



Partnering for Statewide Impact



For more than 85 years, the Blind Children's Center (BCC) has been committed to ensuring every child in Los Angeles County who has severe visual impairments receives free high quality early education and interventions. To

amplify our impact, we recently joined forces with nearly 20 organizations dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with visual impairments throughout the state, in a collective called California Agencies for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CAABVI).

As the Secretary of the CAABVI Board and a member of numerous committees, I am deeply involved in tackling the urgent issues facing our field. Currently, we are concentrating on several critical challenges affecting our community throughout the state:

- 1. Combating Workforce Shortages:** We're striving to address the lack of professionals in the vision services sector, including teachers, specialists, and therapists.
- 2. Enhancing Access to Education and Services:** We aim to ensure that effective educational programs and services are readily available for people who are visually impaired, from birth through adulthood.
- 3. Increasing Funding:** We're working to expand the financial resources necessary to implement our initiatives throughout the state.
- 4. Creating Employment Pathways:** We're focused on developing clear routes to employment for school-age children and adults who are blind or severely visually impaired.

Partnering with agencies throughout the state has made us all stronger and shed light on the specific issues we face. Fortunately, the number of blind children in California and across the United States remains low, but that low incidence has also led to a lack of visibility, insufficient funding, and a significant gap in data about our target population. Recently, more and more children are presenting with multiple disabilities, making their visual impairment more difficult to detect and, sometimes, treated as an afterthought or not recorded at all. But through our partnerships with agencies throughout the county and state, and our work in CAABVI we are working hard to advocate for these children and make sure they receive the interventions and services they need.



I am excited to see where our continued partnership takes us and how the organizations within CAABVI can leverage our collective power. Together, we're working towards a future where every child who is blind or visually impaired has the resources to thrive.



Sarah E. Orth
Chief Executive Officer

THE TOM SULLIVAN LEGACY SOCIETY



A PLANNED GIVING
PROGRAM

BLIND CHILDREN'S CENTER
LIGHTING THE WAY SINCE 1938

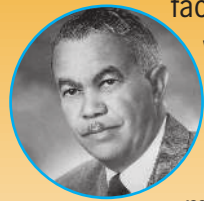


The Tom Sullivan Legacy Society recognizes and honors those who have made, or intend to make, an estate-related gift to the Blind Children's Center. When you include us in your estate plan, you leave a legacy of care, support, and light to children with visual impairments and their families.

To learn more, join, or be connected to an expert, please contact Scott Kassel, Director of Development, at (323) 664-2153 or scott@blindchildrenscenter.org or visit our Planned Giving website at

www.LegacyBCC.org

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE



We are heading into the homestretch on our large-scale facility expansion and renovation! In keeping with the spirit of our Delta Gamma Founders and the vision of our building's renowned architect, Paul R. Williams, our construction team has been making great efforts to modernize the facility while taking into consideration the building's original 1952 design and flair.

"...We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to leverage federal and state funding, and private grants and donations, to modernize the Center and expand our inclusive early learning programs."

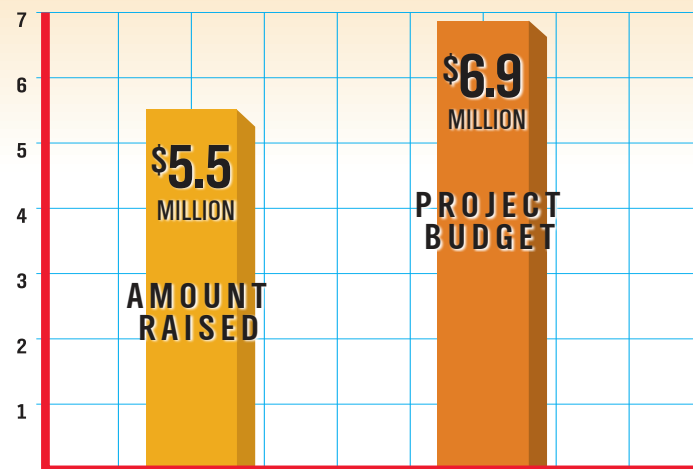
Sarah E. Orth, CEO



We expect construction to be completed in May of 2024, and look forward to a grand reopening and open house in October of 2024 which will be open to the community.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to our partners from the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), the Ahmanson Foundation, the W.M. Keck Foundation, the Rose Hills Foundation, the Leavey Foundation, and everyone else who has helped us get this far!

OUR PROGRESS SO FAR



If you would like to specifically designate a gift to the campaign, please make a note on the enclosed envelope. For major gifts and naming opportunities, contact our Director of Development, Scott Kassel, scott@blindchildrenscenter.org.

Always Anchored With Delta Gamma!

Delta Gamma collegiate and alumnae chapters have remained committed to our program during renovations! We're grateful to each chapter for their contributions in creating story book boxes, pre-braille tactile binders, goodie bags and tactile coloring sheets for our students. Thank you DG Loyola Marymount University (LMU), Pepperdine, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), University of California, Riverside (UCR), and University Southern California (USC)!

A story book box enables our students who are blind or visually impaired to experience a story. Each box contains objects that represent characters, the setting, or significant events in the book. Pre-braille tactile binders help our blind or visually impaired students practice their pre-braille



skills, learning tracking, so they can easily identify braille in the future. Tactile Coloring Sheets were made by DG Alum, Lina Osofsky-Meng, and her colleagues at Samsara, Inc. Together, they made over 50 coloring sheets for students to embrace the Fall and Winter season.

LIFELONG LEARNING

Teaching children who are blind or visually impaired requires patience, empathy, strategy, planning, and specialized training. Our education staff, has been busy this year, building their own capacity to deliver the best services possible to our students. A goal of early education is to create lifelong learners, a practice that is modeled by our education staff. Here is a list of events our staff has attended through LACOE, Braille Institute, Regional Centers, and other partners.*

- Inclusive Early Childhood Education (ECE)
- Creative Curriculum
- Preparing your student for the new school year
- PAT (Parents As Teachers) Foundational Training (Ages 0-2)
- PAT Foundational Training (Ages 3-5)
- Inclusion Practice Cohort
- Childhood CVI (Cortical Visual Impairment)
- Assessment Practices
- Understanding Your Child's Visual Impairment
- LACOE English Language Development
- Understanding the difference between IFSPs (Individualized Family Service Plans) and IEPs (Individualized Education Plans)

**All teachers have attended at least three of these trainings*



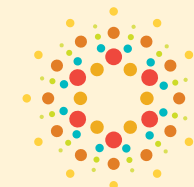
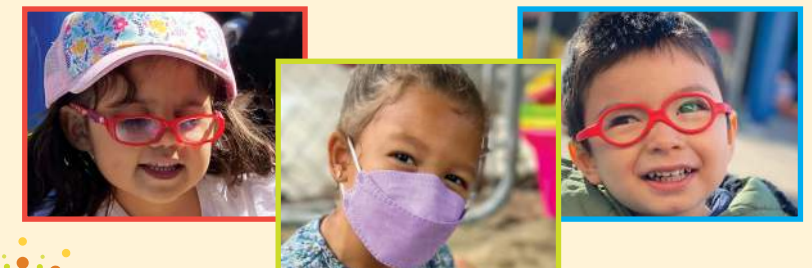
JOIN OUR SUSTAINER PROGRAM

Please help us continue our critical services into the future by joining our sustainer program today!

For as little as \$10/month, you will become part of our special community of monthly supporters dedicated to helping children who are visually impaired thrive in a sighted world. Becoming part of the Sustainer Program is EASY, ESSENTIAL, EFFICIENT, and ENDURING.

GO TO www.SustainBCC.org

Or call our Director of Development Scott Kassel at 323.664.2153 ext. 2330



BLIND CHILDREN'S CENTER
LIGHTING THE WAY SINCE 1938