

Everyday Someone's Life is Changed at Blind Children's Learning Center

Blind Children's Learning Center board member Danielle King is the Vice President of four HoneyBaked Ham stores in Southern California and the mother of six energetic boys ranging in ages from 5 to 15 years old. In between chauffeuring her boys (Mikey, Sammy, Max, Sean, Sawyer and Myer) to Boy Scout meetings, baseball games, and blacksmithing lessons, she is also a prominent volunteer at the Center.

When asked why she is an active volunteer, her response was, "Everyday someone's life is changed at the Center. I'm committed to this organization where a devoted staff and volunteers tell the students they can succeed. Others may discourage families and lead them to believe their children with visual impairments won't be able to overcome the challenges they face.



Sawyer King

At the Center, the children and their parents are always told they can do it."

Danielle, her husband Mike, and their children's lives were changed by their experience at Blind Children's Learning Center. At the age of three, their oldest son Mikey was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa (RP). RP is an inherited disease in which the light-sensitive retina of the eye slowly and progressively degenerates, eventually resulting in blindness. Years later, their fifth son, Sawyer, was also diagnosed with RP.

"After our first visit to the Center, we felt relief. We had hope and faith everything was going to work out and it did," said Danielle.

Today Mikey is 15. He loves blacksmithing and aspires to work in the industry making art pieces to sell. Sawyer is 7. He successfully transitioned into his local

elementary school and is now in the 2nd grade, where his favorite subject is reading.

Danielle learned about volunteer opportunities when a committee member asked her to join the golf committee. Eight years later, she is now co-chairing the annual Fall Golf Classic with Dr. Frank Villalobos.

Under their leadership, the tournament has become one of the Center's major fundraising events. In November 2014, the tournament raised more than \$96,000. (Note: Save the Date for the 2015 Fall Golf Classic on November 2, 2015 at El Niguel Country Club in Laguna Niguel, Calif.)

In 2008, Danielle was elected to the Center's board of directors where she has played a vital role in board recruitment and fundraising. "Often Mike and I talk about what Blind Children's Learning Center means to us. In a perfect world, Mikey and Sawyer wouldn't be visually impaired. But through this experience, we've met so many amazing people. People that share our dedication to the Center. People that have become a major part of our lives and we are grateful," said Danielle.



Mikey King



Blind Children's Learning Center

Destination + Independence.

**Save the Date
Fall Golf Classic
Monday, November 2, 2015**

Message From the President

Three bricklayers worked together toward a common goal. Each saw his work differently. The first said, "I'm laying bricks." The second said, "I'm practicing to be the best bricklayer in the world." The third said, "We are building a Cathedral."

At Blind Children's Learning Center, we are individual professionals with different talents, skills and educational levels, but we work as a team. We're not building a cathedral, but we all contribute to laying the foundation of learning for children who are blind and visually impaired. We do this one brick or step at a time, with a team focused on each individual child.

Our team of vision stimulation specialists, occupational and physical therapists, teachers of the visually impaired, orientation and mobility specialists, deaf/blind interveners, counselors, speech pathologists and daily living skills instructors are supported by assistants, aides, interns, volunteers and management. Early intervention builds a strong foundation so these children may reach their own level of independence to navigate future challenges.

In this New Year, I'd like to thank the staff of Blind Children's Learning Center for working as such a strong team to build the best foundation possible for these children and young adults. Special thanks to all of you who so generously support our programs so that we may maintain our level of excellence.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Buehler



Winter Highlights



Cameron, Bailey and Abigail were shining stars at the Center's annual holiday program.



At Pretend City Children's Museum in Irvine, Calif., State Street's Global Outreach volunteers worked with the Center's Outreach team to promote White Cane Safety Day.



Rich Coury and Brandon Buehler of Coury & Buehler Physical Therapy are faithful supporters of our Center. Our preschool students visited their office to sing holiday carols for their clients.

From the Chairperson

"Many persons have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self gratification, but through fidelity to a worthy purpose." - Helen Keller

This past year I've had the incredible opportunity to work with outstanding individuals who generously gave their time and resources to help us fulfill the mission of Blind Children's Learning Center to prepare children with visual impairments for a life of independence.

We are deeply grateful to Nadine and Robert Hall for their generous donation of a \$75,000 year-end challenge gift. Because of our generous donors, we met and surpassed our goal raising more than \$92,000, together totaling more than \$167,000 for our children.

We also want to thank and recognize Lynda Perry for her generous contribution to the Center. In addition, her sons, Todd and Jeff Perry, and Briggs Electric provided consulting and electrical improvements to our property. We are extremely grateful for their support of BCLC.

It is an honor to lead a volunteer board of outstanding men and women who are dedicated to the Center. I'm proud to announce the addition of three new board members. Case Colaw is an associate attorney at Sims Law Firm, LLP. Margaret Moodian is a lead professional tutor at Brandman University. Jaimie Haver has rejoined our Board of Directors. She is Leasing Funding Manager, Commercial Equipment at Banc of California and founder of our Destination-Independence 5K Walk. All three of these individuals are committed to sharing their talents and resources in support of our children.

I'm excited for the coming year. Our excellent staff continue to dedicate themselves to providing excellence with their programs and in their classrooms. Although we face many challenges, we look forward to doing our part to accomplish our mission and hope you will continue to take part in our mission as well.

Sincerely,
Jeri Konopisos



In December, Nadine and Bob Hall hosted a Christmas Boat Parade Party at their home to raise funds for Blind Children's Learning Center.

L to R - Jeri Konopisos, Leonard Cormier, Nadine Hall, Robert Hall, Gloria Cormier, Ted Konopisos



Braille Literacy is important. Walk with us to raise funds to provide Braille instruction for our children.

Location: Blind Children's Learning Center
18542-B Vanderlip Avenue
Santa Ana, CA 92705

Registration Begins: 8:00 AM

Walk Starts: 9:00 AM

Registration Fee: \$20
(includes t-shirt & tote bag)

Ages 7 and Under: FREE

Join Destination → Independence now:

1. Become a Walk Sponsor
Contact Carolyn Baker at
714.573.8888 x 2102 or
carolyn.baker@blindkids.org.
2. Register as an Individual or Team.
Learn more at www.blindkids.org.
3. Donate now at www.blindkids.org.

Our deepest appreciation to the following foundations, companies, organizations and individuals who share a greater vision, a finer spirit of hope and have greatly enriched the lives of our children and their families.



Blind Children's Learning Center

Destination → Independence

18542-B Vanderlip Avenue
Santa Ana CA 92705
714.573.8888
www.blindkids.org

Gifts from July through December 2014

\$100,000+

Ruth Reich Administrative Trust

Dr. Donald Studt
Dr. Frank and Jeanette Villalobos

\$50,000 - \$99,999

The Dhont Family Foundation
Robert and Nadine Hall

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Alcoa Inc.
Barbara Alvarado AlvaradoSmith
Amigos de los Niños
Anaheim Lions Club
Anonymous
Cecile Stephens Foundation
Coury & Buehler Physical Therapy, Inc.
Frank D'Orsi
Lawrence and Arleen Downing

\$25,000 - \$49,999

The Bruce Ford Bundy and Ann Smith Bundy Foundation
Warren and Beverly Hayford
William Hulings
McBeth Foundation

Mike and Danielle King
Ted and Jeri Konopisos
Mark Chapin Johnson Foundation
Ruth Ann Moriarty
Segerstrom Foundation
Saleem and Joy Shaikh
Telefonix
Trinity United Presbyterian Church

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Allergan Foundation
Smoky and Kimberly Bayless
Carl E. Wynn Foundation
Change a Life Foundation
LaDorna Eichenberg
The Ernest G Herman Foundation
Charles Fox
Glen & Dorothy Stillwell Charitable Trust
Kramer Family Foundation
Jerry Rapport
Shady Canyon Golf Club
Ueberroth Family Foundation
Wallace Air Cargo Group
Wayne and Jo Ann Moore Charitable Foundation

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Anonymous
Arcadia Lions Club Foundation
Banc of California
Charles and Phyllis Bell
Jim and Peggy Blaising
Franklin and Patricia Brenner
Camden Capital, LLC
Coastal Vision Medical
Dan Cornwell
Craig and Raquel Dawson
Edison International
Edward and Helen Shanbrom Family Fund
Edward and Frances Frankel
The Henry W. Bull Foundation
Mary Hobbs
Chuck Housman

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous
Devto Fund
Donald L. Schoellerman Foundation
Josephine Herbert Gleis Foundation
Marin-Finn Foundation
Newport Beach Association of Realtors
Pacific Coast Commercial
Richard and Elizabeth Steele Fund
Rite Aid Foundation

Huntington Beach Host Lions Club
Kenneth Johnson
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan Inc.
Tibor Kelemen
Law Offices of Hiepler & Hiepler
The Leberz Family Foundation
Danny Letner
Louise Merage Family Foundation
M. L. Kishigo Mfg., Co.
Virginia Marshall
Michael and Phyllis Martin
Francisco and Connie Martinez
Dr. Desmond McGuire and Dr. Cory Brame
Dr. Ashish and Asha Mehta
Gene and Rose Mergelmeyer
Jill Muckenthaler
Joan Parker
The Peter and Mary Muth Foundation
PIMCO Foundation
Stephan Plotzker
Walter and Renate Rados
Rob and Joanne Smith Family Foundation
Roy E. Crummer Foundation
Schools First Federal Credit Union
Shirley Stannard
Alfred Taylor
Yeou and Chun Tsai
Gary and Kathy Veeh
Wells Fargo Bank
White Cane Society
William Knight Russell Family Foundation

\$500 - \$999

Wylie and Bette Aitken
Dan Almqvist
David and Robin Alvarado
Mike and Julie Alvarado

Banc of California
Christopher and Nancy Blatchford
Ronald and Kerry Borrell
Scott and Rosia Bruno
Theresa Busby
Daniel and Guadalupe Cafaro
Dan and Debi Callahan
Russell and Beverley Cox
David S. Ascher Charitable Foundation
Karen Emmett
Garden Grove Host Lions Club
Jacqueline Givins
Darren and Jaimie Haver
Jeff and Mary Hipshman
HMWC CPA'S & Business Advisors
Barbie Hoyt
J G Davidson and Company
Barbara Joseph
Keesal, Young & Logan
James and Carol Klein
William and Carolyn Klein
Yvonne Law
Lingyu Lee
Michael Lin
Gary Mason
Ron and Helen Matthews
Mike and Margaret Moodian
David and Pat Morehead
William and Pamela Overfelt
R. Tom Porter
Presbyterian Women
Barbara Roberts
James Scheidler
Donald and Doris Silva
John Sorich
Michael and Terri Steponovich, Jr.
Erma Jean Tracy
Tustin Area Woman's Club
Tustin Community Bank
United Healthcare
Dennis and Marian Urschel
Charles and Laura Vickery
Ron Anthony Zakhar
Thomas and Dana Zeigler

\$250 - \$499

Ronald Barger
Dr. Paul and Tammie Brailsford
Dr. Herbert and Kathleen Buehler
California Community Foundation
Chino Hills Lions Club
Lance Coffey
Shelley Cole

Leonard and Gloria Cormier
Glenn and Brenda Corwin
Kelly Dudley
EPIC Edgewood Partners Insurance Center
Travis Forster
Richard and Evelyn Francuz
Brandon and Cassandra Garr
Dr. David Goodkin and Dr. Karen Wetmore
Jean and Louis Grasso
Robert and Wendy Grime
Gregson B. Hall
Don Hansen
George Harwood
John and Barbara Hinds
Yu Ho and Sophia Wang
Michael and Charlene Immell
Hunter Johnson
Knights of Columbus #13111
Knights of Columbus, #3052
Laguna Niguel Lions Club
James and Yolanda Lain
Dr. Gregory and Joann Leatherby
Michael J. Leblanc
William Lee, Jr.
Gordon and Sheila Mann
Don and Jan Martens
Dr. William and Irene Mathews
Dolores Maxson
Mark and Elaine McClanathan
Robert and Carina Morris
Dr. Lawrence and Barbara Mozen
William Ortiz
William and Janice Powell
Mark Richardson
Dale and Tamar Sadlik
Jeanne Siegel
Mary Smith
State Street IMS
James Swartz
Howard and Joan Thompson
Katharine N. Trotter
Western Medical Center Auxiliary
Rick Wilson

*We strive for accuracy and apologize for any errors or omissions. If you have been listed incorrectly, please contact Carolyn Baker at 714.573.8888 ext. 2102.