



# CONKLIN DAVIS CENTER

FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED



# 2023

## ANNUAL REPORT



Limited Sight  
Unlimited Possibilities

## Letter from the President/CEO

### Ronee David

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the incredible progress we have made together at the Conklin Davis Center. 2023 has been a year of growth, innovation and profound impact made possible by the unwavering dedication of our staff, board, donors, volunteers and partners.

This year, we have continued to push the boundaries of what is possible for blind and visually impaired individuals. Our commitment to innovation has led to expansion of our programs providing hundreds of people with the tools they need to navigate obstacles more independently and confidently. We revised some of our programs, added new ones and hired more staff to meet the need.

Community is at the heart of everything we do. In 2023, we re-engaged with the Florida Lions and started our Club Branch at the center. We were also designated by the Florida Lions as a preferred entity thanks to the hard work of Lion Nancy Epps, Board member. We engaged in over 40 community outreach events. These events not only raised awareness about visual impairments, but also fostered a sense of belonging and support among our clients and their families. We have built stronger partnerships this year with local businesses, schools, city and county government ensuring that our clients have success to a broader range of opportunities and resources.

Behind every statistic and milestone are the personal stories of triumph and resilience. This year, we celebrated numerous success stories that exemplify the spirit of our mission. From students securing meaningful employment, summer camps for blind youth, training college students to travel to classes to enabling seniors to remain in their homes, our students have shown remarkable determination and courage. Their achievements remind us of the transformative power of our work and the importance of our mission.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to expanding our services and reaching even more individuals in need. Our goals for 2024 include enhancing our residential program and facility, adding art programming for all ages, and improving our grounds to create a beautiful outdoor area for our clients to enjoy.

None of this would be possible without the incredible generosity of our donors, the dedication of our volunteers, and the hard work of our board and staff. Your contributions make a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve. Thank you for believing in our mission and for being part of our journey.

Together, we are breaking down barriers and creating a world where individuals with visual impairments can live independent fulfilling lives. I am deeply grateful for your trust and support and I look forward to continuing this important work with you in the years to come.

With heartfelt thanks,

*Ronee David, President/CEO*

Ronee David

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## 2023 CDCVI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ronee David  
William Watson  
Kathy C. Davis  
JR MacClary  
Nancy Epps  
Brian Norton, ESQ.  
Karl Waite, MD

President/CEO  
Chairman of the Board  
Vice-Chairman  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
Board Member  
Board Member

*“Every seven minutes, someone in the United States will lose their vision. The Center serves four counties whose combined population exceeds 1 million. The challenge of meeting the needs of this population is the mission of the Board of Directors.”*



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# Early Intervention

A baby's vision is essential in helping them navigate and learn more about their new world. During the first year, a baby's vision develops rapidly, and parents or caretakers can help them reach their milestones. The goal of our program is to provide parents and caregivers the tools and resources they need to help their child with vision impairment reach their full potential.

Blind babies do not learn about the world in the same manner as sighted babies. Thus, supplemental services are a necessity in order to help these babies move through normal developmental stages. Intensive support is often necessary to ensure that families and caregivers understand how a blind baby learns to navigate the world and begin the learning process so necessary for normal development.

## SERVICES



THE EARLY INTERVENTION (BLIND BABIES) PROGRAM PROVIDES  
A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES INCLUDING:

- Developmental Assessments
- Vision Assessments
- Orientation & Mobility Training
- Assistive Technology Training
- Play Therapy by providing Adaptive toys as well as therapeutic equipment to stimulate learning and sensory development
- Family Support Services
- Socialization



# Vocational Rehabilitation— Supported Employment

Our Supported Employment program focuses on providing instruction or blind individuals with additional significant disabilities. We empower them to compete in the workplace on equal terms, equipping them with the skills and confidence necessary for success.

Through tailored training and support from job coaches, our students gain the capabilities and confidence to excel in various roles. Local employers, including those in hospitality, factories, clerical positions, and real estate offices, offer pre-employment training and work experiences, ensuring a smooth transition into employment.

## “My Story”

In a world filled with vibrant sounds and rhythms, Peggy has been performing for seniors and others for many years. Her talent knows no limits. She plays piano, guitar and sings like an angel.



Her repertoire includes music from the 40's, 50's, 60's, 70's to present. Peggy learned from her father who performed in a quartet. She has never read music and has been able to memorize the music and lyrics to literally hundreds of songs. There is hardly a song she does not know if you make a request. Peggy currently performs at nursing homes, business events, parties, etc. If you would like to engage her to entertain your groups, please contact us at (386) 258-3441.

Vocational students at the center are employed in many businesses within the community. Some of our partners are:

- Metra Electronics
- Dustins Barbecue
- Publix
- Embry Riddle University
- Lagerheads Bar & Gill
- IHOP
- Fox Mattress
- Hagen Das—Tanger Outlets
- TJ Maxx
- Texas Roadhouse— Melbourne
- Holiday Inn Express—Palm Bay
- Stonewood— Ormond Beach
- KFC

# Vocational Rehabilitation

Vocational training services enable persons with visual impairments to overcome barriers to accessing, maintaining or returning to employment or other useful occupation. Our services ensure that people with disabilities have the skills and ability to enter the workforce and gain meaningful employment, remain employed, and advance in their jobs.

Career education for individuals with visual impairments needs to begin as early as possible and include self-awareness and career exploration activities, job seeking skills instruction, information about job keeping, and encourage opportunities for gaining work experience. Teaching skills in the area of career education can provide students with visual impairments of all ages with the opportunity to learn first-hand the work done by members of the home and community. We offer job shadowing opportunities as well as paid work experiences.

Areas the student may need specific instruction in include: knowledge of relationship between work and play; understanding of the value of work; knowledge of characteristics of valued workers; awareness of the variety of jobs people hold; awareness of jobs people with visual impairments often hold; job acquisition skills (want ads, resumes, applications, interviews); typical job adaptations made by workers with visual impairments; in-depth knowledge of a variety of jobs of interest; work experience; laws related to employment; and management of readers and drivers. All of these areas of knowledge are offered to individuals who are seeking employment services through the Conklin Davis Center.



**Our blind and visually impaired students are employed in a broad variety of professions:**

- Teachers
- Social Workers
- Counselors
- Musicians
- Message Therapists
- Customer Service
- Manufacturing
- Retail
- Restaurants
- Computer Science
- Restaurants
- Hotels

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# TRANSITION PROGRAM



**28 students** aged 14-21 have been served in the Transition Program in the past year, and over 170 since the program's inception in 2006. The program, specifically designed for visually impaired and blind youth, is to transition youth from childhood dependence on parents to independent adult members of society. The purpose of this program is to meet the specific needs of blind youth and instruct them in areas that their public school system is not able to provide.

The Transition Program includes a supportive environment that enables students to gain skills, confidence and social skills necessary to succeed as productive members of their community.

**"I love how the program has taught me the cooking and home skills to be independent. I now feel confident in myself."**



The Center's highly qualified team includes a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, an Orientation and Mobility Specialist and a Rehabilitation Teacher. The Transition Program is a year-round curriculum. During the school year, the curriculum goals are met through weekly individual and small group instruction, as well as weekend workshops and field trips to places such as State Parks, Marine Land, Sea World and Busch Gardens Worlds of Adventure. The field trips sometimes involve collaborative efforts with similar transition groups from across the state. Each summer, the students have one week at a local hotel where they share suites and learn basic skills such as cooking, budgeting, traveling and shopping.

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# STEPS Children's Program

## SUPPLEMENTAL TECHNOLOGY & EXPERIENTIAL PROGRAM FOR SUCCESS



Students visit to Daytona  
Fire Station

The Center for the Visually Impaired STEPS Program creates opportunities for students in Brevard, Flagler, Putnam and Volusia Counties to broaden their knowledge of the world, develop an understanding of their role within their community and increase self-esteem.

STEPS was designed for school age children whose primary disability is vision loss. The child must be able to self-feed, dress themselves and have independent toileting skills.

STEPS Program consists of two phases:

**School Year** — Groups meet one to two Saturdays per month for technology training and field trips as well as reinforcement of academic and social skills.

**Summer Program** — Activities are scheduled three times per week. Activities include a visit to the Talking Book Library to link them to the books on the school summer reading list as well as other fun, interactive field trips.

The STEPS Program focuses on the following areas:

**Assistive Technology:** Provides instruction on adaptive technology and equipment, enabling students to compete academically.

**Daily Living Skills:** Teaches basic food preparation, kitchen skills and the importance of a healthy diet and exercise. Provides instruction on grooming and organizational skills and strengthens students' Braille reading and writing skills.

**Experiential Activities:** Provides hands-on, interactive field trips including sailing, horseback riding, kayaking and a trip to the Jackie Robinson Ballpark.

**Orientation & Mobility:** Provides reinforcement of school mobility instruction and basic principles of independent travel.

**Family Support:** CDCVI provides counseling and hosts support groups for parents and families of children with visual impairments. Issues addressed include how to effectively advocate for your child in school and social settings, challenges of the visually impaired and sharing frustrations and success stories.





# ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

## WHAT ADAPTIVE COMPUTER PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE?



The Computer Training Program uses a number of different adaptive software programs designed to help those who are visually impaired or blind to make full use of computers as well as other types of technology. Specific programs are used for low vision or blind students. JAWS stands for "Job Access for Windows and Speech."

## WHY A COMPUTER PROGRAM?

Today's world is driven by computers, and it is difficult to imagine any individual engaging in society without adequate computer skills. Many people who develop visual impairments believe that computers are now "out of bounds." Thanks to a wide range of adaptive software programs, this is not at all the case. However, many individuals who would benefit from these programs are unaware of how to find or use them. Our Computer Training Program helps students improve their computer savvy, so they can take advantage of computers and all that the internet can offer.

# ORIENTATION & MOBILITY

Imagine not being able to reach for your car keys and drive to a store. Blind individuals must use alternative skills to travel outside of their homes. Orientation and Mobility (O & M) provides a blind or visually impaired person with the training to move safely and efficiently through their environment. Through our training, the student gains the ability to independently cross streets, use public transportation, travel to work or continue to shop independently. Training is provided on a one-on-one basis based on the individual needs of the student.



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# INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM



The Center provides independent living training to blind and visually impaired youths and adults to enable them to function within their home and community. Each individual is assessed by a Rehabilitation Teacher. Together, they develop an individualized plan to help the student reach his or her goals. Following this assessment, teachers schedule the student for instruction in the home, school or workplace.

## GROUPS

### **PEOPLE ADJUSTING TO LIMITED SIGHT**

The Center is supported by self-help groups called PALS. Comprised of former students of CDCVI programs, PALS provides the visually impaired person and their families an opportunity to get together for social, educational & recreational purposes on a monthly basis.

### **FRIENDS OF CDCVI (FCDCVI) an ALUMNI GROUP**



Friends of the Center for Visually Impaired are supporters of CDCVI whose purpose is to assist the agency with community outreach, financial and in-kind contributions, fundraising, provide volunteer services and serve as an advisory council for the agency programs.

The Friends group meets at luncheons, meetings involve updating members on agency programs and priorities, socializing with friends and enjoying lunch & learning together.

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# Residential Program



## Supported Employment for Multi-handicapped blind individuals

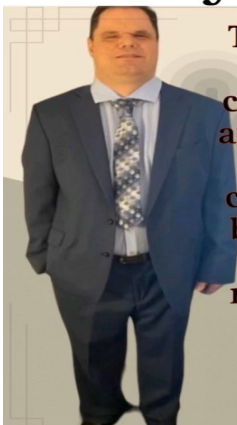
This program is designed to provide comprehensive vocational support, ensuring that every participant has the opportunity to achieve meaningful and sustainable employment. The program addresses the unique challenges faced by students with multiple disabilities, offering tailored services that promote independence, skill development, and community integration.

## Our Successes

# Students' Success Spotlight



## When you BELIEVE



Thomas graduated from Conklin Center, with competitive employment and moving into his own apartment in the community. He has now been with LC Industries for over 5 years, nominated Employee of the year in 2022, and has bought his own home!

Carlos is a residential student looking toward graduation. Following skills training in our residential facility, he has become employed at a job he loves at Brickyard Lounge and Grill. His employer comments "This is great! This helps so other staff can focus on cooking and Carlos can stay in prep to ensure we have the needed products".



## You can ACHIEVE



Kayla graduated from Conklin Center, moving into her apartment independently and working in the community. Kayla continued working with her support team to reach her long term employment goal, participating in school and becoming certified in childcare. She is now employed at Easter Seals.

## And SUCCEED

# Thank you Donors! July 2022 – June 2023

## Visionary \$5,000 and up Donations

DBS, FDOT, The Gibney Foundation, Kathy Davis, The Chatlos Foundation, Harper Family Charitable Foundation, Samuel, Anonymous (\$100,000), Hunter Charitable Foundation, Joseph Latch Trust Ameriprise, Samuel Good Trust, Jack Selman, Mary Florence Chanfrau, William Ackers, Ophthalmic Partners of FL, Edmund Blakeman, Louise Zmuda Charitable Fund, Tomoka Christian Church

## Ambassador \$500 to \$4999 Donations

Roberta Sappington	Lacey Charitable Foundation	Palm Bay Progressive Lions C	Florida Retina Institute
South Daytona Lions	Edmund Blakeman	Lakewood Dixieland Lions	Vigene Lockas
Lake Sumpter Lions	Bruce Fisher	Jeep Beach	Shannon Lockas
Dunnellon Lions	Adam & Dana Kennedy	Sopchoppy Lions	Cynthia Ritchey
Ponce Inlet Lions	Center for Business Excellence	Nancy Epps	Newberry Lions Club
Inglis Yankeetown Lions	International Speedway Corp.	Dr. Jason Ionnelli	Compu Systems, Inc.
Orange Blossom Lions Club	Shari Kline Nederhoff	James Rademacher	Greater Daytona Beach
William Watson	Deanie Lowe	KT Consulting	Chapter of NFB
Andrea Frank	Jeanne W. Middleton	Halifax Council of the Blind	

## Friend \$100 to \$499 Donations

Lisa Kretschner	Fort Walton Beach Lions	Mark & Teresa Smith
Turkey Creek Lions	Brian Norton	Ormond by the Sea Lion Fndn
Satellite Beach Lions	Ricki Stofsku	Chandrakani Parkhani
TCS Coaching & Consulting	Marilyn Root	North Lakeland Lions Fndn
Kathi Terlizzese	Mary Yochum	Halifax Employee Fund
Turkey Creek Lions Club	Linda Harper	Volusia Democratic Disability
High Springs Lions Club	Victoria Shirah	Caucus
Shane & Lisa Snipes	Jamet Prutt	M.G. Franks
Ocala Fort King Lions Club	Auburndale Polk County Lions	Marsha Lewis
National Federation of the Blind	Tonga Simmons	Greta Creed
Lorraine Siviski	Gloria McMahon	
James & Judith Ryan	Naomi Pope	
Mary Beth Durrant	Judith Hamilton	

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# CDCVI INCOME

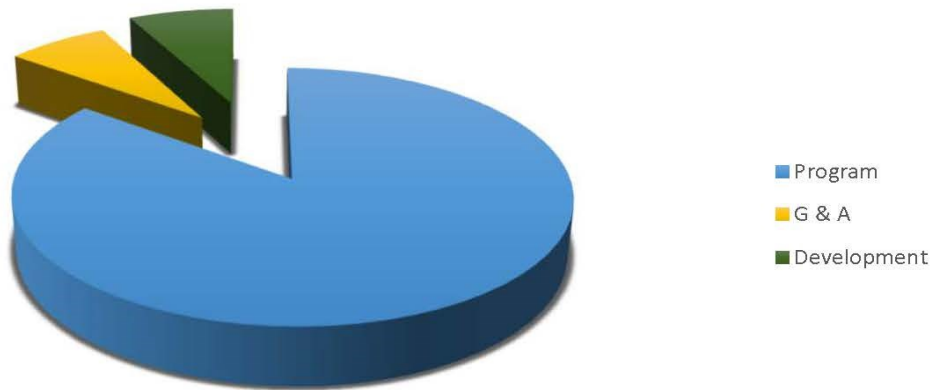
## Support & Revenue:

Grants and contracts	2,979,514	82.5%
Contributions and fundraising	592,990	16.4%
Other	38,836	1.1%
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>3,611,341</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Expenditures:

Program	3,556,382	85.4%
G & A	299,522	7.2%
Development	310,905	7.5%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>4,166,808</b>	<b>100%</b>

Expenditures



# CDCVI SERVICES

SERVICE CATEGORY	# CLIENTS	HOURS PROVIDED
Vocational Rehabilitation	112	3,376
Senior Program	267	5,699
Transition (Teens)	23	5,750
Children's Program	17	278
Babies	<u>16</u>	<u>434</u>
Residential (Supported Employment)	<u>25</u>	<u>11,662</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>460</u></b>	<b><u>27,216</u></b>

SERVICE CATEGORY	HOURS	# SERVICES PROVIDED
Assessments	2,561.25	857
Activities of Daily Living	21,599	1,237
Orientation & Mobility	17,512	476
Assistive Technology	3,891	379
Employment Related Training	11,804.25	<u>433</u>
Travel	<u>3,967</u>	<u>633</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>49,965.25</u></b>	<b><u>4,015</u></b>



★★★★★★★★★★★★★★  
 ★ Please Come & Visit ★  
 ★ Our ★  
 ★ beautiful ★  
 ★ Gardens & ★  
 ★ Nature ★  
 ★ Trails ★  
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★



## Our Mission

To provide a lifetime of comprehensive services that create unlimited hope, opportunity, and independence for blind and visually impaired people

The Conklin Davis Center the Visually Impaired, Inc.

### Office

405 White Street  
 Daytona Beach, Fl 32114  
 (386) 258-3441

[www.conklindavis.org](http://www.conklindavis.org)