need vision care to providers. More children with vision loss and their families received comprehensive vision services as a result of our engagement with professional partners in the community.



HOW ARE WE DOING?

Families with children who are visually impaired receive early pediatric eye care support and services that result in improved outcomes for their child, their family and the communities that serve them.

Community agencies and health care providers have a greater understanding of when and how to refer a child for a vision exam and community referral networks are strengthened.

94%

of families identified individuals that are part of their support system

96%

of families have a better understanding of their child's vision and can explain it to others

94%

of families agreed that they feel more empowered to advocate for their child

92%

of families reported more optimism about their child's overall quality of life

91%

of families reported less stress associated with raising a child with vision loss

90%

of families reported that their child benefited from adaptations that took into account vision loss

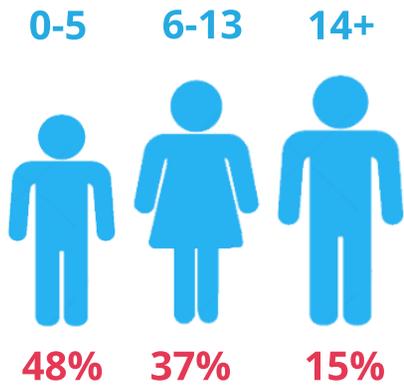
90%

of families reported more confidence in raising a child with vision loss

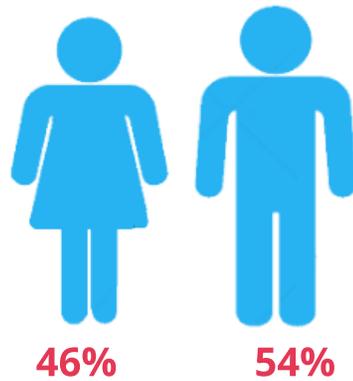


OUR FAMILIES

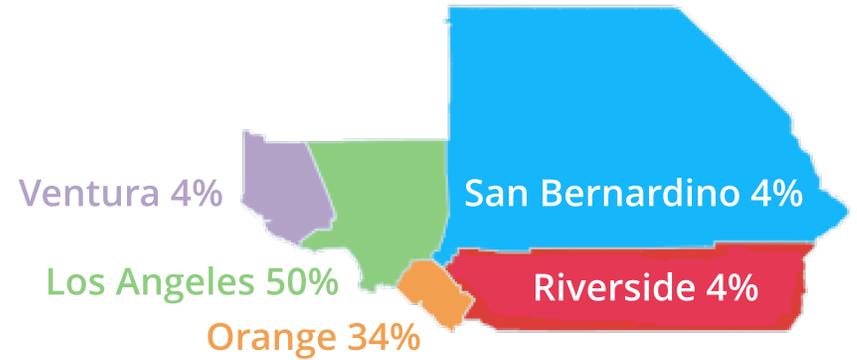
AGES



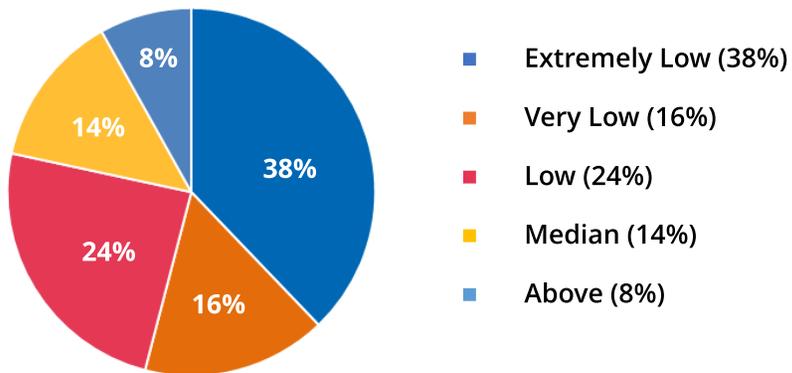
GENDER



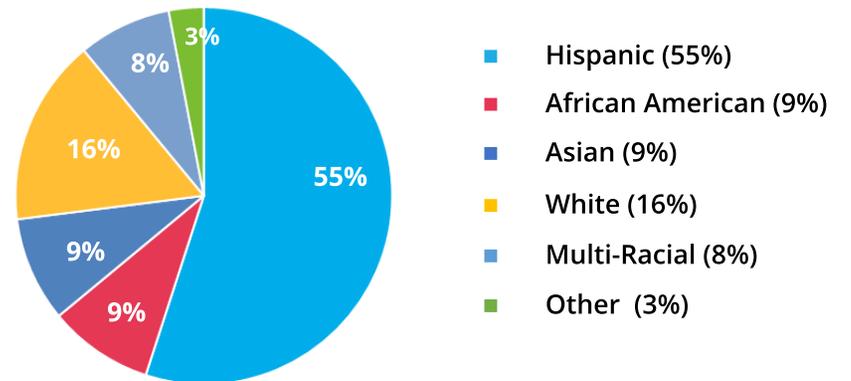
WHERE OUR FAMILIES LIVE



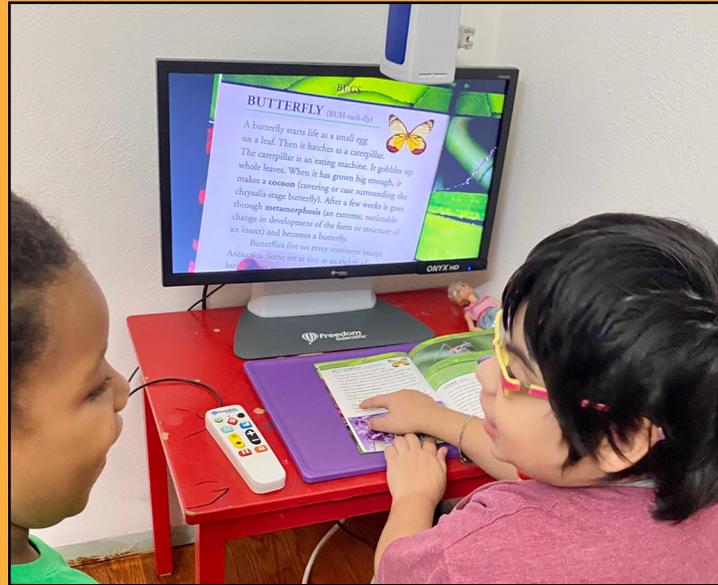
FAMILY INCOME



CHILDREN'S ETHNICITIES



OUR IMPACT



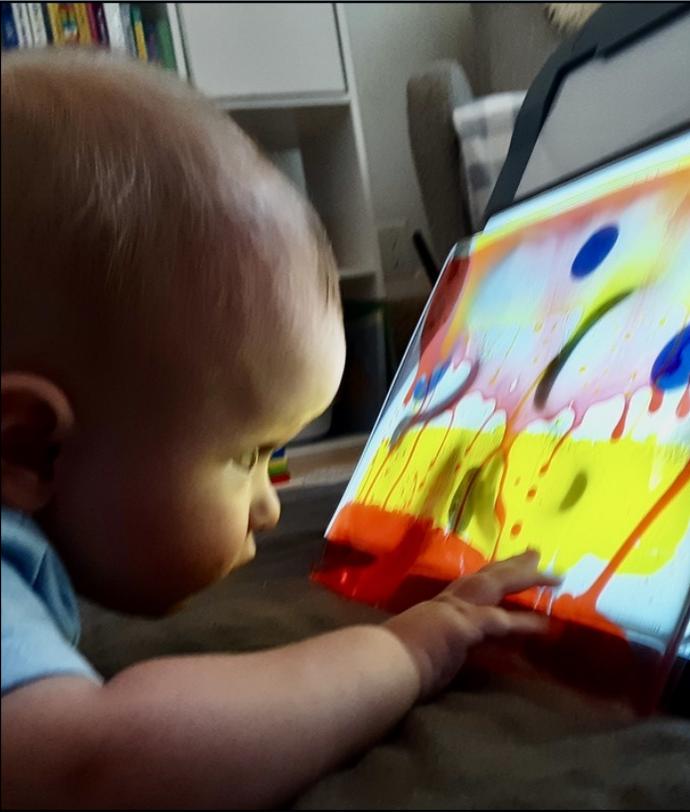
One year old Jayden has low vision due to scarring of his cornea and underdevelopment of his optic nerve. Thanks to an early diagnosis and vision education and support from PPV, Jayden is learning to maximize the use of his remaining sight. He loves his new glasses that help him see more clearly and protect the vision he has in one eye. PPV provides a Low Vision experience for the first graders at John Thomas Dye School and they raise funds to help families in need pay for glasses including Jayden's.

Karena has a remarkable history in her seven years. She was placed on hospice at 10 months of age due to her complex diagnoses and poor prognosis. Our focus was on helping Karena to overcome medical, visual and developmental challenges and thrive. Six years later, PPV continues to support Karena in meeting critical milestones like reading, with the assistance of an Electronic Video Magnifier, despite visual processing difficulties. PPV services follow a child from birth to 18. For Karena's family, our guidance and education has helped them become informed and successful advocates for Karena's needs. Together we are confident that nothing stands in Karena's way.

Carter's family had never heard of Optic Nerve Hypoplasia when he was diagnosed at 8 months old. His family contacted us for help and since then Carter has been receiving our vision education and support services and regular eye exams with our Vision Educators and partner eye doctors. At Carter's most recent exam, he was given a prescription for glasses to help him with reading and to protect the vision in his good eye. His mother Rahsheeda reports he is now a full grade ahead in reading!

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

GLASSES AND LOW VISION DEVICES ARE IN THE HANDS OF CHILDREN WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND GENEROUS DONORS



Lightboxes stimulate visual attention for babies like Weston and highlight objects and learning materials making them easier to see and manipulate. There are endless ways to use the lightbox and our Vision Educators individualize learning activities based on each child's needs.

Women Helping Youth (WHY)

Magnifiers, telescopes, slant boards, large print keyboards, task lighting and more have the potential to help a child with visual impairment use their remaining vision to overcome learning challenges. Thanks to a generous grant from **Women Helping Youth**, Partners for Pediatric Vision purchased these beneficial devices so that children can try them out during their eye exam.

If our partner doctors recommend specific devices, we help families acquire them through the public school, grants or loaner programs. Thanks to our donors at the \$2,500 and above level, devices like magnifiers are given to children in their name. Govani's magnifier and LED low glare light were gifted to him thanks to our generous donors.



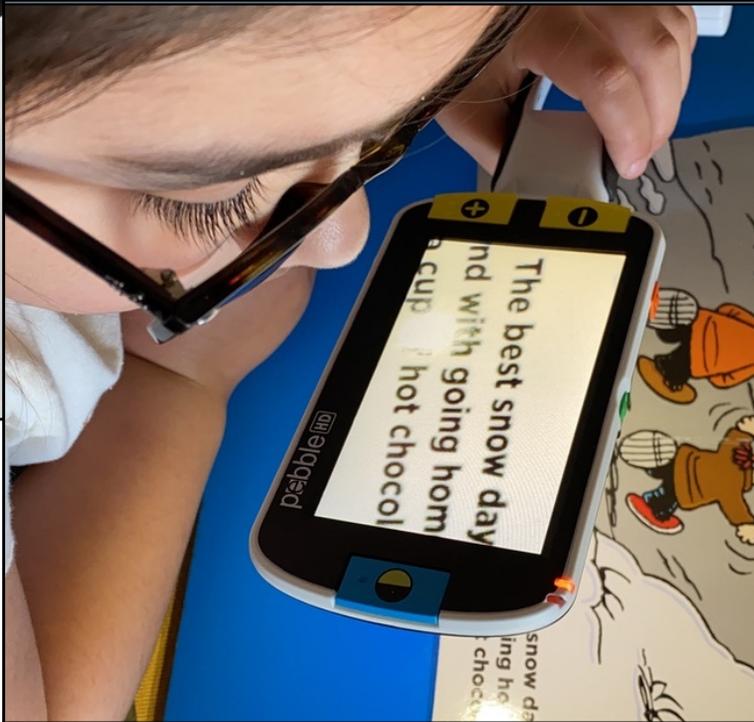
Govani received a handheld magnifier and special LED low glare light with adjustable brightness. Govani can now read and write for longer periods of time without straining his eyes and he is no longer struggling with school work.



Melanie's visual fields are severely restricted due to glaucoma making reading very difficult. She received an Ocutech SightScope telescope and visual field expander thanks to our partnership with the LA Host Lions Club. The first thing she said was, "If you could only see what I am seeing right now!" One of our monthly donors, Low Vision Optometrist Dr. Gary Asano, demonstrated the glasses for Melanie and connected Partners for Pediatric Vision to her family.

Los Angeles Host Lions Club

Specialized glasses and low vision devices are critically important but financially out of reach for many families. The LA Host Lions Club is a longtime partner of Partners for Pediatric Vision that covers the cost of these aids to families in need making it possible for our children to maximize the use of their remaining sight.



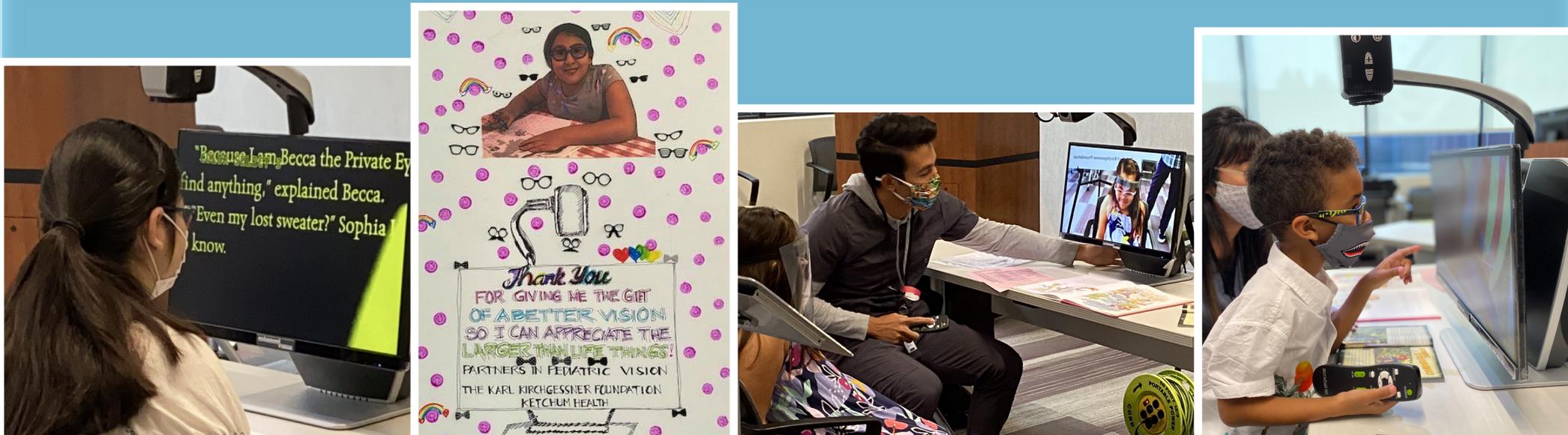
Aliyah received a portable video magnifier called a Pebble and her motivation to read immediately increased. She has become more independent and self-confident and takes the Pebble with her everywhere so she no longer has to ask anyone to read for her.



Greg received his glasses through the Lions Club when he was seen at our partner clinic University Eye Center at Ketchum Health Los Angeles. Greg stays busy with Zoom classes and homework and wears glasses full time to minimize challenges with reading and writing.

Ketchum Health University Eye Centers

Low Vision devices including desktop Electronic Video Magnifiers (EVM's) can enlarge print, enhance contrast and help lessen or eliminate challenges to reading and writing for a child with vision loss. Not to mention increase independence and self-esteem. Thanks to our partner **Ketchum Health** eye doctors who specialize in determining a child's level of functional vision and a generous grant from the Karl Kirchgessner Foundation, twelve children who receive services from Partners for Pediatric Vision were recently awarded desktop EVM's, glasses or a free exam.



"Thank you Partners for Pediatric Vision and Ketchum Health who helped provide an EVM for our daughter. Our school will be 100% distant learning for the whole school year. This amazing device has given her excitement to learn because she can now see what everyone else sees. Thank you so very much!" ~ Amanda's family

"Thank you so much for all of your help in getting Avery the new EVM. It has been such a blessing! The screen size is perfect, she loves that she can freeze the screen in case she needs more time to copy something from the board and she is able to move the camera arm to see more areas around the room." ~ Avery's mother, Cynthia

PHILANTHROPY PARTNERSHIPS

Play is a powerful way to make learning fun and meaningful. For children with vision loss, toys that have texture, make sound, and are high contrast help stimulate curiosity. **The Mattel Children's Foundation** generously donates toys and games including Braille Uno cards and Mega Bloks to our children of all ages throughout the year at eye exams or family events. During the pandemic, care packages were created and sent to children and families to promote learning and play at home.

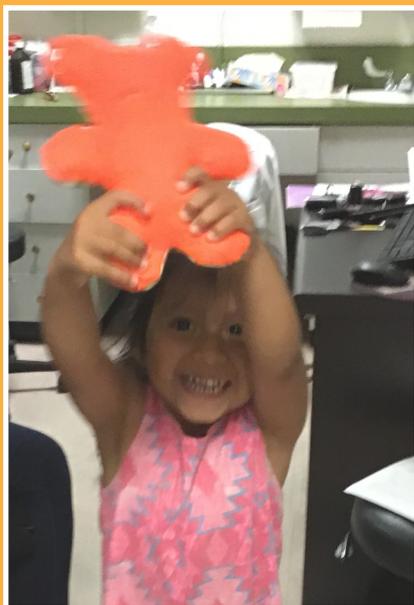


The first graders at **John Thomas Dye School** are young philanthropists making a difference. Since 2008, Partners for Pediatric Vision has provided a Low Vision Experience for the first grade class every year. Masks that simulate different types of vision loss are provided along with activities that are designed to help the students experience what it might be like to be visually impaired. As part of giving back, the first graders raise money to help our families in need cover the cost of glasses, magnifiers or other devices their child needs. This year our Low Vision Experience was virtual but just as meaningful for the first graders and the children who received help from the John Thomas Dye First Grade fund.

THANK YOU FOR TOUCHING THE HEARTS OF CHILDREN WITH VISION LOSS

Binky Patrol members Judith and Jane create hundreds of colorful handmade quilts, tactile activity blankets and textured books and animals specifically designed to encourage exploration and teach concepts. Each one is a work of art and love chosen for a child based on their unique needs and vision challenges. Hundreds of beautifully crafted gifts have been donated to our children bringing smiles and warming hearts.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION



WHAT OUR PARTNER LOW VISION DOCTORS SAY ABOUT US

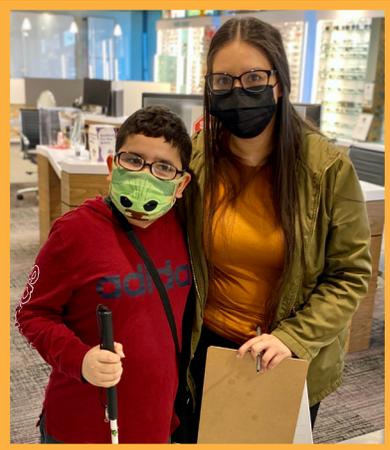


"I wish every collaboration could be as smooth, exciting and rewarding as our work with Partners for Pediatric Vision! (PPV) Every member of the team is genuinely driven by achieving success for these families. Whether that means improving visual function, increasing understanding of a child's condition, addressing access to care issues or financial constraints, PPV makes it their priority to reach each and every family in any way they can.

I look forward to them joining in on patient visits not only because they are always willing to lend a helping hand, but they ensure understanding and compliance to treatments and recommendations that extend beyond the clinic and into the homes and lifestyles of these families. That is an invaluable part of providing care to these young patients and we could not do it without PPV."

Dashaini Retnasothie, O.D.,

Clinic Director, University Eye Center at Ketchum Health Los Angeles



"I have had the privilege of working alongside the team of professionals at Partners for Pediatric Vision for decades. We share a commitment to educating and empowering families so that they can help their child with vision loss reach their full potential. The Vision Educators develop a relationship with the child and the family and they are able to identify the individual needs of each. It is extremely helpful to have Partners for Pediatric Vision Vision Educators attend the eye examinations with the child and family because they are able to share vital information that we need to most effectively help the child. As a doctor, we really appreciate the support from the Vision Educators including providing the family with accommodations for vision loss, parent support and connecting them to services with compassion and encouragement."

Bill Takeshita, O.D., F.A.A.O., F.C.O.V.D.

Consulting Optometrist, Parent Educator, Partners for Pediatric Vision



OUR STAFF



Tori Schladen, M.A., Executive Director and Founder

Tori has over 30 years of experience that includes home-based direct early intervention services to children with visual impairment and 17 years at the Center for the Partially Sighted where she and Dr. Bill Takeshita established the model of Eye Doctor and Vision Educator. She has dedicated her career to improving the lives of children with visual impairment by developing best practices for intervention to benefit families, professionals and communities.



Diane Christian, Ph.D., Assistant Director

Diane's background combines experience working with children and adults with visual impairment and data analytics to highlight the impact of Partners for Pediatric Vision's programs through direct service and results. Diane's contributions to our organization include grant writing, staff and program development, communications, outreach and direct service. She is a resolute and compassionate advocate for our children with visual impairment and their families.



Rosanna Sandoval, Bilingual Family Specialist

Rosanna's background includes hands-on early childhood special education services along with experience providing family support and parent education. Her non-judgmental kindness endears her to families and professionals alike. Rosanna's guidance meets the needs Spanish and English-speaking families have in getting their questions answered and understanding all that can be done to help their child thrive.



Samantha Gama, Bilingual Family Specialist

Samantha has over 10 years of experience teaching children with disabilities including vision loss of all ages in-home and in school and community settings. Our families benefit from the culturally sensitive and empathic intervention Samantha provides. Her experience and training along with her passion and commitment to every child and family makes her intervention invaluable.



Bill Takeshita, O.D. F.A.A.O., F.C.O.V.D., Parent Educator

Dr. Bill performed his undergraduate studies at UCLA before receiving his doctorate degree with high honors from the Southern California College of Optometry. He is a pioneer in Pediatric Low Vision Optometry and his dedication to helping children with visual impairment maximize the use of their vision has changed the lives of thousands of families. Dr. Bill lost his own vision in 2003 and shares his compelling expertise and inspiring perspective to encourage and empower our children and families.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lisa Detanna

Senior Vice President, Investments
Managing Director
Raymond James

Joanne Peterson, M.A.

Director (Retired)
Wells Fargo

Yolanda Moreno, M.A.

CEO
Multiple Disability Services

Lawrence Sher, M.D., FAAP, FAAAA, FACAAI

Pediatrics, Pediatric Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
Medical Director
Palos Verdes Medical Group

Barbra Zukerman

CEO
Wildhorse Supply Co.



Pictured from left to right Tori Schladen, Joanne Peterson, Lawrence Sher, M.D., Diane Christian, Barbra Zukerman and Yolanda Moreno. Not pictured, Lisa Detanna

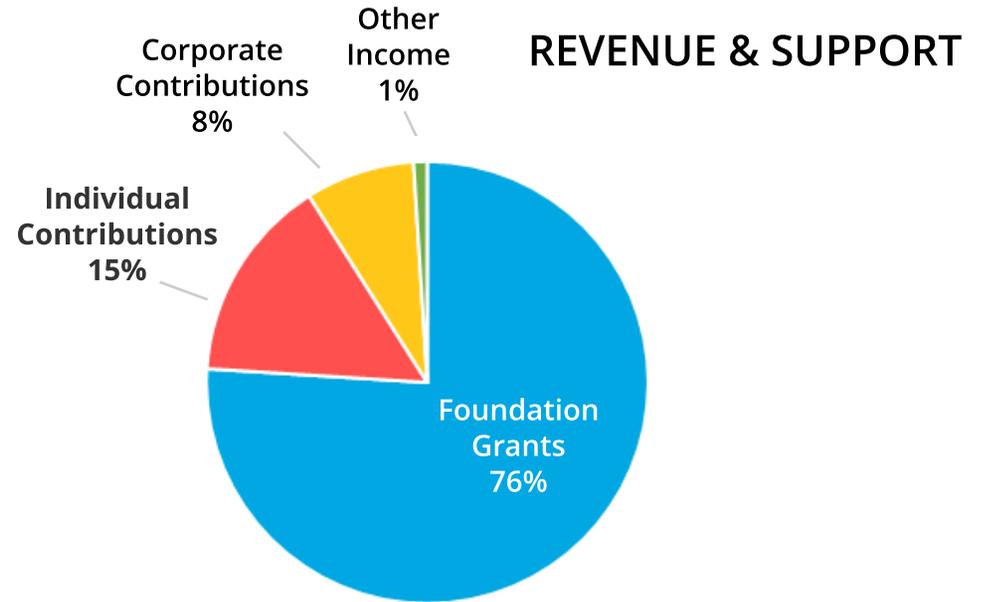


Partners for
Pediatric Vision
Keeping Kids in Sight

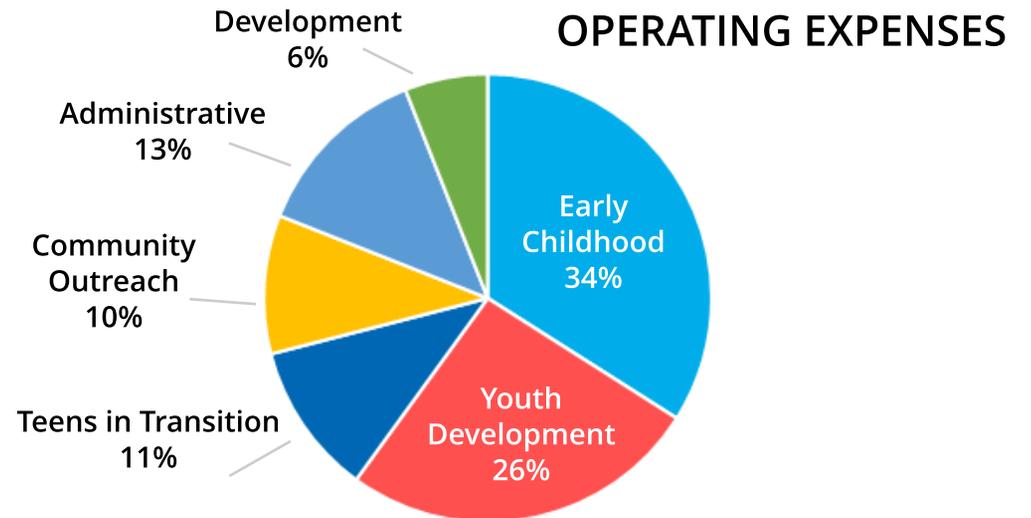
FY 2019-2020 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

OPERATING REVENUE AND SUPPORT	
FOUNDATION GRANTS	\$128,840*
INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 25,977
CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 13,000
OTHER INCOME	\$ 1,259
TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT	\$169,076

* some foundation grants were delayed due to the pandemic



OPERATING EXPENSES	
EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES	\$ 66,724
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	\$ 51,529
TEENS IN TRANSITION SERVICES	\$ 21,139
COMMUNITY TRAINING/OUTREACH	\$ 20,644
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$ 25,565
DEVELOPMENT	\$ 11,174
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$196,775



DONOR HONOR ROLL

KEEPING KIDS IN SIGHT | JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020

\$50,000-\$99,999

The Atlas Family Foundation

\$10,000-\$24,999

Anonymous

Anonymous

Arcadia Inc.

Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation

Sunair Children's Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

Allergan Foundation

Laurie & John Bucher

Diana & Mike Rapport **

Vistas for Children, Inc.

* Board Members

** Recurring Donors

\$1,000-\$4,999

Capital Group

Susan & Adam Carroll

Jerry McJenkin

Lisa & Chuck Noski

Joanne & Charles Peterson*

Stephanie & Robert Sayour

Special Children's League

Whitney Young Children's Foundation

\$500-\$999

Gary Asano, O.D. **

Becky & Eric Bucklin

Cindy & Darrin Freeman

Michelle & Robert Fullerton

Gretchen Harris **

John Thomas Dye School

Lawrence Sher*

Jennifer Vonarb

\$499 and under

Cheryl & Brian Bergmark

Otha Cole

Karen & Steve Connolly

Rachel Davenport

Nancy Dilger

Pamela Driscoll

Ellen Eifert

Mary Garber Rushfield

Jane & Barry Gerber

Janice Goldhaber

Judith Harris

Valencia & J Haynes

Rachel Heuser

Tracey Hornbuckle

Helaine & Steve Lopes

Amee Mikacich

Beth Moore

Jennifer & Peter Morgan

Rebecca Muñoz

Daisy Sandoval

Kathy Siegel

Susan Steinberg-Oren

Sue & Sam Strafacci

Shari & Russ Wollman

Gloria Wu, O.D.

CONTACT

Tori Schladen, M.A., Executive Director
Partners for Pediatric Vision
A Project of Community Partners
1000 N. Alameda St. #240
Los Angeles, CA 90012

partnersforpediatricvision@gmail.com
(323) 612-8185

<https://www.partnersforpediatricvision.org>

Help Us Spread the Word

Connect with us on Instagram and Facebook and share our life-changing mission with others to raise awareness about pediatric low vision.



WAYS TO HELP

Donate

Donations of any size help pay for pediatric vision education and support that helps children ages birth to 18 maximize their remaining vision.

<https://www.partnersforpediatricvision.org/donate>

Join

As a monthly donor to Partners for Pediatric Vision, your support matches families with a Vision Educator at the first sign of vision loss. Join our Sight Savers donors making a difference every month.

<https://www.partnersforpediatricvision.org/donate>

In-Kind Donations of goods or services help us leverage your support to increase our impact.

<https://www.partnersforpediatricvision.org/contact>

Volunteer

Contact us to match your talents with rewarding opportunities to make a difference.

<https://www.partnersforpediatricvision.org/contact>



Partners for
Pediatric Vision
Keeping Kids in Sight