

## 2024 Annual Report

The Akron Blind Center has the mission to be a beacon for the visually challenged through resources, programs, and classes, and to enrich educational, life and independence skills training, volunteerism, employment, equality, and outreach opportunities.

Our members continue to thrive through togetherness. The definition of synergy is to produce an effect together which is greater than the combination of individual efforts. In other words, two individual's efforts can be multiplied more strongly if fused together as a team. That is why our motto is: **We** Can and **We** Will!

With vision loss, one usually experiences loneliness and isolation, which has a terrible mental effect. The Akron Blind Center provides an environment where camaraderie, achievement, contribution, purpose and hope come together to greatly elevate the spirit.

Vision loss comes with fears and sadness, uncertainty, loss of independence and dignity, safety and security concerns, self-worth and self-confidence issues, and . The Akron Blind Center helps restore and lift up by giving opportunities to give, serve, prosper, accomplish and unify.

Over the past year, we as a nonprofit have made great strides to develop, build and improve our services and how we provide for our members and the visually challenged in our communities. Our stalwart programs, such as our Tools for School backpack program for visually challenged kids, Warm Hearts, Warm Hats hat knitting and distribution program, outreach programs, in-house adult education and training classes (2024 was our returning full year after COVID), and others are fully functional, and flourishing. We added Charms for a Chance jewelry sales at the Northside Marketplace, created and maintained by Tressa Reisberg, and was very successful and was a new revenue venture for us.

We have suffered great losses with the passing of members of our Akron Blind Center family, as we have also added dear additions this past year. We also endured and remained prosperous through a very challenging economy and nonprofit environment. Services to our members and the community continue to grow and

morph in coordination with their needs. We continue to promote, market and reach out to the communities, and provide critical resources and a safe, comforting and triumphant environment to succeed.

Our great Board has blazed the trail for our operational success. Their commitment and support have been instrumental in our leadership.

Our Board is majority composed of Visually Challenged according to our Code of Regulations to be protective of their interests in everything that is done with this organization. The names of our Board of Directors (with visually Challenged abbreviated VC) are as follows:

Pierre Irvine, Board Chair

Quintella Walters, Vice-Chair, VC

John Colvin, Treasurer

Darlene Irvine, Secretary

Brian Banks, VC

David Calderone, VC

Lori Dent, VC

Kevin Dobens, VC

LaJohn Elliess, VC

Kevin Goode

Georgia Williamson, VC

Tressa Reisberg

Scott Reisberg, ED

Kathy Cutlip, Ex Officio Membership Officer

Financially, we are recovering from a temporary fiscally requiring period of our history, post-COVID. A snapshot of 2023, from our 990 Report is as follows:

Income: 108,365

Expenses: 164,110

Revenue minus expenses: -55,745

Net Assets: 1,971,692

It is indeed an honor and privilege to serve this organization through the members, whom I hold dear. They truly inspire me through everything I do, and I will continue to always tirelessly raise my personal standards to provide the most deserved opportunities for these amazing and beloved people.

Scott Reisberg, Inspired Executive Director, Akron Blind Center, Inc.