

# Annual Report

## 2021 IMPACT REPORT – YEAR IN HIGHLIGHTS



VisionServe Alliance furthered its commitment to networking leadership amongst the blindness and low vision community by developing and addressing a collective policy agenda. Despite a year of economic uncertainty and leadership transitions, VSA continued to serve its members by offering opportunities for connection, information sharing, and professional support. After experiencing successful remote & home officing of all VisionServe Alliance staff, the decision was made to close the St. Louis office saving the organization precious resources and giving staff the flexibility necessary to maximize productivity. Here are additional highlights of the year:

### Public Policy Actions

- *Public Policy Committee* created a *Values Statement* and a *checklist process* for reviewing external requests for issue endorsements to expedite requests while ensuring adherence to VSA's core values
- Crafted *Teddie-Joy's Law* addressing the rights, needs, and capabilities of older people who are blind or visually impaired

### Empowering Conferences and Virtual Events

From virtual happy hours to CEO affinity groups to Lunch and Learns, VSA held 37 virtual events in 2021, including the *2nd virtual ELC, "Innovating for Success,"* in April with 320 attendees. Though we couldn't be together in person, a swag box delivered directly to attendees added a special touch. Attendees enjoyed inspirational keynote speakers, including Vu Le "A Time for Boldness," Kevin O'Connor "Apart and Together Then Apart Again!" and Tai Tomasi "The Myth of Functionality," and connected in virtual escape rooms, online chats, and online networking sessions.



A thoughtful gift – the VSA ELC swag box for our virtual attendees

### Engaging Members Through Aging and Vision Loss National Coalition (AVLNC) Projects

Over 160 volunteers tackled important projects through the AVLNC in 2021. The first year of a 3-year plan included these accomplishments: *Big Data Project, Public Awareness, Leadership Academy* (cohort of 10 people each year to cultivate passionate advocates for older blind), and the *Consumer advocacy training program* (trained advocates to meet with local organizations in the community).



# Annual Report

2021 IMPACT REPORT - YEAR IN HIGHLIGHTS



## Expanded Menu of VSA Consulting Services Launched

A great opportunity to serve our members' growing leadership development needs, VisionServe Alliance Consulting shifted from offering EOS implementation services to a new platform called *System and Soul* and expanded the menu of consulting services to include *The Leadership Challenge* and *Kolbe*.



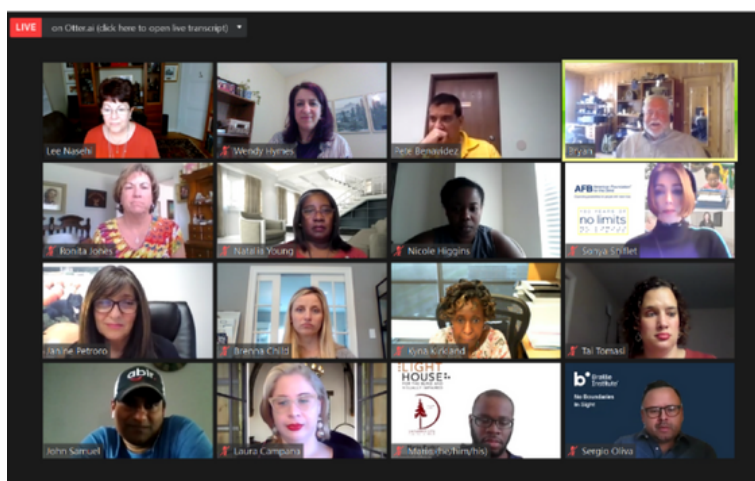
Lee facilitating the New York 401 Schools Meeting with members Bernadette Kappen & Rebecca Renshaw

## Launch of Big Data Project

In partnership with *The Ohio State University*, VisionServe Alliance embarked on the Big Data Project to analyze standardized statewide data and national reports of people who are blind or have low vision to generate a national and state-level reports showing the prevalence of vision impairment and demographics. Starting in the fall, these states pledged funds for their statewide reports: *PA, FL, CA, LA, NY, MO, OK, and IL*; the following national organizations have also donated: *AFB, APH, and AER*.

## Established the IDEAL (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Leadership) Committee

Volunteers from 16 VisionServe Alliance member organizations served as inaugural members of the new *IDEAL Committee*, whose purpose is to gather, develop, share, promote, adopt, and measure best and promising practices and resources for advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and cultural competency throughout the field of blindness and within organizations serving people of all ages with blindness, low vision, and other visual impairment. The work of this committee included developing a *national employment pipeline*, a *DEI training and toolkit*, and deciding on methods to *collect DEI metrics for organizations in our field*.



# Annual Report

2021 IMPACT REPORT - YEAR IN HIGHLIGHTS



## Individual & Corporate Donors

Kirk Adams  
Joseph Bogart  
Lauren Branch  
Pamela Brandin  
Cabell-Wayne Association of the Blind  
Center of Vision Enhancement  
Computers for the Blind  
Ronald Cole  
Terri Davis  
Elly Du Pre  
Dave Ekin  
Enight Skills Center  
Malachy Fallon  
First Nonprofit Group  
Amy Gascon  
Charla Gomez  
Melissa Head  
Gidget Hopf  
Christina Householter  
Wendy Hymes  
Miki Jordan  
Matt Kaplowitz  
Bernadette Kappen  
Leslie Jones Irish  
Jennifer Lake  
Carlene Lebous  
Ben Leigh  
LightHouse for the Blind & VI San Fran  
June Mansfield  
Roxann Mayros  
Michael and Sheryl McGowan  
Nancy D. Miller  
Thomas H. Miller  
Peter Mindnich

John Mitchell  
Lois Modell  
Denise Moyer  
Lou Moneymaker  
Bridge Multimedia  
Shawn Murphy  
Raj Nagarajan  
Leone Nasehi  
Anat Nulman  
Kerry & Lynne Obrien  
Erika Petach  
Anissa Pieriboni  
Courtney Plotner  
Steve Pouliot  
Shari Roeseler  
Ken Rosenthal  
Tammy Roussell  
Dotty St Amand  
Dennis Steiner  
David Steinmetz  
Maura Sweeney  
Nilima Tanna  
Thinktwice Institute, LLC  
Jeff Todd  
Louis Tutt  
Vermont Association for the Blind  
and Visually Impaired  
Louellia Vidrine  
Wayfinder Family Services  
Elaine Welch  
Edward Welsh  
Charles Young  
Daniel Zalewski

## Corporate Sponsors

ACVREP  
APH  
Bank of America  
Cleanlogic  
Envision  
First Nonprofit  
GoalFix  
LAB  
Leader Dogs  
Morgan Stanley  
Mutual of America  
NIB  
OrCam  
Prevent Blindness  
Society f/t Blind of Sacramento  
Spark Therapeutics  
Vanda Pharmaceuticals  
Vispero

## In-Kind Contributions

GoalFix  
LAB

**158**

Members

**18**

Sponsors

**20**

New Members

**320**

Conference  
Attendees

## By the Numbers

	2021	2020
<b>Assets</b>	\$609,379	\$521,020
<b>Liabilities</b>	\$161,952	\$112,891
<b>Net Assets</b>	\$446,427	\$408,129