



2233 West Shepperd Avenue, Littleton,  
CO 80120 Phone: (303) 778-1130 Fax:  
(303) 778-1598

Email: [ccb@cocenter.org](mailto:ccb@cocenter.org) Website:  
[www.cocenter.org](http://www.cocenter.org)

## Annual Report 2023

### Branding and Messaging

In 2022, we were pleased to work with Mission Minded through the National Federation of the Blind to create new branding materials for our three NFB training centers. In January of 2023, we began incorporating our messaging in to our communications. Below is a sampling of the work we did.

#### Belief Message

We believe blind people can do anything. Every day, we encourage and challenge each student and they come to understand their potential as they build the skills and confidence to live the life they want. Because when you believe in yourself and experience a thriving community of positive blind people, nothing can hold you back from pursuing your dreams.

#### Brand Values

Dream Without Limits

Be Bold

Be Part of Something Bigger

Work With Love

Respect Everyone

Honor Every Voice and Experience

### Strategic Planning

In November, we completed our strategic planning process and began work on first-year objectives. Implementation runs through December of 2027. Below are our Aspirational Statement and the seven core priorities.

**Aspirational Statement:** The Colorado Center for the Blind is a training center and community of blind and low vision people proudly affiliated with the National Federation of the Blind. We embody the National Federation of the Blind's philosophy which teaches that with training, opportunity and positive attitudes, blind people can compete equally. The Colorado Center serves all blind individuals and others associated with them through a world-class staff, resources, and facilities supported by a solid diversified funding base. Center participants become successful and actively engage in both the blind and greater

community. Our aspiration is for a community of positive blind people who bring value, diversity and leadership to their local and global communities.

### Seven core priorities:

- I. Refine and expand programs for increased impact on student independence
- II. Invest in Center staff
- III. Provide safety and security at all Center facilities
- IV. Increase financial stability
- V. Maintain and improve facilities to enhance services
- VI. Develop and strengthen partnerships for Center expansion in all areas
- VII. Enhance CCB governance

## Youth Programs

Providing mentorship, training, support and encouragement makes all the difference. Whether working with blind youth of any age, their parents, educators, or others, we focus on conveying a positive philosophy of blindness. Our Youth Program accomplishments follow.



*Chaz Davis, the Director of our Youth Program, hands out white canes to summer students on their first day of class.*

- Served 122 youth participating in 41 activities
- Partnered with 55 parents and 16 educators
- Provided academic support to 56 students
- Sponsored 9 challenge recreation activities
- Provided mentoring to 107 blind students

### Fun Activities & Skills Training (FAST) Events:

- Corn Maze
- Carson Nature Center
- Denver Zoo
- Shark Dissection
- Accessible/tactile eclipse Seminar
- Fiske Planetarium
- Robotics



*Teenagers participate in our robotics camp in June 2023.*

## Independence Training Program

This is our cornerstone program. We provide expansive skill training along with challenge and confidence-building classes to adults 18 and above. Most of our students live in our student housing and come to us from all over the country. When students graduate from this program, they are prepared to attend college or obtain employment.

72 students served in 2023

96% of students living independently post-graduation

28 community outreach events held

68% of students have multiple disabilities



*We also teach our blind students to give back. Here, students help to stock food bank shelves at nearby Integrated Family Community Services (IFCS).*



## Older Blind Program

This vibrant program provides training and support to older individuals who are experiencing vision loss. Participants receive individualized training either at the Center or in their homes. Groups are facilitated Across the Denver Metro area, at the Center, and virtually (on Zoom) to provide guidance and support to blind members and their families and friends. Our week-long residential program, In Charge, is invaluable and gives students the foundation of skills and confidence that propel them toward maintaining independence.

300 participants

20 monthly support groups

30 monthly home visits

36 monthly individualized classes



*Older Blind students with a Center staff member examine tactile art pieces during the annual Shared Visions tactile art show at Arapahoe Community College.*

## Celebrating Summer

Every year we bring all of our programs together in one room so that everyone can meet each other. We enjoy ice cream while we make introductions. On Tuesday, July 25, ages in the room spanned from 5 to 97, and there were over 80 of us.



*CCB Executive Director Julie Deden, Founder Diane McGeorge, and Director of Older Blind Services Duncan Larsen at the Ice Cream Social, July 25, 2023. Duncan retired August 31, 2023.*

*We want to thank all of our partners, for without them we could not provide the services that change lives.*

## Supporting Partners

Adams County Community Fund

Anschutz Family Foundation

Anschutz Foundation

Colorado Gives Foundation

Colorado Outdoor Equity Grant Program

Denver Children's Foundation

Denver Foundation

DRCOG Area Agency on Aging

Ent Credit Union

Jay & Rose Philips Family Foundation of Colorado

Older Individuals Who are Blind Program, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Pikes Peak Community Foundation - Erikson Fund

Trimble Trust

Vicksman Trust

Virginia W. Hill Foundation

William Kistler Coors

William B. O'Rourke Foundation

## Community Partners

All-Health Network  
Anchor Center for Blind Children  
Arapahoe Community College  
Arapahoe County Master Gardeners  
Colorado Cross Disability Coalition  
Cyber.org  
Colorado River School  
Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind  
Colorado Talking Book Library  
Denver Rock Climbing School  
Denver Zoo  
Designs by Sundown  
Ignite Adaptive Sports  
Integrated Family Community Services (IFCS)  
Metropolitan State University of Denver  
National Federation of the Blind  
National Federation of the Blind of Colorado  
University of Colorado  
Fiske Planetarium, UC-Boulder  
Littleton High School  
Colorado Instructional Materials Center  
South Platte Park and Carson Nature Center  
Denver Botanical Gardens  
Eyecycle Colorado  
The Blue Bench  
When Everyone Acts Violence Ends (WEAVE)  
Macintosh Academy

## Senior Outreach Partners

Caley Ridge Assisted Living  
Castle Rock Senior Activity Center  
Clermont Park Senior Living Community  
Concordia on the Lake Retirement Community  
Modena Cherry Creek Senior Living  
Parkside Village Retirement Resort  
River Pointe Retirement Community  
Riverwalk Senior Apartments  
The Gardens at Columbine Assisted Living  
Windcrest Senior Living