



BLIND CHILDREN'S CENTER

LIGHTING THE WAY SINCE 1938



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

4120 MARATHON STREET • LOS ANGELES, CA 90029-3584 • 323.664.2153 • www.blindchildrenscenter.org



From Our President

Gregory J. Grande

What does success look like? What does it feel like? How do we know when we've achieved it? Certainly success means different things to different

people, and our own perception is subjective. As a teenager, my idea of success was limited to playing left field for the Los Angeles Dodgers. That dream didn't work out, but fortunately a few others did.

When I think about the Blind Children's Center, and the work that our dedicated volunteers and staff do, I see a different kind of success—one that isn't based on statistics, signing bonuses, or thousands of cheering fans. They are personal successes, shared by small groups of people, but no less powerful or important: when a child with orthopedic issues walks for the first time, or when a parent finds that "aha" moment in a coaching session with a teacher, and realizes just how to reach their child. These are the daily successes that add up to so much more than stolen bases and home runs. *These are changed lives.*

Children are usually unaware of their own growth and success until years later, but their parents and teachers notice. When I read the words of BCC alumni Karen Arcos and Gabriel Lopez, featured on the next two pages, I feel it. I feel their successes and I feel proud to be part of this very important organization. Where the world may often see walls of limitation or "disability," let us continue to open the doors of success and achievement for these children and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory J. Grande".

Welcome Our New Board Member

Andy Wincel

Andy Wincel is the founder, chairman and CEO of Inviso Group, which consists of several precision engineering companies with facilities in the United States, England and India. Prior to forming Inviso, Andy served as president and managing director of Western Pegasus for six years, following a stint with The White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships.



Andy has been honored for his contributions to trade relations between the United States and the United Kingdom, highlighted by a Queen's Award for Enterprise presented by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. He is an alumnus of Boston University, where he was elected student body president. Andy continued his graduate studies at the Sloan School of Management at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

A native of Michigan, he is an avid golfer who enjoys traveling with his wife Rachel. Andy was first introduced to the Blind Children's Center in 2013 when he participated in the Tom Sullivan Golf Tournament. Since then, he has joined the golf committee and has already contributed greatly to the Center. His generosity, commitment and passion for bettering the lives of our students and their families make him a wonderful new addition to our esteemed Board of Directors. 🌟



IN MY OWN WORDS



Technology = Opportunity

Gabriel Lopez

My name is Gabriel Lopez, and I will be a college freshman this fall. I was a student at the Blind Children's Center from 1996-2000, and I return to volunteer as frequently as I can. It has always been very clear to me that the Center's mission is to provide students with the tools they need to take on the world and succeed throughout their lives. For me, and other students who are blind or visually impaired, assistive technology, like the devices pictured on this page, have been so important. Having benefitted from my own experience, I can personally attest to the

value of introducing technology to children at the earliest age possible.

The reality is, it's a visual world. And there are going to be times where a child who is blind or visually impaired will need to interpret the images, graphics or photos their peers are seeing. Having a

great embosser is key. Embossers produce easily understandable tactile graphics that help a blind student quickly interpret an image and continue with a lesson at the same time as their classmates.



Other devices are equally important. I use my braille display every single day of the year, and I'm not the only one! A braille display connects to an iPad, smart phone or computer and converts what's on the screen into braille for the user. And with its built-in keyboard, students like me can type into the iPad or computer much faster than if we were using the device by itself.

An embosser, a braille display, and an iPad—these are tools that every person who is blind or visually impaired should be using. Technology is constantly advancing, and it's important that children keep up in order to ensure that they fit seamlessly into the world around them. With the help of these devices, the students at the Blind Children's Center will be able to take on the world with confidence. 🌟

To contribute to our Assistive Technology Fund for 2015, please call 323.664.2153, or visit our website at www.blindchildrenscenter.org and make a donation online.

BRIGHT FUTURES

From Student to Mentor

Karen Arcos

As a totally blind alumna of the Blind Children's Center, I have served as a Junior Mentor for more than a decade. When volunteering there, I candidly answer parents' questions in either English or Spanish. A mother once asked me about my marriage plans. She feared her daughter would not find someone in the world. I told her I would like my husband to be sensitive towards my needs and not someone who would take advantage of me. I also let her know that her daughter would find a significant other while also caring for herself independently, and this



confirmation brought tears to her eyes. I am humbled by parents' positive comments about me because my goal is to reassure them that their children can be valuable contributors to society someday.

When interning at the Center as an undergraduate at the University of Southern California, I taught a mother and daughter about braille. I introduced a first-grader to the basic use of a portable machine called a BrailleNote Apex, which is analogous to a computer. She learned the keystrokes to navigate menus, open documents, and write within documents in braille. Through our work together, I sought to spark the student's curiosity in technology while instilling

the importance and utility of braille to daily life. I also taught her mother a more advanced form of braille called contractions. Many parents do NOT know braille prior to coming to the Center and thus support their child's literacy development less until given a foundation. Despite literacy serving as a crucial means of obtaining information for the general population, ninety percent of blind individuals nationwide do NOT know braille, yet ninety percent of those who do are employed according to the National Federation of the Blind. I would like to increase the number of braille literate individuals. Therefore, my doctoral work in cognitive neuroscience at the University of California, Irvine will involve researching the impact of braille on working memory starting this fall.

Being a Junior Mentor has given me personal growth because I see the results of my efforts while interacting with others. The Center is as important to me as water is to Earth. I hope it continues watering infinite rosebuds in the future. 🌻

Dear Class of 2015

Each year brings new challenges, new surprises, and new opportunities for success. That means a new group of incoming students, and a new group of graduates like you. We're so excited for you all, but we're going to miss you, too! We hope you'll come back and visit some day and let us know how great you're doing at your next school. In the meantime, our staff, volunteers, and board of directors wish you heartfelt congratulations for all of your hard work, perseverance, and accomplishments so far. We love you! 🌻



Damian

Vivianne

Fausto

Valerie

Alan



LIGHTING THE WAY




Our New Look is Here!

For 77 years now, the Blind Children's Center has stood the test of time thanks to the generosity of dedicated supporters like you.

We pride ourselves on our rich history, from our modest start in a private home with five students, to the growing organization we have become. Seven years ago, we added Kindergarten through 2nd Grade classes to our existing services for infants and preschoolers, and we are making a greater impact than ever thanks to you!



BLIND CHILDREN'S CENTER
LIGHTING THE WAY SINCE 1938


This summer we introduced a new organizational logo and launched an updated website and suite of collateral materials to reflect who we currently are and all that we do. Our bright new colors and modern design focus on an upbeat yet forward thinking approach to education, moving in step with technological innovation. The bright circle symbolizes the sun, or the iris of an eye, while the colorful dots represent the braille code that our students who are blind use to read and write. 



Jeanne Camm

We would like to extend our condolences to the family of Jeanne Camm who passed away earlier this year after a long illness.

Jeanne was the beloved wife of the late William P. Camm who predeceased her in 2009. A devoted supporter of the Blind Children's Center for nearly 70 years, Jeanne first volunteered at the Center in 1946 while an undergraduate member of the Alpha Nu Chapter of Delta Gamma at the University of Southern California.

Born in Los Angeles to Kate and John Crider, Jeanne spent most of her life in Southern California. While living in La Quinta, she served as President of the Eisenhower Medical Center Auxiliary in Rancho Mirage. Her last 20 years were happily spent in Indianapolis where she was an active member of Second Presbyterian Church. She is survived by her three sons and three grandchildren. 

If you would like to make a donation to the Blind Children's Center in Jeanne's honor, please contact Kimberlee Jones at 323.664.2153, ext. 304, or via email at kimberlee@blindchildrenscenter.org.

Light the Way for Future Generations

This past year marked the Blind Children's Center's 77th 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.

Help us build the strong foundation for another 77 years of private early education. We humbly ask you to consider including the Blind Children's Center in your estate plan. 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 Kimberlee Jones at 323.664.2153, ext. 304, or via email at kimberlee@blindchildrenscenter.org. To include the Center in your estate plan, please use our legal title, "The Blind Childrens Center, Inc." Fed ID# 95-1656369

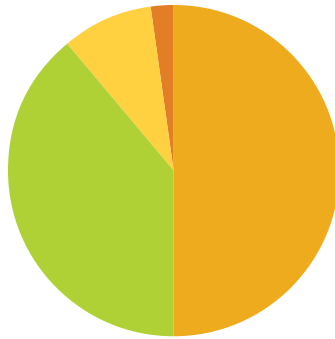
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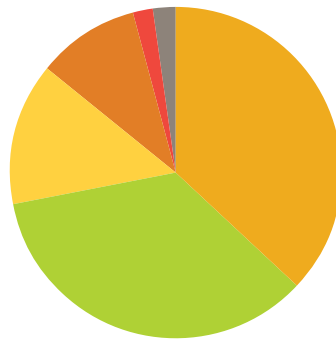
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812 ♥
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9,807 ⌚
VOLUNTEER HOURS



91
STUDENTS ENROLLED



VISUALLY IMPAIRED/BLIND 68%
TYPICALLY DEVELOPING 32%

100 PERCENT
of your donation goes
directly to serving the
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Administration, Development, and Public Information costs are supported by the Investment Account. Audited Financial Statements are available upon request.

OUR YEAR IN PICTURES



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It is our distinct pleasure to acknowledge the many individual donors and community partners who funded the Blind Children's Center's vital work during the 2014/2015 fiscal year.

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BLIND CHILDREN'S CENTER

LIGHTING THE WAY SINCE 1938



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