



MEDIA CONTACT:

Carrie Freitas
Kitchen Table Marketing + PR
949.433.6735
carrie@kitchentablepr.com

BEYOND BLINDNESS IS FUNDING THE FUTURE WITH 2023 VISION BEYOND SIGHT GALA

Emmy-nominated actor and singer Tom Sullivan will join the nonprofit for an evening that includes a dining in the dark experience and presentation of the Dr. Wilhelm de Nijs Vision Award

SANTA ANA, Calif. (February 2023) – Beyond Blindness will hold its annual Vision Beyond Sight Gala on Saturday, March 11, supporting the Orange County-based nonprofit's mission to empower children with visual impairments and other disabilities to achieve their fullest potential. The event is returning to the Marconi Auto Museum in Tustin with an engaging program featuring Emmy-nominated actor, singer and entertainer Tom Sullivan, who became blind during infancy and channeled his life experiences into a riveting one-man show.

A highlight of the evening is the gala's signature dining in the dark experience, which allows guests to personally navigate the challenges of vision loss while enjoying a gourmet meal and wine tastings. Beyond Blindness will also present the Kirchgessner Vision Foundation with the Dr. Wilhelm de Nijs Vision Award, the highest honor the organization can bestow. Named for its founder, the award was introduced last year during Beyond Blindness' 60th anniversary to celebrate individuals who share his profound legacy of making significant contributions to help those affected by vision loss.

"This evening is a celebration of the bright futures of Beyond Blindness children and their families, and we are deeply grateful to our community of supporters, sponsors, and board members for joining us to accelerate growth toward our vision of a world where all children, no matter their abilities, are equipped to live full and rewarding lives," says Angie Rowe, President and CEO of Beyond Blindness. "We're also humbled to present the Kirchgessner Vision Foundation with our founder's award, as they not only fund vision care for those in need and support impactful research, but also forge strategic partnerships that expand our collective reach."

Working together to create greater impact is a key element of Beyond Blindness' five-year strategic plan, which will be advanced by this unforgettable evening. Proceeds from the gala will support the organization's bold effort to continue "Funding the Future" of innovative early intervention, education and enrichment, and family support programming, with a goal of serving more than 2,600 children with visual impairments and other disabilities, and their families by the year 2027.

An anticipated 240 guests are expected to attend the event, which will also include a live auction, opportunity drawing, and an inspiring keynote speech from two alumnae Kendal and Nikki Lyssy. Born 15 weeks premature, the twins learned critical early intervention and independent living skills from Beyond Blindness that helped them on their journey to become graduate students and teaching assistants.

The 2023 Vision Beyond Sight Gala is presented by the Thompson Family Foundation (Funding the Future Sponsor), and the keynote speech is generously sponsored by STAAR Surgical (Visionary Sponsor).

Tickets for the gala are on sale until February 27, 2023; individual seats are \$350 or \$2,500 for a table of 8 (a \$2,750 value). For more information about the 2023 Vision Beyond Sight Gala, please visit www.beyondblindness.org/special-events/gala.

About Beyond Blindness

Beyond Blindness, formerly Blind Children's Learning Center, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission to empower children with visual impairments and other disabilities to achieve their fullest potential. Areas of service include Early Intervention, Education + Enrichment, and Family Support, which all aim to help children, no matter their abilities, live full and rewarding lives. The Beyond Blindness team embraces a people-first approach and values family, connection, impact, inclusion, stewardship, and optimism. For more information, please visit www.beyondblindness.org.

###