



A Shared Vision:
Partners in Pediatric Blindness &
Visual Impairment

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



A Shared Vision inspires and empowers families to nurture the development of their very young children who are blind or visually impaired so that all children may discover their brightest future.

Support. Hope. Love.

“We are beyond fortunate and grateful to have been assigned A Shared Vision as our vision provider through our local Denver County early intervention program. Our son's vision diagnosis has been very scary, and so far in just a few short months a reassurance and much needed confidence has been gained with A Shared Vision. We absolutely love and appreciate our vision provider and are so lucky she's the vision teacher in our lives!”

One Happy Parent

FOUNDERS' LETTER

2018 was an exciting year for our young nonprofit. We are so very proud of the progress we've achieved in serving Colorado's families. Our caseload of children and families served grew significantly, making us the leading provider of early intervention vision services in the state. We more than doubled our teaching staff. We greatly increased visibility of our organization and the families we serve through marketing communications and outreach. Our development efforts, including our first-time participation in Colorado Gives Day, allowed us to end the year financially stronger so that we may continue to serve our families with children who are blind or visually impaired.

We embrace Colorado's model of early intervention. A child's home is the ideal environment for early learning with their parents and caregivers as their critical "first teachers." We are dedicated to the whole child and their sensory development. We are also dedicated to building the community of providers throughout the state so that all children in need of vision services may receive them from highly skilled and collaborative professionals, even in our most rural communities. We continue to believe that too many very young children with visual impairments are not identified and not receiving services.


Polled in our second annual satisfaction survey, our families continue to show their appreciation for our licensed and highly skilled Early Intervention Teachers of the Visually Impaired. Families overwhelmingly felt that their needs and their children's were met, the frequency and schedule of visits were appropriate and convenient, and the education and coaching provided were beneficial. As one parent commented, "Our teacher from A Shared Vision is an amazing asset to our son's team and his overall development."

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your support and enabling us to serve these wonderful families. On behalf of our teachers, thank you!

Stefanie Hamilton
Founder, EI-TVI

Paula Landry
Founder, EI-TVI

Steven Lindauer
Founder, Executive Director



"A Shared Vision stepped in when there was a real chance that children in early intervention (EI) would go without home-based vision services. Not only did they fill that gap, their staff fully embraced the EI philosophy of building the family's capacity to support their child through coaching and truly listening to and addressing family concerns. They strive to be great EI providers and they are!"

**Member of the EI Colorado State Team,
Colorado Department of Human Services**

A close-up photograph of a child's hands touching a grey Braille keyboard. The child is wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt. The keyboard is resting on a patterned surface. In the background, there is a yellow bag and some colorful items on a table.

THE VALUE OF EARLY INTERVENTION

“A Shared Vision has filled an important role in Colorado, working with the majority of families of infants and toddlers with blindness, visual impairments, and deaf-blindness in their home settings. The importance and benefits of early intervention services that truly address the impact of sensory loss upon the developing child and his or her family cannot be overstated. The expertise, compassion, and commitment of the staff of A Shared Vision is deeply valued.”

**National expert and author on young children with
blindness/visual impairment and deaf-blindness**

ZERO TO 3

Early intervention addresses development delays when the child’s brain is most flexible and capable of learning. This benefits future academic achievement, labor market success and reduced delinquency and crime.

100% IN HOME & COMMUNITY

Early learning occurs best in the child’s natural environment. Supportive relationships and positive learning experiences begin with the child’s family and caregivers.

ONLY 2.67% SERVED

While 13% of children were eligible to qualify for early intervention services in 2009, only 2.67% received those services.

80-90% SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

Vision and hearing are responsible for 80 to 90% of learning during a child’s first year. Parents of children with visual impairments need specialized education and strategies to support their child.

100% WHOLE CHILD

Early Intervention Teachers of the Visually Impaired (EI-TVIs) address all senses that enable learning. EI-TVIs focus on the whole child, not a single diagnosis.

UP TO \$17 RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Early childhood interventions generate a return to society, school, workplace and community up to \$17.07 for each dollar spent on the program.



Born at 23 weeks and weighing just 1.3 pounds, Francois suffered from a brain bleed, a heart defect and retinopathy of prematurity. As his life-threatening challenges stabilized, his mom Tarea found that he often startled, frightened by her unexpected touch. He kept his fists tightly closed and drawn in towards his chest, fearful of a world he could not see. Tarea struggled to connect with her beautiful baby. Once A Shared Vision began regular home visits with the family, her Early Intervention Teacher of the Visually Impaired (EI-TVI) helped Tarea understand how he experiences the world, the reasons for his behaviors and how to make him feel safe. Using a parent-coaching model, the EI-TVI helped his mom understand how he uses his limited vision, his hands and other senses for play and learning. Tarea grew to feel empowered - confident in her new skills and knowledge to support Francois' development.



Baylee's parents began working with their Early Intervention Teacher of the Visually Impaired (EI-TVI) from A Shared Vision almost immediately after she sustained brain injuries during a difficult birth. The development of her vision was affected. As Baylee got older, it was hard for her mom Dana to watch Baylee struggle with walking, going up and down stairs, or using fine motor skills because she was visually impaired. "My EI-TVI was always there telling me that Baylee just needed a little extra help and to be patient with her. My EI-TVI was a good coach." Through regular home visits with her EI-TVI, Dana has learned how to involve Baylee in everyday routines like grocery shopping and cooking. "Kids with disabilities like a visual impairment can develop so much more than we realize," says Dana. "They just need patience and time."



When Bairon was diagnosed with a rare congenital disorder at four months, his mother Monee learned his optic nerves were underdeveloped and he was legally blind. "I felt grief for my son. I was grieving for the type of life I thought my son couldn't have." When she got her first phone call from her Early Intervention Teacher of the Visually Impaired (EI-TVI) from A Shared Vision, her outlook changed. "She was the first person to explain to me Bairon's diagnosis, that there's no known cause for it, and it's not my fault. A huge weight was lifted off my shoulders. It allowed me to focus on what he CAN do." Through regular home visits and telehealth with her EI-TVI, Monee has learned how to incorporate play into their everyday routines, to foster emergent literacy by singing songs and how to provide a multi-sensory learning experience for Bairon to gain access to the visual world. "Without our teacher, I don't know where we'd be. She makes life so much better for us."



A YEAR OF SIGNIFICANT GROWTH



100%
of surveyed families
recommend
A Shared Vision

A Shared Vision is the
leading provider of early intervention
vision services in Colorado

182
Children Served

UP 28% →

1,577
In-Home Services

UP 24% →

103
Year End Caseload

UP 36% →

11
Teachers

UP 120% →



OUR PROGRAMS

EARLY INTERVENTION VISION SERVICES PROGRAM

Our Early Intervention Vision Services program supports the key principles of early intervention in Colorado by providing education and empowerment to families with very young children who are blind or visually impaired in their homes and in community settings. Services are provided throughout metro Denver as well as in 74% of Colorado's rural counties. Our licensed teachers work closely with families to nurture the strengths of each child and build skills for lifelong success. The goals are kindergarten readiness and a positive trajectory for cognitive, social and emotional development for children with blindness and visual impairments.

FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

Through our Family Support Program, A Shared Vision provides education, community connections and support for families of children with visual impairments through group activities and social media. We bring families together in community settings - libraries, playgrounds, grocery stores - to educate and support caregivers through fun, sensory-learning activities led by one of our teachers. The events are free. The goals are to improve the capabilities and emotional health of caregivers who raise children with visual impairments.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our Education Program builds the community of highly skilled and collaborative professionals who serve very young children with blindness or visual impairments throughout the state. Experts in Colorado's early intervention programs believe that many children with visual impairments remain unidentified because of insufficient screening and a lack of qualified vision providers. A Shared Vision's goals are to identify all children with visual impairments and to improve the collaboration and transdisciplinary teaming of early intervention providers.

OUR PARTNERS

Through partnerships with Early Intervention Colorado, local Community Centered Boards (CCBs) and Children's Hospital KidStreet, A Shared Vision supports 50 counties in metro Denver, north, northeast and the Western Slope - representing 81% of the state's population

"I have collaborated with the founders of A Shared Vision for many years and was excited when they started this exceptional nonprofit organization to provide in-home and community services to families of infants and toddlers who are blind or visually impaired. They value a multidisciplinary approach and work to integrate my or other doctors' recommendations into their treatment plans to ensure their clients have the best opportunity to make the most of their lives."
**Director, Low Vision Rehabilitation Service,
UCHealth Eye Center**



OUR TEAM

EXPERTISE

Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments | Early Childhood Special Education
Early Childhood Development | Orientation and Mobility | Braille | Social Work
Pediatric Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injuries | Pediatric Medical Fragility
Responsive Teaching | Transdisciplinary Play-Based Assessments | Infant Massage

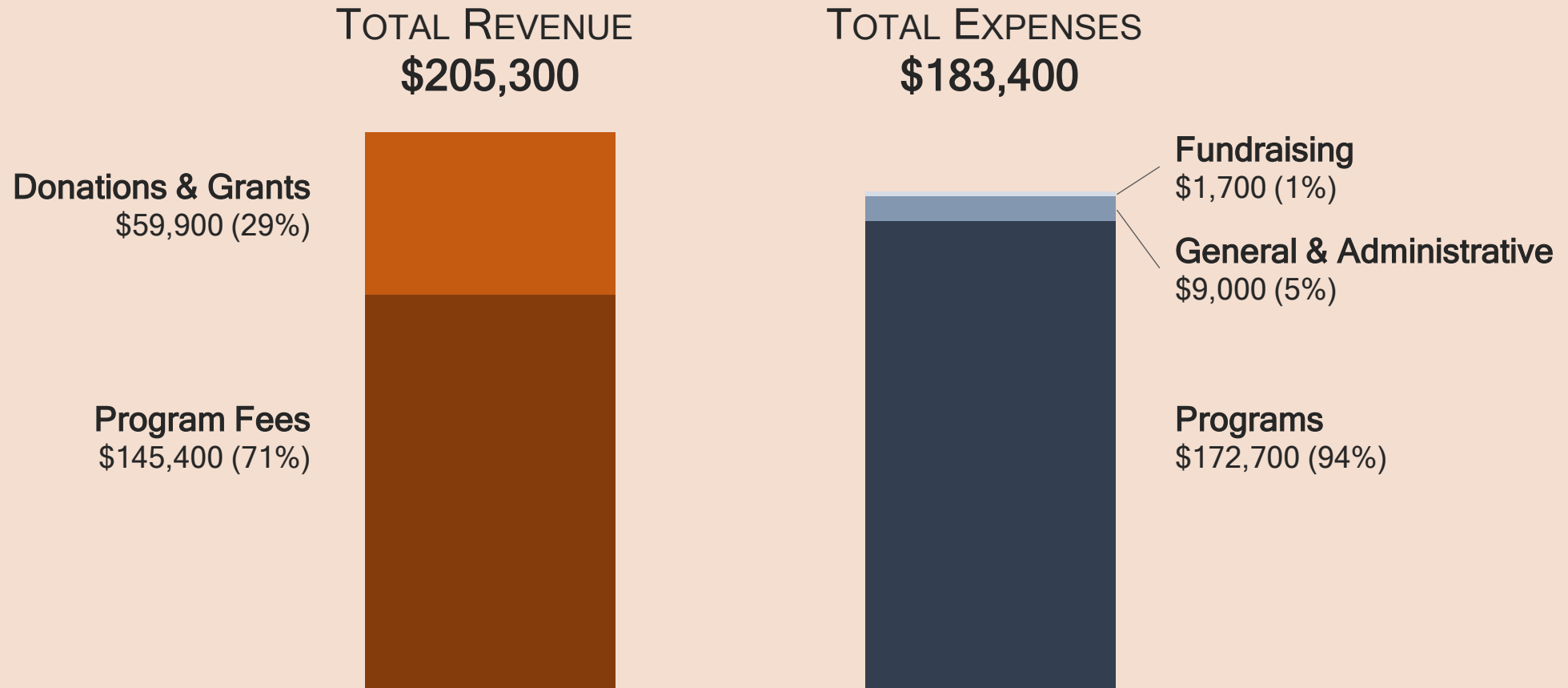
"As a member of a group of pioneers developing services for 'blind' babies in Colorado over 30 years ago, I highly encouraged the establishment of A Shared Vision. They have the unique training and experience to be the backbone for families to be informed on vision specific topics. They are geared to truly sharing and learning together, doing whatever it takes for each baby to grow into a fulfilling life."

National expert, retired TVI/COMS

ADVISORS

- Dr. Tanni Anthony, Department of Education
- JC Greeley, retired TVI/COMS
- Dr. Kara Hanson, UCHealth Eye Center
- Laura Merrill, Department of Human Services
- Dr. Anna Steele, Children's Eye Physicians

OUR 2018 FINANCIALS



60% GROWTH
OVER 2017

\$970
PER CHILD SERVED

CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE



furry penguin

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Colorado 501(c)(3) Nonprofit