On behalf of the staff and board of Society for the Blind, thank you for your generosity and support this past year. We are delighted to present our 2018 Annual Report. You will read inspiring stories about our clients and the ways they demonstrate that vision loss does not have to keep people from fulfilling their dreams and ambitions.

This report features highlights from 2018, and we delve into what is on the horizon after 65 years of service to the Sacramento and Northern California region. We strive to be good stewards of the generosity shown to us by our many donors.

Thanks to contributions to our Vision 2020 Campaign, which wraps up this year, we are well positioned to respond to the growing need for services in our region in the coming years. With hammers swinging on our construction project, you will get an insider’s look as we anticipate the grand opening of our new multi-purpose training center later this year.

As we celebrate our 65th anniversary, we are excited about the possibilities ahead. We look forward to continuing this important work with you as a center of excellence for people living with vision loss in our region.

Sincerely,

Janice Walth,  
Board President

Shari Roeseler,  
Executive Director

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### 2018 Revenue

- **Fundraising** $1,861,363
- **Low Vision Clinic Products & Services** $200,226
- **Program Fees** $670,929
- **Store** $45,367
- **Other Revenue** $20,100
- **Government Grants** $551,806

**Total:** $3,349,791

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### 2018 Expenses

- **Programs** $2,439,244
- **Core Mission Support** $152,917
- **Fundraising** $222,683

**Total:** $2,814,844

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We are committed to the prudent use and stewardship of our resources. Doing so allows us to be responsive to the needs of people living with vision loss. We are truly grateful for the generosity of the community which makes it possible for Society for the Blind to serve 27 counties in northern CA.
BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

Join the Vision Forward Giving Circle and give monthly to ensure people losing their sight can create a new vision for their future. Helen Keller thought it was far worse to have eyesight but lack vision in life. Your monthly gift keeps our doors open every day so people build the skills they need to live independently and create the life they want to lead.

Sign up using the enclosed envelope, or visit SocietyfortheBlind.org to learn more.

HELP US REACH OUR FINAL VISION 2020 GOALS

We are in the homestretch of our Vision 2020 Campaign with more than $4M raised to date! As we prepare to wrap up our campaign at the end of 2019, we invite you to help us take it over the top. You can make contributions and in-kind gifts to furnish our new Senior IMPACT Project teaching kitchen and multi-purpose space or invest in our endowment fund to sustain our programs.

Check out our Vision 2020 page on SocietyfortheBlind.org to find our updated Needs List!

MEET ANGELA

When She Lost Her Sight
A competitive pool player, Angela was living in Oakland and winning trophies at pool tournaments when she woke up one morning with no eyesight. She was diagnosed with glaucoma in 2002 and her whole world changed.

“It destroyed me,” she said. “I became a very angry person who was mad at the world and in denial about my eyesight.”

When She Found Her Vision
In 2010, Angela moved to Sacramento to attend our Senior IMPACT Project. After enduring a stroke, thyroid cancer and a heart attack, her skills improved but her attitude did not – until a fellow student called her out on it. She credits that woman and Senior IMPACT Project Director Pat Duffy with turning her life around.

“I realized that I needed to be appreciative of the help I have,” Angela said. “Society for the Blind gave me my life back. Pat was there for me and was a mentor for me. He has stuck by me through the ups and downs of the last nine years.”

How She is Living Her Dreams Today
Angela is now a Senior IMPACT Project mentor and hopes to become a motivational speaker. “I respect myself again,” Angela said. “Society for the Blind gave me a lot of confidence and motivation. I can tell anyone that I’m a much better person now.”
MEET
ELIZABETH

When She Lost Her Sight
In three days, Elizabeth went from being a successful systems trainer at a major health care company to being blind and unable to put on her own socks. She sat in her recliner bewildered and scared for a full day and night and then decided to get help.

“I told myself that I was going down a different path than I had expected, and I had to deal with it,” she said.

When She Found Her Vision
Elizabeth was diagnosed with neurovascular glaucoma. Surgeries and injections only allowed her to see some light and color, but she wanted to return to her job of 14 years at Centene. She attended our Core classes for three months and is back to work with the help of a Core Instructor who comes to her office twice a week.

“The whole team at Society is amazing,” she said. “They are living examples that there is life after sight. They basically saved my life.”

How She is Living Her Dreams Today
In June, Elizabeth trained her first class completely on her own with no vision. She hopes to train people who are disabled.

“I’m so grateful to Society for the Blind and Centene for helping me continue to do this job that I love,” she said.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

We received the Outstanding Community Service Award from the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society for our work providing blindness skills training, low vision eye healthcare and supportive services, as well as our strong collaborations.

We launched our Music Support Group thanks to Society instructor Randy Owen who was inspired by his students' interest in music. The group meets twice a week for jam sessions and will have a designated music room in our expanded space.

We created our Senior IMPACT Project Asian Support Group after two years of work that included an aging and vision loss workshop at Asian Senior Services. The group has grown to 10-12 participants and meets bimonthly.

We expanded our CareersPLUS Youth program, with more than 200 youth engaging in our after-school academy, outreach events and workshops, including an accessible robotics workshop for teens.

We helped adults keep working through our CareersPLUS adult track, with 14 clients finding employment, 18 retaining employment and five enrolling in college.
MEET JASON AND JEREMY

When They Lost Their Sight
Jason and Jeremy were born at 24 weeks weighing just one pound each and were taken into foster care. Because they were twins with medical issues, they were nearly impossible to place – until age 2 when Sharon and Shirley adopted them.

“We knew they had eye issues and were only 14 pounds each, but we had no clue how extensive their medical issues were,” Sharon said.

When They Found Their Vision
With many surgeries and developmental delays, Jason and Jeremy did not learn to read until age 10 and had little contact with other kids. When the family moved to Elk Grove, they found Society for the Blind. The boys attended high school for a year and a half and participated in our CareersPLUS Youth program. They graduated from high school this year – one reading at a 12th grade level and one close behind.

“We realized they needed to grow up and we had to let go,” Sharon said. “We never thought they would graduate from high school, but they did.”

How They Are Living Their Dreams Today
Jason and Jeremy are living together in Midtown, using public transportation on their own and attending community college.

“We had been so worried about how they would survive after we’re gone,” Sharon said. “But Society for the Blind connected us to resources, and the kids now have a community there. This is a new chapter.”

GORDON’S VISION: A LASTING LEGACY
Gordon Digby was a faithful donor to Society for the Blind for more than a decade, until his illness and death in 2017. His regular gifts provided sustaining support for our annual fund, and not long after Mr. Digby’s death, we learned that he had remembered us in his estate plan.

Through his office window, he was impressed with our students out on Orientation and Mobility lessons with their instructors. Though he is no longer here to witness their success, his support for them endures through his legacy gift to Society for the Blind.

If you have included Society for the Blind in your estate plan or would like more information, contact Lina Lloyd, Director of Development, at LLloyd@SocietyfortheBlind.org or (916) 889-7517.

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP
• Give using the enclosed envelope or at SocietyfortheBlind.org.
• Does your employer offer a Matching Gifts Program? You can double your donation!
• Find more ways to help at SocietyfortheBlind.org.
HONORING DR. COLE WITH INAUGURAL BRIGGS AWARD

This year, Society for the Blind is launching the inaugural Briggs Award. Named after Sacramento’s first ophthalmologist, Dr. William Ellery Briggs, this award will bring the community together to celebrate one of Sacramento’s pioneers in low vision eye care, Dr. Ronald Cole, MD.

Dr. Cole was a retinal surgeon at Sutter Health/Medical Vision Technology for many years before retiring in 2014. He developed an e-centric viewing test and techniques to help patients with vision loss use remaining sight more effectively. In 2015, Society for the Blind acquired Dr. Cole’s practice and expanded our Low Vision Clinic to include occupational therapy. Dr. Cole continues to see patients and offers his vast knowledge and expertise to our team of doctors, occupational therapists and clinic associates.

THANK YOU!

More than half of our fundraising comes from people like you in the community. As we celebrate our 65th anniversary, we are grateful to you for helping us empower the rising number of people with vision challenges.

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