

Vision TOGETHER

VCB Helping Those with Vision Loss

2018

ONE
Grateful

TWO
Inspired

THREE
Determined



Every year, Valley Center for the Blind helps hundreds of people who are experiencing vision loss live a life of opportunity and independence.

Vision loss can be a devastating experience for people of all ages and backgrounds. The effect is real and life-changing. Losing sight can occur for many reasons, to different degrees, and at any stage of life.

At VCB, we help people cope with their loss and regain their confidence, emotional wellness, and ability to perform daily activities. Through our transformative programs and services, we're able to meet the growing needs of real people right here in the Central Valley.

Every day, VCB encounters incredible people who support our efforts. Through our donors, staff, board members, and volunteers, we're able to make a positive difference in the lives of people with vision loss. It's why we've continued to innovate, grow, and evolve since we started on this road more than 40 years ago.

Our stories bring hope to the countless people who feel hopeless in their struggle with blindness. VCB is an organization of overcoming, empowerment, and success. This road to a brighter future is not always easy, but it will change your life.

We invite you to be a part of VCB and join us on this journey.



You are not alone

“Many of my patients have gone from doctor to eye doctor and have been told ‘There’s really nothing more I can do for you.’ When they come to my clinic, I can help them with glasses and visual aids, but, at a certain point, I have to tell them the same. I love to be able to say that there are people at VCB that can help you. That there’s this whole rehabilitation center that will help you move along your path. You’re not alone.”

Dr. Kim Vuong
EYE-Q Vision Care
Corporate Donor

Grateful

“When you find yourself needing help with your sight, VCB is the place to go. With blindness it can come suddenly, or it can come gradually. I came to this organization through an unfortunate accident with a friend’s daughter. When I began to support the organization originally, it was for that one moment, but blindness isn’t temporary. I continue to support the organization because it is for all time. That’s why I’m still here. It’s a project that is growing, continuing, and evolving.”

Keith Gibson
Individual Donor



Blindness isn’t temporary



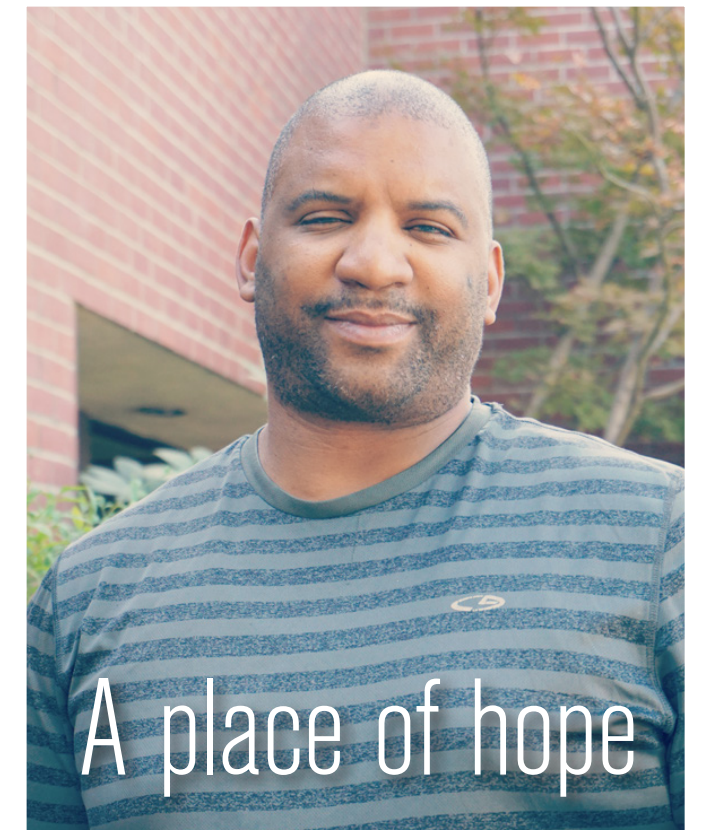
The heart is in the right place

“When I retired I knew I wanted to volunteer. Close to 20 years ago I had some serious issues with my eyes. I am legally blind in my right eye. For someone like me who is interested in volunteering, it’s important to find something that is near and dear to your heart. I have worked in a couple of nonprofits during my years, but until I came here, I had never experienced one where it seemed to me that the heart was really in the right place. Many of the staff have visual impairments or have been touched by vision loss, so I appreciate their efforts to help others. My hope is that VCB continues to grow.”

Loretta Kulberg
Volunteer

“I was diagnosed with an eye condition called Keratoconus when I was 16 years old, which left me partially sighted. I lost my other eye completely in an accident. It was important for me to join the board so I could lend my experiences as a person with vision loss and as a former client. People who first experience vision loss may think that life is over. They might feel trapped in their own home out of fear. But the greatest thing they can do for their situation is to find support, and they’ll find it here. People with vision loss who come here are going to meet others that are going through or have gone through similar experiences. This is a place where people can form friendships, find comfort, and learn skills that they need to continue moving through life. There’s a sense of family here because we’re all here to support each other. VCB can help people grow in whatever level and direction they want for themselves. VCB is really a place of hope.”

Kenneth Clausell
Board Member



A place of hope



ALONE
WE CAN DO SO LITTLE;

together

WE CAN DO
so much.

– HELLEN KELLER



Now I can
give back

“ I have what’s called Microphthalmia, which is undeveloped eyes. I’ve had this since birth. I came to VCB a year ago after moving to Clovis from the San Fernando Valley. VCB is different from many other nonprofits that serve the needs of people with vision loss in that the classes are tailored to each student. I’ve also learned how to work in an office and use more advanced technology. After interning for a little over a year, I’m excited to be joining VCB as a staff member. I feel like I have come a long way and like now I can give back what was given to me. My hope is that VCB is able to help more people experiencing vision loss succeed in everyday life just like everybody else.

Matthew Sidlinger
VCB Intern

Determined

“ I’ve always loved technology ever since I was a kid. I was diagnosed with Retinis Pigmetosa, a progressive eye condition, when I was seven years old. When I got to high school, I was dealing with depression, getting lost at school, bumping into other students, and getting bad grades in classes that I loved all because of my condition. I made a choice then to get help, so I came to VCB. That became the best decision I ever made.

There’s the saying, “if you do what you love, you’ll never work a day in your life.” It feels like I’m fulfilling my life’s mission because I’m able to help people with vision loss access a whole world through technology. As visually impaired instructors, we know the struggles and tough times that people who are dealing with vision loss go through in their lives. Every client that walks through our doors inspires me. These are people who come to us and say “I need help, I want to do something with my life.” Losing sight is difficult. It takes a strong person to step out into a world they can’t see. It also takes strength to ask for help. But we want people to understand that our training will get them to a point where they don’t need to ask for help anymore.

Reynaldo Villareal
VCB Instructor



It takes a strong person to step
out into a world they can’t see

“ My daughter Shaela is number three in the line of four daughters that I have with my beautiful wife Lisa. I have been self-employed most of my life. When Shaela had a car accident that left her blind a little over 6 years ago, I got involved with VCB and found myself leading it shortly after.

It’s heartwarming to know that Shaela made the choice to go on, to succeed, and to not let this tragedy remain a tragedy, but to turn it into a positive.

I hope that my legacy would be that I took something that was awful for us and we built something that makes a true difference. I have a lot of pride in what VCB has become.

I want families to feel that they can come here and we are going to hold them up. We show people that they can have a wonderful life in spite of losing their sight. When they’re happy, then I’m happy.

Ken Warkentin
VCB Executive Director



VCB is my happy place



An environment of
possibilities and peace

“ I’m blind, completely. I’m currently 22. It’s my last year at Fresno State. I’m applying to a Clinical Psychology program to get my doctorate so that I can help people who have gone through or currently are going through losing their vision. VCB to me is hope. We welcome all people. No matter your age, personality, how much eyesight you have. It’s a welcoming place. A place I can come to feel comfortable, accepted, and learn new things. An environment where I can find more possibilities. When I come here I learn things I didn’t even know that I could do being blind and that is really exciting, eye-opening, and comforting. VCB gives me peace to know that I’m okay.

Shaela Warkentin
VCB Program Participant & Volunteer

“ I was diagnosed with Glaucoma when I was 16 years old and it progressed. I became legally blind in my left eye in 2016. I’ve since been coming to VCB. I’m learning how to do things differently but be independent at the same time. I’ve become stronger because of their programs, their staff, all the friendships I’ve made, and the support system here. It’s awesome to be at VCB because there’s a lot of caring and loving people surrounding you. I call it my happy place.

Debra Mock
VCB Program Participant

EXPANDING OUR *Possibilities*

At Valley Center for the Blind, we continue to broaden our reach and strengthen our impact on the Central Valley community. As we move forward, we need your support to help us expand our programs and improve our facilities so that we can continue to provide the best possible benefit to our participants.

A donation to VCB will make a lasting impact on those with vision loss and help us meet both our long-term goals and our current needs.



ANNUAL FUND: *Program Giving*

Your donation to our annual fund means that we can support critical areas of our service that may not be possible through grants and other restricted sources. Donations help fund these priority projects:

- **VCB Low Vision Clinic**
- **Facility improvements**
- **Training and Management Software**

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: *Vision 2020*

We're working toward making these long-term projects a reality by 2020, but need your help to make it happen:

VCB Jobs Center: \$750,000

A 5,000 sq. ft. building that will create new, accessible jobs and job training for people who are blind and visually-impaired and wanting to work.

Procurement of VCB's Current Facility: \$350,000

Removing our mortgage debt, increasing funds for our core services, and ensuring that we have a lasting home for years to come.



Through your kindness today, you can join us on our journey in creating a brighter future for people who are experiencing vision loss. Find out how at www.ValleyCenterForTheBlind.org.

Be a part of the journey of hope.



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