



k s b c f




Kentucky School For The Blind
Charitable Foundation Inc.

Together...
We can do so much

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2019/2020
July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020



*“Alone we can do so little;
Together we can do so much”
-Helen Keller*

***Together** we will continue in
fulfilling our mission in...*

**Making a difference in the education,
independence, and quality of life for
students in Kentucky who are
blind and visually impaired.**

Together in leadership

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 students and 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 tactile public artworks 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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Together with 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 2019/2020:

- Over \$250,000 grant awarded to the Kentucky School for the Blind and its' outreach services
- \$13,000 to the KSB Athletic Department to purchase uniforms, equipment, and accessories (pictured below to the right)
- \$81,750 to Visually Impaired Preschool Services (VIPS) outreach program
- \$10,000 to Radio Eye
- \$8,000 to the Museum of the American Printing House for the Blind and KSB Alumni Association to archive documents and materials on KSB's history.
- Bill Roby Track and Field Games (pictured below to left)



Together with our partners



The Kentucky School for the Blind Charitable Foundation strives to make a difference in the education, independence, and quality of life for individuals who are blind and visually impaired across Kentucky. During 2019 and 2020, KSBCF launched a new funding program focusing on generating community partnerships on innovative projects that advance the populations we serve. In its' first year, the Community Collaboration Grant program awarded over \$320,000 to organizations. The impact ranges from birth to adults who are blind and visually impaired, as well as the wider public. Below are some of the projects KSBCF funded over the past year:

- In partnership with the Make-a-Wish foundation, KSBCF awarded \$125,000 to the Kentucky School for the Blind to build a new playground that is safe and accessible to all students. The new playground project led by the mother of a KSB student, Anthony (the “Mayor of KSB”, pictured above), so he has a place to play with his friends.
- By matching a generous grant provided by Kosair Charities, KSBCF awarded \$125,000 to VIPS so they may expand their facilities and continue their mission in empowering young children with visual impairments and their families.
- KSBCF awarded a \$50,000 matching grant to Louisville Visual Arts to support local artist, Liz Richter (pictured to the right with KSB students), in creating the *Clifton Tactile Public Artwork*.
- Nearly \$23,000 was awarded to Look No Further Lou, which serves individuals living with visual impairments in Louisville, Kentucky. It provides in-home occupational therapy services to individuals of all ages who are visually impaired.





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. For example, such as the Visionary Day (2019) for Western Kentucky held at the Land Between the Lakes (pictured above). 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.

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 in need of one. In the past year, the foundation loaned 18 Braille writers to people across Kentucky; in counties such as Whitley, Corbin, and Boone. The Kentucky School for the Blind Charitable Foundation has provided over 630 Braille writers since the program began nearly thirty years ago.

Child using a Braille writer provided by KSBCF.





COVID-19 has affected all of us here in Kentucky and across the world. In response to the pandemic, the Kentucky School for the Blind Charitable Foundation created an emergency fund to provide immediate support to families and organizations within the blind and visually impaired community. For over three months, KSBCF provided weekly groceries for over 20 families across Kentucky. In all, the foundation was able to feed over one hundred people across the Commonwealth of Kentucky each week.

None of this would have been possible if it was not for the tireless help and dedication of the KSB staff that helped with shopping (pictured below), packing, and delivery of weekly groceries. The foundation is deeply grateful for local businesses that stepped up in donating and providing much of the needed items for the food bank. A special thank you to **Paul's Fruit Market** that provided and delivered fresh fruit and vegetables each week, and consistently donated meat for the families. We are also thankful to **Sam's Club** for donating gift cards to help purchase food, **Blue Dog Bakery** for donating fresh bread, and **Four Pegs** for donating dozens of eggs.



Photo of food boxes ready to handed out





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 2019-2020:



Landon (pictured to the left) using his Ruby XL provided by KSBCF to bake muffins at home.



Ximi (pictured above) smiling after receiving her very own Braille Note Touch 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 who 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 a \$1,000 award from the charitable foundation. In addition, the **Dr. Franklin Jelsma “To See Through Love” Scholarships** is given to two 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 from the charitable foundation.

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. 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 (picture to the right). Each year, attendance in the INSIGHT program has increased and an average of 77% of participants who graduated high school go on to college!



2020 Scholarship Funds Awarded

Will Evans Scholarships (10 awarded)	\$20,000
William Wood Foundation Scholarships (4 awarded)	\$26,948
Joseph Kuczvara Scholarship Award (1 awarded)	\$1,000
Dr. Franklin Jelsma “To See Through Love” Scholarship (2 awarded)	\$1,000

TOTAL

\$48,948



Together...through transparency

Statements of Financial Position

As of June 30, 2020

<u>Assets</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Cash	\$ 184,638	\$ 65,344
Investments	8,346,388	8,815,308
Investments, the use of which is limited	7,290,532	7,157,236
Interest receivable	14,623	20,364
Pledges receivable	1,690	1,690
Prepaid expenses and other assets	<u>623</u>	<u>-</u>
Total assets	\$ 15,838,494	\$ 16,059,942
<u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>		
Liabilities:		
Grants payable	\$ 210,078	\$ 135,231
Accrued expenses	<u>22,518</u>	<u>18,722</u>
Total liabilities	<u>232,596</u>	<u>153,953</u>
Net Assets:		
Without donor restrictions:		
Undesignated:	7,973,157	8,515,151
With donor restrictions	<u>7,632,741</u>	<u>7,390,838</u>
Total net assets	<u>15,605,898</u>	<u>15,905,989</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 15,838,494	\$ 16,059,942



Thank you for being together with us

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 showing how *together we can do so much!*

William M. Wood Foundation



Global Institutional Consulting



American Printing House
for the Blind, Inc.

