



**beyond
blindness[®]**

Building Bright Futures for Children

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

FISCAL YEAR 2023

JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023



BEYOND BLINDNESS IN THE NEWS

Beyond Blindness empowers children with visual impairments and other disabilities to achieve their fullest potential.



38 articles published about Beyond Blindness in local papers and magazines, including the *Orange County Register*, *Orange County Business Journal* and *Parenting OC Magazine*.



11 news features, including two on NBC's *California Live*



Be sure to visit our [Press + Stories](#) page on our website for more updates!

OPTOMETRY CLINIC EXPANDS SERVICES

The generosity of the Ueberroth Family amplified our impact, supporting the addition of a **new optometry lane exam station** in the Beyond Blindness Low Vision Optometry Clinic at the Karl F. Kramer Center for Optometry & Wellness. With the \$15,000 grant, we were able to **increase the number of clients served in an expanded range of ages** in partnership with the Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University.



PRESCHOOL FILLS EDUCATIONAL GAP

Preschool is a space where children of all abilities can thrive, yet many families we serve lack access to vital early education opportunities. We answered this important community need with the opening of an inclusive preschool in fall 2022 that also offers before and after-school care for children ages 3 to 6 years old.

Our unique learning environment sets a new standard of excellence in early childhood education with a multi-sensory curriculum featuring play-based lessons that teach children to advocate for themselves socially and emotionally. The welcoming and supportive community we've created,



along with individual plans developed to support each child's social, emotional, physical and cognitive growth, have proven invaluable to our families – some traveling as far as 40 miles each way to attend.



LEARNING LINK BRINGS NEW FAMILIES TO CAMPUS

We deepened our presence within the community with the re-launch of our Learning Link program in January 2023 for children ages 0 to 5 and their parents. The interactive, drop-in program bridges the gap for families unable to send their children to preschool on a regular basis.

Offered at no cost thanks to a generous grant from the PNC Foundation, Learning Link provides an engaging curriculum designed by our early learning specialists that boosts school readiness through exposure to early classroom concepts such as sharing, exploration and peer interaction. We currently serve an average of 24 individuals per session, who also have access to Beyond Blindness' full scope of early intervention services.



BOARD & ADVISORS ELEVATE SERVICE

Part of our ambitious, fast-paced growth trajectory included the expansion of our Board of Directors. In addition to visionary leaders who have a wealth of expertise across diverse fields, we welcomed two individuals who are also Beyond Blindness parents, bringing a unique perspective to this dynamic group.

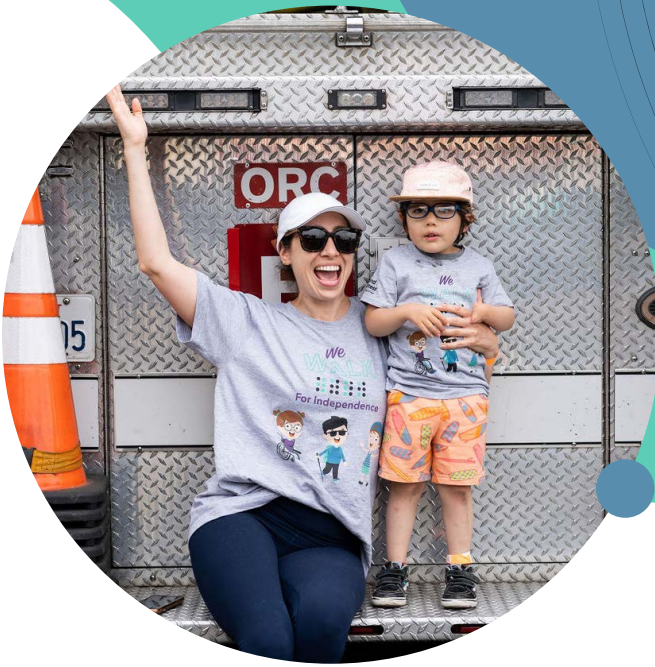
Also experiencing growth this year was the Ophthalmic Advisory Board, which was established in 2019 as a consortium of Orange County's leading scientific and medical academic institutions and companies, including—but not limited to—prominent businesses in the field of ophthalmic research.

AGENCY BUILDS LEADERSHIP PROFILE IN ORANGE COUNTY

A respected nonprofit leader accelerating impact locally and statewide, Angie Rowe was appointed in 2023 as Education Commissioner on the board of First 5 Orange County, a mission-driven public agency that invests in programs and projects to improve the system of care for young children and families.

As Beyond Blindness makes definitive strides to become the leading comprehensive early intervention provider in greater Orange County, this new appointment amplifies our presence within the region and empowers her to drive forward services, access and inclusion for all children with visual impairments and other disabilities.





CLIENT SUCCESS STORY: RHONE

ONE YEAR OF PRESCHOOL CAN MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Born with Moebius syndrome, a rare genetic condition that causes weak or paralyzed eye and facial muscles, Rhone also underwent surgery for severe strabismus (misalignment of the eyes) at just 7 months old. As his family adjusted to his diagnosis and recovery, it was a referral to Beyond Blindness that helped them navigate this new uncertainty surrounding Rhone's future. He began with at-home global infant therapy for a year, but soon graduated to on-site classrooms. Rhone thrived during his first year of preschool, shedding his initial

apprehension as he grew into a confident, active child with an ever-expanding vocabulary. He is now in his second year of preschool at Beyond Blindness, where he benefits from in-class motor, speech and social groups, and receives specialized therapies to address developmental delays – all in one convenient location. "Rhone has made so much progress with us," says his teacher, Melissa. "His verbal skills have really improved allowing him to initiate play with friends and he loves singing during circle time."

“

Parents of special needs kids are often told what their child can't do. You come here and see so many children thriving and doing so well, it makes you realize your child can do big things too.

- Bianca, mom of Rhone

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Beyond Blindness continually looks for opportunities to expand the world for children with visual impairments and other disabilities by partnering with leading Orange County organizations for field trips and special family events. Below, a client experiences the nuzzling of a horse during Family Day at the Shea Center in San Juan Capistrano.



BEYOND BLINDNESS STATISTICS

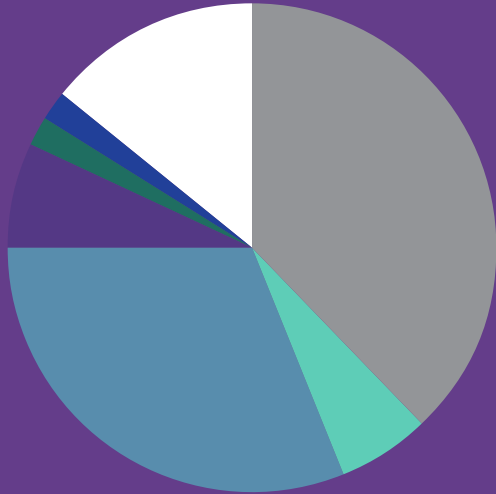
EARLY INTERVENTION

93% of parents responding to a recent survey reported increased confidence in including their child in outside social experiences after receiving services from Beyond Blindness.



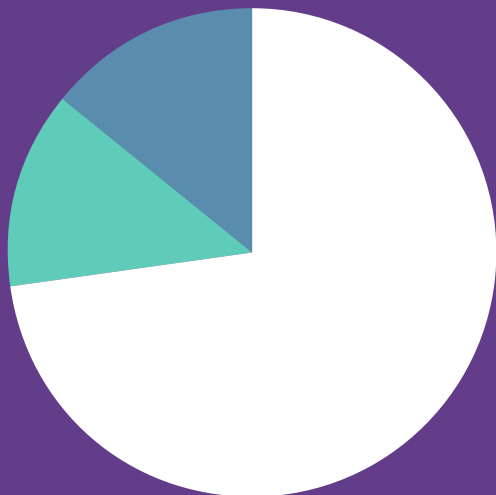
FAMILY SUPPORT

87% of parents reported that participating in Beyond Blindness family events helped their child gain self-sufficiency skills.



REVENUE

Program Fees	38%
Individual & Group Donors	6%
Foundations / Grants	31%
Net Special Events	7%
Corporations	2%
Legacies and Bequests	2%
Net Investments / Other	14%



EXPENSES

Program	74%
Management & General	12%
Fundraising	14%

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

ASSETS

Current Assets	\$4,744,334
Net Property & Equipment	\$521,239
Total Assets	\$5,265,573

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	\$2,204,999
Total Net Assets	\$3,060,574
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$5,265,573

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Program Fees	\$1,607,366
Individual & Group Donors	\$249,830
Foundations / Grants	\$1,282,808
Net Special Events	\$301,667
Corporations	\$78,891
Legacies and Bequests	\$85,000
Net Investments / Other	\$592,368

Total Support, Revenue, and Gains **\$4,197,930**

Total Program Expenses	\$2,895,028
Management and General	\$461,344
Fundraising	\$570,020

Total Operating Expenses **\$3,926,392**

Change in Net Assets **\$271,538**

Net Assets at Beginning of the Year **\$2,789,036**

Net Assets at End of Year **\$3,060,574**



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www.beyondblindness.org

info@beyondblindness.org

(714) 573-8888

**18542-B Vanderlip Ave
Santa Ana, CA 92705**

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