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 officeing 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.

**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).
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.

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

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Center of Vision Enhancement
Computers for the Blind
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Terri Davis
Elly Du Pre
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Prevent Blindness
Society f/t Blind of Sacramento
Spark Therapeutics
Vanda Pharmaceuticals
Vispero

In-Kind Contributions

GoalFix
LAB

By the Numbers

158 Members
18 Sponsors
20 New Members
320 Conference Attendees

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