



LIGHT THE WAY

A Champion for the Children

There are many ways to contribute to our critical programs for children in Los Angeles facing blindness and visual impairments. Generous donations today ensure our current early intervention services provide the best outcomes for our current students, while planned gifts build the foundation for our next 80 years of service. It is our privilege to highlight David Braun, who is not only a Board Member and major donor, but a leader who is ensuring the Center's bright future for generations to come.

If you trace the through lines of David's life, you will notice two constants: a love of sports and a passion for helping those in need. Raised in some of our country's greatest cities; born in Pittsburgh, before moving to Washington, DC, and Milwaukee, David matriculated to Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, before embarking on a successful four-decade career in the life insurance business.

A competitive swimmer throughout his youth, David passed his aquatic gene on to his three daughters, all of whom became decorated swimmers. His middle daughter Megan who won the prestigious Big 10 Championship for the University of Minnesota in the 200 Butterfly, later competed at the Olympic trials, and was a four time All-American. His oldest daughter Katie, was also a Big 10 scholarship



David with Tom Sullivan

swimmer who earned All-American recognition four times while attending Northwestern University and competed at the Olympic trials. His youngest daughter Sarah, was also an accomplished swimmer and swam to qualify for the 2009 Special Olympics.

But David was more than just a proud father at his daughters' meets. For nearly a decade and a half, David was intricately involved with USA Swimming and Minnesota Swimming. From 2000 to 2008 David served as a referee at scores of events, and eventually became General Chair for the organization. In 2011, David's work for Highland Capital Brokerage—a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ladenburg Thalmann—brought him to Los Angeles and away from Minnesota Swimming. Commuting between his home in Minneapolis and his new office in Los Angeles was challenging, but as the adage goes: *when one door closes, another opens.*

In early 2011 David and his wife Janna received an invitation to The Tom Sullivan Blind Children's Center Golf Classic, with a wish list of items for the Center included. As luck would have it, Highland Capital Brokerage was moving offices and had beautiful furniture that didn't fit their new space. David asked the Center's leadership if they could make use of the

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LIGHT THE WAY TO A BRIGHTER TOMORROW...



This year marks the Blind Children's Center's 79th Anniversary. Since 1938 we have been providing children who are blind or severely visually impaired with the educational tools and practical skills to lead a successful life.

We humbly ask you to consider including the Blind Children's Center in your estate plan so that these vital services can continue far into the future. Your gift will do more than you even thought possible to transform the lives of children who are visually impaired and their families for generations to come.

For more information, please contact Scott Kassel at 323.664.2153, ext. 2330, or via email at scott@blindchildrenscenter.org.

To include the Center in your estate plan, please use our legal name, "The Blind Childrens Center, Inc." Fed ID# 95-1656369



Tues • March 20 • 2018
THE CALIFORNIA CLUB

BENEFITING THE BLIND CHILDREN'S CENTER AND THE DELTA GAMMA FOUNDATION

On March 20, Los Angeles will welcome its inaugural *Tables That Bloom* event—a signature fundraiser being championed by Delta Gamma alumnae chapters across the country. Inspired by our **Spring into Design** theme, the event will feature custom designed tablescapes to support LA's Blind Children's Center and the Delta Gamma Foundation.



Designers, chefs, florists, and vendors throughout the region are invited to showcase their talents and businesses, while supporting one of LA's oldest charities—the Blind Children's Center now in its 79th year of service. We anticipate 200+ attendees at the luncheon event, which will be held downtown at the prestigious California Club, and includes a mimosa reception, auction and keynote address by entrepreneur and UCLA Delta Gamma alumna, **Erin Condren**. Learn more at erincondren.com.



About the Delta Gamma Foundation

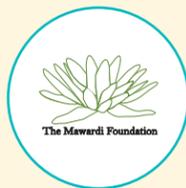
Volunteer service and the "Do Good" motto remain at the heart of the Delta Gamma Fraternity's work.



Through Service for Sight, Joining Forces, the Golden Anchor Program and community activities, the **Delta Gamma Foundation** supports the philanthropic goals of its many chapters. The Foundation's dedicated members and friends make its critical mission possible. To learn more about the Foundation, go to deltagamma.org/foundation.

Generous Support

We are grateful to **The Mawardi Foundation**, supporter of our signature fundraiser as a Cream Rose sponsor.



For more information on corporate sponsorship or if you are interested in being a Table Designer visit blindchildrenscenter.org/TTB to learn more.



Join us!

We look forward to your participation in our event. Thanks to supporters like you, charities like ours are able to provide services for future generations of our city's most vulnerable children.

Individual tickets are \$95 per person. A table for 10 at \$850 includes luncheon, parking and mimosas. 🌟

RSVP by March 6, 2018
blindchildrenscenter.org/TTB
Laurie Headley, Event Director, 323.664.2153
laurie@blindchildrenscenter.org

HOLIDAY PARTY WITH SANTA!

Presented by
Rampart and R&I Divisions of LAPD



On December 13, 2017, our city's finest, the Los Angeles Police Department brought the holiday spirit to the Blind Children's Center. As dedicated supporters for more than 40 years, officers of various ranks from several divisions brought a caravan to the Center, complete with flashing

lights and blaring sirens. These LAPD officers generously volunteer their day to spend time with our students and their families and spread the holiday cheer.

Of course, no party is complete without Santa Claus. Toting bags overflowing with gifts, the group greeted and distributed presents to each child, adding a special touch to this joyous occasion. Each student got a turn to visit with Santa, and the day concluded with student performances and delicious treats. 🌟





BLIND CHILDREN'S CENTER
LIGHTING THE WAY SINCE 1938

LIGHT THE WAY

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Tables That Bloom Spring into Design**
Tuesday, March 20, 2018
The California Club
- **Beeping Egg Hunt**
Friday, March 30, 2018
Blind Children's Center



John Hancock
INSURANCE
Presents
The Tom Sullivan Blind Children's Center
GOLF CLASSIC
Riviera Country Club • Monday, May 14, 2018
Taking reservations now for sponsorships, dinner and golf.
Contact Laurie Headley, Event Director
laurie@blindchildrenscenter.org • 323.664.2153 ext. 2342

 BLIND CHILDREN'S CENTER
LIGHTING THE WAY SINCE 1938
ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE BLIND CHILDREN'S CENTER.

OUR MISSION: To foster the development and education of children—birth through 2nd grade—who are visually impaired in an inclusive, family-focused setting.

www.blindchildrenscenter.org

From front page

desks, chairs, and conference tables. "Well, how much could we have?" David recalls was the hesitant response. He resoundingly answered, "All of it!" As a result of their profound generosity, David and his colleagues were named our 2011 "Philanthropist of the Year."

That was David's first major contribution to the Center, but it would be far from his last. While that furniture still dutifully outfits our administrative offices, David's role with the Center has only grown. After learning more about the Center's early intervention services and their impact on so many families throughout our 79-year history, David knew he had found a home away from home in Los Angeles.

One year later David joined our Board of Directors as a full-fledged member. Building on a growing friendship with another BCC Champion, Tom Sullivan, David signed on as co-chair of our flagship golf tournament. Through their partnership, the tournament has grown by leaps and bounds, and we are poised for another great event at the Riviera Country Club this May 14. And David has made the event a family affair; each year his wife Janna, who is a classically trained vocalist with five years of experience with the Dallas Opera, performs during the cocktail hour, bringing added cheer and an angelic voice. As an added



David & Janna with CBS legend Jim Nantz

bonus, at this year's tournament, Janna will sing two songs she recorded from studio session time donated by Tom & Patty Sullivan, with all proceeds going to the Center. David has also taken his advocacy for the Center online, launching a successful Facebook campaign for his birthday, with more than \$1,500 in donations going directly to the Blind Children's Center.

In addition to his current service at the Blind Children's Center, since retiring after 42 years in the insurance business, David has joined up with the American Red Cross as a local DAV (disaster area volunteer), a new role he has taken on with zeal. When Houston was hit with record-breaking flooding and damage, David was on the ground in the aftermath, helping to provide much-needed relief to its citizens.

Whether at the Blind Children's Center, in his home city of Minneapolis, or in the aftermath of a local tragedy, David Braun has long been a champion for those who need it most. Here at the Blind Children's Center, David is more than a board member and a major donor. He and Janna are also ensuring our next 80 years of service by including the Center in their estate plan. We are fortunate to have such wonderful champions among us! 