

2019 ANNUAL REPORT





The mission of **Helen Keller Services (HKS)** is to enable individuals who are blind, visually impaired, deaf-blind or have combined hearing and vision loss to live, work and thrive in the communities of their choice. HKS offers services and programs through two divisions: Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults (HKNC) and Helen Keller Services for the Blind (HKSB).



Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults (HKNC) is the only national Comprehensive Vocational and Rehabilitation Program that provides information, referral, support and training exclusively to youths and adults who have a combined hearing and vision loss, their families and the professionals who work with them.

Helen Keller Services for the Blind (HKSB) is a comprehensive rehabilitation program serving individuals of all ages who are blind or visually impaired and who may have additional disabilities, living in the New York metropolitan area.



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About Kim Zimmer

Kim Zimmer is president and chief executive officer of Helen Keller Services. Formerly, she was chief marketing officer & senior vice president, Global Affairs of Goodwill Industries International. Her career has focused on organizations that provide programs and services to people who are blind, including National Industries for the Blind and Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind (CLB) in Washington, D.C. In her communications capacity, she increased local, regional and national awareness of CLB and blindness related issues. "My career has been devoted to human service organizations that make a meaningful difference and I look forward to carrying on this tradition at Helen Keller Services."

President's Letter

When I joined Helen Keller Services (HKS) in June 2019, I was well aware of its reputation as a leader in the field of low vision, blindness, deaf-blindness and combined hearing and vision loss. As I look back on my first seven months as president and CEO, I have witnessed countless examples of how HKS has gained its well-deserved reputation. Our mission is clear – to enable our consumers to live, work and thrive in the communities of their choice. The diversity and scope of our services is reflected in the two agencies that make up HKS: the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults (HKNC) and Helen Keller Services for the Blind (HKSb).

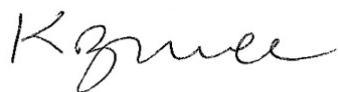
This past year, HKNC provided services to approximately 3,500 individuals who are deaf-blind, their families and agencies working in the field of deaf-blindness. Our field services were increased with the addition of deaf-blind specialists in eight states and a new Community Services Program in California enabling HKNC to assist deaf-blind individuals to receive services in their home communities. A newly enhanced Deaf-Blind Immersion Experience provided specialized training to 22 consumers with additional disabilities and their support teams.

HKSb celebrated another year of program growth with the expansion of its Foundations Program into Suffolk County, Long Island. Camp Helen Keller had a banner year with 51 children in attendance, and the Summer Adolescent Vocational Experience, a sleep-away camp, enjoyed its second year of success. HKSb welcomed the Computer Center for Visually Impaired People at its new headquarters in Brooklyn in the fall of this year with plans to expand the program to its Hempstead and Ronkonkoma locations in the coming year. The Health and Wellness Program, in partnership with Court 16, added a new adaptive tennis program.

This 2019 Annual Report is full of excitement and success stories that would not be possible without our remarkable staff, board members, supporters and community partners. I thank each and every one for their time, commitment, dedication and support over the past year.

The best is yet to come. With the New Year comes fantastic opportunities and many challenges. I look forward to increasing the sustainability of the present programs and promoting the expansion of new and innovative services. By continuing to build new business partnerships, HKS will remain committed to improving opportunities for our consumers to realize their personal goals and to be as independent as possible.

Kim Zimmer



President & CEO,
Helen Keller Services

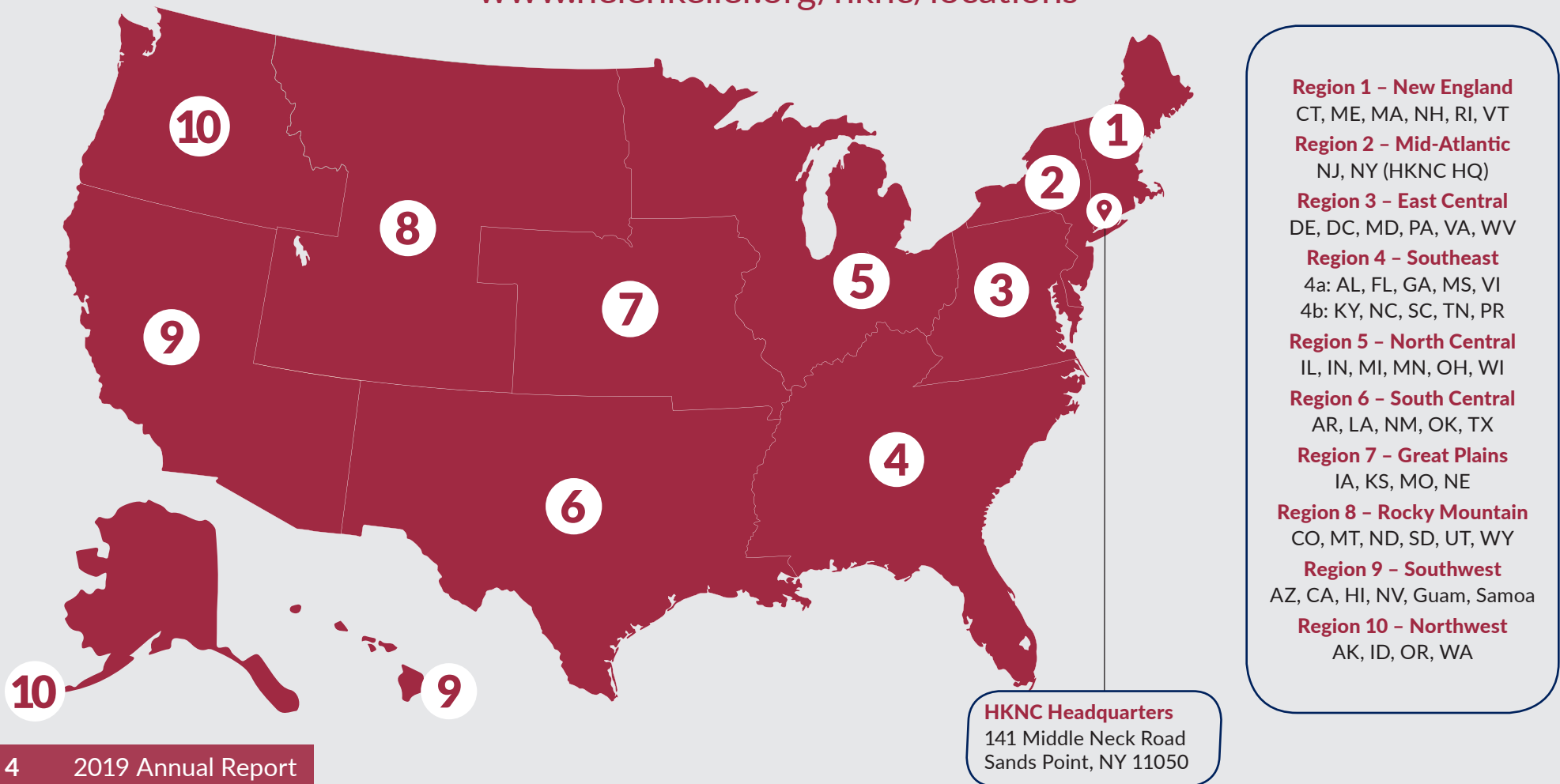


HKNC's Reach

In addition to the residential training facility in Sands Point, HKNC also offers services through its 10 regional offices across the country. These offices serve as the gateway to all that HKNC has to offer — consultation, advocacy, assessment, training, referrals and more throughout the country!

Learn more about HKNC's regional offices by visiting:

www.helenkeller.org/hknc/locations



The Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults (HKNC) is the only national Comprehensive and Vocational Rehabilitation Program exclusively for youths and adults with a combined hearing and vision loss.

The residential-based training program, located at its headquarters in Sands Point, L.I., N.Y., provides vocational training and assistance to consumers in locating employment, housing and community resources in their community of choice. HKNC also provides training in assistive technology, communication, orientation and mobility, independent living and apartment living experiences. On-campus support services include audiology, low vision, case management, creative arts, medical, interpreting and information services. The adult learning environment promotes peer-to-peer learning and self-advocacy skills to maximize learning and enhance self-empowerment.

Field services include 10 regional offices with 11 regional representatives and eight deaf-blind specialists (with more to be added) located throughout the United States.

The regional offices offer:

- Job development
- Consumer advocacy
- Consultation and technical assistance to schools and agencies
- Assistance in developing local services
- Consumer support as needed
- Information and referral
- Coordination of referrals to HKNC
- Professional development and in-service training
- Public education and awareness
- Maintenance of a National Registry of Persons Who Are Deaf-Blind
- National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program

Additional programs include:

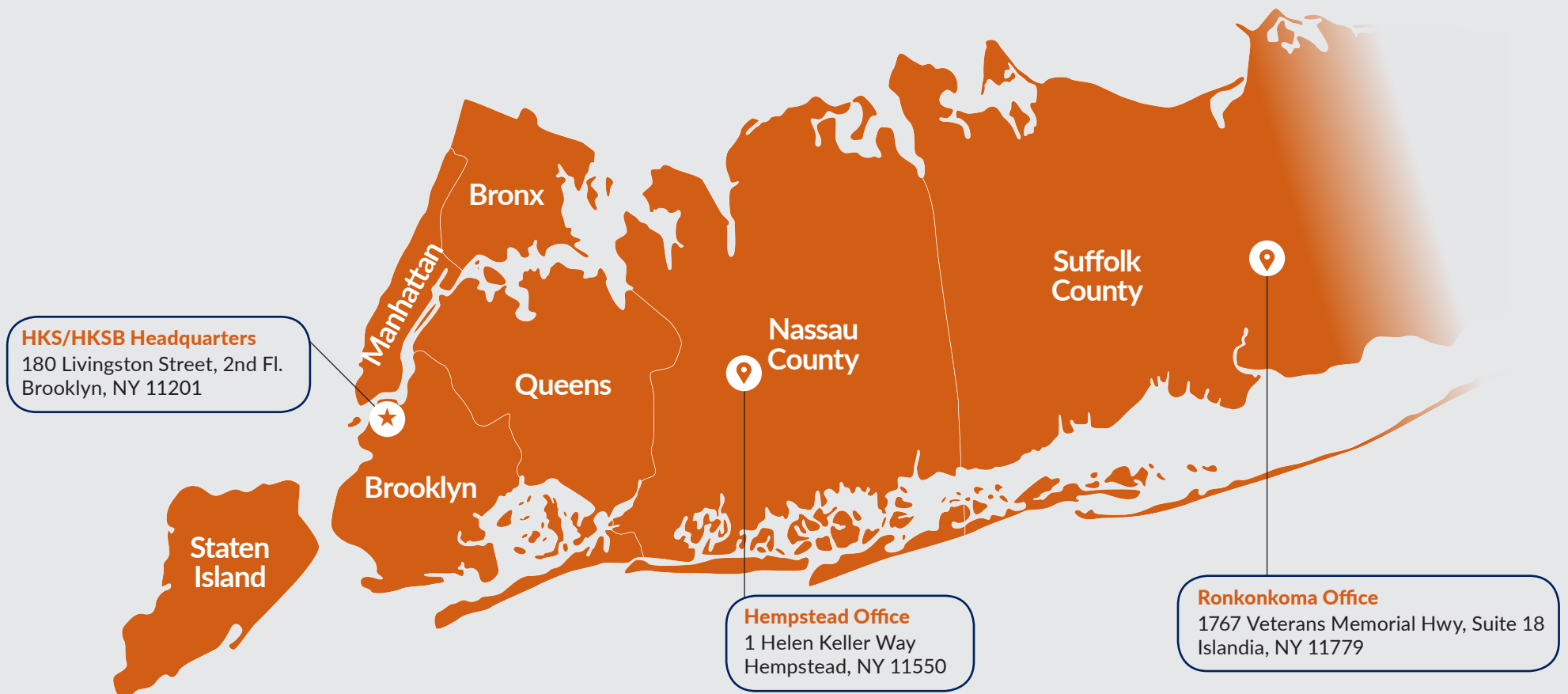
- Three different **Summer Youth Programs** offer transition age youth opportunities to explore college and career goals and to gain self-awareness, confidence and skills through experiential learning and group discussion with peers.
- A **Senior Adult Program** provides consultation, training and technical assistance to seniors 55 years and older who want to maintain their independence.
- Two **Community Services Programs (CSP)** offer job development and coaching, training in skills of daily living, low vision and orientation and mobility in the greater metropolitan areas of New York City and San Diego, CA.
- The **Information, Research and Professional Development (IRPD)** department develops deaf-blind specific training materials and curriculums for professionals and produces fully accessible on-line courses. They also disseminate information to consumers, families and professionals through seminars, on-line newsletters and social media.
- The **Deaf-Blind Immersion Experience (DBIE)** is a 5-day program for individuals who are deaf-blind with intellectual disabilities and their home support team.
- The **Professional Learning and Leadership Institute (PLLI)** offers 3-6 month paid internships for deaf-blind individuals who want to work in the field of vocational rehabilitation.

HKNC's mission is to enable each person who is deaf-blind to live, work and thrive in the community of his or her choice.

HKSB's Reach

Serving the five boroughs of New York City and Long Island, HKSB operates training facilities in Brooklyn, Hempstead and Ronkonkoma, and offers low vision services in Sands Point. Field services expand HKSB's reach, bringing resources to your neighborhood!

Visit www.helenkeller.org to learn more about our locations.



Established in 1893 as the Industrial Home for the Blind, Helen Keller Services for the Blind (HKSBS) enables individuals who are blind or visually impaired and reside in the New York metropolitan area to live, work and thrive in the communities of their choice. Through office locations in Brooklyn, Hempstead and Ronkonkoma, in addition to community-based field services, the HKSBS team works with consumers to achieve their educational, vocational and/or personal goals so they can live as independently as possible. Programs at HKSBS include the following:

General Services

- **Low Vision Services** – Optometrists provide eye examinations and teach consumers how to maximize any residual vision by using specialized lighting, lenses and magnifiers at Low Vision Centers in Brooklyn, Hempstead, Ronkonkoma and Sands Point.
- **Employment Services** – A full spectrum of employment services for working-age youth and adults, including vocational assessment and guidance, job-skills training, work experience internships and job placement.
- **Assistive Technology Centers** – Offers assessment and training in the use of adaptive computer equipment and accessible technologies, including one-on-one and group courses, which enables individuals to perform their job and/or academic studies independently.
- **Orientation & Mobility** – Instruction in safe and independent travel with the help of tools such as a white cane, guide dogs and/or portable devices.
- **Social Casework Services** – Certified social workers provide one-on-one counseling and other resources to help consumers adjust to blindness or vision loss.

Specialized Programs

- **Services for Adults with Developmental Disabilities** – Includes a Day Habilitation Program, Supported Employment, Community Habilitation, a community residence located in Wantagh, NY, and a respite service for caregivers.
- **Adaptive Living Program** – Provides rehabilitation teaching, instruction in daily living skills, orientation and mobility training, social casework services and low vision services to older adults ages 55 and older that help them regain their self-sufficiency and live safely in their homes.

Services for Children and Young Adults

- **Children's Learning Center** – Provides educational, therapeutic and early intervention services for young children, birth to age five, who are blind and/or have multiple disabilities, including a full-day preschool with a parent resource center for families and/or caregivers.
- **Summer Camps** – Includes Camp Helen Keller, a five-week summer day camp that offers physical activities and socialization opportunities for children and youth ages 4-16, and the Summer Adolescent Vocational Experience, a sleep-away camp for children and youth ages 10-15 focused on vocational field trips and daily living skills instruction.
- **Pre-vocational Training** – A five-day job exploration program for students ages 10-14.
- **Orientation to Work** – A 12-week summer program that prepares students ages 15-21 for the world of work through part-time internships.

HKSBS's mission is to enable people with vision loss and those who are blind to live, work and thrive in the community of his or her choice.

HKNC



Helen Keller
NATIONAL CENTER
for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults



Executive Letter

What a difference a year makes! As executive director of the Helen Keller National Center, I am very excited to share a reflective look back on our agency, its employees and our national partners as we work together and strive to strengthen and expand services among individuals who are deaf-blind across the country. The year 2019 has been a time of great momentum and synergy. The key to our success is teamwork. When the work of many comes together, the result becomes a new creation that is far beyond what was imagined!

HKNC remains committed to providing high-quality services with and among consumers attending the Comprehensive Vocational Rehabilitation Program in Sands Point, New York, as well as others who receive services in their home communities. In addition, through its regional representatives in 10 offices across the country, HKNC works collaboratively with state and local service providers, families and other organizations to increase service options and resources to build a national infrastructure responsive to the deaf-blind community.

In 2019, HKNC provided services to 1,620 individuals who are deaf-blind, 459 family members and 1,330 agencies.

This past year, HKNC established deaf-blind specialists in eight states. With the development of new state contracts among our vocational rehabilitation partners, the deaf-blind specialists are the “boots on the ground,” providing employment services to youths and adults who seek successful, meaningful and competitive jobs in their home communities.

The HKNC California Community Services Program began offering an array of services on July 1, 2019, in collaboration with the California Department of Rehabilitation. This transdisciplinary team offers orientation and mobility services, job development, job placement and rehabilitation training to consumers living in the Los Angeles and San Diego communities.

This year, HKNC’s Deaf-Blind Immersion Experience provided one-week specialized trainings to 22 individuals who are deaf-blind with additional disabilities and their teams comprised of staff and the families who support them. Utilizing a person-centered approach, participants received an immersion experience to craft meaningful goals and strategies to achieve greater independence and quality of life.

A very special collaboration this year has been with filmmaker and director, Doug Roland, whose film “Feeling Through” features, for the first time, a deaf-blind actor cast in a leading role. The resulting “Feeling Through Experience” consists of the film, a documentary about the making of the film and Q&A sessions with audiences. This past year we held 11 screenings nationwide. The film has raised awareness regarding the talents of the deaf-blind community, societal inclusion and accessibility. We are so excited and anticipate the “Feeling Through Experience” reaching audiences worldwide in 2020.

The HKNC team and I look forward to 2020 with many exciting goals for continued growth, collaboration and expansion!! We hope your New Year includes connections inclusive of the deaf-blind community and HKNC.

Best regards,



Sue Ruzenski
Executive Director,
Helen Keller National Center

Students and staff celebrate White Cane Day at HKNC.



A consumer with an interpreter and a haptics provider.





Teamwork Brings About Success

Teamwork is about cooperation and collaboration between different members of an organization to bring about successful outcomes. Such was the case when HKNC's Community Services Program (CSP) joined the Center's National Employment and Business Relations Specialist to affect a positive result.

The Community Services Program at HKNC offers training to consumers living in the New York Metropolitan area in their homes, communities and at work. The staff in CSP started working with one of the students, Isatuo S., when she participated in HKNC's annual Summer Youth Vocational Program (SYVP) – a six-week program for deaf-blind high school transition age students. As part of the SYVP, Isatuo had an internship with Applebee's where she developed a passion for working in food services. With the support of CSP, Isatuo entered a 4-month culinary training program funded by the New York State Commission for the Blind. When she completed the training program, Isatuo began to search for a job but became frustrated when she was unable to find a paying position. HKNC's National Employment and Business Relations Specialist, Joe Melillo, stepped in and helped secure an internship for Isatuo at Whitson's Culinary Group in the kitchen of a residential health care facility.

Isatuo's supervisor at Whitson said, "Isatuo is very independent and will be a good team player for us in the future. She is quick to learn and we are able to depend on her. She is efficient and pleasant to the residents." Isatuo states, "I travel to work via bus independently. I enjoy working at Whitson's, communicating with the residents and preparing their food." This job is a dream come true for Isatuo and everyone involved is looking forward to her growth in the position.

"Isatuo has become part of the team at Whitson's and all indications are that she will be hired at the end of her internship."

Tammie Christian, HKNC Community Services Employment Specialist

Spotlight Stories

1. Meet Shayleen

Shayleen Siquig is from Hawaii and recently completed a paid internship with the Professional Learning and Leadership Institute (PLLI) in the Creative Arts Department at HKNC. She worked with other deaf-blind individuals on a variety of creative projects. "I enjoy all kinds of art including painting," said Shayleen. "I am deaf-blind myself, which means I am hard of hearing and have retinitis pigmentosa."

Since 2015, thanks to a generous grant from the Lavelle Fund for the Blind, Inc., the PLLI has been able to offer 3-6 month internships at HKNC headquarters specifically for people who are deaf-blind. The PLLI offers opportunities to gain skills towards becoming qualified to work in the field of vocational rehabilitation. It also promotes a more inclusive and active role by members of the deaf-blind community to work as peer mentors and instructors with other people who are deaf-blind.

Shayleen returned to Hawaii where she has an internship as an art curator/art restorer at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial with the expectation of being hired when she is finished. She loves Hawaiian sunsets and graciously donated one of her paintings to HKNC which was raffled off at this year's Helen Keller Services Gala to benefit people who are blind and deaf-blind.



2. Investing in Youth to Enrich our Future

The HKNC Youth Club was conceived and organized by Ilissa Sternlicht, an interpreter at HKNC. The club helps to foster a better understanding of people with disabilities by bringing together local middle and high school students and HKNC students. Ms. Sternlicht's goal was to have club members become familiar with people who are deaf-blind and to show the local schools that there is enough interest in American Sign Language (ASL) to establish it as an accepted language requirement. In the nearly two years since the HKNC Youth Club was formed, membership has almost doubled!

Monthly meetings usually include an HKNC student sharing their personal journey into the world of deaf-blindness. Club members, along with HKNC students, play deaf-blind focused games such as relay races and obstacle courses while wearing blindfolds or work on art projects together. Often there will be time set aside for the HKNC students to teach club members basic braille, ASL and share information about different causes of deaf-blindness. The club members also learn about videophones, braille notetakers, the use of a white cane, cochlear implants and other assistive devices.



Visitors

1. Another year -- Another visit

For well over a dozen years, the month of May generally means that our friends from Goldman Sachs come to HKNC headquarters in Sands Point to volunteer as part of their Community TeamWorks program. This program supports Goldman Sachs staff from offices around the world to partner with local nonprofits and work on team-based volunteer projects. This year, we had the biggest team of volunteers – 16 men and 2 women spent the day spreading mulch and planting annuals around the HKNC campus. After lunch, the group met with HKNC's Anindya "Bapin" Bhattacharyya, coordinator of the National Outreach Adaptive Technology Training Program, and Sue Ruzenski, HKNC executive director. Bapin explained to the group how his "smart home" is set up so that he, as a deaf-blind person, can independently use internet-connected devices to monitor and manage appliances and systems such as lighting and heating. Thank you, Goldman Sachs, for your continued support and for making our campus more beautiful!



2. For a More Beautiful HKNC

A brand new landscaped sitting area was added to the lawn outside the Residence this year. We owe this new area to the generous and energetic efforts of a local young man, Daniel Dzwlewicz. Daniel, a recent graduate of Schreiber High School in Port Washington, NY, undertook this project to fulfill the final requirement for his Eagle Scout badge.

After a year of planning, meeting with a local landscaper, raising money, arranging for a cement patio to be constructed, and obtaining the proper permits, Daniel was joined by a group of his fellow boy scouts from Troop 7. In spite of the constant drizzle, the boys spent a muddy day digging, raking, grading, mulching and planting perennials, including two flowering cherry trees and two flowering fig trees. Daniel also restored three benches that were installed in the sitting area.

The end result is a very calming and restful place to sit and enjoy the outdoors.



Visitors

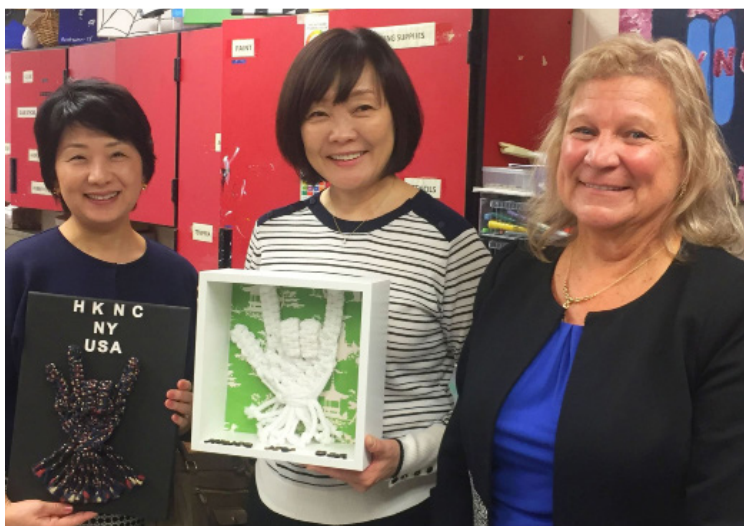
3. International Visitors

HKNC had the distinct honor and privilege to welcome Mrs. Akie Abe, the wife of Japan's Prime Minister Shinzō Abe, and Mrs. Yukiko Yamanouchi, the wife of the Ambassador to the U.S., Kanji Yamanouchi. Our guests were given a tour of HKNC and an opportunity to speak with several staff members and students. Sue Ruzenski and Kim Zimmer met with our guests and gave them an overview of the Comprehensive Vocational and Rehabilitation Program offered at the HKNC. Mrs. Abe and Mrs. Yamanouchi had a quick lesson in the use of Haptic communication signals from a deaf-blind instructor and toured HKNC's Independent Living Department where they saw some of the adaptive devices used by people who are deaf-blind. In the Adaptive Technology classroom, Mrs. Abe was particularly interested in watching students use refreshable braille displays to access their cell phones and computers. And, finally, a stop in Creative Arts where Sue Ruzenski presented the visitors with handmade macramé "I Love You" hands. "Nothing could have prepared us for how warm, caring and engaging Mrs. Abe and Mrs. Yamanouchi were with the students and staff," said Sue Ruzenski.



"We all came away with the feeling that we had made new friends."

-Sue Ruzenski





Executive Letter

As 2019 comes to a close, we look back and reflect on our accomplishments of the year. This year was once again a period of program growth, expansion and innovation. With exciting initiatives such as The Foundations Program, the Summer Adolescent Vocational Experience (SAVE) and the Computer Center for Visually Impaired People (CCVIP), we continue to build upon our previous successes and develop new opportunities for the individuals we serve who are blind or have vision loss located throughout the New York metropolitan area.

The Foundations Program, our multi-disciplinary approach to teaching the necessary skills to succeed in a competitive marketplace, operated for the second year and expanded to our location in Ronkonkoma. At the present time, five graduates of this program have been successfully placed in jobs of their choosing.

It was also the second year of our SAVE program, a summer sleep-away camp for adolescents with vision loss held at Long Island University Post, as well as our Health and Wellness Program in which we collaborated with Court 16 in Brooklyn in order to bring adaptive tennis lessons to participants.

In the fall of 2019, HKSBS opened its doors to CCVIP, formerly operated by Baruch College at The City University of New York. To date, we have begun assistive technology courses in Microsoft Word and Excel, started a small braille production center and hosted our first open house and demo center.

Partnerships with the New York State Commission for the Blind and other stakeholders including the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell, The Northport VA Medical Center, Guide Dog Foundation and Court 16 continue to strengthen the services we provide to individuals of all ages who are blind.

While we are proud of our accomplishments in 2019, we are excited about the things to come in 2020. We have recently received approval from the New York State Commission for the Blind to begin our T.E.A.M Program, an advanced technology and customer services training program designed to enable consumers to obtain the skills needed for competitive employment. Additionally, the CCVIP will expand to Long Island to offer further individualized classes and our Children's Learning Center anticipates approval to open two additional classrooms at our Brooklyn office.

Our accomplishments in 2019 and our goals for 2020 would not be possible without the talent and commitment of our dedicated staff. Under the leadership of our new president & CEO, Kim Zimmer, our employees, administrators, rehabilitation and direct support professionals and support staff all work toward the same goal: to offer individualized, innovative and comprehensive services to individuals of all ages who are blind or have vision loss.



Lorraine LoCurto
Executive Director,
Helen Keller Services for the Blind



The Computer Center for Visually Impaired People (CCVIP)

This year, HKSB added an exciting program to its assistive technology training roster: the Computer Center for Visually Impaired People (CCVIP). Previously operated by Baruch College at The City University of New York for over 40 years, the CCVIP provides comprehensive computer instruction in conjunction with assistive technology training and other courses to computer users who are blind or have low vision.

Utilizing adaptive and assistive technologies designed specifically for computer users with vision loss, CCVIP provides group and one-on-one training and instruction in the programs used in both school and the workplace. Individuals interested in developing or refining their skills will find quality training courses in Microsoft Office products, Apple technologies, social media platforms, web browsers and other areas offered through CCVIP. As a whole, the program assists working-age individuals who are blind to become technologically proficient in order to succeed in school, obtain employment and fulfill their personal goals. CCVIP will operate at each of HKSB's three locations: Brooklyn, Hempstead and Ronkonkoma.

HKSB is grateful to Baruch College for its decades of commitment to computer and technology access for individuals who are blind, and is thrilled to carry on the CCVIP reputation for excellence in the field of assistive technology.



Adaptive Living Program

Kevin Carmichael started receiving services from HKSB through the Adaptive Living Program in 2014. When he began to experience challenges with his vision, the first place he turned to for help was HKSB. Although he wasn't sure what to expect, he was pleased with how orientation and mobility training helped him gain the skills to travel safely. He often thinks of his long, white cane as an extension of his arm and marvels at the new level of independence his training has afforded him. He also learned to identify his clothing items and independently utilize his kitchen appliances to prepare meals for himself. Most importantly, he has learned to become his own biggest advocate. Mr. Carmichael also recently completed an Adjustment to Blindness Support Group at HKSB, where he worked closely with the social work team to continue to develop his coping skills. The group gave him the opportunity to share resources and learn of other people's experiences. Although no longer in the workforce, Mr. Carmichael can now see himself providing support to other people within his community experiencing similar concerns.



Summer Adolescent Vocational Experience (SAVE)

This summer, HKSB once again welcomed campers to its Summer Adolescent Vocational Experience (SAVE) Program, a sleep-away camp for children and youths, ages 10-15, who are blind. Held at Long Island University Post, the SAVE experience provides vocationally-focused field trips, daily living skills instruction, social casework services, orientation and mobility training, and rehabilitation teaching designed to cultivate educational success and career goals among campers at a crucial transition-age.

One camper who attended SAVE this summer for the second time was Louisa, a 14-year-old student who has been receiving services at HKSB for many years. Louisa's family has noted that she has greatly improved her organizational skills as a result of SAVE. Throughout the 6-day, 5-night program, Louisa made independent decisions by selecting her meals and managing her money through a prepaid debit card. She also learned the cooperative skills necessary to share a living space with her peers in a dorm environment. Additionally, Louisa's family noted that the daily field trips "opened her eyes" to jobs she did not know existed. Finally, with the assistance of HKSB's social workers and orientation and mobility instructors, Louisa's confidence has increased and she is now willing to take on more challenges and open herself up to new opportunities. Louisa's favorite part of the program is the friendships she has made with her peers as they speak to each other regularly and discuss their long-term goals for college. Louisa's family says she now sees a "reality in her dreams," as she wants to eventually work as a teacher of the visually impaired.

HKSB is grateful to the Lavelle Fund for the Blind, Inc. for its continued funding of SAVE and its commitment to fostering independence and self-sufficiency among children and youths with vision loss.



SAVE Year two campers visit Madison Square Garden, New York



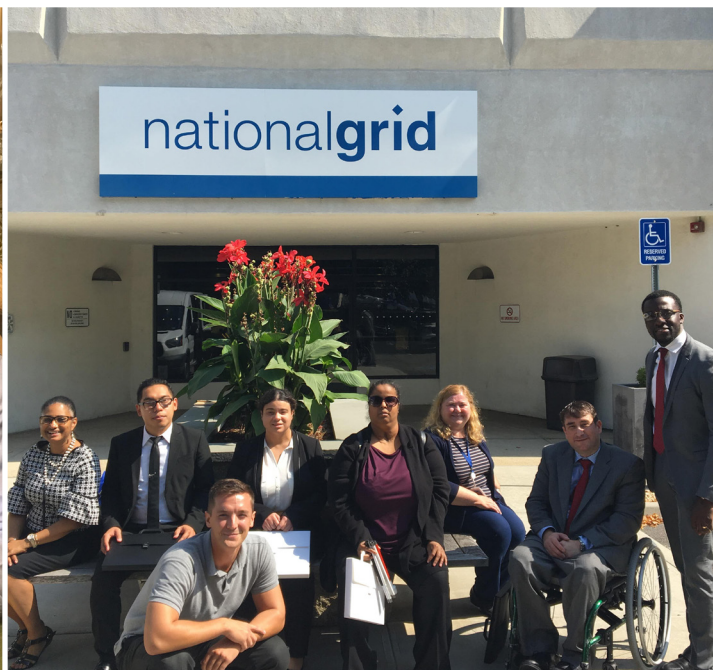
Louisa at Long Island Aquarium, Riverhead, New York

Foundations' Next Steps

The participants from HKSB's first Foundations Program, a comprehensive work-readiness program that addresses the holistic needs of potential job seekers, have excelled in their next steps in obtaining employment. Working in collaboration with their respective counselors at the New York State Commission for the Blind, HKSB's multi-disciplinary team assisted participants in developing their short-term and long-term vocational goals. Further services provided alongside The Foundations Program – such as orientation and mobility instruction, vision rehabilitation teaching, social work services and counseling, and work-readiness training – has enabled them to increase their independence and learn the daily living skills needed to successfully find a job. All participants have taken on a new endeavor in pursuit of obtaining employment such as: typing, assistive technology training, additional orientation and mobility instruction, work experience training, volunteer work, college courses and job interviews.

Individual success stories that occurred thanks to The Foundations Program include the following:

- Melchion is employed by UseableNet to assess and evaluate the accessibility of various companies' websites to ensure they are compliant with the American with Disabilities Act.
- Julie is working as an associate at CardWorks.
- Andy is working for Stop & Shop as a bagger. He is also responsible for replacing merchandise on the shelves and maintaining cleanliness in the aisles.
- Avareta works at HKSB's Wantagh Community Residence which houses some participants of HKSB's Day Habilitation Program. Avareta ensures that residents are involved with all activities related to home life and planning recreational activities such as games, movie nights and group outings on the weekends.
- Jennifer has worked as a certified nursing assistant for many years. She is now happily employed as a one-to-one home health aide.
- Asma recently started working at Target as a seasonal guest advocate and is responsible for hanging, folding and sorting clothing for a welcoming presentation that says, "Buy me!" Based on Asma's smile, she loves shopping there too!





Events

1. CLC Graduation

On June 22nd, the HKSB Children's Learning Center held its annual Preschool Graduation ceremony in Downtown Brooklyn. Donning caps and gowns, as proud family members took pictures and videos, 14 preschool children who are blind, some with additional disabilities, won the hearts of everyone in the National Grid Auditorium. Principal Garth White looked on proudly as yet another class graduated into the NYC public school system.

2. Camp Helen Keller

For over 60 years, Camp Helen Keller has enabled children and youth with vision loss to meet and connect with their peers through a free, five-week summer day camp. Held at Long Island University Post, Camp Helen Keller provides accessible physical, social and recreational events to children and youths, ages 4 to 16, who are blind. This year, 51 campers attended Camp Helen Keller and participated in adapted activities such as indoor swimming, outdoor field play, arts and crafts, board games and music and dance exercises. They also enjoyed field trips to Adventureland Amusement Park, United Skates of America, TOBAY Sprinkler Park, Sky Zone Trampoline Park and Belmont Lake. The Order Sons of Italy in America once again sponsored an "Activities Day" for the campers held at Eisenhower Park, which included food, t-shirts, games and hats for everyone.

As is tradition every year, Camp Helen Keller concluded with its Annual Camp Finale Show wherein campers and camp counselors sing and perform songs, both solo and in groups. This year's theme was "Fabulous Fifties," and the joyous occasion was attended by family, friends, donors, local politicians and HKS staff members.



Events

1. Ribbon Cutting

After 66 years of calling 57 Willoughby Street in Downtown Brooklyn the home of HKS, we made the big move three blocks away to 180 Livingston Street. On January 15, 2019, HKS enjoyed a ribbon cutting celebration with staff, the students from HKSB's Children's Learning Center, consumers, local city and state government officials or their representatives, along with other friends and supporters. Our new location is more technologically advanced and helps us fulfill our mission of enabling individuals who are blind, visually impaired, deaf-blind or have combined hearing and vision loss to live, work and thrive in the communities of their choice. We hope you will take the time to come visit us!



HKS celebrates the official ribbon cutting for their new headquarters at 180 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY

2. White Cane Day

At HKSB, we love a celebration and that includes White Cane Day! On October 23, 2019, we learned the history of the white cane and what it means to individuals who have vision loss. We heard from various individuals sharing their personal stories, including Gus Chalkias of HKSB. Gus shared his journey of ridding himself of "cane shame." In his own words, he said, "The cane is my eyes." Another woman talked about the sudden loss of her vision and regaining her independence by learning to use her white cane. "I cannot see and that's a big challenge, but with the cane I can meet the challenges." We thank everyone who shared the day with us and those who shared their stories.



Celebrating White Cane Day at HKSB





Special Events

1. Helen's Run/Walk

A cold, rainy day did not deter this year's participants in Helen's Run/Walk 2019. Wearing ponchos, raincoats and plastic garbage bags - all had a wet and wonderful time. We were very happy to welcome NY State Senator Anna M. Kaplan (D-7th Senate District) and NY State Assemblyman Anthony D'Urso (D-16th Assembly District) who shared a few words with participants before the start of the event.

Event sponsor booths were displayed in HKNC's Conference Center after the race, helping to make the event interactive and full of energy. People enjoyed massages from Massage Envy and giveaways from TD Bank, Setton Farms, VRC and Orangetheory. The Guide Dog Foundation puppies and their raisers were also a big hit! Starbucks of Port Washington, Bagel Boss of Roslyn, Sysco Foods, Driscoll, Arrow Produce, Liberty Coke and Our Harvest all donated food.

Proceeds from this event provided funding for Support Service Providers (SSPs) for staff and students at HKNC. Proceeds from Helen's Run/Walk 2020 will continue to support the SSP fund. We hope you will join us on Sunday, April 26, 2020.



2. Annual Golf Outing

Thanks to this year's Golf honoree and HKS Board Member Larry Kinitsky, HKS' 29th Annual Golf Classic was our most successful Golf event to date! With a little luck and lots of help, we enjoyed 18 holes on the beautiful greens of the Mill River Club, in Oyster Bay, NY before the skies opened up and the rain fell in sheets. We thank Larry for his commitment to making this event so successful and welcome him as the new chairman of the HKS Board. Come join us for another Golf Classic Monday, June 22, 2020.



3. HKS Annual Gala

This year's HKS 40th Annual Gala was held at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden where guests enjoyed the beautiful fall foliage and its many gardens. The evening's honoree was Domenick A. Cama, president and COO of Investors Bank. Emcee for the evening was 5-time Emmy Award winner, Amy Freeze, from NY Channel 7's Eyewitness News. Guests enjoyed dancing to the Michael Hart Band and had an opportunity to bid on an original painting by artist Shayleen Siquig, an intern at HKNC who is deaf-blind. Guests enjoyed viewing a special clip from the short film, "*Feeling Through*," and met Doug Roland, filmmaker and director of the film, and actor Robert Tarango. Robert is the first deaf-blind person to be cast in a leading role in a film. The Botanic Garden was a perfect setting for an elegant evening.



Pictured (L to R): Rich Dzwlewicz, Larry Kinitzky, Mary Fu, Amy Freeze, Joe Bruno, Don Cama and Gary Hett



Adriana Reali, Stacey Sullivan and Maricar Marquez



Dom Cama, Kim Zimmer and Chris Maher



Financial Statements

Helen Keller Services

Summarized Statement of Financial Position
June 30, 2019 (with comparative of 2018)

ASSETS	2019	2018
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,938,610	\$1,849,780
Grants receivable	\$247,632	\$682,707
Program fees and accounts receivable	\$3,136,710	\$3,123,923
Pledges receivable, net	\$277,477	\$236,165
Due from other funds	\$207,474	\$447,309
Investments, at fair value	\$91,234,865	\$91,865,194
Property and equipment, net	\$9,894,206	\$5,714,916
Other assets	\$776,219	\$500,509
Total Assets	\$107,713,193	\$104,420,503
LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$4,236,723	\$2,974,520
Deferred income	\$480,632	\$793,241
Refundable deposits	\$165,827	\$165,716
Due to other funds	\$207,474	\$447,309
Deferred rent	\$5,808,462	\$1,551,695
Other liabilities	\$67,995	\$72,896
Accrued pension liability	\$16,388,723	\$14,313,346
Total Liabilities	\$27,355,836	\$20,318,723
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions	\$76,465,786	\$79,679,131
With donor restrictions		
Time/purpose restricted	\$1,182,687	\$1,688,352
Endowment funds	\$451,345	\$451,345
Perpetual in nautre	\$2,257,539	\$2,282,952
Total Net Assets	\$80,357,357	\$84,101,780
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$107,713,193	\$104,420,503

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

	2019	2018
Contributions and grants	\$1,183,456	\$995,312
Legacies	\$188,714	\$395,287
Special events:		
Gross Receipts	\$337,616	\$211,584
Less direct donor benefits	(\$216,971)	(\$109,254)
Total Public Support	\$1,492,815	\$1,492,659
Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults – Grant income	\$15,720,764	\$13,323,710
Helen Keller Services for the Blind – Grant income	\$513,850	\$466,087
Training fees and allowances	\$10,640,560	\$10,948,199
Total Fees and Grants from Government Agencies	\$26,875,174	\$24,737,996
Investment income	\$3,346,259	\$2,769,814
Rental Income:		
Gross Receipts	\$351,253	\$338,346
Less direct costs	(\$599,718)	(\$571,193)
Net gain on investments	\$1,003,058	\$1,362,632
Other	\$113,226	\$110,329
Total Other Revenue	\$4,214,078	\$4,009,928
Total Support and Revenue	\$32,582,067	\$30,240,583

Expenses

Assistive Technology	\$548,831	\$457,257
Low Vision	\$448,305	\$560,897
Comprehensive Services	\$3,366,192	\$3,360,717
Supported Employment Services	\$45,161	\$41,721
Day Habilitation Services	\$2,724,261	\$2,796,635
Blind Children Program	\$3,643,483	\$3,310,293
Summer Camp	\$207,993	\$200,647
Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults	\$16,387,364	\$15,456,548
Residential	\$659,798	\$623,870
Total Program Services	\$28,031,388	\$26,808,585
Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults	\$1,695,338	\$1,636,237
Helen Keller Services for the Blind	\$3,737,192	\$4,401,295
Total Supporting Services	\$5,432,530	\$6,037,532
Total Expenses	\$33,463,918	\$32,846,117

Change in net assets, before (increase) decrease in unfunded pension obligation	\$(881,851)	(\$2,605,534)
(Increase) Decrease in unfunded pension obligation	(\$2,862,572)	\$5,796,660
Change in net assets	(\$3,744,423)	\$3,191,126
Net assets, beginning of year	\$84,101,780	\$80,910,654
Net assets, end of year	\$80,357,357	\$84,101,780

This information shown herein has been summarized by Helen Keller Services from its 2019 audited financial statements.

A copy of the complete financial statements and auditor's report is available upon request.

Email us at info@helenkeller.org

or write us at HKS, 180 Livingston Street, 2nd Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201, Attention: CFO

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Contributor Highlights

Peter and Jeri Dejana Family Foundation

The Peter and Jeri Dejana Family Foundation has been a philanthropic annual funder of HKNC since 2007. This year, the Dejana Foundation awarded HKNC with a generous grant to purchase a 2019 accessible lift van. The new van has enabled HKNC students who use wheelchairs to participate in the vocational and rehabilitation program. HKNC will use the van to transport students to the more than 75 worksites that are situated throughout the community, as well as for trips to New York City, shopping malls, restaurants and additional recreational activities. Having an accessible van ensures inclusion and safety for the students and drivers, and enables HKNC staff to offer skills training in “real life” settings.



Reader's Digest Partners for Sight Foundation

For over 20 years, Reader's Digest Partners for Sight Foundation has been a consistent philanthropic supporter and advocate of HKS. This year, Reader's Digest Partners for Sight Foundation awarded a generous grant to fund a new initiative at HKNC: Learning and Empowerment Adventure Program (LEAP). LEAP provides accessible recreational and adventurous experiences structured to increase the self-confidence and independence of people who are deaf-blind. As a result, a total of 17 individuals participated in exciting activities such as tandem bike riding, hiking, kayaking, horseback riding and indoor skydiving. HKNC is grateful to Reader's Digest Partners for Sight Foundation for its support of this pilot program, and its continued commitment to increasing the self-reliance of people with vision loss.



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Helen Keller Services congratulates Larry Kinitsky on becoming the newly appointed chairman of the Board of Trustees. Larry is a longtime member of the Board and we welcome him into this new role. We look forward to an exciting 2020!



We thank Christopher D. Maher for his years as chairman and appreciate his remaining active with the Board.



Rich Dzwlewicz, Chris Maher, Joe Bruno, Seth Cummins, Alvin Adelman and Gary Hett

Locations

HKSB Headquarters

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HKSB Hempstead

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HKSB Ronkonkoma

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To learn more about HKNC's regional offices, visit
www.helenkeller.org/hknc/locations

The Feeling Through Experience, presented by HKNC, has taken the country by storm! Doug Roland, filmmaker and director, along with Robert Tarango (Artie), the first deaf-blind actor to be cast in a lead role, and Steven Prescod (Tereek), tell the story of the unlikely connection between a teen in need and a deaf-blind man. Ultimately, *The Feeling Through Experience* is about the powerful experiences and meaningful relationships we can have, and demonstrates our capacity to connect is greater than our differences.

In 2019, *The Feeling Through Experience* has been screened in the following cities, with more to come in 2020. To become a sponsor for a future screening and/or for more information, email development@helenkeller.org.

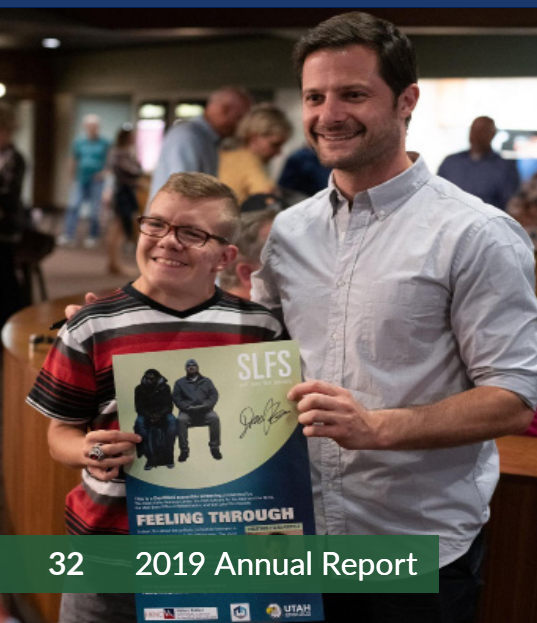
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Doug Roland with panelist in Salt Lake City

HKNC staff and interpreters with Doug Roland and Robert Tarango.

An interpreter and an attendee at a screening in Cary, NC.



Naming Opportunities

A Contribution Today —
A Legacy That Lasts a Lifetime

We thank the Joseph Mancino Family and HKS' Board of Trustees for taking the lead in naming significant places in our new Brooklyn headquarters!

Whether it is your family name front and center in HKS' Downtown Brooklyn location, sponsorship of a classroom in our Children's Learning Center (CLC), or naming the Training Center that will help those we serve gain independence for years to come, there are many places you can leave a lifetime legacy today. Where will you leave yours?

For more information on naming opportunities, please contact Marina Carroll, by email at: marina.carroll@hknc.org or by phone at (516) 833-8310.



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