



Blind Children's Learning Center
18542-B Vanderlip Avenue
Santa Ana, CA 92705
714.573.8888
www.blindkids.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Carolyn Baker
Office- 714.573.8888 ext. 2102
carolyn.baker@blindkids.org

Karl Kirchgessner Foundation Awards Memorial Grant of \$145,000 to Blind Children's Learning Center

New building named in honor of founding board member Karl F. Kramer



Michael Kramer honors his late father, Karl Kramer, at the Center

Santa Ana, Calif. (May 31, 2017) - The Karl Kirchgessner Foundation, a private foundation dedicated to funding non-profit organizations that focus on helping people who are blind or visually impaired become self-sufficient, awarded a memorial grant of \$145,000 in honor of Karl Francis Kramer to Blind Children's Learning Center to fund the purchase of a new modular building as well as purchasing the 1st and 2nd grade curriculum programs. At a recent ceremony, board members from both the Kirchgessner Foundation and Blind Children's Learning Center, dedicated the new modular building in Karl Kramer's honor. The Karl F. Kramer Center for Early Intervention building houses a Kindergarten, First and Second grade combination class. The memorial grant

will preserve the legacy of Karl Kramer, founding member of the Karl Kirchgessner Foundation, successful business man, philanthropist, father, world traveler, and longtime supporter of Blind Children's Learning Center.

Over the course of 30 years, Karl was inspired by the work done at the Center, he attended numerous graduation ceremonies and secured over \$880,000 to support the Center's programs.

"My father would tell us about the graduation ceremonies he attended here at Blind Children's Learning Center with tears in his eyes. The Center held a special place in his heart and when it was time to choose a location for a naming opportunity in his honor, the Blind Children's Learning Center was a natural choice." said Michael Kramer, Karl's son.

"This generous donation from the Karl Kirchgessner Foundation has provided the space and curriculum for Blind Children's Learning Center to expand its onsite program to provide crucial services to children with visual impairments through 2nd grade. We are honored to remember Karl, his impact in the community, and his dedication and support of our Center, and our mission to help prepare children with visual impairments for a life of independence." said Kathleen Buehler, Executive Director of Blind Children's Learning Center.

###

About Blind Children's Learning Center

Blind Children's Learning Center, a non-profit agency, provides services for children with visual impairments. Founded in 1962 by adults who were blind, the organization was originally called "Services for the Blind Orange County." The founders quickly discovered the key to helping a person with visual impairments was to start working with them at a very early age. Today the agency serves children and their families through the Global Infant Development Program, Bright Visions Early Childhood Center (an onsite preschool-2nd grade) and Youth Outreach Services with the mission to provide early intervention, education and services for blind, visually impaired or deaf-blind children and their families to empower independence. For more information please visit www.blindkids.org.