

2023-2024

VALLEY CENTER FOR THE BLIND ANNUAL REPORT



”

***I would rather walk
with a friend in the
dark than alone in
the light.***

-Helen Keller

Building Better Tomorrows

Our Year in Review

Website: myvcb.org

Phone: 559.222.4447

Phone: 661.865.5115



 **VCB**

Valley Center for the Blind

A Letter from Our Executive Director

Dear Friends of VCB,

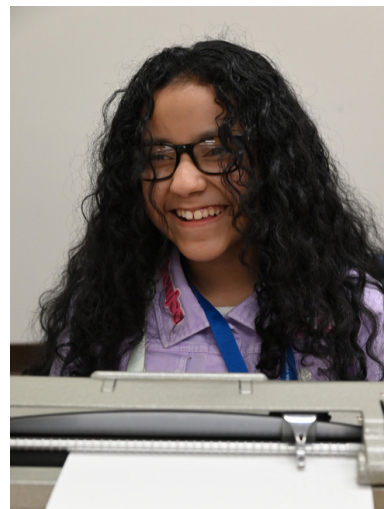
What a year! When we think back on all the accomplishments, fun, and transformation, we are filled with deep gratitude for the countless members of our community who made every effort possible. Our Board of Directors, donors, customers, partners, corporate sponsors, and volunteers are essential to the success of our mission and we have so much to be grateful for. I would also like to say a special thank you to our VCB staff who work so hard to make the organization better every day.

Some amazing things happened this year, and the continuous growth the organization has experienced has been accomplished because this team has an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of people who are blind or have low vision through support, training, and employment. Our plans for the future are big, and every day we find more opportunities to be a wonderful resource to the people we are committed to serving.

With our mission as our guiding light and our core values as our path, VCB served more people with more types of services and in more locations than ever.

Some of our most notable accomplishments in 2023/2024 were:

- Opening our first branch in Visalia, California, creating a physical footprint in a community with no other specialized services for the people VCB is committed to serving.
- Receiving international recognition through our first-ever CARF Accreditation, representing the thorough evaluation of VCB's processes and programs from a highly regarded third-party organization against hundreds of standards of industry best practices, and is the only blindness organization in California to currently do so.



- Tripling our facility size in Bakersfield, creating more training space in a beautifully remodeled and accessible space in the heart of downtown.

To have such consistent and stunning growth has been a continuous encouragement and testament to the great need there is in our community. Over 66% of the nearly one million Californians live with blindness and low vision live below the poverty line. People with visual impairment are five times more likely to feel like they are unable to work in California when compared to people who do not report visual impairment. Additionally, the risk of diabetes, depression, stroke, kidney disease, and severe hearing impairment was up to 11.5 times more likely for people who report blindness or low vision and are out of work, compared to those working for wages. We still have so much to do.

With the dedication of our staff, the support of our community, the partnership of our business customers, and the direction of our board and clients, we are delighted to carry on into this new generation of Valley Center for the Blind's story. We invite you to join us on this journey by attending events, giving generously, and, perhaps most importantly, sharing about this organization as much as possible. So often, we hear of people who waited years to reach out for help. Together, we can continue building a community where those with vision loss who would like support, training, or employment have a professional, effective, and encouraging place to go. A bright future is ahead.

In Service to our Community,



Shellena Heber



About Us



Mission

We support, train, and employ people who are blind or have low vision across Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Kern Counties.



Vision

VCB envisions a California where people who are blind or have low vision have access to robust and effective services that reach each person's unique goals and improving equity in our communities. Through excellence in training, support, community education, and successful employment assistance, VCB will be the premiere agency serving the blind in the Central Valley.



"VCB helped me find my voice."
- Jesus

Core Values

- ✓ Driven towards progress and quality.
- ✓ Foster empowerment through accountability.
- ✓ Care Personally – Challenge Directly.
- ✓ Committed to treating people with respect and professionalism.



REHABILITATION

In Fiscal Year 2023-2024, the Rehabilitation Team provided **12,850 hours** of direct training.

Person-Centered Care

Our Rehabilitation Services provide wrap-around training services that are based on the clients' goals to help them live more independently.



Case Management

Our Case Managers listen to client needs and create a person-centered care plan while also connecting them to community resources.



Low Vision Clinic

Our Low Vision Clinic Manager and Eye Care partners help clients understand their level of vision and explore helpful low vision aid devices available to them.



Independent Living Skills (ILS)

Independent Living Skills Instructors teach essential techniques to daily tasks such as cooking, cleaning, shopping, and so much more to instill self-sufficiency.



Braille

Braille allows people who are blind or have low vision to maintain or gain literacy skills essential for daily life, education, and employment.



Assistive Technology (A-T)

A-T is equipment and software that allow people who are blind or have low vision to use computers, phones, labelers, and software.



Orientation & Mobility (O&M)

Clients learn how to safely and confidently travel within the home, out in the community and even across the country!

340

New Clients Served

712

Total Clients Trained

1,295

Clients Engaged

114

Clients Provided Independent Living Training

300

Low Vision Clinic Appointments

322

Clients Provided Assistive Technology Training

Work Readiness

Preparing for, Securing, and Retaining Economic Mobility Through Gainful Employment

107

Employment Training

Number of clients who worked with VCB Staff to build resumes, improve interviewing skills, master professional communication, and overcome barriers to employment such as childcare, transportation, and understanding benefits.

22

Adult Work Experience

Number of clients who received a paycheck through a temporary work experience, boosting skills, confidence, and desirability to a potential employer. Clients work at a variety of job sites which align with their future career goals.

23

Job Placement

Number of clients who were placed in a non-temporary job. Clients receive assistance through the application and interview process. Once they receive a job offer, VCB can work with the employer to provide any supports or technology needed.

Walking together, step by step...

By partnering with businesses and our state Department of Rehabilitation, our Work Readiness programs provide real employment experiences and supports to help clients succeed in the workforce.



Workforce Development

Because everyone should have the opportunity to work — and every business should have a great company to work with!



Increasing Employment

Through strategic partnerships with private and government entities, VCB creates great jobs that are accessible.



Improving Customer Satisfaction

Our business lines provide excellent quality services at competitive market rates, helping your bottom line and the community to thrive.



More than just a blind center, VCB is a great business partner.

By partnering with VCB, you gain access to a pool of highly skilled professionals which allows you to increase diversity, build a stronger, more dynamic workforce, and boost your company's performance and culture. With partnerships ranging from private companies to government entities, let VCB's success and experience be the solution to your business needs.

*Call Center Services - Document Conversion - Digital Accessibility Auditing
Translation - And more!*

Now with Three Locations to Serve Your Community!

Fresno

3417 W Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93711

Visalia

220 S Mooney Blvd Suite E
Visalia, CA 93291

Bakersfield

2520 H St Suite A/B
Bakersfield, CA 93301



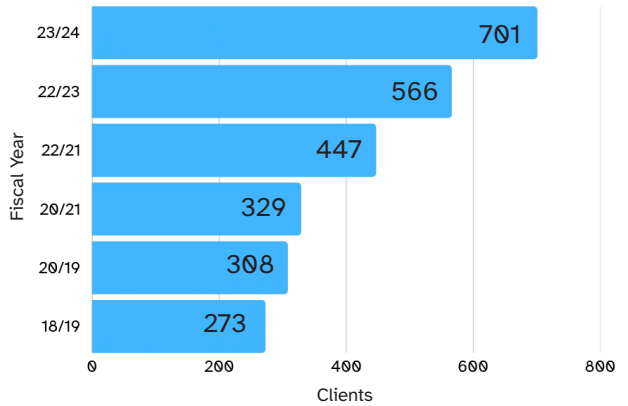
Community-Based, Valley Strong

Valley Center for the Blind is committed to serving our Central Valley community with person-centered services at locations that are within reach. By expanding to two new locations while still maintaining the strong “One VCB” spirit, VCB is reducing access barriers to services, improving potential outcomes for countless individuals living with vision loss in California.

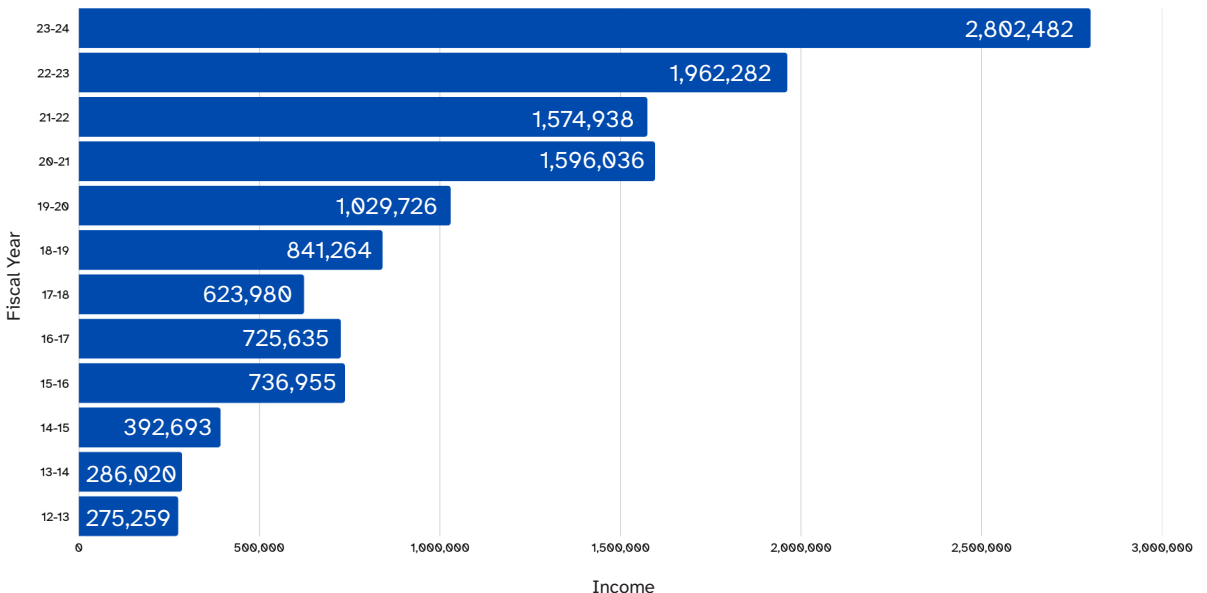
Our Strategy is Access through Growth

The numbers tell the story: VCB's rapid budget growth has fueled substantially more training, which led to 157% more people who are blind receiving a training service in FY 23/24 compared to FY 18/19.

Clients Provided a Training Service

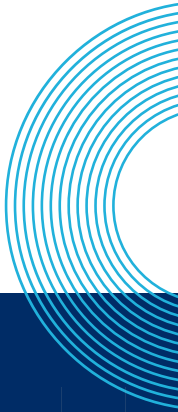


Income by Fiscal Year

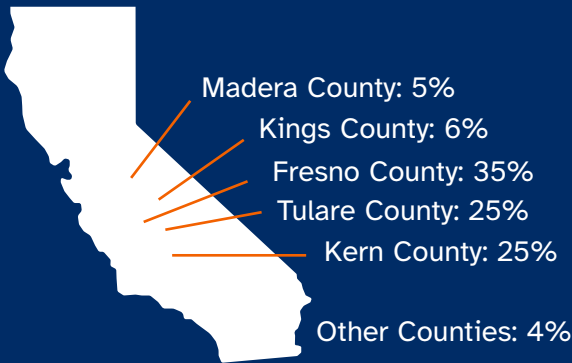


Who We Are

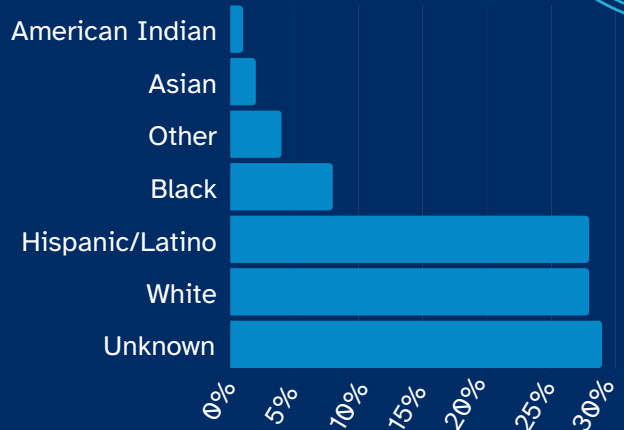
47 of VCB's 63 team members have a visual impairment.



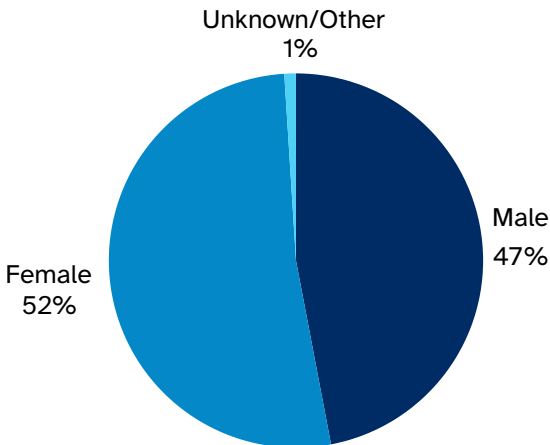
Client County



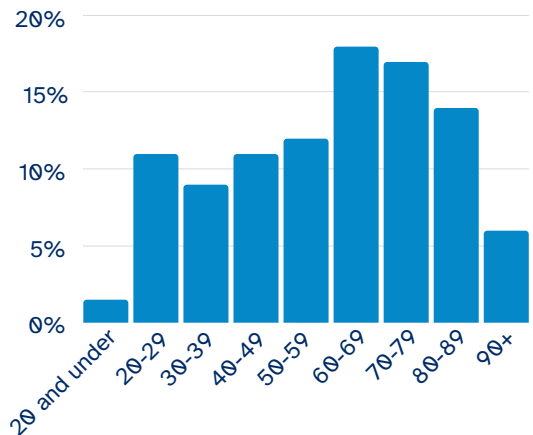
Client Ethnicity



Client Gender



Client Age




Community Support

As a registered 501(c)3 supporting people who are blind or have low vision, we rely on the generosity of our community to continue our essential services. VCB receives \$0 in base grant funding for blind rehabilitation, which demonstrates how much we need your ongoing support.

With you by our side, we have been able to significantly transform. Our Adult Work Experience program blossomed, we created new opportunities for children and adults who are blind or have low vision, added two new office spaces, and continued to be number one in the state for employment success rates in the blind/low vision community.

A Special Thank You To:



A&A Farms	Mechanics Bank
Adventist Health	NIB - National Industries for the Blind
Advanced Retina Care	North Bakersfield Toyota
Around the Clock	Our Lady of Perpetual Help
BHE Renewables	Peninsula Endowment
Bidart Family Foundation	Reliable Healthcare
Bigler, Ann and Russ	Resources for Independence Central Valley
Campbell, Bonnie	S&E Organic Farms, Inc
Central California Women's Conference	Saxelby, George & Sheila
DHCS Incentive Payment Program	Schilling Family Trust
Dignity Health	Shaver Lake Lions Club
EYE-Q Vision Care	Sidlinger, Linda
Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco	Sidlinger, Mark A.
Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission	Today Cleaners
Fresno Rotary	Trichell, Mary
Glassman, Linda	Walmart
Janghu, Pawandeep	Wanger Jones and Helsely PC Attorneys
Kaufmann, James W.	Wayne Long & Co.
	Wright Foundation

FINANCIALS

Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$929,089
Accounts Receivable	\$743,653
Other receivables	\$10,119
Inventories	\$24,844
Prepaid expenses	\$47,691
Deposits	\$8,412
Right-of-use assets	\$304,754
Property and Equipment, Net	\$551,068
Total Assets	\$2,619,630

Liabilities and Net Assets	
Accounts Payable	\$80,311
Accrued Payroll Liabilities	\$98,503
Accrued Vacation Liabilities	\$52,796
Sales Tax Payable	\$948
Restricted Grant Income	\$237,663
Unearned Revenue	\$1,000
Other Liabilities	\$69,177
Note Payable, Current Portion	\$11,249
Lease Liabilities, Long-Term Portion	\$236,943
Note Payable, Long-Term Portion	\$236,570
Total Net Assets	\$1,592,345
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,619,630

Support and Revenue	
Grant Revenue	\$1,043,472
Program Services	\$1,591,999
Contributions	\$48,243
Fundraising	\$75,854
Inventory and Equipment Sales	\$57,526
Other Income	\$23,854
Total Support and Revenue	\$2,840,948

Expenses	
Program Services	\$2,125,379
Management and General	\$428,705
Fundraising	\$30,635
Total Expenses	\$2,584,719

Revenue Over Expenses
\$256,229



“This program has a big impact on my ability to find resources. All VCB staff are very helpful and understanding.”
-Aurora

Performance Indicators

As a part of VCB's commitment to excellence in services, this year VCB attained recognition as the only program serving people who are blind in California to be CARF Accredited. CARF® International is an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services. Accreditation is a review to determine if programs/services meet defined international standards of quality in health and human services.

One critical component of this accreditation is the evaluation of performance indicators each year and the distribution of that information to VCB stakeholders. These metrics measure the effectiveness, efficiency, customer satisfaction, service access and business function for Valley Center for the Blind's (VCB) programs. The system also tracks the characteristics of the participants receiving services. This system is part of VCB's quality improvement system to ensure that individuals served achieve positive outcomes.

Business function performance indicators are relevant to evaluating a program's sustainability, compliance and/or efficiency. Program Service performance indicators are relevant to evaluating the effectiveness (results achieved), efficiency (resources used to achieve results), satisfaction/experience of persons served, satisfaction/experience of stakeholders (referring/funding agencies, employers, etc.) and service/program access (ability to serve those who desire it) measures. To review VCB's business and program service performance indicators for FY 2023/2024, use the following QR code:

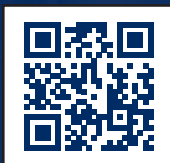


More Inquiries and Information About Us

At Valley Center for the Blind, service is at the heart of everything we do. Be it looking for adaptive techniques and tools to help overcome the challenges of living with vision loss or finding a great network of support for your business, VCB has you covered.

We are excited to hear from you and look forward to creating a custom solution that meets your needs, whatever they may be.

To join our mission to improve the lives of people who are blind in California, use the QR code below:



THANK YOU!

Contact us today and build better tomorrows!

Phone:

559-222-4447
661-865-5115

Website:

www.myVCB.org

Email:

info@myVCB.org



“Being blind is not everything. There are more options in life. VCB can help you find them.”
-Angela