



*Making a  
difference...*

## **Annual Report**

**Fiscal Year 2018/2019 July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019**



*Our mission...*

Is to *make a difference* in the education, independence, and quality of life for students in Kentucky that are blind and visually impaired.



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# *Making a difference...*

## *through leadership*

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Dear Friends of the Kentucky School for the Blind Charitable Foundation,

The Kentucky School for the Blind Charitable Foundation (KSBCF) strives to make a difference in the education, independence, and quality of life for individuals that are blind and visually impaired across Kentucky. In 2019, KSBCF created the Community Collaboration Grants that aimed to generate community partnerships on innovative projects that advance the populations we serve. The foundation welcomed organizations (fellow non-profits, educational institutions, cooperatives, community groups, etc.) throughout the state of Kentucky to partner with us.

And due to this new initiative, we made history at our January 2020 board meeting, awarding more money in grants than ever before at KSBCF. These were grants to individuals, organizations, and our new Community Collaboration Partners. For example, KSBCF is partnering with the Make-a-Wish Foundation to build a new playground at KSB that is accessible to all students, as well as providing a matching grant to the Louisville Visual Arts to create a tactile mural for the blind and visually impaired in the Clifton neighborhood. These were all excellent ways to leverage our funding to make an even greater community impact. We were off to a great start...

And then COVID -19 hit. In an abundance of caution we had to cancel our March gala, low vision clinics normally held across the state, our college preparatory program INSIGHT, outreach initiatives and much more. But we kept moving forward - just in different ways.

We discovered there were new needs such as food and more assistive technology. With the staggering unemployment situation and the inability for children to get nutritious meals at school, individuals and families within our community needed food. KSBCF held a 13 week food drive providing food to over 28 families – over a hundred people - across the state of Kentucky. Some of the food was picked up at Kentucky School for the Blind and some was delivered to more remote locations. In addition, more assistive technology was needed by students across the state to complete Non Traditional Instructional assignments and homework. KSBCF was able to assist these students with the proper technology so coursework could be completed while at home instead of school.

But we could not do it without you – our supporters. Thank you for standing by us during these uncertain times. KSBCF will continue to proudly embrace our mission as we navigate through these fluid times.

All the best,



Michele Brown, Executive Director

### Staff

Michele Brown, *Executive Director*  
Nicole Roth, *Administrative Director*

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# *Making a difference... in our community*



The Kentucky School for the Blind Charitable Foundation provides grant funding to groups and organizations that serve those who are blind and visually impaired. The largest organization that receives funding through the foundation is the Kentucky School for the Blind. The grant helps support student awards, curriculum and programming, career and technical education, technology and outreach services that affect students across the state. Funding granted by the foundation has also helped expand outreach services to preschoolers who are blind and visually impaired, provide radio recordings and broadcast readings, and placed assistive technology in the hands of students. Listed below are just a few of the grants the foundation funded in 2018/2019:

- Over \$247,000 grant awarded to the Kentucky School for the Blind and its' outreach services
- \$60,000 to Visually Impaired Preschool Services (VIPS) outreach program
- \$10,000 to Radio Eye
- Bill Roby Track and Field Games (pictured below and to the right)







The Kentucky School for the Blind Charitable Foundation supports students that are blind and visually impaired in a number of ways. Our outreach efforts primarily work through the Kentucky School for the Blind Outreach Department and its regional consultants. The Outreach Department supports student performance by assisting local school districts in reducing the barriers to learning associated with vision loss. In addition, the charitable foundation supports a variety of events and transition fairs organized by the KSB Outreach Consultants that serve the needs of students, their families, and teachers across Kentucky. KSBCF also supports Low Vision Clinics across Kentucky that provide students (K-12) with free quality low vision evaluations, opportunities to try low vision devices and receive training on their usage, and use their skills in self-determination and advocacy. This experience is vital in enabling students to take full advantage of their educational environment and learning materials.



*Student receiving a low vision exam*



*Students toasting marshmallows during an Outreach event*

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## Braille Writer Loan Program

Through the Braille Writer Loan Program, the Kentucky School for the Blind Charitable Foundation is able to provide Braille Writers to any individual in Kentucky that is need of one. In the past year, the foundation loaned 13 Braille writers to people across Kentucky; in counties such as Henry, Boyd, and Bullitt. The Kentucky School for the Blind Charitable Foundation has provided over 600 Braille writers since the program began nearly thirty years ago.





The Kentucky School for the Blind Charitable Foundation funds a variety of grants that support the education, independence, and quality of life for students in Kentucky that are blind and visually impaired. By supporting individual grant requests, the foundation is able to expand access to assistive technology and other resources that make a difference in each of these students' lives. Below are just a few of the individual grants the foundation funded over 2018-2019:



*Ryder (pictured to the left) was having a difficult time wearing her eye patch, so her Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI) thought she would benefit if she had a doll that looked like her with a matching eye patch. Ryder's TVI reached out to KSBCF and the foundation provided a customized American Girl doll that now goes everywhere with Ryder!*

*Ximi (pictured to the right) loves to read and now it is easier for her to do so at home with her very own MATT Connect.*



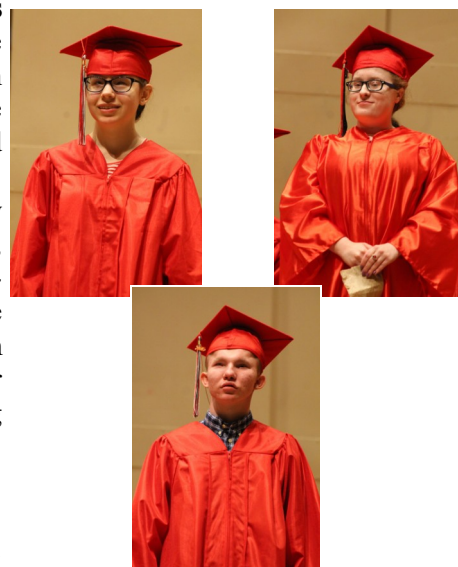
*Landon (pictured to the left) using his Prodigi Connect 12 at school after receiving it from KSBCF.*





The charitable foundation offers a variety of scholarships to students across Kentucky that are blind and visually impaired. The **Will Evans Scholarship** provides financial assistance for students want to pursue post-secondary education. In the past year, the charitable foundation awarded six of these scholarships to students pursuing their college degree at institutions such as Eastern Kentucky University and Ashbury College.

The **Joseph Kuczvara Scholarship Award** is given to a Kentucky School for the Blind graduate in recognition of their positive attitude, good citizenry, leadership and services to others. The recipient receives an \$1,000 award from the charitable foundation. In addition, the **Dr. Franklin Jelsma “To See Through Love” Scholarships** is given to tow Kentucky School for the Blind graduates. One is awarded for outstanding achievements in academics and, the other, for outstanding achievements in community service, work ethic, and respect for others. Each recipient is awarded \$500 form the charitable foundation.



*(Right) Recipients of the Kuczvara and Jelsma Scholarships.*

The **INSIGHT Post-Secondary Preparation Program** is the only program in the Commonwealth of Kentucky dedicated to promoting college and career readiness for students who are blind and visually impaired and is supported by the William M. Wood Foundation. The program is designed to promote self-advocacy and independent living for participating students as well as experiencing what it is like to attend college. INSIGHT takes place on the beautiful campus of Morehead State University, where students stay in one of the dorms on campus, eat in the cafeteria, and attend college classes. 2019 celebrated the 12th year of the INSIGHT Program with 19 students participating (pictured at top of page). Every student that successfully completes two years of the INSIGHT Program is awarded a \$5,000 scholarship and fully equipped laptop from KSBCF to help support their educational aspirations. Each year, attendance in the INSIGHT program has increased and an average of 77% of participants who graduated high school go on to college!

#### 2019 Scholarship Funds Awarded

Will Evans Scholarships (6 awarded)	\$12,000
William Wood Foundation Scholarships (5 awarded)	\$32,185
Joseph Kuczvara Scholarship Award (1 awarded)	\$1,000
Dr. Franklin Jelsma “To See Through Love” Scholarship (2 awarded)	\$1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$46,185</b>





*Making a difference... by spreading the word*

*(Above) KSB student wearing KSBCF sunglasses*

Over the past year, the charitable foundation strived to bring greater awareness of services to those in the blind and visually impaired community, as well as the wider public. Through speaking events, conferences, Low Vision Clinics, and to public events around Kentucky—KSBCF reached over **5,000** people across Kentucky .

*(Left) KSBCF staff at the Flea Off Market showing a passerby how to type in Braille.*



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Kentucky School for the  
Blind Charitable Foundation





*Making a difference...  
through transparency*

## Statements of Financial Position

As of June 30, 2019

<u>Assets</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Cash	\$ 65,344	\$ 70,237
Investments	8,815,308	8,240,816
Investments, the use of which is limited	7,157,236	7,172,489
Interest receivable	20,364	16,597
Pledges receivable	1,690	1,690
Prepaid expenses and other assets	-	3,025
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	-	210
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 16,059,942</b>	<b>\$ 15,505,064</b>
<u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>		
Liabilities:		
Grants payable	\$ 135,231	\$ 67,577
Accrued expenses	18,722	34,308
Total liabilities	153,953	101,885
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted:		
Available for operations	8,515,151	8,058,338
Invested in Property and equipment, net	-	210
Total unrestricted net assets	8,515,151	8,058,548
With donor restrictions	7,390,838	7,344,631
Total net assets	15,905,989	15,403,179
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 16,059,942	\$ 15,505,064



*Thank you for helping us make a difference*

KSBCF would not be able to make a difference in the education, independence, and quality of life for students in Kentucky that are blind and visually impaired if it was not for individual donors and our supporting sponsors. Thank you for your continued support and helping us make a difference.

## William M. Wood Foundation

