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
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**

- 42 Infants Enrolled
- 45 Toddlers Enrolled
- 26 Preschoolers Enrolled
- 14 Children Enrolled
- 25 Children Enrolled
- 19 Children Enrolled
- 12 Transdisciplinary Arena-Style Assessments

Assessments & Consultations

- 118 New Referrals Processed
- 309 Hours
- 103 Functional Vision Assessments
- 592 Hours
- 296 Ophthalmological Eye Exams
- 432 Hours
- 144 Home Visits
- 72 Hours

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Parents &amp; Caregivers</th>
<th>Sessions, Participation &amp; Hours Dedicated</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Braille Education &amp; Instruction</td>
<td>6 Classes, 12 Hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Educational Resource</td>
<td>30 Classes, 90 Hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piloted Community Resource Fair</td>
<td>15 Participating Community Agencies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anchor Night Watch Program</td>
<td>38 Children, 40 Hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super Sibling Care Program Served</td>
<td>31 Siblings, 90 Hours</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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TOP REFERRAL AGENCIES

- Children's Hospital Colorado
- Children's Eye Physicians

Early Intervention Colorado

for infants, toddlers & 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.

TOODDLERS 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
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Courtney Aibers, 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**

- **$2,565,174**
  - **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**

- **$1,591,052**
  - **Individual** $1,079,016
  - **Foundations** $458,689
  - **Corporate** $38,014
  - **Group** $15,333

**TOTAL EXPENSES**

- **$2,105,884**
  - **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

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

- **Individuals**
  - 119 Volunteers/ 1,294.5 hours

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 taff 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.