



SEE LIFE DIFFERENTLY



**HOPE.
JOY.
TRIUMPH.**

FY2018 ANNUAL REPORT

2018

DEAR FRIENDS,

We are pleased to present Anchor Center for Blind Children's 2017/2018 Annual Report. Year after year Anchor Center for Blind Children has celebrated major achievements of the children and families we serve, as well as our organization overall. Fiscal year 2017/2018 was no exception.

This year marked Anchor Center's 36th year of service for children with visual impairments and their families. The year also marked the 10th anniversary of services in our beautiful building, which continues to be state-of-the-art to this day.

Since our founding in 1982, Anchor Center has served thousands of children and their family members. In 2017/2018 alone, more than 110 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers – and nearly 200 of their parents, siblings, grandparents, and caregivers – were served by Anchor Center. **Funded nearly in full by donations and grants, we were blessed once again to be able to never turn a child away and to offer our exceptional services for little, if any, fees.** In 2017/2018, we continued to be inspired by the remarkable talent of our staff, the incredible generosity of our donors and volunteers, and the exceptional strength and vitality of our children and families.

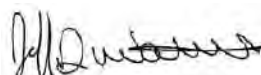
Anchor Center is known as a beacon of hope and in 2017/2018, the Board of Directors embarked on a strategic planning process which resulted in a plan to make Anchor Center's beacon even brighter: the expansion of our programs and services to include a Center of Excellence for Cortical Vision Impairment. Currently considered the leading cause of visual impairment in infants and children, Cortical Vision Impairment (CVI) is a brain-based visual impairment. Early research indicates that, due to brain plasticity in infancy, with early diagnosis and special interventions, the vision of a child with CVI may improve over time. Given there are few providers in Colorado with expertise in this area, we are very excited to add this additional focus to the great work of Anchor Center.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers at Anchor Center for Blind Children, thank you for your support! Together, we are building strong foundations upon which each Anchor Center child and family will graduate to a life enriched by education, exploration, and friendship.

Sincerely,



HEATHER CAMERON
Executive Director



JEFF WATKINS
President of the Board

10 YEARS IN THE BUILDING AND BEYOND

ANCHOR CENTER FOR BLIND CHILDREN

Anchor Center for Blind Children's Julie McAndrews Mork Building is an architectural wonder and is purposefully designed for young children with visual impairments. The 15,600-square-foot building and surrounding two-acre campus incorporates learning experiences at every turn, through light, sound, touch, smell—and even taste. It has special acoustics, light, and textures to enhance the children's understanding of the world – and it embraces all the senses so that the building itself is a teaching tool. Our unique early education center serves as a national model for the way in which blind children learn.



Sensory Garden

The serene garden features meandering trails, fragrant plants, a dry streambed, a little bridge, water sounds, and sculptures by Susan Grant Raymond.



Motor Room

Tap dancing on a bright red wood floor; running, jumping, scooting, rolling and crawling on a soft rubber floor. The east wall of the Motor Room has colored glass and nooks and crannies for children to explore.



Light Room

Features optimal lighting sources and high contrast to use vision in play.



Literacy/Braille Room

Exposure to reading and writing begins inside the Literacy/Braille Room.

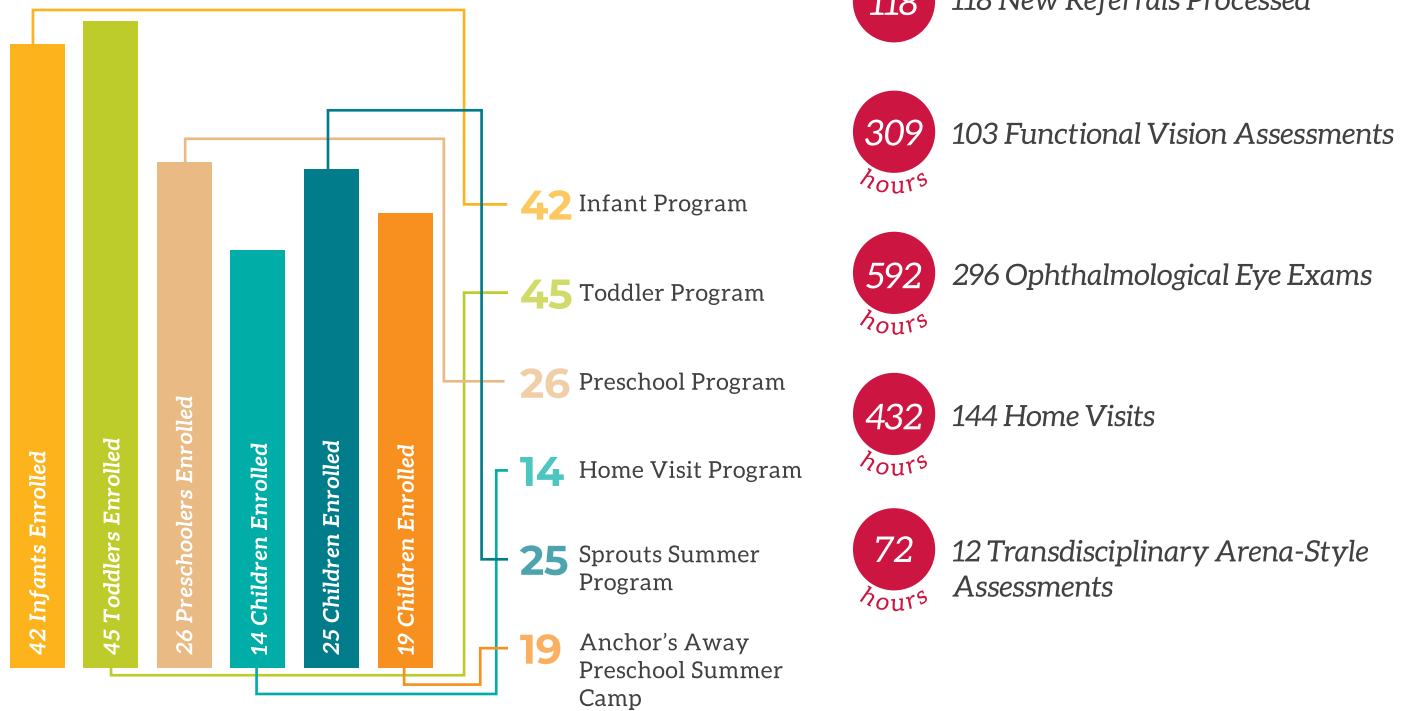
Schedule a tour today! Contact us at 303-377-9732.

HOW DO WE MEASURE A YEAR?

Constituents Served

349 TOTAL CONSTITUENTS SERVED

Assessments & Consultations



TOP REFERRAL AGENCIES



Parent & Family Education Support Services

191 PARENTS & CAREGIVERS SERVED*

*And over 100 hours of Parent Education, Support & Advocacy training for families

Sessions, Participation & Hours Dedicated

Braille Education & Instruction
6 Classes, 12 Hours of Professional Training

Piloted Community Resource Fair
15 Participating Community Agencies

Super Sibling Care Program Served
31 Siblings, 90 Hours of Sibling Support

Parent Educational Resource
30 Classes, 90 Hours of Professional Training

Anchor Night Watch Program
38 Children, 40 Hours of Respite Care
(Monthly Respite Care Program available to Anchor children and their families)

INFANT PROGRAM

ANCHOR CENTER'S INFANT PROGRAM
NURTURES VITAL DEVELOPMENT SKILLS
IN CHILDREN BIRTH TO 18 MONTHS,
BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR LEARNING.

INFANTS SERVED: 42

REFLECTIONS FROM ANCHOR CENTER STAFF AND FAMILIES



HAZEL

Thanks to the amazing teachers and therapists at Anchor, we have been able to integrate tools and skills into Hazel's everyday life that help create an inviting environment for her to learn and grow. She is incredibly open - to new people and new adventures - and we attribute much of that to the support Hazel has gotten at Anchor.

- Chuck & Krista, Hazel's Parents



MARLOWE

Marlowe's Cortical Vision Impairment (CVI) doesn't stop him from being incredibly social and sweet. He definitely gets the happiest baby award and, most importantly, CVI interventions at Anchor Center are helping him be able to use his vision in a more functional way.

- Tammy Miller, TSVI



MYA

Mya may be tiny but she is feisty! She knows exactly what she wants and is learning to communicate that to her teachers, therapists, and family - who come with her to program, and learn how best to help her at home.

- Mindy Doyle-McCall, PT

Parents and their infants work in small groups and one-to-one sessions where teachers and therapists lead structured "centers" focused on each child's visual, auditory, motor, and cognitive strengths. Our team of vision teachers, as well as physical, speech, occupational, and music therapists:

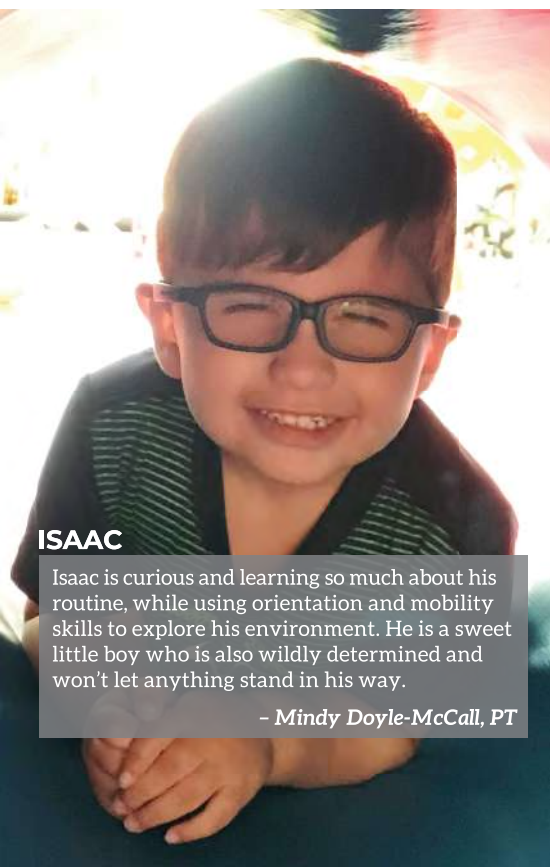
- Work with babies on sensory exploration and development
- Teach families about infant development and caregiving specific to their child's vision and/or vision/hearing impairment
- Share play-based learning activities that can easily be done at home
- Help families understand their child's diagnosis and strengths

TODDLER PROGRAM

OUR TODDLER PROGRAM FOCUSES ON GROUP PLAY AND SOCIALIZATION FOR CHILDREN 18 MONTHS TO 3 YEARS OLD.

TODDLERS SERVED: 45

REFLECTIONS FROM ANCHOR CENTER STAFF AND FAMILIES



ISAAC

Isaac is curious and learning so much about his routine, while using orientation and mobility skills to explore his environment. He is a sweet little boy who is also wildly determined and won't let anything stand in his way.

– Mindy Doyle-McCall, PT



COLE

Anchor Center has constantly provided resources and support we never knew existed. I can't imagine our lives without Anchor Center. Cole is undoubtedly better off physically and emotionally thanks to the love, instruction, and support from the Anchor Center and all the individuals there who make it their mission to improve the lives of each family like ours.

– Nate, Cole's Dad



ISABELLA

Isabella started at Anchor Center as an infant and recently moved up to the Toddler Program, where she is gaining more independence and learning how to interact with her peers. She and her mom have been so involved since the beginning and watching Isabella's progress has been incredible. She is particularly motivated by music – our Music Therapy program is far and away Isabella's favorite...she lights up as she actively participates.

– Tammy Miller, TSVI

Families and caregivers attend the Toddler Program twice a week at Anchor Center with their child, and continue to work on visual and auditory development, communication, and motor development (as well as parent education). Our team of exceptional teachers and therapists:

- Foster early literacy with pre-braille and pre-reading
- Facilitate early peer and social interaction
- Teach routines in daily activities
- Lead group activities like snack time, music and play
- Guide safe and independent exploration and mobility
- Help children gradually separate from family members or caregivers in preparation for Preschool

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

OUR PRESCHOOL PROGRAM PREPARES CHILDREN, 3-5 YEARS OLD, FOR LIFE IN SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITY.

CHILDREN SERVED: 26

REFLECTIONS FROM ANCHOR CENTER STAFF AND FAMILIES



MILLIE

We knew Millie was visually impaired from early on and we wanted to help her adapt as quickly as we could to improve her quality of life and provide the resources she would need. Anchor has given Millie a confidence she may not have found otherwise. She believes in herself, she is so determined and she is a huge advocate for herself. Anchor has helped instill those thoughts in Millie's mind through education, support and experiential learning.

- Hollie, Millie's Mom



YANICK

Yanick's gentle spirit is a wonder to observe. He constantly talks about caring for others and loves animals. He often comes to school with a stuffed animal that he tenderly cares for, often integrating it into the activity with his friends. He has blossomed during his time here, coming out of his shell, learning how to engage and interact with his peers, and is prepared for a future as a veterinarian after preschool graduation this year!

- Noel Magee, ECSE



JORDAN

Jordan has come so far with Anchor Center, starting in the Infant Program, moving through Toddler and now a first-year preschool student. Her development and vision are improving year after year as a student with Deaf/Blindness, the strategies implemented are fit to her needs and exciting to explore. Jordan has been enjoying making friends who just love her hair, and is walking in her gait trainer with more confidence every day!

- Caroline Calabrese, ECSE

This program is designed to increase each child's level of independence and self-confidence with a special focus on preparing students for an appropriate kindergarten setting by age 5. Children attend program with their peers twice a week with classroom instruction led by Anchor's transdisciplinary team who work in tandem to provide individualized early education instruction. A typical week might include:

- Literacy, including Braille instruction and story time
- Community meal or snack time
- Orientation and mobility skill building, including cane training
- Motor development and outdoor play
- Gardening and horticultural therapy
- Field trips
- Music therapy

2017/2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

Board of Directors

Sage Ann Scheer, PhD, *President*
 Matt Duncan, MBA, *First Vice-President*
 Sherry Stripling, *Second Vice-President*
 Jeff Watkins, CPA, *Treasurer*
 Pam Metzger, MBA, *Secretary*
 Murri Bishop, MS
 Cheryl Blankenship
 Shauna Callahan, CPA
 James Michael Crowe, JD
 Adam Kemp, MBA
 Robert King, MD
 Donnis Moore
 Amy Naes, JD
 Tiffany Payne, MS
 Doug Reeb, CPA

Staff

Naomi Aitken, *Volunteer Manager*
 Courtney Albers, *Intake Coordinator*
 Kenedy Brazzell, *Data Entry Coordinator*
 Caroline Calabrese, *Teaching Assistant*
 Heather Cameron, *Executive Director*
 Melinda Carter, *Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TSVI)*
 Linda Corssmit, *Eye Clinic Coordinator*
 Deb Curry, *Family Services Manager*
 Elise Darrow, *Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TSVI)*
 Mindy Doyle-McCall, *Physical Therapist (PT)*
 Morgan Fitzpatrick, *Teaching Assistant*
 Gwen Gale, *Office Manager*
 Lisa Gallegos, *Donor Relations Manager*
 Louanna Gerleman, *Teaching Assistant*
 Donna Halffield, *Occupational Therapist (OT)*
 Jessica Hank, *Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TSVI)*
 Mollie Hiebert, *Music Therapist*
 Ali Huckins, *Developmental Specialist*
 Karen Jamison, *Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TSVI)*
 Molly Jenkins, *Grants & Proposal Development Manager*
 Joy Jessop, *Occupational Therapist (OT)*
 Melissa Licon, *Kitchen Assistant*
 Erin Lovely, *Recreational Therapist, Horticultural Therapies Coordinator*
 Noel Magee, *Early Childhood Special Educator (ECSE)*
 Amy Marians, *Physical Therapist (PT)*
 Tammy Miller, *Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TSVI)*
 Kelly Mitchell, *Teaching Assistant*
 Kelsey Montague, *Communications Manager*
 Laura Moran, *Early Childhood Special Educator (ECSE)*
 Zoe Morgese, *Speech Language Pathologist (SLP)*
 Frances Owens, *Community Relations Manager*
 Sarah Rice, *Office Administrator*
 Callie Robinson, *Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TSVI)*
 Belinda Severtson, *Transportation Manager*
 Becca Smith, *Program Administrative Coordinator*
 Lindsay Standish, *Director of Programs*
 John Taylor, CPA, *Finance Director*
 Kathryn Tower, *Speech Language Pathologist (SLP)*
 Savannah Wippel, *Director of Development & Community Relations*



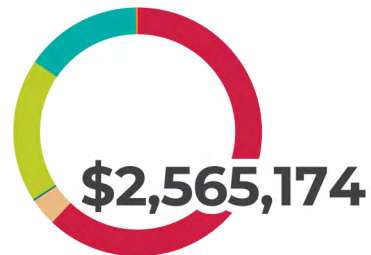
Anchor Center is like a sanctuary for many. The families who come to Anchor often come to find refuge from the many challenges they face. These challenges are not just related to the development of their child with a visual impairment; these challenges are also very personal. Many times it's our families that give refuge to other families. There is a special kind of comfort shared among all in a space of respect, growth and understanding. Together we are sharing, together we are learning, and together we are helping each other with life-altering challenges, however big or small.

– Callie Robinson, TSVI

FINANCIAL STATS

FY 2017-18 SOURCES OF INCOME

SOURCES OF INCOME



■	Contributions
	\$1,591,052
■	Special Events (Net)
	\$479,044
■	Investment Income
	\$390,980
■	Program Fees
	\$93,110
■	State Grants
	\$4,900
■	Other
	\$6,088

SOURCES OF CONTRIBUTIONS



■	Individual
	\$1,079,016
■	Foundations
	\$458,689
■	Corporate
	\$38,014
■	Group
	\$15,333

TOTAL EXPENSES



■	Program Services
	\$1,656,257
■	Fundraising
	\$256,578
■	Management & General
	\$193,049



TOTAL END OF YEAR NET ASSETS:
\$11,196,299

VOLUNTEERS

Groups

465 volunteers/1,849 Hours

Individuals

119 Volunteers/ 1,294.5 hours

Group and Corporate Relationships: Junior League of Denver, Xcel Energy, Regency Centers, EKS&H, Delta Gamma, First Bank, Charles Schwab & more!

Individual volunteers help with one-on-one child support in programs, parent programming, administrative duties, garden activities and respite.

CHARTING OUR FUTURE: STRATEGIC PLANNING

In 2018, Anchor Center's Board of Directors embarked on a strategic planning process to chart our course for the next 3-5 years. We invite you to share in our vision for the future in achieving the following:



PROGRAMS & SERVICES



Be a world-class provider of enhanced services and resources for children who are blind and visually impaired and their families.

CULTURE



Serve others and build trust – to create the best possible environment for our students, families and staff that fosters collaboration and steward leadership.

GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP



Ensure effective and collaborative structures and processes that build strong leadership and sustain the organization.

FINANCIAL STABILITY & VISIBILITY



Increase awareness, visibility, and support of Anchor Center to ensure sufficient resources and financial stability.





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United States

303.377.9732
www.anchorcenter.org

2018 Annual Report

