



You are an important part of my family's story, and you may have never even known it. At the age of one, my daughter, Laura, suddenly stopped tracking movements with her eyes after experiencing seizures.

***I knew pretty quickly that her vision had changed, but her doctors didn't agree.*** There was nothing wrong with the structure of her eyes, they said. Anatomically, everything was as it should be. My instincts as a mother told me otherwise and, fortunately, I knew exactly who to turn to for help.

I had known about Anchor Center for Blind Children since my college years. I knew that it was one of only a handful of centers in the country that specialized in vision services for babies and young children.



*Laura with a drum during Music Therapy, one of her favorite activities at Anchor Center.*

***When I felt that my concerns about Laura's vision weren't being addressed, I scheduled an assessment and eye exam at Anchor Center with their team of experts. She was promptly diagnosed with Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI)*** – a prevalent (but often overlooked) neurologically-based, visual processing disorder – and began receiving services.

When we first received her diagnosis, it felt like we were flailing around in the dark. **We worried for her. Would she be okay? Would she feel isolated her whole life? Would she make friends?**

**Thanks to your support, we saw her world open up at Anchor Center.** Like so many other children at Anchor Center, Laura began to flourish and interact with her peers. Now, she seeks them out, wanting to sit close with her classmates, smiling at them, and joining in on group activities.

**Laura will be attending public kindergarten next year** - and your support helped prepare her to thrive through this transition. Will you continue to help other children with visual impairments, and their families, find a light in the dark by making a donation today?

(continued...)

Without your support, we would never have learned about how best to support Laura at home, including the things that will help her after she graduates this spring. Anchor Center taught us how to help her communicate, through assistive devices, and how to give her the control to be as independent as possible.

**One of my favorite Anchor moments is watching Laura participate in circle time in the morning. Her teachers give her a device to use during the welcome song. She hits a button, over and over, that says, “I’m here!” – and you gave Laura a voice that I love hearing her use.**

**Anchor Center is not just about vision. It’s about everything!**

There is an incredible team under one roof here, including Pediatric Ophthalmologists, Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments, Early Childhood Special Educators, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Pathologists, Horticultural Therapists, Music Therapists, and more. *They work together for the whole of the child and that is so rare, so unique.*

**Anchor Center is also about the support we receive as a family...**the hope we feel, the comfort we’re given, the connections we make.

**If I had to describe Anchor Center in one word, it would be “home.”**

Thank you for continuing to support *the home that*:

- ***welcomed me*** through its doors with open arms, as a concerned, first-time mother;
- ***surrounded Laura with love***, helping us to see life differently and a bright future for our daughter;
- ***discovered Laura’s passion*** for the water, for tap dancing, for making new friends;
- ***prepared her for kindergarten*** and, most importantly, ***gave her the tools and the voice to say: “I’m here.”***

Thank you for being a part of our story and believing in children like Laura. Please consider making a donation today to provide the safe-haven of Anchor Center to current and future families like mine.

With Heartfelt Gratitude,

*Angela*

Angela Howard Fischer

