2021-2022 Annual Report

Website: www.myvcb.org

Valley Center for the Blind

\*All images, graphs, and visual formatting have been removed from this document for ease of use with a screen reader. Content remains the same and can be found also on the PDF Annual Report.

# ABOUT US

## MISSION

Valley Center for the Blind supports, trains, and employs people who are blind or have low vision.

## HISTORY

Valley Center for the Blind was originally established in 1973 by Dr. Andrea Schwartz as “Friendship Center for the Blind,” and was intended as a place for seniors with vision loss to come together for support and bonding. Over time, the organization has grown to meet the significant need for specialized blindness services and transformed into what is now known as Valley Center for the Blind(VCB), which now serves Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Kern Counties.

### CORE VALUES

* Driven towards progress and quality
* Foster personal accountability and empowerment
* Care Personally – Challenge Directly
* Committed to treating people with respect and professionalism

# FINANCIALS

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Assets | | |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Current Assets** |  |  |  |
|  | Cash and Cash Equivalents | | $492,374 |
|  | Accounts Receivable | | $613,057 |
|  | Inventories | | $5,186 |
|  | Prepaid Expenses | | $4,774 |
|  |  | **Total Current Assets** | **$1,115,391** |
| **Deposits** | | |  |
| **Property and Equipment, Net** | | | $541,398 |
| **Total Assets** | | | **$1,659,782** |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | | | |
| **Current Liabilities** | |  | |  |
|  | Accounts payable | | | $9,699 |
|  | Accrued payroll liabilities | | | $25,381 |
|  | Accrued vacation liabilities | | | $31,879 |
|  | Sales Tax Payable | | | $2,429 |
|  | Unearned revenue | | | $17,500 |
|  | Other liabilities | | | $129 |
|  | Note payable, current portion | | | $10,481 |
|  |  | **Total Current Liabilities** | | **$97,498** |
| **Long-term liabilities** | | | |  |
|  | Note payable | | | $258,650 |
|  |  | **Total Liabilities** | | **$356,148** |
| **Net assets** | |  | |  |
|  | With Donor Restrictions | | | — |
|  | Without Donor Restrictions | | | $1,303,634 |
|  |  | | **Total net assets** | **$1,303,634** |
| **Total liabilities and net assets** | | | | **$1,659,782** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Support and Revenues | | | |
| Grant Revenue | |  | $387,342 |
| Program Services | |  | $936,834 |
| Contributions | |  | $44,445 |
| Fundraising | |  | $3,167 |
| Inventory and Equipment Sales | |  | $51,701 |
| Other Income | |  | $166,280 |
|  | **Total Support and Revenues** | | **$1,589,769** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Expenses | | | |
| Program Services | |  | $1,234,013 |
| Management and General | |  | $262,449 |
| Fundraising | |  | $272 |
|  | **Total Expenses** | | **$1,496,734** |

## 10 Years of VCB’s Annual Income

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Income** |
| 12-13 | 275,259 |
| 13-14 | 286,020 |
| 14-15 | 392,693 |
| 15-16 | 736,955 |
| 16-17 | 725,635 |
| 17-18 | 623,980 |
| 18-19 | 841,264 |
| 19-20 | 1,029,726 |
| 20-21 | 1,597,262 |
| 21-22 | 1,589,769 |

# BY THE NUMBERS

447 clients served.

## Client Ethnicity

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Black | 7% |
| Hispanic | 29% |
| White | 29% |
| Unknown/Other | 40% |
| Black | 7% |

## Client County of Residence

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Madera County | 3.6% |
| Fresno County | 56.6% |
| Kings County | 7.4% |
| Tulare County | 12.3% |
| Kern County | 15% |
| Other Counties | 5.1% |

## Client Age

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Under 25 | 6% |
| 25-49 | 24% |
| 50-69 | 35% |
| 70-89 | 28% |
| 90+ | 7% |

## Client Gender

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Male | 49.4% |
| Female | 46.3% |
| Unknown/Other | 4.3% |

# YEAR IN REVIEW

The 2021/2022 Fiscal Year represented a year of stabilization and solidification for VCB of the tremendous growth in the prior year. While VCB saw significant improvements throughout the year in a variety of areas, including clients provided training, which increased 35% and fundraising/donation income, which increased 64% from the prior year, the overall budget and staff size remained stable as new programs and partnerships were being developed and contracts successfully won in this year.

Some of the exciting programmatic elements which impacted the organization involved the post-pandemic return to more engaging social and wellness activities. The fiscal year launched with a successful and resounding cheer of empowerment through the return of White Cane Day, a national day of celebration of the abilities of people with vision loss. VCB coordinated a walk through Woodward Park in Fresno with a Taco Truck lunch and had robust attendance. VCB also officially resumed Adaptive Sports workshops this year, giving people who are blind in the Central Valley the opportunity to rock climb, kayak, wakeboard, camp, and more. These transformative experiences have a dramatic impact on self-perception. One client said, “It was very humbling seeing my totally blind friends overcome their life challenges and reach their goals. I was so moved from the experience - I think anyone would be.”

Other program elements which show great promise in the future of VCB include the growth of the Employment Services Program and the launch of VCB's Work Readiness Training Programs. “We were giving our clients all of this training with the hope that they would eventually be employed, but it wasn’t happening,” says Employment Specialist Jamie Gibson-Barrows. ”We realized there was a need within our community to help people who are blind or low vision find employment. So, we did it. We put a team together and created a program that would help.” Placements in this fiscal year for clients include great jobs such as paralegal intern, prep chef, IRS customer service representative, medical clinic receptionist, and legal assistant at a reputable law firm.

Many professional jobs are only possible with substantial skill-building, and traditional training or educational opportunities are often inaccessible for people experiencing vision loss. VCB's new Work Readiness Training Programs partner with World Services for the Blind, the premiere one-of-a-kind vocational training program in the US for people who are blind that boasts an incredible 85% successful placement rate for graduates of their career training programs, many of which offer industry standard certifications. VCB will be facilitating programs in great career paths such as Assistive Technology Instructor, Call Center Specialist, Certified Credit Counselor, Certified Medical Billing Representative, and more!

VCB significantly increased our community awareness efforts in 21/22, attending over 30 community events, including large community gatherings, presentations at senior centers, tables at vaccination fairs, and attending Central California Optometric Society meetings. Thanks to a variety of partnerships, two billboards along the 99 freeway shared positive messages and images about blindness and our organization to countless drivers. VCB also partnered with United Way Fresno and Madera Counties on a pilot program to provide free accessible tax prep to people who are blind or have other disabilities. This program involved leveraging United Way's considerable reach to promote VCB's programs, exposing new segments of the community and increasing VCB's value. In Kern County, VCB worked with a local restaurant to create an accessible art feature for the blind, which drew significant community attention in the newspapers and local news.

Additionally, local eye-related healthcare providers attended our "Wine Tasting in the Dark" mixer to learn more about VCB's services for their patients and improve referral pathways. Finally, VCB's involvement in solidifying CAABVI (California Agencies for the Blind and Visually Impaired) as an independent and productive entity by gaining 501c3 status and hiring its own founding Executive Director, Anita Aaron, cemented VCB's "place at the table" in state advocacy efforts, setting a foundation for the substantial work to be done across the state to improve the lives of people who are blind or have low vision.

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Here are the top three Workforce Development highlights from FY 2021/2022:

### VCB Workforce Development Director Receives NIB Award

In April, Reynaldo Villarreal, VCB's Workforce Development Director, was awarded the highly prestigious Milton J. Samuelson Career Achievement Award from National Industries for the Blind (NIB), for his outstanding work to support and maintain VCB's initial jobs programs. This recognition, both for Reynaldo and for VCB, helped to improve the national opinion of the organization.

### First Federal Contract for VCB

VCB gained its first federal government contract assignment for the Office of Personnel Management, Office of the Inspector General Hotline Call Center. After years of unsuccessful solicitations with NIB, this assignment was a monumental win for the organization and represented the culmination of years of relationship-building and past performance to create more accessible internal positions.

### New Federal Funding for Jobs Training and Case Management

The U.S. Economic Development Administration announced VCB as a subrecipient of the Good Jobs Challenge. This funding is to help individuals who are historically marginalized receive job skills training and upward mobility to attain sustainable jobs. For VCB, this is primarily in the office skills or manufacturing industries. The grant covers a significant portion of our case management costs, which is the first time that type of funding has been available to us.

# THANK YOU

Thanks to you, VCB has been able to support almost 500 people this year on their journey towards independence and employment through training. Throughout Fiscal Year 2021/2022, not only have we shown our resilience after such a rough pandemic, but we’ve also been able to demonstrate our increasing capabilities of achieving so much alongside community partners like you. The amount of growth we have accomplished in this fiscal year has significantly contributed to Valley Center for the Blind’s notoriety amongst our local and federal governments as well as statewide and national advocacy groups for our blind and low vision community. We appreciate all who supported VCB by joining our mission to support, train, and employ people who are blind or have low vision.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

* CA Department of Rehabilitation
* Goodwill of the Finger Lakes
* Beyond Vision
* Exceptional Parents Unlimited, Inc.
* Title 7 Chapter 2
* United Way of Fresno & Madera Counties
* EYE-Q Vision Care
* CA Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation
* Enterprise Holdings Foundation
* Inspiration Foundation
* Dr. Pardeep & Ramneek Bhullar
* James W. Kaufmann
* George & Sheila Saxelby
* Shaver Lake Lions Club
* Linda Sidlinger
* Mark A. Sidlinger
* Sterling Adaptives
* Greg Stobbe
* Wayne Long & Co.
* Wonderful Philanthropy

## CONTACT US

For any questions regarding our Annual Report or how you can continue to support our mission, please contact us at (559)222-4447 or our Bakersfield office at (661)865-5115. You can also email us at [info@myvcb.org](mailto:info@myvcb.org).

Be sure to follow us on social media and listen to The VCB Podcast for all the latest VCB news!