

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



DID YOU KNOW

20M

It is estimated 20 million Americans (8% of the U.S. population) experience vision loss which can be a significant factor influencing independence and quality of life. However, learning adaptive skills and compensatory strategies can be a game changer.

2.4M

There are an estimated 2.4 million Americans with combined hearing and vision loss. (American Community Survey, 2019)

42.6%

Based on 2019 American Community Survey data, 46.2% of working-age people with blindness or low vision were employed. While this rate is low compared to the general population, the percentage of people with visual impairments who are employed has steadily increased since 2012. (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019)

1.6X

Organizations that hire a diverse workforce including people with disabilities make 1.6 times more revenue. (Accenture, 2023)



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A WORD FROM HKS CEO, SUE RUZENSKI



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on another successful year at Helen Keller Services, I extend heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your unwavering support which has been pivotal in bolstering our ability to meet our strategic goals and to grow and innovate throughout the year. The cornerstone of our success lies in the collaborative spirit and commitment demonstrated by partners like you.

HKS is immensely thankful for the opportunity to embark on the journeys with participants, meeting them at every stage as they progress towards their educational, vocational, and rehabilitation goals. Witnessing the unique paths each individual takes, we find joy and camaraderie in this shared experience, recognizing the transformative impact of teamwork.

The participants at HKS exude self-empowerment daily, whether it's reshaping self-beliefs, acquiring adaptive skills, or pushing beyond comfort zones to live, work, and thrive in their chosen communities. The essence of our work is encapsulated in their stories of achievements that we are excited to share in this report.

As an organization, we are attuned to the rhythm of growth, both locally in New York and nationally. Thanks to your generosity, our Children's Learning Center has expanded to encompass six operational preschool classrooms, benefiting over 50 children. The Health & Wellness program, extended to individuals who are blind, have low vision, and are DeafBlind, has brought impactful activities like yoga, nutrition classes, and fitness to all New York locations.

Your support has enabled teens and adults in our technology and employment programs to access essential resources for advanced training. The launch of a technology program certifying individuals as website accessibility and usability testers has opened doors to meaningful employment opportunities. The expansion of Helen Keller National Center's field services has reached new heights, offering increased services in multiple states and aiding participants in areas such as orientation and mobility, vision rehabilitation, adaptive technology, and employment.

Looking ahead to 2024, our sights are set on determined destinations that will amplify our impact and reach. We are actively exploring a second Children's Learning Center location on Long Island to address the urgent need for preschool services. The nationwide expansion of our Teen Tech Program aims to nurture future leaders, while the development of our professional learning online platform and technical assistance will enhance the skills of our partners nationwide.

Anticipating an exciting year, I extend my best wishes on behalf of all of us at Helen Keller Services for a prosperous, peaceful, and joy-filled 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Ruzenski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DR. SUSAN RUZENSKI
CEO, HELEN KELLER SERVICES

Executive Team

Sue Ruzenski, Ed.D.
CEO, Helen Keller Services

Sharona Hebroni
Chief Financial Officer, HKS

Trina Coccarelli
Chief Advancement and Marketing Officer, HKS

Mia Murro
Chief Administrative Officer, HKS

Deborah Harlin
Executive Director,
Helen Keller National Center
for DeafBlind Youths & Adults

Jeff Kunkel
Chief of Programs
Helen Keller Services for the Blind

Chris Mastrangelo
Chief of Facilities, HKS

Elizabeth Meade
Associate Executive Director
Helen Keller Services for the Blind

HKS Trustees

Chairman
Larry Kinitsky
WP Owners Corp.

Vice Chairman:
Alvin Adelman,
Attorney at Law

Treasurer:
Richard Dzwlewicz,
TD Bank

Secretary:
Alka Nischal MD, FACP,
VA Hospital

Anthony Baronci, Ruskin Moscou Faltischek
Miriam Cyrulnik

Dina DePina, SVP, Marketing Madison Square Garden Entertainment
Matthew Garvey, Vice President, Talent Acquisition at Centerline Communications LLC

Stella Guarna, Attorney at Law

Gary S. Hett, Greeley Hull

James M. Klancnik, Jr. MD, Vitreous Retina Macula Consultants of New York, P.C.

Lori Kranczer, CEO, Link Elevating Philanthropy

Christopher D. Maher, Ocean First Bank

Diana Nicholson, Corner Finn Nicholson & Charles

René G. Pellerin, Consultant/Trainer/Speaker

Cara Petruccelli, Managing Director, Capital Markets Coastal Ridge Real Estate

Allison Robl Stransky, Vice President, Corporate Marketing, Samsung

Elise Schroeder, BNY Mellon

John G. Shattuck, Adjunct Professor, University of Maine

Ed Tepper, Vice President and Treasurer, The Tepper Family Foundation

Namrata Yadav, SVP, Academy Community Advancement, Bank of America



The Helen Keller National Center for DeafBlind Youths and Adults (HKNC) is the only national comprehensive vocational and rehabilitation program exclusively for youths and adults with combined hearing and vision loss.

The residential-based training program, located at our headquarters in Sands Point, NY, provides vocational training and assistance to participants in finding employment and resources in their community of choice. HKNC provides rehabilitation training in the areas of adaptive technology, communication, orientation and mobility, and independent living.

On-campus support services include audiology, low vision, rehabilitation counseling, creative arts, medical, and interpreting. Support Services Providers (SSPs) are also available to participants in the program.

Field Services, located throughout the United States, include 11 regional offices with 11 Regional Representatives, 12 DeafBlind Employment Specialists, 2 Youth Services Coordinators and 6 staff members in the California Community Services Program.





Additional Programs

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.

The **Senior Adult Program** provides consultation, training and technical assistance to older adults 55 years old and up who want to maintain their independence, and professionals and service providers working with them.

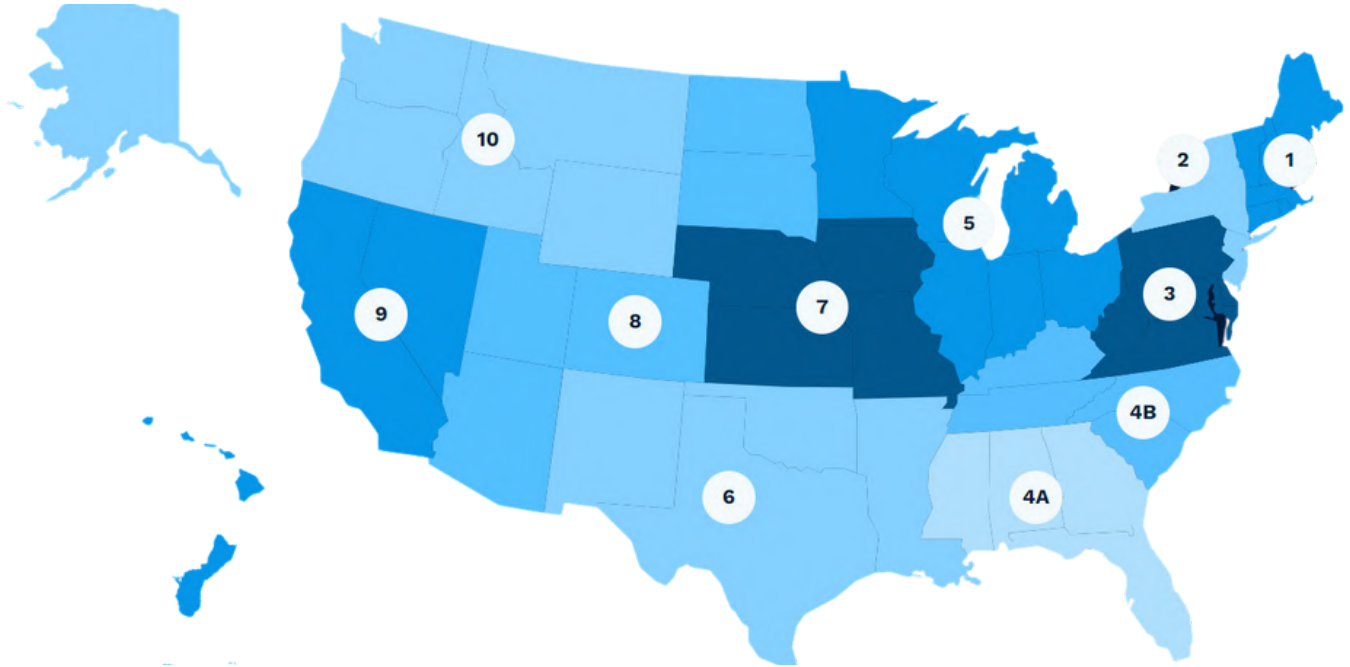
Two **Community Services Programs (CSP)** provide job development and placement, training in skills of independent living, adaptive technology, communication and orientation and mobility in the greater metropolitan areas of New York City and San Diego, CA.

The **Information, Research and Professional Development (IRPD)** Department develops and disseminates research-based and accessible training materials, curricula, online courses, informational resources, and research to enhance services for DeafBlind individuals.

The **DeafBlind Immersion Experience (DBIE)** is a 5-day program for individuals who are DeafBlind with intellectual disabilities and their home support team.

The **Professional Learning and Leadership Institute (PLLI)** offers 3-month paid internships for DeafBlind individuals who want to work in the field of vocational rehabilitation.

HKNC'S REACH



In addition to the residential training facility in Sands Point, HKNC also offers services through its 11 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. Many regions now provide local employment services to DeafBlind individuals through the support of HKNC DeafBlind Employment specialists.

www.helenkeller.org/regional-network

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1 New England Region
CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT | 2 Mid-Atlantic Region
NJ, NY | 3 East Central Region
DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV |
| 4A Southeast Region A
AL, FL, GA, MS, VI | 4B Southeast Region B
KY, NC, PR, SC, TN | 5 North Central Region
IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI |
| 6 South Central Region
AR, LA, NM, OK, TX | 7 Great Plains Region
IA, KS, MO, NE | 8 Rocky Mountain Region
CO, AZ, ND, SD, UT |
| 9 Southwest Region
CA, HI, NV, GU, AS, CM | 10 Northwest Region
AK, ID, OR, WA, MT, WY | |

SCAN HERE



If you would like to speak with a regional representative about resources and services in your area, scan the QR code.



COLLABORATIVE SUPPORT

UPDATE: ASHLEY FINDS HER PATH

Meet Ashley, a vibrant individual in her late 20s living with CHARGE syndrome.

Ashley's success began in HKNC's MPower program, where she laid the foundation for her future. Back home, with the assistance of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, she initially secured employment as a janitor but yearned for more fulfilling work. Recognizing her long-term goal to work with animals, Ashley connected with the Region 1 DeafBlind Employment specialist at HKNC.

Swiftly securing a position as a Small Petcare Associate at PetSmart, Ashley thrived. However, when faced with reduced hours, she didn't settle; instead, she leveraged HKNC's support to secure an even better job as a dog washer at a local pet store. This not only boosted her income but also fulfilled her passion for working with animals.

Beyond her vocational success, Ashley's supportive family reached out to HKNC for guidance on housing, SSA benefits, and future support needs. The collaborative effort involved a meeting with Ashley, her boyfriend, and a dedicated support team including the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind.

Ashley's story shows how HKNC's tailored programs and our collaborative approach, coupled with a strong support network, can empower individuals to overcome obstacles and pursue their dreams.



ROCKY'S STORY

Former participant, Rocky, returned to HKNC to work as a full-time employee in the Adaptive Technology Department. Building on the success of his 2022 internship, where he assisted participants, provided crucial technology support, shadowed lessons, and became JAWS certified, Rocky seamlessly transitioned into a paid position, demonstrating the practical application of the skills he developed during his time at HKNC.

Serving in a role similar to that of his internship, Rocky continued to contribute to HKNC's mission, bringing his knowledge and expertise to the adult learning community at HKNC. This progression not only underscores his commitment to personal and professional growth, but also highlights the value of our training programs in preparing individuals for successful careers.

Looking ahead, Rocky plans to continue his education while exploring career opportunities in DeafBlind rehabilitation in his home state.

LUPITA SHINES

A gifted artist, Lupita, who was born Deaf, began losing her vision due to Usher syndrome. Faced with the challenges of her vision loss, she came to HKNC to improve her skills in independent living, communication, adaptive technology and overall employment readiness.

Lupita continued working tirelessly towards her goal and her hard work paid off. She accepted a graphic designer job at Minute Man Press. While working, she plans to continue her education by taking college courses in graphic design. It is yet another testament to the transformative impact of HKNC's training programs, which equip DeafBlind individuals with the tools not just to overcome, but to truly thrive.





ROGER'S SUCCESS

Roger, an HKNC participant from January to December 2022, is now successfully employed at his local Olive Garden in Arizona.

Roger's success was a result of his commitment and that of his team who assisted him in various ways during his training. He applied for positions and prepared for his interviews with support from the instructional team and HKNC's National Business Relations specialist. Once he completed his training in New York, he was connected to the HKNC DeafBlind Employment Specialist in Arizona and was soon hired.

Roger's success story illustrates the holistic and collaborative approach at HKNC, resulting in more positive employment outcomes thanks to the dedication of our regional representatives and DeafBlind Employment specialists.



ANTHONY'S NEW TALENT

Anthony's journey was unpredictable. As a DeafBlind individual and a former participant at HKNC, he dedicated himself to enhancing various skills, including employment readiness, independent living, communication, and adaptive technology. Despite losing his sight, Anthony's creative vision remained intact. He found joy in expressing himself through the art of sculpting copper as his medium of choice.

His dedication and talent came to life when he participated in his first art show at a gallery in Southampton, NY. The highlight of the event was when one of his sculptures sold for an impressive \$1,000. Anthony's success was a result of self-discovery and self-determination. Anthony likes to share his journey with others facing similar challenges, demonstrating what's possible.





DEAFBLIND AWARENESS WEEK

DeafBlind Awareness Week serves as a vital platform for increasing public understanding and appreciation of the DeafBlind community. This week-long event celebrates the exceptional talents and contributions of individuals who have combined hearing and vision loss, while simultaneously advocating for greater accessibility and inclusivity for all.

The 2023 campaign focused on working-age adults within the DeafBlind community and highlighted the pivotal role played by Helen Keller National Center in facilitating its connection with potential employers. The overarching message is clear: "Office Rockstars Can Be DeafBlind."

A noteworthy moment during the week's activities was the visit of New York State Representative Gina Sillitti and Councilwoman Mariann Dalimonte, who presented the Helen Keller National Center with a Proclamation and a Citation.

The recognition and support from public representatives are crucial steps towards fostering a more inclusive and accessible society for individuals with combined hearing and vision loss.



Wunderman Health designed and printed the 2023 DBAW poster pro-bono.

HKNC WEBINAR SERIES



The Helen Keller National Center has been at the forefront of providing vital information and learning opportunities for individuals who are blind, DeafBlind, their families, and professionals who work with them.

Overall, HKNC's efforts have significantly contributed to the development and dissemination of research-based information and learning opportunities.

Some of the noteworthy webinars that have been developed include:

Mental Health Series: This series delved into crucial aspects of mental health, offering valuable insights and support for the DeafBlind community and their families.

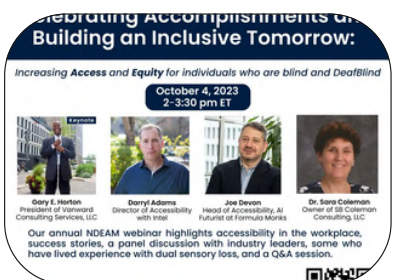
Global Accessibility: This webinar explored the importance of accessibility on a global scale and discussed strategies and initiatives that promote greater inclusivity for individuals with disabilities.

Emergency Preparedness: Exploring the importance of emergency readiness for DeafBlind individuals and their families.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM): This webinar series was designed to commemorate National Disability Employment Awareness Month, emphasizing the significance of employment opportunities and inclusion for individuals with disabilities, including those who are DeafBlind.

Adaptive Technology Train the Trainer Series: A comprehensive training program aimed at empowering professionals and educators with the knowledge and skills to effectively teach and support DeafBlind individuals in utilizing adaptive technologies.

These webinars exemplify the commitment of HKNC to enriching the lives of the DeafBlind community and fostering a more inclusive and accessible society by equipping individuals and professionals with the tools they need to thrive.



HKSB

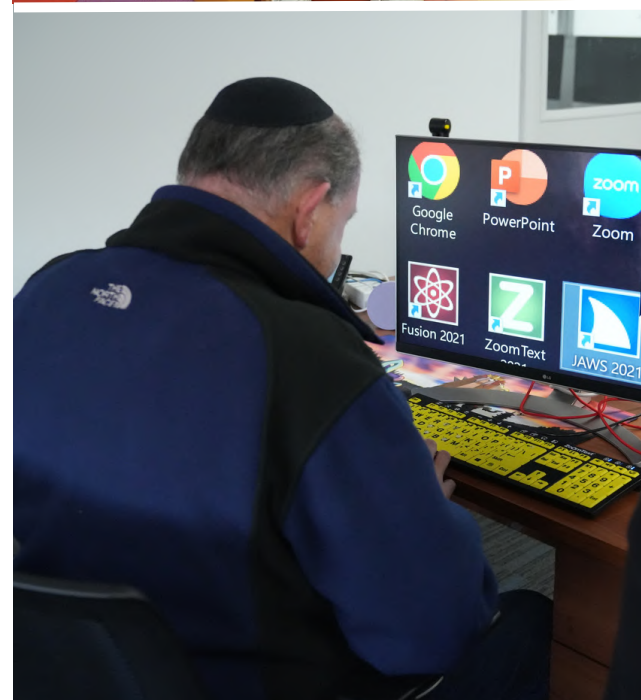
YOUR DONATIONS HAVE EXPANDED OUR SERVICES

Expanding Our Impact: Thanks to your support, our Children's Learning Center now serves 50+ children in six classrooms, with plans to open a new preschool in the fall of 2025 for children with disabilities on Long Island. This new facility will serve children with low vision, multiple disabilities, autism, Down syndrome, or other pervasive developmental delays.

Enhancing Health & Wellness: Your generosity extends our comprehensive Health & Wellness program to adults who are blind or have low vision in three locations and now includes DeafBlind individuals at our National Center. This diverse program offers various activities and is solely funded by your donations.

Empowering Through Technology: Your contributions have allowed us to provide laptops and adaptive software for teens and adults in our technology and employment programs, enabling them to receive crucial training for future success.

Creating Tech Job Opportunities: Your support has enabled us to establish a groundbreaking technology program that certifies individuals as website accessibility and usability testers. This certification not only provides them with opportunities to evaluate three New York City government websites, but also opens doors to a wide range of employment prospects. Your contribution plays a pivotal role in reshaping the future for these individuals, granting them access to fulfilling employment.





HKSB New York City
180 Livingston Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
718-522-2122

Headquarters for Helen Keller Services (HKS), including all Administrative Services

- Children’s Learning Center (Early Intervention and preschool programs as well as the Parent Resource Center)
- Rehabilitation Services (orientation and mobility training, employment services and Assistive Technology Center)
- Low Vision Clinic
- Teen and Transition Services
- Adaptive Living Program for Seniors

HKSB Nassau County
One Helen Keller Way
Hempstead, NY 11550
516-485-1234

Central location for all Nassau County Services

- Rehabilitation Services (orientation and mobility training, employment services and Assistive Technology Center)
- Low Vision Clinic
- Teen and Transition Services
- Adaptive Living Program for Seniors
- Services for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities, including day habilitation, residential rehabilitation, supported employment and a community residence.

HKSB Suffolk County
1767 Veterans Memorial
Highway, Suite 18
Islandia, NY 11749
631-424-0022

Central location for all Suffolk County Services

- Rehabilitation Services (orientation and mobility training, employment services and Assistive Technology Center)
- Low Vision Clinic
- Adaptive Living Program for Seniors
- Services for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities, including a Program Without Walls.

THE CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER



Located in Downtown Brooklyn, the Helen Keller Services for the Blind Children's Learning Center (CLC) offers a full range of programs and services for preschool children who are blind, have low vision, multiple disabilities, autism, Down syndrome, or other pervasive developmental delays.

HKSB is the only center in New York City that specializes in serving these students, and we are committed to providing them with the academic, social, and therapeutic supports they need to prepare for kindergarten and to achieve their highest potential in the classroom and beyond.

This year, we continue to focus our goals on the idea of independence. We want our students to graduate from the CLC with more language, better navigation, and more skills to be as independent as possible in kindergarten. Through the additional funding provided by the IDEA grants, we are continuing our music therapy program and adding dance and movement.

In addition, we have been able to purchase more materials and supplies to add to the school gym and enhance our physical, occupational, and speech therapy sessions. Lastly, we purchased two interactive boards/tables, speech generating devices for students with low vision, and a specialized device to help young students learn braille.

HALCYON STEPS FORWARD!

When Halcyon started her program at the CLC in September of 2022, she needed physical support and prompting to walk. She then transitioned to independently using a walker. Now, Halcyon can walk independently for extended periods of time.

We are so proud of her!





CAMP HELEN KELLER

Camp Helen Keller had yet another incredible summer! This season, 43 children embarked on a remarkable 5-week journey at LIU Post in Brookville, NY. The campers immersed themselves in a wide range of activities including swimming, field games, music and dance, arts and crafts, and a brand-new STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Math) class.

In the STEM class, our campers had a blast building robots, rockets, boats, and conducting slimy science experiments. These hands-on experiences opened a world of exploration and learning for them.

To add to the fun, the campers took field trips to Adventureland, Chocolate Works, and Pump it Up, providing them with unforgettable adventures and sweet treats.

One of the highlights of the summer was the annual day with the **Sons and Daughters of Italy**, one of HKS' longtime generous funders of Camp Helen Keller, at Eisenhower Park, NY. Campers reveled in bounce houses, miniature train rides, delicious pizza, ice cream, and more. It was a day filled with laughter and joy.

A special treat this year was a thrilling zip-lining trip, thanks to **NYS Assemblyman Stern** and the generous sponsorship of Suffolk **OTB President Phil Boyle**. Our campers experienced the exhilaration of flying through the air, making it a summer to remember.

Camp Helen Keller continues to be a place where children can grow, learn, and create cherished memories. We look forward to many more outstanding summers to come!

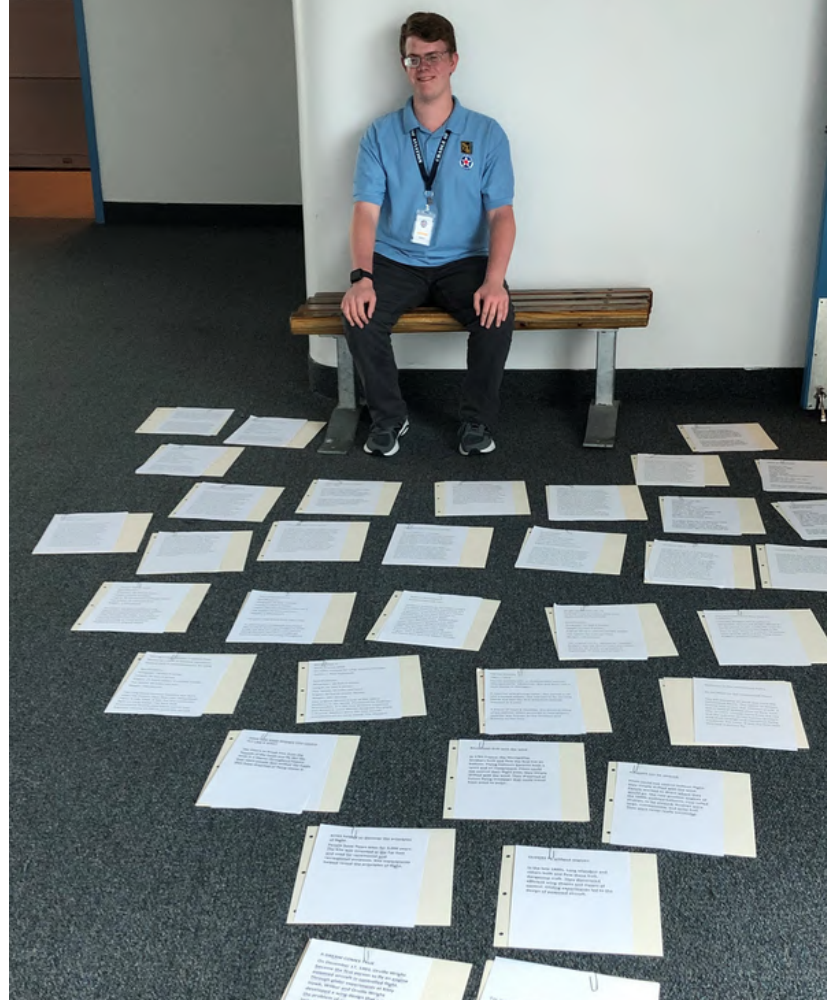


INCLUSION MATTERS!

This summer, Robert participated in an internship at the Museum of Aviation on Long Island. The museum wanted to enhance their accessibility options for individuals with low vision. The focus of Robert's project was to create braille labels and descriptions for airplanes and various artifacts displayed throughout the museum.

Over the course of his internship, Robert demonstrated unparalleled dedication, completing an impressive 35 braille labels, several which spanned multiple pages. A binder containing his work will be made available at the museum's front desk for anyone seeking a more inclusive and informative visit.

On the last day of his internship, Robert had the opportunity to run all the shows in the planetarium. As we celebrate the success of Robert's internship, we are committed to expanding accessibility and unlocking the potential in every individual.



FARAH'S JOURNEY

Last year was quite an adventure for Ms. Farah. With her confident stride, you might not realize that she has vision loss until you hear the tap of her white cane. We first met Ms. Farah as a teenager in the Bridges Pre-vocational Program. After high school, she participated in the Foundations Program for first time jobseekers. Subsequently, she completed assistive technology and orientation and mobility training, which prepared her for her first Work Experience Training and employment.

Ms. Farah has a love of all things fashionable, so when an opportunity became available in the Production Department at Savers, she interviewed for the position, was hired, and is now a part of the team.

As you can see by Ms. Farah's smile, it is the "best first job ever!"

SHEVONE'S STORY

Shevone's vocational journey began in HKSB's Employment Empowerment Group, where she honed her interview skills, created customized disclosure statements, and learned about specific accommodations, all while showcasing essential soft skills in a group environment.

Subsequently, alongside her dedicated Employment & Training specialist, Ms. Shevone embarked on a path of career exploration to define her vocational aspirations. Together, they crafted a Work Experience Training (W.E.T.) plan.

Ms. Shevone then engaged in a successful W.E.T. at the United Senior Citizens of Sunset Park, Inc. in NYC. During this experience, Ms. Shevone was responsible for greeting members at the front desk, assisting them with checking-in to the Center, scanning members' breakfast and lunch meal codes to track data for the Department of Aging on the number of daily meals served at the center, and accepting and securing members payments for breakfast and/or lunch.

Her dedication didn't go unnoticed, as she left a lasting impression. The Director of the Center acknowledged her exceptional service to seniors, presenting her with a well-deserved certificate.

We are pleased to share that after her Work Experience Training, Shevone has secured a position at Amazon, a testament to her readiness for new challenges.

Congratulations to Ms. Shevone!





Helen Keller
Children's Learning Center



IN-KIND DONATIONS

Representatives of **Jovia Financial Credit Union's** DE&I Committee generously presented Helen Keller Services for the Blind a \$4,055 check for a new rock-climbing wall in the Children's Learning Center!

The funds were donated by Jovia employees as part of a unique "Casual Friday" fundraising campaign where employees gave \$5 to wear jeans on Fridays.

Brooklyn Prospect Heights Lions Club donated pajamas and toys as well Thanksgiving meals for our program participants and CLC students.

One Stitch Foundation generously donated new Saucony sneakers for our 2023 Children's Learning Center graduates.





CORPORATE DAY OF SERVICE



GLOBAL INDUSTRIAL COMPANY

Global Industrial and Helen Keller National Center partnered for an annual day of service. Global Industrial associates and HKNC participants and staff joined together to make improvements to the front entrance and main courtyard of the training building, as well as the walking paths and guide dog run area of the campus. Global Industrial donated new park benches, picnic tables, umbrella stands and trash and pet waste receptacles that were assembled and installed by volunteers from both organizations. The products were curated by Global Industrial specialists from their wheelchair accessible and ADA compliant products, including a prototype of their newly developed braille water bottle filling station.





SPECIAL VISITORS

NYC Council Speaker Adrienne Adams, Councilwoman **Mercedes Narcisse** and Councilman **Lincoln Ressler** visit HKSB's Children's Learning Center in Brooklyn.

National Grid generously donated and wrapped specially selected gifts for the kids at HKSB's Children's Learning Center to celebrate the holiday season!

Miss Kansas, Courtney Wages, is a passionate advocate for the blind and low vision communities. She visited with staff and students at HKSB's Children's Learning Center and participants at the Helen Keller National Center.

Representatives from **Ernst & Young**, whose founder was Deaf and had low vision, visited HKNC for a workshop on disability inclusion. Members of their Human Resource Department spoke about opportunities and the hiring process.



2023 ACCESSABILITY AWARDS

Helen Keller Services, committed to promoting accessibility and inclusivity, proudly presented its coveted AccessAbility Awards. These awards recognize and celebrate companies that have demonstrated exceptional dedication to enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities, including those who are blind, or DeafBlind.

HKS acknowledges and applauds these companies for their outstanding efforts in developing products that prioritize accessibility, breaking down barriers, and fostering a more inclusive society. These awards serve as a testament to the profound impact that can be achieved when innovation and compassion come together to create a world where everyone can fully participate.



Beth Foor
Associate Manager Comms.



Oran McAllister
Client Engagement



Sammira Latif
Accessibility Leader



Heather Dowdy
Director Product Accessibility



Todd Withers
President



Todd Martindale
Senior Solutions Architect



Quentin Christensen
Training and Support
Manager



James Boreham
General Manager



SCAN TO WATCH





HKS ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

The Helen Keller Services 32nd Annual Golf Classic was a big success. This year's event was dedicated in memory of Joseph L. Mancino, former board member and a long-standing supporter of HKS.

Together, we raised over \$111,000 to help support our programs and services for individuals who are blind, DeafBlind, have low vision or combined hearing and vision loss.

Thank you to our sponsors and all those who participated in the event.



START



HELEN'S 5K RUN / WALK

Helen's 5k Run / Walk returned to an in-person event in April 2023 for the first time in four years. Individuals of all ages and competition levels were invited to participate in the 5K, which took place on a USATF-certified course. Our volunteers, employees, blind and DeafBlind participants, and runners and walkers all came together to make this event a big success.

300 people braved the rain, and together we raised over \$45,000 to support our Health & Wellness Program for participants who are blind, have low vision or are DeafBlind.

Thank you to our sponsors for supporting this event.





DINING IN THE DARK

Our Dining in the Dark and Fireside Chat event was held in May 2023 in partnership with BNY Mellon Wealth Management, located in Garden City, NY. BNY Mellon was generous to share their office space and fund the catering for the cocktail hour and dinner. Twenty VIP guests had the unique experience of dining while under blindfold as we raised awareness about the DeafBlind community and Helen Keller Services. During the Fireside Chat, members of the blind and DeafBlind communities discussed their lived experiences and why it is so important to support the programs at Helen Keller Services.

We extend our gratitude to **BNY Mellon Wealth Management** for their partnership and support in making this event a success.





EXHIBIT AT THE ART GUILD

JOURNEY THROUGH TOUCH: A TACTILE ART EXPERIENCE

We received a grant from the **Hearts of Port Washington** to put on an exhibit of artwork created by blind and DeafBlind artists from Helen Keller Services at a gallery in the local community. Thirty participants / artists created artwork for the exhibit. Over 400 people attended the show during the 3-week exhibit.





The Helen Keller National Center Youth Club provides local high school students with the opportunity to make a positive impact, raise awareness, and build connections that last a lifetime.

The club isn't just about listening – it's about participation. Teens come together to engage in activities that bridge the gap between HKNC participants and the community, fostering a shared experience that promotes empathy, understanding, and camaraderie. Through these interactions, the youth not only expand their knowledge of DeafBlind culture but also develop essential life skills and broaden their perspective.



IN THE PRESS



News 12: Helen Keller National Center Collaborates with Global Industrial for Corporate Day of Service



News 12: Islanders' Home Opener Marks Special Milestone for DeafBlind Fan



News 12: HKNC Participant Visits Manorhaven Elementary School for PARP Community Read Aloud



News 12: Kids of Camp Helen Keller Build Confidence One Step at a Time at Adventure Park



PIX11: Brooklyn Preschool Graduation for Children With Developmental Disabilities



News 12: Helen's 5K Run/Walk Returns to Sands Point, Long Island



CBS News: DeafBlind Artist Finds His True Voice Through His Sculptures



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Tepper Family Foundation for their generous \$500,000 donation. This support enables us to upgrade our services, including the addition of a new audiology booth and the expansion of our laptop loaner program.

\$1,000,000

Estate of Barbara Walters



Robert J. Smithdas and Barbara Walters

\$550,000

Anonymous Donor

\$150,000- 50,000

Estate of Richard S. Rosenkranz
Helen Hoffritz Charitable Trust
Lavelle Fund for the Blind, Inc.
Peter and Jeri Dejana Foundation
The Estate of Edna Harvey
Wasily Family Foundation

\$49,999- \$25,000

J.E. & Z.B. Butler Foundation
Marjorie C. Adams Charitable Trust
The National Grid Foundation
William G. & Helen C. Hoffman Foundation

\$24,999 - \$10,000

Cleveland Foundation
Corry Nethery Fund
Esther and Harold Mertz Foundation
OSIA NYS Grand Lodge Foundation, Gift of Sight
Kay Family Foundation, Inc.
The Marion and Herbert Hess Charitable Trust
Mr. Joseph S. Morgano
Sports Tutor, Inc.

\$9,999 - \$5,000

AKAM Associates, Inc.
Bannerot-Lappe Foundation
Bargold Storage
The Community Chest of Port Washington
Corporate Synergies Group, LLC
Cushman & Wakefield
EPIC Commercial Insurance
Fleming & Fleming, PLLC
Mr. John S. Fogarty
John, Eleanor, and Kitty Fogarty
Frank J. Antun Foundation
Harding Education & Charitable Foundation
Hydraulic Emergency Plumbing & Heating Service
Lily Palmer Fry Memorial Trust
McKeen Fund
Ruskin Moscou Faltischek
Saul Family Charitable Fund
Sidney and Judith Kranes Charitable Trust
The Tepper Family Foundation
Von Seebeck Charitable Trust

\$4,999 - \$1,000

Mr. Al Adelman
Anonymous
Aqua Foundation LTD
Bauke Family Foundation
BDO USA, LLP
Benedict Realty Group
Mr. Sumeet Bhatia
Century Elevator Maintenance Corp
Competition Dynamics, Inc.
Ms. Julie Cox
Miriam Cyrulnik
Davidoff, Hutcher & Citron, LLP
DragonTek International, Inc.
Elayne N. Boros Fund

\$4,999 - \$1,000 (Continued)

Estate of Estelle Winkler
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Eu
Dr. Eleanor E. & John Fogarty
GHP Investment Advisors, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Gruber
HUB International Limited
Mr. Eyal Isaac
Jody Fisher PR
Mr. and Mrs. Emrick Jones
JP Morgan Chase
Mr. Michael Keithley
Mr. Manny Korman
Lawless & Magione Architects &
Engineers, LLP
LDI Connect
Mr. Andrew Levison
Lisa Beth Gerstman Foundation
Mr. Christopher Maher
Mrs. Laurel Mancino
Maspeth Federal Savings
Max B. Cohn Family Foundation
Mr. Andrew Meditz
Dr. Rajeev Mehta
Metzger-Price Fund, Inc.
Ms. Sue Ann Murray
Nationwide
Diana and Michael Nicholson
Off-Track Betting Corp.
Old Westbury Golf & Country Club
Foundation
Mr. Vincent Papish
Ms. Alison Parks
Prisand, Mellina, Unterlack & Co., LLP
Schneider Buchel, LLP
Schwab Charitable Fund
Sebco Laundry Systems, Inc.
Mr. and Ms. Alfred Selgas
Setton Farms
Mrs. Francine Shapiro
St. Lawrence Columbiettes
Dr. Kala Sury

Taurino Management, Inc.
TBATBG, Wade Harrison
The Amelia M. Buschold & Cecile A.
Litterer Charitable Trust
The Fay J. Lindner Foundation
Sandra Atlas Bass, Edythe & Sol G. Atlas
Fund
Mr. Larry Toyas
Jay Tureen
USI Insurance Services
Victoria Loconsolo Foundation, Inc.
Windsor Park Owners Corp. Charity Fund
Xinos Construction Corp
Ms. Cheryl Zagoria

\$999 - \$500

Mr. Joseph & Judy Aguilera
ASL Services Holdings, LLC
Mr. Roger L. Bahnik
Ms. Jennifer Baker
Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Mary Belanich
Mr. Anthony Bombace
Allison H. and Peter Burrows
Susan and William Cohen
Mr. Trenton Commins
Cullen & Dykman LLP
Mr. and Mrs. Seth J. Cummins
Mr. Thomas DeMartini
Dime Community Bank
Eagle Sanitation, Inc.
Sylvia Fink
Mr. David Goldstein
Mr. Richard Goldstein
Ben Gonzalez
Mr. Michael Goodman
Mr. & Mrs. David Israel
Jackson Lewis LLP
Dr. James M. Klancnik, Jr. and Ms.
Nicole Eustace
Lions Club of Port Washington, Inc.

\$999 - \$500 (Continued)

Mr. Basil Lyden
Ms. Patricia Mankowski and Mr. Gerard Ohlert
Eric Mathews
Ms. Lisa Ohebshalom
Mr. Jimmy Y. Peress
Mr. Michael Rabinowitz
Mukesh Rajan
Mr. and Mrs. Paul O. Richard
Roe Agency, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rosenthal
Dr. Susan Ruzenski
Sands Point Garden Club
Mr. Frank Scarpa
Dr. and Mrs. Elliot Scher
Mr. Paul A. Schreiber
Ms. Susan D. Shapiro
Daljit Singh
Mr. and Dr. Richard L. Sirow
Dr. David Smith
Ms. Rona Solomon
Stop & Stor Charitable Fund
Ultratec, Inc. and Captel, Inc.
UsableNet

\$499 - \$250

ACANSA Investment Management Group, LLC
Ms. Deborah Adamowicz
Mr. Nikos Andreadis
Mr. Anon Anon
Mr. Howard Back
Mr. Jim Bella
Mr. Doug Benvenuto
Bulovas Restorations, Inc.
Cedar Cliff Local School District
Cedarville High School
Mr. Nilesh Chand
Cleanco Distributors, Inc.
Fern and Hersh Cohen
Mrs. Marilyn Davoli
Delux Transportation Services, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard J. Fitzsimons

Focused Wealth Management
Mr. Theodore Gewertz
Ms. Joyce Hanes
Ms. Rebecca Heitkam
Mr. Mark Hubenka
Mr. Michael Imondi
Jewish Communal Fund
MJFFC.org
Mr. David Ogrin
Ms. Kathy Pasquale
Ms. Cara Petruccelli
Mr. Allan A. Phillips
Mr. & Mrs. Donald & Cecelia Platnick
Gary Podorowsky
Mr. Hal Posner and Ms. Barbara Posner
Joshua Raff
N. Ricci
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Ricci
RLH Diamond Group LLC
Ms. Rosalind Rubler
Ms. Pam Schulz
Dr. Julian Seewald
Jim Shreeve
Mr. and Mrs. Adam Silverstein
Mr. Dwight Spar
Bart Stephens
Mr. Bala R. Subramanyam & Family
Mrs. Elise Tepper
The Women's Book Club
Dwayne Thomas
United Way of Long Island
Ms. Gale Vanore
Mr. Ira Warren
Ian Weinberg
Mr. Herbert Weiss
Ms. Carol L White
Janice White
Ms. Donna Winston
Rabbi Irwin Zeplovitz
James Ziliak
Mrs. Maxine H. Zinder

FINANCIALS

Helen Keller Services

Statement of Financial Position (with comparative totals for 2022)

June 30,

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	
			2023	2022
Assets				
Current Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents (including funds held in trust for trainees of \$13,788 in 2023) (Note 2)	\$ 2,232,557	\$ 1,924,637	\$ 4,157,194	\$ 3,386,297
Grants receivable (Note 2)	4,938,801	-	4,938,801	2,839,161
Program fees and accounts receivable, net (Note 2)	4,458,513	-	4,458,513	4,008,328
Pledges receivable, net (Note 4)	-	-	-	149,668
Due from other funds	-	-	-	346,497
Investments, at fair value (Notes 2 and 5)	77,271,224	364,063	77,635,287	77,359,714
Other assets	943,884	-	943,884	643,047
Total Current Assets	89,844,979	2,288,700	92,133,679	88,732,712
Investments, at fair value, less current portion (Notes 2 and 5)	9,633,411	2,275,062	11,908,473	7,693,375
Right-of-Use Asset (Notes 2 and 11)	27,666,185	-	27,666,185	-
Property, Plant, and Equipment, Net (Notes 2 and 7)	10,320,420	-	10,320,420	9,649,749
	\$ 137,464,995	\$ 4,563,762	\$ 142,028,757	\$ 106,075,836
Liabilities and Net Assets				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 4,059,222	\$ -	\$ 4,059,222	\$ 3,724,960
Deferred revenue	486,868	-	486,868	264,702
Due to other funds	-	-	-	346,497
Current portion of operating lease liabilities (Notes 2 and 11)	636,520	-	636,520	-
Other liabilities (Note 6)	55,559	-	55,559	53,903
Total Current Liabilities	5,238,169	-	5,238,169	4,390,062
Refundable Deposits	223,284	-	223,284	218,478
Deferred Rent	-	-	-	5,567,191
Operating Lease Liabilities, net of current portion (Notes 2 and 11)	32,766,304	-	32,766,304	-
Total Liabilities	38,227,757	-	38,227,757	10,175,731
Commitments and Contingencies (Notes 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, and 13)				
Net Assets (Note 8)				
Without donor restrictions	99,237,238	-	99,237,238	91,523,584
With donor restrictions:				
Time/purpose restricted (Notes 2 and 8)	-	1,793,611	1,793,611	1,730,639
Perpetual trusts (Notes 2 and 8)	-	2,318,806	2,318,806	2,194,537
Endowment funds (Notes 2 and 8)	-	451,345	451,345	451,345
Total Net Assets	99,237,238	4,563,762	103,801,000	95,900,105
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 137,464,995	\$ 4,563,762	\$ 142,028,757	\$ 106,075,836

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Helen Keller Services Statement of Activities (with comparative totals for 2022)

Year ended June 30,

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	
			2023	2022
Support and Revenue				
Public support:				
Contributions	\$ 518,286	\$ 916,429	\$ 1,434,715	\$ 1,425,630
Legacies	782,535	-	782,535	48,741
Special events:				
Gross receipts	655,182	-	655,182	271,631
Less: direct donor benefits	(66,422)	-	(66,422)	(24,931)
Total Public Support	1,889,581	916,429	2,806,010	1,721,071
Fees and grants from government agencies:				
National Center for DeafBlind Youths and Adults - grant income	22,253,005	-	22,253,005	22,698,018
Helen Keller Services for the Blind - grant income	539,370	-	539,370	407,653
Training fees and allowances	11,767,154	-	11,767,154	9,690,380
Total Fees and Grants from Government Agencies	34,559,529	-	34,559,529	32,796,051
Other revenue (expense):				
Investment income	2,597,396	-	2,597,396	2,928,561
Rental income:				
Gross receipts	765,363	-	765,363	612,322
Less: direct costs	(325,234)	-	(325,234)	(264,425)
Net gain (loss) on investments	6,150,731	124,269	6,275,000	(14,311,526)
Miscellaneous	59,105	-	59,105	111,494
Total Other Revenue (Expense)	9,247,361	124,269	9,371,630	(10,923,574)
Net assets released from restrictions (Note 9)	853,457	(853,457)	-	-
Total Support and Revenue	46,549,928	187,241	46,737,169	23,593,548

Helen Keller Services Statement of Activities (continued) (with comparative totals for 2022)

Year ended June 30,

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	
			2023	2022
Expenses				
Program services:				
Comprehensive services	\$ 4,857,534	\$ -	\$ 4,857,534	\$ 4,934,530
Supported employment services	-	-	-	11,333
Day habilitation services	2,346,872	-	2,346,872	1,881,464
Children's Learning Center	3,945,006	-	3,945,006	3,825,650
Summer camp	167,109	-	167,109	140,564
National Center for DeafBlind Youths and Adults	17,221,015	-	17,221,015	17,428,559
Residential	972,893	-	972,893	991,383
Total Program Services	29,510,429	-	29,510,429	29,213,483
Supporting services:				
Management and general	7,949,574	-	7,949,574	4,454,699
Fundraising	1,376,271	-	1,376,271	740,359
Public relations and volunteer services	-	-	-	252,520
Total Supporting Services	9,325,845	-	9,325,845	5,447,578
Total Expenses	38,836,274	-	38,836,274	34,661,061
Change in Net Assets, before other gains (losses)	7,713,654	187,241	7,900,895	(11,067,513)
Decrease in Unfunded Pension Obligation	-	-	-	8,066,842
Loss on Dissolution of Pension Plan	-	-	-	(8,881,016)
Gain on Forgiveness of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan	-	-	-	3,988,276
Change in Net Assets	7,713,654	187,241	7,900,895	(7,893,411)
Net Assets, beginning of year	91,523,584	4,376,521	95,900,105	103,793,516
Net Assets, end of year	\$ 99,237,238	\$ 4,563,762	\$ 103,801,000	\$ 95,900,105

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



FOLLOW US

In 2024, help Helen Keller Services support blind, DeafBlind, and low vision individuals to live, work, and thrive in their communities of choice.

- **Cause Related Marketing:** Collaborate on consumer campaigns, donate a portion of your services.
- **Employee Engagement:** Volunteering, fundraising, or hosting events.
- **Matching Gifts:** Match employee donations.
- **Top Provider:** Offer essential products or services at reduced or no cost.
- **Advocacy:** Promote awareness of blind and DeafBlind culture.
- **Job Inclusive Workforce:** Partner to aid diversity in job placement.
- **Education & Research Services:** Collaborate on curricula with these communities.
- Join us for positive change in 2024.



www.HelenKeller.org