

Foundation for the Junior Blind

ANNUAL REPORT 2003

Celebrating



Years
1953-2003

Celebrating 50 YEARS

See how far we have come...Imagine how far we can go...Share our vision.



50 Years OF SERVICE



Getting Started...

1953

Norman Kaplan and a dedicated group of volunteers started the Foundation for the Junior Blind to address the need for youngsters who were blind or visually impaired to experience recreational and weekend activities with their peers who were blind.

Milestones...

1958

The 40-acre campground in Malibu known as Camp Bloomfield was donated, and today, Camp Bloomfield is the largest summer and year-round camp for children and teens who are blind or visually impaired in the USA.

1962

The Special Education School began as a day program at the Foundation's main Los Angeles campus, and today, provides highly individualized instruction for children ages 3-21 who are multiplydisabled-blind.

1963

The Children's Residential Program began as a residential group living experience at the Foundation's main Los Angeles campus and serves children ages 5-21 with visual impairments and multiple disabilities.

1964

Purchased present facility at 5300 Angeles Vista Boulevard in Los Angeles.

1970

The Davidson Program for Independence began as a comprehensive, residential, rehabilitation program for adults who are newly-blind or visually impaired.

1983

The Infant-Family Program began and provides specialized in-home services for infants and children who are multiplydisabled-blind from birth through three years of age.

1984

Founder Norman Kaplan retired, and Robert Ralls became the new Executive Director.

1988

Held one of the largest reunions by a non-profit organization that was attended by 1,400 former students and staff.

1988

Co-sponsored the first international symposium with the American Foundation for the Blind and welcomed over 1,000 attendees from the USA and throughout the world.





1989

Visions: Adventures in Learning program began and provides enriching and life-changing educational and recreational experiences for children and teens who are blind or visually impaired from California and across the USA.

1990

One of the first computer technology training centers in the nation for adults who are blind or visually impaired was established.

1991

Began summer and after-school youth employment program to help support at-risk inner-city youth: First Steps Youth Enrichment Program.

1993

Started an integration program with the 54th Street Elementary School to provide opportunities for Foundation students and 54th Street School students to interact, socialize, and learn from one another.

1995

Hosted 800 participants in 40 Summers of Fun Olympic-style event at Camp Bloomfield in Malibu.

1997

Established the Davidson Program for Independence Alumni Association to facilitate on-going dialogues among current students and graduates.

1997

Dedicated the Henry L. Guenther Children's Residential Center; the Lucy Elizabeth Shumway Aquatics Center; the W. M. Keck Foundation Plaza; the Weingart Sport Center; the Sanford B. Weiss Patio and Amphitheatre; and the Charlotte and Davre Davidson Dining Hall.

2000

Mattel Park, a unique, multi-sensory, and interactive play yard with sounds and textures, opened at the Foundation's main Los Angeles campus.

2003

Co-hosted the second international symposium, "Vision Loss in the 21st Century – Everybody's Business," and welcomed over 800 attendees from the USA and throughout the world.

Today and Tomorrow...

2003

The Foundation for the Junior Blind celebrates year-long 50th anniversary of providing one-of-a-kind programs to more than 6,000 infants, children, teens, and adults who are blind or visually impaired and their families each year.

See how far we have come...

Imagine how far we can go...

Share our vision.





Message FROM THE **CHAIRMAN & PRESIDENT**

Dear Friends,

Throughout the past year, the Foundation for the Junior Blind has celebrated our 50th anniversary of providing quality services to children and adults who are blind or visually impaired and their families. As we look back at the many accomplishments over the last five decades, we look back with pride but know that there is still much work to do. Our theme, "See how far we have come...Imagine how far we can go," has assumed increased significance in this turbulent post-September 11th world. Like other non-profits, we now experience more funding challenges; however, the tremendous support of the Southern California community ensures that the Foundation will be able to continue to meet the needs of children and adults who are blind or visually impaired and their families during the next half-century.

In February, the Foundation co-hosted an international symposium, "Vision Loss in the 21st Century – Everybody's Business" in Beverly Hills, California, with the New York-based American Foundation for the Blind. The Symposium improved the public's understanding of blindness and vision loss locally, statewide, and nationally. A "Lifetime Achievement Award" was presented to Ray Charles for his outstanding inspiration and leadership.

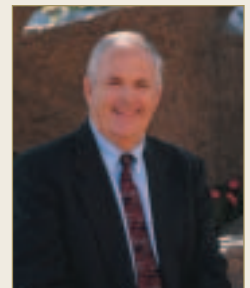
Our focus continues to be our students – who continue to achieve independence everyday. This annual report captures the stories of six individuals and celebrates their triumphs. Rachel, Michael, Serena, Leslie, Billy Ray, and Trena are a reflection of the mosaic that we lovingly know as the Foundation for the Junior Blind. These students inspire all of us to make a difference and support the Foundation's work through caring, providing financial support, and volunteering.

As our 50th anniversary nears its end, and another year is about to dawn, we are grateful and thank you, our Foundation family of supporters, Board, donors, volunteers, staff, and friends. You continue to be generous and supportive. We invite you to join us for the next 50 years and look forward to the challenges that lie ahead.



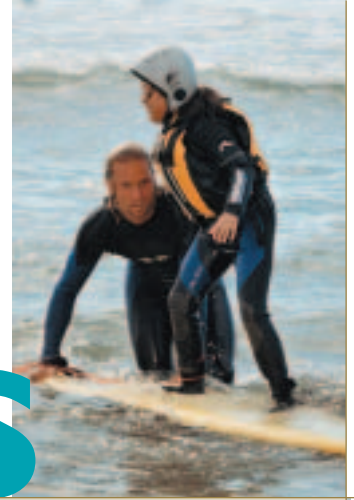
Jonathan I. Macy, M.D.

Chairman of the Board



Robert B. Ralls, M.S.

President



HIGHLIGHTS

- During 2003, celebrated 50 years of providing one-of-a-kind programs to meet the needs of thousands of infants, children, teens, and adults who are blind or visually impaired and their families.
- Advanced the implementation of the 1999-2004 Strategic Plan in areas of programs, facilities, Board development, and volunteer development; and expanded scope of programs to serve more infants, children, teens, and adults.
- Initiated and began implementation of plan to rebuild and renovate Camp Bloomfield in Malibu to prepare our camp for the next 50 years of service for children and teens who are blind or visually impaired.
- Initiated new collaborative efforts with the University of West Los Angeles, California State Department of Rehabilitation, and Center for the Partially Sighted; and also combined efforts to assist children and teens who are blind or visually impaired at the Study Center for the Blind in Chihuahua, Mexico.
- Expanded parent advisory committees with community and professional representatives as well as students and alumni.
- Piloted the innovative Student Transition and Enrichment Program (STEP) for students who are blind or visually impaired.
- Led several successful Visions: Adventures in Learning experiences throughout the year, including a surfing adventure in Carpinteria and an ocean kayaking adventure in Ensenada, Mexico.
- Collaborated with the American Foundation for the Blind and presented the international symposium, "Vision Loss in the 21st Century – Everybody's Business" in February 2003 – attended by over 800 participants from the USA and several countries – a stimulating forum for dialogues about blindness and vision loss.
- Received five awards for interactive website (www.fjb.org) for content, ease of navigation, and accessibility to users who are blind or visually impaired.
- Provided families with food, clothing, and toys by expanding the Adopt-A-Family Program.

"I want to be a teacher so that I can help people."



Rachel

Rachel Ng, an active and energetic 10-year-old, was born with congenital cataracts and is blind in both eyes. But a lack of vision does not hold her back. Rachel has a supportive family, has fun at school, and is a loyal friend. She likes to crochet, which she can do expertly by feel, and during a recent visit to the Foundation, Rachel was hard at work crocheting a scarf for a camp counselor.

On a Visions surfing adventure in Carpinteria north of Los Angeles, Rachel enjoyed the waves, the ocean, and her friends' laughter. Rachel considers learning to surf as one her biggest challenges and one of her proudest accomplishments. Rachel also overcame her fear of horses on a Visions trip to San Diego's Sea World, where she was able to stand next to a Clydesdale horse and pet him.

Rachel enjoys Visions: Adventures in Learning activities because she has the opportunity to interact with children and teens who are just like her – blind or visually impaired – and as a result, she learns from her peers.

Rachel's father believes that her future may involve education or politics, but Rachel says, "I want to be a teacher so that I can help people – just like other people have helped me."



"Michael leads his class in the Pledge of Allegiance."



Michael

When Michael Rayson was 8-years-old, he came to live at the Children's Residential Program at the Foundation for the Junior Blind. That was 1992. Today, Michael is 19 years old, and in the past 11 years, he has made great progress.

Michael was quiet and anxious and was known to scratch and bite. He also needed assistance feeding himself, showering, and learning other independent living skills. Staff members would guide him because he did not know how to use a white cane.

Now, Michael uses the proper techniques when he uses his cane. He speaks often and no longer exhibits aggressive behavior. He can also shower and dress himself. If he hears music that he likes, Michael will take a person's hand and begin to dance. Michael has a keyboard in his room, and when he plays it, he is known as the "music man." He also dances with his siblings when he goes home to visit. In school, Michael is friendly, loves to play games, and leads his class in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Michael's future is bright. He will continue to focus on learning activities for daily living and progressing in the development of his independence skills.



Children's Residential Program

"Camp Bloomfield is awesome – it lets me be ME."



Serena

Serena Miller was born with Retinal Blastoma in both eyes and underwent chemotherapy and radiation. While improved for a short time, her sight has recently deteriorated so that she needs to use a white cane for safe and independent travel. She used to read large print, but now, she reads Braille. In the future, she plans to use a computer with screen-reading software.

Ten years old and in the fifth grade, Serena has been blessed with a role model because her teacher is blind. Her mother believes Serena will learn that although blind, her teacher accomplishes goals just like everyone else. As a result of interacting with her teacher, Serena will learn how to refine her advocacy, independence, and decision-making skills.

At Camp Bloomfield, Serena has enjoyed her friendships with other children who are blind or visually impaired because they share common experiences. Serena's happiest memories of camp include riding horses, climbing the wall and ropes course, and attending Family Camp and Buddy Camp with her sister, Breanna. In Serena's words, "Camp Bloomfield is awesome – it lets me be ME."

Serena has defined her mission. She aspires to be a special education teacher because she can easily relate to youngsters with disabilities, and she would like to make a difference in their lives.



Camp Bloomfield

"Leslie will be ready to learn pre-Braille skills within the next year."



Leslie

Leslie Zamora was born prematurely and, as a result, has a visual impairment. Her right eye can detect light but little else. At two years of age, Leslie is a sweet and friendly little girl with a happy spirit.

Leslie receives services from the Infant-Family Program and has made remarkable progress. She is now able to walk with assistance, has increased her vocabulary – she understands English and Spanish – and uses her hands to explore her environments. With therapy and games, Leslie has become friendly and outgoing. Within the next year, she will be ready to learn pre-Braille skills.

Leslie and her Infant-Family Program specialist often play with toys, and one of Leslie's favorites is a flashlight because she is able to follow the light. Leslie's specialist, Alicia Alcantar, explained, "My hope is that one day, Leslie will be able to live on her own as an adult and have a fulfilling job."

Vanessa, Leslie's older sister, is a loving role model and makes Leslie laugh and smile. Leslie's parents envision her future to be one where she can be as independent as possible, and with all of the love surrounding this special little girl, that hope appears possible.



Infant - Family Program

"Billy Ray's successes symbolize independence."



Billy Ray

Born blind and developmentally delayed, Billy Ray Taylor is 12-years-old and has attended the Foundation's Special Education School for two years. When he started, he needed hand-over-hand assistance with feeding, and now, he eats on his own. His communication skills have also improved as a result of his inquisitive nature, and he often picks up objects and asks, "What is this?" He initiates conversations with teachers and classmates and enjoys painting, dancing, and story time.

At one time, Billy Ray was extremely resistant to walking, but now, he uses his walker and rides an adaptive bicycle all around the Foundation's eight-acre campus. Billy Ray has made significant progress, but most apparent to those who meet him, is that he is a charming pre-teen who enjoys life.

Billy Ray has lived with his foster family since infancy, and he is the recipient of much love and support from this special family as well as his Foundation family. Billy Ray's successes reinforce the potential that all of our students possess, and he is a wonderful role model to other students.

In the future, as Billy Ray's independence skills continue to develop, he will be able to more clearly express himself.



Special Education School

"Trena has become an excellent advocate for herself and others."



Trena

Although Trena Brown was born with Congenital Myopia and is legally blind, she attended college and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business. She grew up in a family who did not really understand vision loss, but when she came to the Foundation, she felt that people finally understood her.

Trena chose to attend the Foundation's adult program because she wanted to improve her skills in the areas of adaptive technology, independent living, orientation and mobility, and Braille reading and writing. When Trena began the program, she was shy, bashful, and uncertain.

Today, Trena is outspoken and self-confident. Ken Metz, the Director of the Davidson Program for Independence, explained, "Trena has become an excellent advocate for herself and others, and that is a very important accomplishment."

Trena has set many goals for her future. She would like to work as a special education instructor for adults who are blind or visually impaired, pursue a Masters Degree, get her own place to live, get married, and get a dog guide. No matter choice she makes or direction she travels, Trena will, without a doubt, make an impact.



Davidson Program for Independence

Our PROGRAMS

CAMP BLOOMFIELD

Camp Bloomfield provides camp experiences for children, teens, and young adults who are blind or visually impaired and their families. Campers participate in campfire activities, horseback riding, swimming, archery, track and field, and learn independence skills, self-advocacy, and the importance of fellowship and fun.

VISIONS: ADVENTURES IN LEARNING



Visions adventures are unique experiences for youngsters who are blind or visually impaired ages 13-18 from throughout the United States. Participation is life-changing as youngsters become empowered to overcome obstacles, achieve goals, and develop self-confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills.

INFANT-FAMILY PROGRAM

Our early intervention program serves families with infants from birth through three years of age who have visual impairments and multiple disabilities. Services include infant development therapy, family support, and counseling.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL

We offer individualized instruction for students with visual impairments and multiple disabilities ages 3-21. Instructors lovingly work with students to develop critical life skills and independent living skills and achieve their greatest level of educational ability and independence.

CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

Our residential living program serves children and young adults with visual impairments and multiple disabilities ages 5-21. In a warm and caring environment, counselors facilitate 24-hour group living, critical life skills, community-based instruction, and the implementation of each child's individual plan.

DAVIDSON PROGRAM FOR INDEPENDENCE



Adults who are newly-blind or visually impaired develop a compass for living at this comprehensive, residential, rehabilitation program that provides skills for community and home living, pre-vocational training, preparation for employment, self-advocacy, and independence.

Counties in California where our students come from:

| | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Alameda | Kern | Napa | San Francisco | Solano |
| Butte | Kings | Placer | San Joaquin | Stanislaus |
| Calaveras | Lake Tahoe | Orange | San Luis Obispo | Tehama |
| Fresno | Los Angeles | Riverside | San Mateo | Tulare |
| Humboldt | Madera | Sacramento | Santa Barbara | Ventura |
| Imperial | Marin | San Bernardino | Santa Clara | |
| Inyo | Monterey | San Diego | Shasta | |



IMPACT OF VOLUNTEERS

of Volunteers

of Hours

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Camp Bloomfield | 347 | 3,853 |
| Visions/Recreation | 105 | 1,335 |
| Infant-Family Program | 75 | 5,525 |
| Special Education School | 388 | 6,346 |
| Children's Residential Program | 301 | 2,577 |
| Davidson Program for Independence | 74 | 481 |
| Administration | 10 | 278 |
| Totals: | 1,300 | 20,395 |

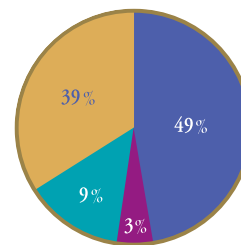
AGES OF STUDENTS

9% = Birth to 5 years

39% = 6-12 years

49% = 13-20 years

3% = 21 years and older



WHO WE SERVE

Students & Family Members

Direct Service Hours

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Camp Bloomfield | 2,687 | 166,320 |
| Visions/Recreation | 1,751 | 85,456 |
| Infant-Family Program | 1,050 | 19,320 |
| Special Education School | 245 | 54,600 |
| Children's Residential Program | 240 | 357,000 |
| Davidson Program for Independence | 386 | 168,588 |
| Totals: | 6,359 | 851,284 |

In addition, the Foundation for the Junior Blind provided community outreach, education, and information and referral to over 60,000 individuals and organizations.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- American Foundation for the Blind
- California Deaf-Blind Services
- California Department of Rehabilitation
- 15 California Public School Districts
- 12 California Regional Centers
- California State University, Los Angeles
- Center for the Partially Sighted
- Fifty-Fourth Street Charter School
- Foster Grandparent Program – Pepperdine University
- Guide Dogs for the Blind
- Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services
- Study Center for the Blind (Chihuahua, Mexico)
- Therapeutic Living Center
- University of West Los Angeles
- View Park Preparatory Charter School

Financial DATA

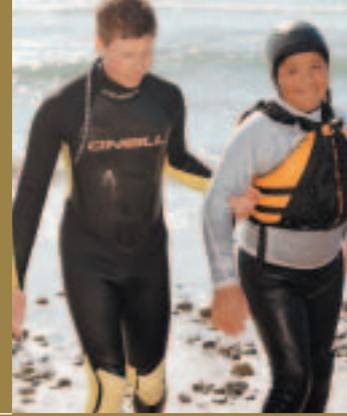
STATEMENT OF REVENUES

| | | |
|---|-------------|--------------|
| Total funds received for operations and capital | | \$10,132,879 |
| Total operating expenditures, depreciation | | 9,975,834 |
| Excess of revenue over expenditures | | 157,045 |
| <i>Support from the Public</i> | | |
| Contributions | \$1,733,321 | |
| Capital | 293,011 | |
| Wills, bequests, and trusts | 2,310,552 | |
| <i>Total Support from the Public</i> | | 4,336,884 |
| <i>Program Revenue</i> | | |
| Program service fees, contracts | 5,355,863 | |
| Total program revenue | | 5,355,863 |
| <i>Total public support, program revenue</i> | | 9,692,747 |
| <i>Other Revenue</i> | | |
| Investment income (loss) | (10,652) | |
| Miscellaneous revenue | 450,784 | |
| <i>Total public support, program revenue, other revenue</i> | | \$10,132,879 |

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES [PROGRAM SERVICES]

| | | |
|--|-----------|-------------|
| Camp and Recreation Programs | 1,130,496 | |
| Special Education School | 1,157,633 | |
| Children's Residential Program | 2,937,851 | |
| Infant-Family Program | 747,512 | |
| Davidson Program for Independence/STEP | 1,462,230 | |
| Public Education | 511,881 | |
| <i>Total Program Services</i> | | 7,947,603 |
| <i>Statement of Expenditures (Supporting Services)</i> | | |
| Management and general | 821,032 | |
| Fundraising | 931,872 | |
| Communications | 275,327 | |
| <i>Total supporting services</i> | | 2,028,231 |
| <i>Total operating expenditures, depreciation</i> | | \$9,975,834 |

Upon request, copies of a complete financial statement, as audited by Harrington & Company, are available from the Foundation.



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Marcia K. Salvary, Director of Development

Mark Vrbka, Senior Director of Programs

Foundation Counsel

Harrington & Company (Auditors)

Latham & Watkins (Attorneys)

Visit us online at www.FJB.org and share our vision.

Our Mission:

The Foundation for the Junior Blind provides programs and services for children, adults, and their families. Our programs are designed to enable infants, children, and adults who are blind or visually impaired to achieve independence and self-esteem.

About the Photo:

In January 2003, twenty kids ages 10-18 who are blind or visually impaired spent a weekend in Carpinteria - near Santa Barbara, California, and despite any fears or hesitation, they learned to surf in the Pacific Ocean.

Join our Legacy Society

We invite you to join our Legacy Society and make a gift that keeps on giving. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary this year, we are also planning for the next 50 years. YOU can help by placing the Foundation for the Junior Blind in your will, which will allow children who are blind or visually impaired to attend camp and have life-changing experiences. If you have any questions about any of our planned giving options including wills, bequests, or charitable gift annuities, please contact our Development Department by phone at **(323) 295-4555**, and thank you for sharing our vision.



Foundation for the
Junior Blind

5300 Angeles Vista Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90043

www.FJB.org

