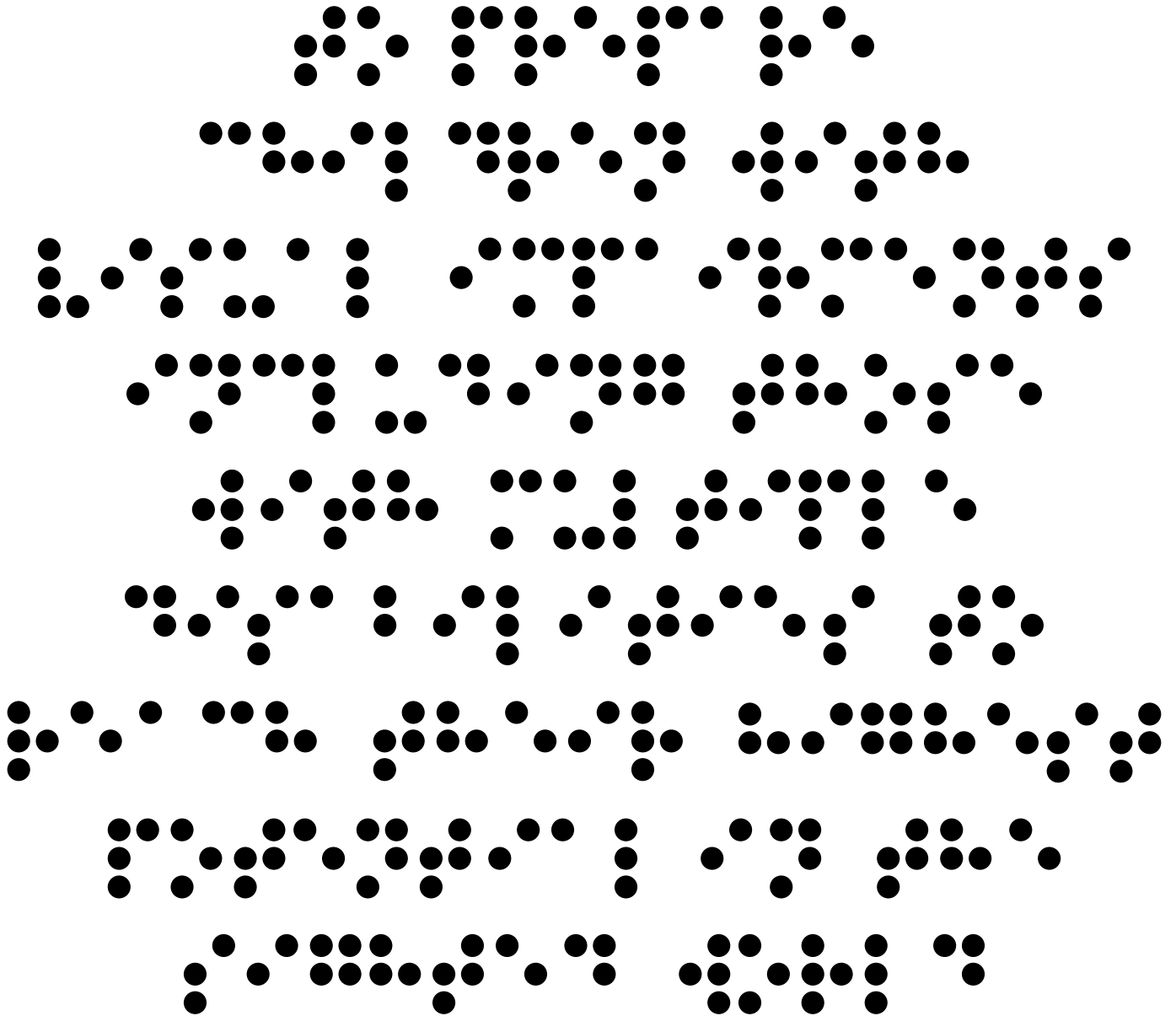




CHILDREN'S CENTER FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED
IMPACT REPORT

2022-2023

MISSION



**CHILDREN'S CENTER FOR THE
VISUALLY IMPAIRED FOCUSES
ON WHAT A CHILD CAN DO
WITH THEIR LIFE RATHER
THAN WHAT THEY CAN'T DO.**

A Letter from the Executive Director

Friends of CCVI,

This year has been bright. And our students continue to shine.

At CCVI, our goal is to find the appropriate intervention for each unique child and diagnosis. **Take a closer look at our cover.** This is meant to represent the many different visual impairments of children we serve, whether it's cortical visual impairment, retinal scarring, or retinopathy of prematurity. On the next page, you'll find our mission statement in Braille, just one of many interventions we use to help set our students up for success.

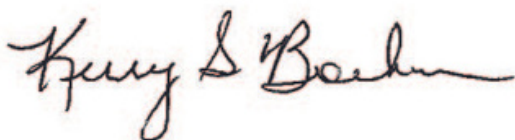
We are committed to preparing children with visual impairments, including those with multiple disabilities, to reach their highest potential in the sighted world. Each year, we take significant strides towards achieving this mission, and it is with **your unwavering support** that we continue to make a difference in the lives of children and their families.

As we shine a spotlight on a few of our resilient, audacious, and inspiring students, we are reminded of the unlimited potential that exists in all children. We invite you to read about the success of children like **Paisley** and **Caleb**, as your support is what helped them grow. Their success is our community's success. And not just communities of individuals with visual impairment. Our children go on to become valued, contributing members of our global society in many different shapes and forms.

Your belief in our mission and your dedication to our cause inspire us every day to strive for excellence in our work.

I assure you, supporters like you deserve a round of applause, and we are much brighter with you in our future.

Sincerely,



Kerry Boehm
Executive Director, CCVI
kboehm@ccvi.org



MEET PAISLEY.



"Ladies and Gentlemen... Paisley!"

In August, **Paisley** began her 7th grade year in the Blue Springs School District. The 13-year-old loves to dance, swim, and plans to try out for the school play, a production of "Elf".

While her independence makes her shine and stand out from the crowd as she navigates a coffee shop with her white cane, mastering the curbs of the parking lot and speed bumps, she still greets her former CCVI physical therapist, **Danielle Schulte**, with a warm hug-- even though it's been nearly a decade since they finished their last session together.

"I could tell you what Danielle (currently CCVI's Director of Therapy and Early Intervention Services) has meant to our family," says Dalli, Paisley's mother. She pauses and smiles with glossy eyes. "But then I'd start crying. We love Danielle very much."

When Paisley was diagnosed as blind at 3 months old, a doctor gave her a brochure for CCVI. She drove to the **Children's Center Campus** that afternoon.

"That's all the doctor said: 'Your child is blind.' The rest of that day was a fog."

After providing an evaluation, CCVI connected Dalli and Paisley with Missouri First Steps, the early childhood coordinating body for the state. CCVI was contracted to provide therapy and education in the family's home, which is where they met Danielle.

"You don't know anything until you know," says Dalli. "Our first teacher gave us a light box and only then did I understand that my child was able to see shapes and outlines and shadows."

When Paisley began **preschool at CCVI**, her family commuted 2 hours round trip 4 days a week to get her the care of CCVI professionals. Dalli split her time between the observation room, learning to parent a child who is visually impaired, and the family waiting room, where she learned that a community was at her fingertips.



"I learned so much from talking to other parents, and I liked to help others however I could," says Dalli. "You can tell on their face when they walk in the door where they're at in their journey. Sometimes, parents are burned inside and grieving because of what their child can't do, so you love on them as much as you can."

While Dalli learned, **Paisley thrived**. During therapy sessions, she would work on navigating the stairs and boldly announce at the top, "**Ladies and Gentlemen...**" as if she were on a stage.

Dalli credits Children's Center for the Visually Impaired for being her foundation.

"Things can look narrow right now (when first diagnosed)" says Dalli. "But CCVI is going to change their life."

As Paisley continues to shine at school, she has become an ambassador for **White Cane Safety Day** and Braille awareness. However, her spotlight transcends her diagnosis. She is a performer and heavily involved in extracurricular activities such as swimming, dance, and vocal arts. She will start ballet soon and has taken guitar lessons, all derived from an urge that her family credits CCVI for cultivating.

"I didn't have family nearby, and it could get lonely," says Dalli. "**CCVI was our family.**"

Still deeply connected with CCVI, the family continues to recognize that the organization is beyond a service provider; it is a community.

"It's still a huge support system and resource even at 13-years-old. **CCVI has never left us.**"

Paisley's success is a beacon for other families at CCVI, as the encouragement they receive now as a child will glow under the bright lights of the rest of their lives. And while it can be "dark" and "narrow" at first, potential like Paisley's will always shine through at CCVI.

Gamechangers for Vision

1

Strategic Plan

We executed the first year of a five-year strategic plan that serves our vision of ensuring all children in Missouri and Kansas from birth to age 21 receive high quality, vision-related educational services.

2

Expanded Team of TVIs

Our team of 12 Certified Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVIs) has grown with 3 new hires over the past 12 months. These providers are on the front lines of education.

3

Service in the Community

The center-based Early Learning Academy is just the tip of the iceberg for CCVI. Over 75% of students are enrolled in our in-home Early Intervention Program or Mobile Outreach for Vision Education (MOVE) Program.

4

Revitalized Parent Events

Families provide the most significant role in the healthy development of a child. We provided free childcare, dinner, and educational seminars to parents and caregivers to grow their skills as advocates.

5

Renewed School District Partnerships

The work of CCVI isn't simply kids attending preschool. CCVI offers consultative services, evaluations, and professional development opportunities to districts to enhance the quality of care they provide.

+

Bonus!

The **B.R.I.T.E. Act** has been in place for a full school year in the state of Missouri! The BRITE Act mandates that students who have a diagnosed visual impairment will receive services to eliminate common barriers and provide access to general education and expanded core curriculum.

Illuminating Programs



**M.O.V.E.
Program**

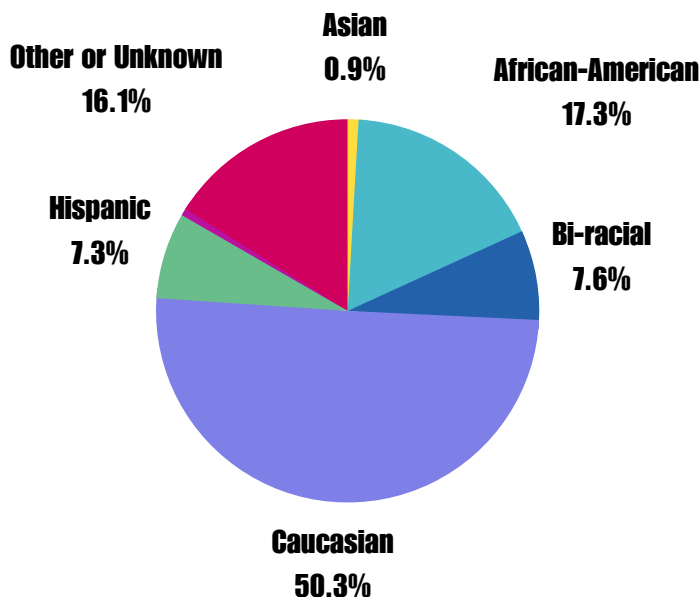


**Early Learning
Academy**



**Early Intervention
Program**

CCVI Fast Facts



245

Functional Vision Evaluations

+100 from last year!

A Year in Review

50%

Students from Low
Income Homes

330

Children Served
Last Year

144

ZIP Codes Served in
Missouri and Kansas



65,419

Miles Driven by Staff to Serve
Children in Surrounding Areas

*Enough miles to circle the earth over 2 1/2 times!

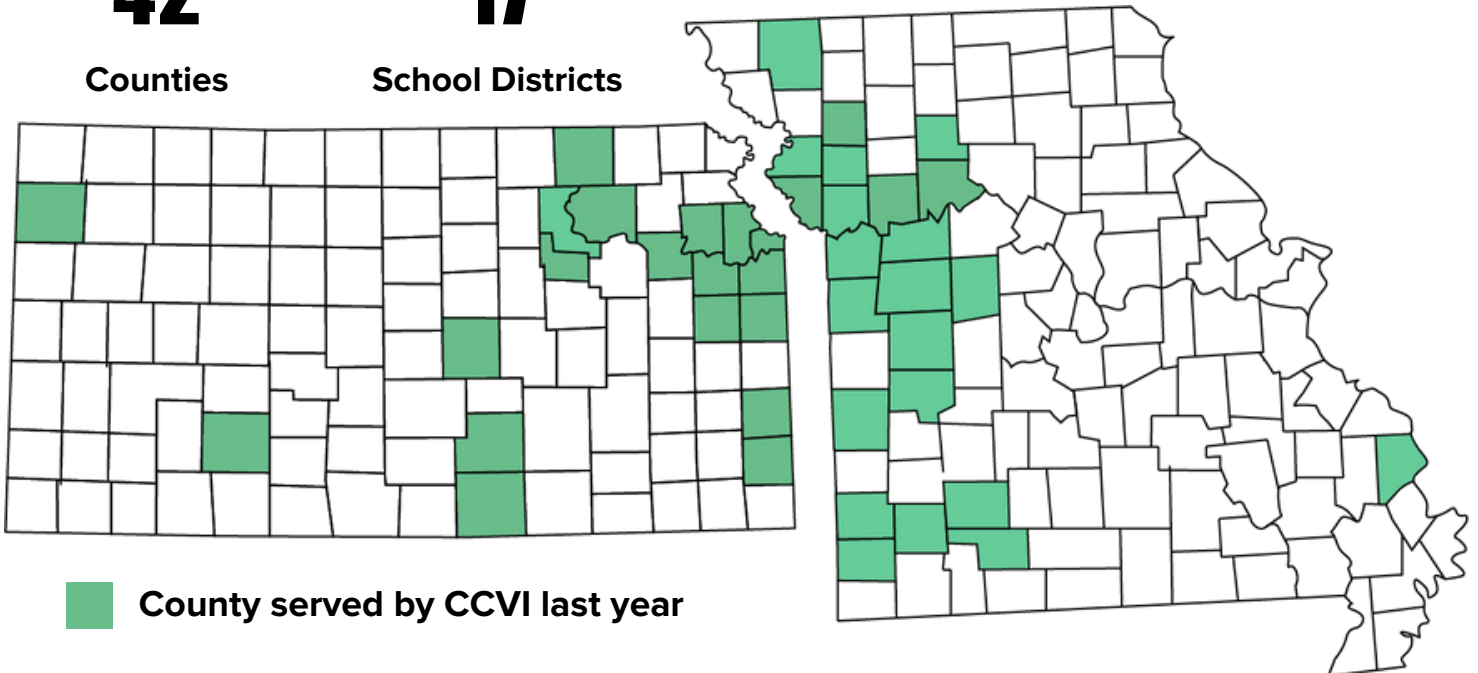
Reaching Across the States

42

Counties

17

School Districts



A National Leader

Delta Gamma Fraternity Hope Serving

In July, Children’s Center for the Visually Impaired hosted a combination of seven Delta Gamma Fraternity students and alumnae for a week-long learning experience.

Hope Serving is a service-learning experience that offers Delta Gammas the opportunity to develop as leaders on a local, regional and international level. The program encourages learning and critical thinking through hands-on service, community involvement, civic and social justice education. These trips can be extremely transformative experiences for women.

Activities at CCVI for the DGs included an in-depth tour, a blind etiquette seminar, a blindfold session, classroom time, information on programming, and a course on nonprofit leadership.

These women from chapters across North America will go back to their local universities as better advocates for individuals with visual impairment and ensure that career paths related to CCVI services are promoted as a viable future occupation.

The nation is experiencing a critical shortage of certified Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVIs), which means that reaching students currently enrolled in higher education quicker and more effectively has never been more important. Opportunities like this work to embed our mission in these chapters by creating leaders with a mindset for service.

“The topics we’re talking about here are things I’ve always wondered about and how I should be more inclusive with our Delta Gamma national communications,” said one DG on the first day of the event.

Delta Gamma Alumnae Chapter of Greater Kansas City was a founding body for CCVI in 1952 and has continued to engage with our organization for our 70 year history. By creating several family teams in the CCVI Trolley Run and hosting the Delta Gamma Night of Knowledge and Nonsense in the winter, they continue to serve as active community members.

“I have so many ideas to bring back to my chapter and a new appreciation for service,” said one DG. “As someone going into education, I have found new paths at CCVI in special education that pique my interest.”



MEET CALEB.



Through the Years with CCVI

When Hannah Beresford, a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist, first met **Caleb**, one thing was clear.

“I thought, ‘oh, he has an outstanding future ahead of him,’” says Hannah.

Unlike many other children on her case load, Caleb is a 17-year-old who attends high school in Independence, MO. As a student of CCVI’s **M.O.V.E. Program**, Caleb receives his instruction from a provider in his own neighborhood high school under a contract with the school district.

In his sessions, Caleb and Hannah work on navigational skills, such as finding objects that he would require in stores during shopping excursions, getting from point A to point B, and even learning different rideshare options, such as Uber or services offered through KCATA.

Caleb has Ocular Albinism, a rare eye condition that affects the retina and the nerves behind the eyes. It can cause blurry eyes, eye movements, and a sensitivity to light.

Caleb has come a long way since he was first diagnosed at 6 months old, and CCVI has seen him grow since he first had a home visit as an infant from a CCVI provider.

“He wouldn’t be where he is today without CCVI,” says Rebecca.

As a ‘stressed, young parent’ after receiving Caleb’s diagnosis, Rebecca was searching for resources in the area when her boss at the time mentioned that he participates in a race that benefits an organization that helps children and their families who have a visual impairment: the **CCVI Trolley Run**.

“**When you join CCVI, you’re held in loved hands**,” says Rebecca. “Even after we transitioned to a new school after preschool, which is a world of unknowns, CCVI even came to my first IEP meeting. That meant a lot to me.”

Caleb’s story is a testament to CCVI’s mission that the work of service is never done.

From a child’s birth through their high school graduation, CCVI is a resource at the disposal of all families.

As a young man of many talents, Caleb has added a new one to his repertoire: learning to play the guitar. Although, his mother will be quick to add that his vocals also shine.

“You wouldn’t look at him and think it, but he sounds just like Hozier,” says Rebecca, referring to a popular alternative singer.

Among his methods of learning, which include special instruction and accommodations for his visual impairment, Caleb has learned how to play by ear, as well.

To see a 17-year-old who once needed speech-language therapy as a preschooler become a talented singer and guitarist is something the entire staff at CCVI cherishes.

When he graduates, Caleb will become a veterinary technician to fulfill a long time passion of working with animals.

“My favorite animal is one that a lot of people haven’t heard of: a ring-tailed cat,” says Caleb. His mother sighs.

“He begged us to adopt a pet racoon...” says Rebecca.

While Caleb now has a school family in his home district, CCVI is still able to be a partner in his growth. As Hannah continues to be an ambassador for vision, the support grows tenfold as she educates the staff on the best practices of teaching an individual who is blind or visually impaired.

“CCVI is that family you didn’t know you needed-- that’s the word: **family**.” says Rebecca. “Not just a school or a staff or a building. A family.”

As Caleb thrives and shines, he serves as a reminder of what’s possible for young children attending CCVI.

“Never be afraid to **do** things that people say you **can’t**.”



STUDENTS AT CCVI
ARE FUTURE DOCTORS,
LAWYERS, VETERINARIANS,
AMBASSADORS, BELOVED
FRIENDS, ARTISTS, OLYMPIANS,
EXECUTIVES, MUSICIANS,
TEACHERS, PARENTS, AND
CHERISHED FAMILY MEMBERS.

UNLIMITED POTENTIAL.

Financial Breakdown

Revenue

DEVELOPMENT	\$1,217,726
Grants	\$285,480
Individual Giving	\$443,531
Special Events	\$488,716
PROGRAMS	\$1,692,669
School District Contracts	\$1,239,428
First Steps Contracts	\$244,342
County	\$161,171
Parent Pay	\$47,591
Miscellaneous	\$139
OTHER	
Interest Income	\$12,697
Employee Retention Credit	\$52,351
In-Kind Gifts	\$27,500

Totals

Revenue	\$3,002,946
Expenditures	- \$3,802,171
Net	<u>-\$799,225</u>

**Net total does not include an employee retention credit dated for 2022 that was received in fiscal year 2023.*

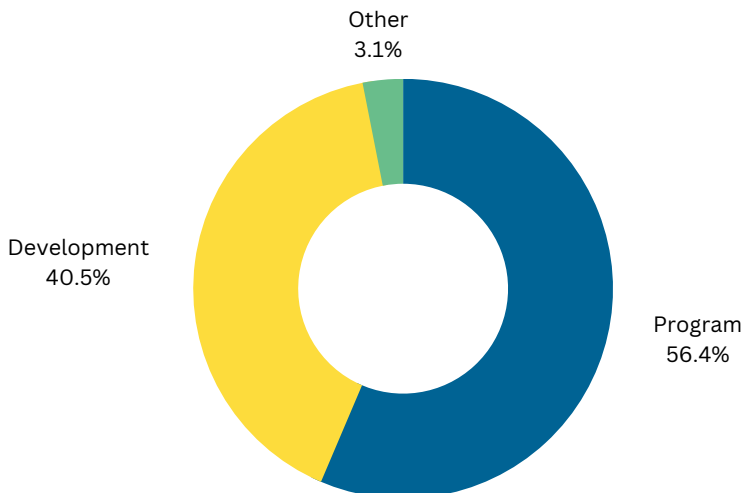
Endowment

Account	\$11,230,820
3 year average gain/loss	+7.3%

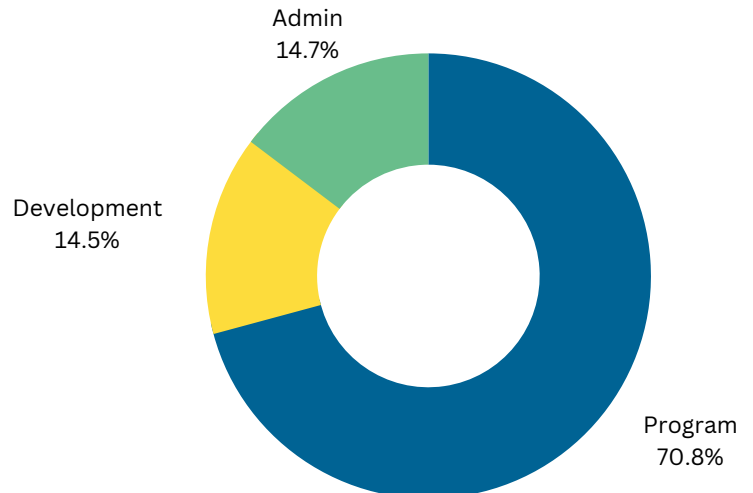
Expenses

Programs	\$2,687,818
Administration	\$561,545
Development	\$552,808

WHERE IT COMES FROM



WHERE IT GOES



Board of Directors

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SUPPORT CCVI



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Children's Center for
the Visually Impaired

**3101 Main Street
Kansas City, MO 64111**

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2022 Children's Center for the Visually Impaired.