

———— 2025 ANNUAL REPORT ————



**20 MILLION AMERICANS  
EXPERIENCE VISION LOSS**

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**VISION LOSS IS PROJECTED TO IMPACT  
40 MILLION AMERICANS BY 2050**

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**8.3 MILLION AMERICANS LIVE WITH  
BLINDNESS OR LOW VISION**

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**2.4 MILLION AMERICANS HAVE  
COMBINED HEARING & VISION LOSS**

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**AN ESTIMATED 50,000 INDIVIDUALS IN  
THE UNITED STATES ARE DEAFBLIND**

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**985 DEAFBLIND INDIVIDUALS SERVED  
BY HKNC NATIONWIDE IN 2025**

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**1,689 PROFESSIONALS TRAINED  
ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN 2025**

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**409 OLDER ADULTS WERE  
SUPPORTED BY HKSB IN 2025**

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# LETTER FROM SUE RUZENSKI CEO OF HELEN KELLER SERVICES

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on 2025, I am filled with gratitude for the extraordinary progress we made together and profound optimism for what lies ahead. Through your partnership and support, Helen Keller Services expanded our reach, deepened our impact, and strengthened our commitment to creating pathways to independence for individuals who are blind, DeafBlind, or have low vision.

This year brought remarkable achievements that will shape our organization for years to come. In late 2025, we unveiled the Walters-Smithdas Legacy Atrium at Helen Keller National Center—a stunning transformation made possible by gift from the estate of Barbara Walters. This beautiful space honors the extraordinary friendship between Dr. Robert Smithdas and Barbara Walters, whose decades-long bond demonstrated the power of connection across boundaries. The atrium now serves as the welcoming heart of our Sands Point campus, embodying our commitment to creating empowering environments that welcome connection through equal access.

During this past year our local vocational rehabilitation services in the five boroughs of NY and Long Island flourished serving 1,862 individuals through Helen Keller Services for the Blind (HKSB) rehabilitation services which include orientation and mobility, job placement, vision rehabilitation services, social work, adaptive technology, low vision and services to seniors through the Adaptive Living Program. Our assistive technology services expanded beyond the local area to Westchester County and Rochester within New York, and out of state to Virginia, Indiana, and Texas. HKSB also began offering its Teen Tech program to students at the Kansas State School for the Blind. HKSB grew a partnership with Nassau County Dept. of Aging increasing our reach to seniors in Nassau County, Long Island. This past year our Long Island summer camp welcomed 43 campers with an adventurous 5 weeks of fun packed activities including zip lining, horseback riding, amusement parks and rock climbing.

During 2025, we dramatically expanded our national reach and impact. Through a groundbreaking partnership with Pennsylvania's Office of Developmental Programs, we brought our DeafBlind Immersion Experience directly to communities across the Commonwealth, training support teams to work effectively with DeafBlind individuals who have complex developmental needs. This innovative model exemplifies our commitment to meeting people where they are, strengthening local capacity while transforming lives.

Our professional development initiatives reached unprecedented scale this year, with trainings delivered to 1,689 professionals across the country—from vocational rehabilitation counselors to direct service providers. We equipped the workforce serving DeafBlind individuals with evidence-based knowledge and practical strategies through intensive technical assistance projects in Washington, New York, and Kentucky that created sustainable systems change. HKNC field services documented over 12,500 activities in 2025, including 1,396 community living trainings and 4,787 instances of direct consumer assistance.

Technology continued to revolutionize accessibility in 2025. Through our Technology Research and Innovation Center, we collaborated with industry leaders including Apple, testing 42 iOS builds and resolving 86% of identified accessibility issues.

Our third annual Tech Blitz drew record attendance, connecting individuals with the latest assistive technology innovations. At HKSB we prepared 34 participants for the workforce equipping them with in-depth skills using Microsoft Office through the TEAM program, a virtual peer learning intensive 16 week program.

Accessibility continued to be a cornerstone principle and HKS promoted and supported accessibility with all practices throughout our locations as a first thought and not an afterthought. In October 2025, we honored five organizations at our 5<sup>th</sup> AccessAbility Awards celebration recognizing leaders who ensure their products and practices are inclusive and accessible to individuals who are blind, DeafBlind or have low vision. We were honored to award ADP, Heckscher Museum of Art, Teach Access, Tatum Robotics, and Polara Enterprises.

Our national reach has never been stronger. Through 11 regional offices spanning all 50 states, we served 985 DeafBlind individuals—each representing a life empowered, a family supported, a community enriched. Our regional teams conducted 229 outreach activities, provided support to 534 agencies, and worked directly with 1,016 families, building the infrastructure needed to create lasting change across communities nationwide.

Equally transformative is our Children's Learning Center expansion project. In 2026, we will open two additional locations on Long Island—one in Nassau County and one in Suffolk County, New York—dramatically increasing our capacity to serve young children who are blind or have low vision, along with autism, Down syndrome and other developmental disabilities. This expansion responds directly to overwhelming need and ensures more children receive the specialized early education services that set the foundation for lifelong success.

None of this would be possible without you. Your financial support, volunteer hours, corporate partnerships, and advocacy create the foundation for everything we accomplish. You understand that accessibility isn't a luxury—it's a fundamental right. You recognize that independence isn't simply about overcoming limitations—it's about unlocking potential.

As we look toward 2026, we remain focused on innovation, expansion, and excellence. We will continue developing programs that respond to evolving needs, forging partnerships that amplify our impact, and advocating for policies that advance accessibility. Most importantly, we will continue doing what we do best: walking alongside individuals on their journey toward independence, providing the personalized support and specialized expertise that make all the difference.

Thank you for believing in our mission and investing in our vision. Together, we are proving that with the right support, anything is possible. Through our collective efforts, HKS will continue to build systems, strengthen capacity, and transform lives—empowering individuals who are blind, DeafBlind and have low vision to achieve meaningful employment, independence, and leadership in their communities.

With deepest gratitude,



Dr. Susan Ruzenski  
CEO, Helen Keller Services



# Executive Team

Sue Ruzenski, Ed.D.  
Chief Executive Officer  
Helen Keller Services

Mia Murro  
Chief Human Resources Officer  
Helen Keller Services

Sharona Hebroni  
Chief Financial Officer  
Helen Keller Services

John Filek  
Executive Director  
Helen Keller National Center

Jeff Kunkel  
Chief of Programs  
Helen Keller Services for the Blind

Chris Mastrangelo  
Chief of Facilities  
Helen Keller Services

# HKS Trustees

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Elise Schroeder, Goldman Sachs  
Ed Tepper, Vice President and Treasurer, The Tepper Family Foundation  
Namrata Yadav, SVP, Academy Community Advancement, Bank of America



## **About Helen Keller Services**

For over a century, Helen Keller Services has been advancing access and opportunities for individuals who are DeafBlind, blind or have low vision. Our journey began in 1893 as the Industrial Home for the Blind, founded in Brooklyn with a pioneering vision: to provide education and employment opportunities for individuals who were blind. This foundation of empowerment and innovation has guided our evolution into a comprehensive organization serving communities nationwide.

## **Two Divisions, One Mission**

Helen Keller Services' mission is to enable individuals who are DeafBlind, blind, have vision loss, developmental disabilities, or combined hearing and vision loss to live, work, and thrive in the communities of their choice. Through innovative technology, education, vocational rehabilitation, and advocacy, we transform barriers into opportunities, creating pathways to independence at every stage of life.

## **Helen Keller National Center for DeafBlind Youths and Adults (HKNC)**

As the only national program exclusively serving individuals who are DeafBlind, Helen Keller National Center's Comprehensive Vocational Rehabilitation Program welcomes participants to our Sands Point, New York campus for intensive person-centered training. Through personalized instruction in adaptive technology, communication, orientation and mobility, independent living, and vocational services, we prepare participants for meaningful employment and community independence.

## **Helen Keller Services for the Blind (HKSB)**

Serving the New York metropolitan area, HKSB provides comprehensive programs spanning early childhood through senior years. Our specialized services include early intervention and preschool education at our Children's Learning Center in Downtown Brooklyn, Camp Helen Keller summer programs on Long Island, assistive technology training, vocational rehabilitation and employment services, day habilitation programs for adults with developmental disabilities, low vision clinical services, and support for seniors experiencing vision loss.

Together as one organization, we provide a continuum of services from early childhood through senior years, advancing accessibility and independence by nurturing early development, building educational foundations, fostering employment pathways, and supporting lifelong independence.



**Comprehensive Vocational Rehabilitation Program:** HKNC remains the only national program dedicated exclusively to serving DeafBlind individuals, whose diverse needs require tailored approaches in communication, technology, and vocational rehabilitation. Our Sands Point, NY headquarters hosted 73 participants in intensive vocational training, with 46 completing their programs.

**Employment remains a cornerstone of our mission:** In 2025, HKNC's vocational partnerships produced significant results, connecting participants with employers in sectors such as corporate (Con Edison, Nassau County Comptroller), hospitality (Hilton Roslyn, Walgreens REDI), education (Hofstra University, Lavelle School for the Blind), museums, nonprofits, and healthcare (St. Francis Hospital). Our New York Community Services Program alone served 102 individuals and achieved 3 job placements and 2 job saves, demonstrating the success of our employment-focused services.

**Professional Development & Research:** The IRPD department delivered 37 trainings across 13 states and supported 277 course completions via our accessible online platform. Our National Community of Practice grew to 97 organizations, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing across agencies. Major research partnerships included developing the WHO-recognized International Classification of Functioning model for Deafblindness and NIH-funded spatial localization studies with Johns Hopkins University.

**Strategic Expansion:** Strategic expansion initiatives strengthened services in Pennsylvania, New England, Nebraska, Alabama, Georgia, and Virginia, including new pilot programs, expanded mobility services, and statewide training for support staff.

**DeafBlind Immersion Experience:** In 2025, DBIE served 14 individuals directly while training 207 professionals across 21 agencies in person-centered approaches, creating sustainable capacity that enhances quality of life for DeafBlind individuals with complex needs.

**Low Vision & Audiology Services:** HKNC's specialized clinical services supported 50 individuals through comprehensive low vision services and 64 individuals through audiology services. The state-of-the-art audiology suite, made possible by the Tepper Family Foundation, equipped the department with cutting-edge diagnostic capabilities for comprehensive audiological care.



## Comprehensive Vocational Rehabilitation Program

Our flagship Comprehensive Vocational Rehabilitation Program (CVRP) provides intensive, personalized training that transforms lives and creates pathways to competitive integrated employment. Through our transdisciplinary approach, participants develop expertise in five core areas: adaptive technology, communication skills, orientation and mobility, independent living, and vocational rehabilitation, while working towards their employment goals.

73

Total participants served in 2025

46

Completed comprehensive training

## Building Careers Through Strategic Partnerships

HKNC's success in creating employment pathways depends on strong partnerships with forward-thinking employers who understand the value of an inclusive workforce. Through collaborative relationships across diverse industries, participants gain real-world experience, build job-specific expertise, and transition into meaningful careers.

### Our 2025 employer partners created career-focused opportunities:

**Corporate & Professional:** Con Edison, Nassau County Comptroller, Port Washington Federal Credit Union, LISS Tech, Lincoln Line

**Hospitality & Retail:** Hilton Roslyn, Hyatt Garden City, Walgreens REDI, Jersey Mike's, Crumbl Cookies

**Libraries & Education:** Haskell/Bayville/Port Washington Public Libraries, Hofstra University, Lavelle School for the Blind, Music Conservatory

**Museums & Cultural Institutions:** Cradle of Aviation Museum, Long Island Children's Museum, Art Guild

**Nonprofit Organizations:** Mill Neck Foundation, Viscardi Center, Boy Scouts of America, Twin Pines, ReWild Long Island

**Healthcare:** St. Francis Hospital, Sands Point Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

Looking Ahead: New partnerships with HeartShare will create mental health clinical internships for participants interested in counseling and peer support careers, while a collaboration with Reading Partners introduces teaching and tutoring pathways for pursuing education careers.



## Summer Youth Vocational Program

In summer 2025, our intensive four-week Summer Youth Vocational Program (SYVP) brought together DeafBlind youth from across the country for a transformative experience building independence, exploring career interests, and developing essential workplace skills. Working alongside vocational specialists, job coaches, and technology instructors, participants gained real-world experience while strengthening self-advocacy, communication, and career readiness.

## Expanding SYVP in 2026

Building on this foundation, we're enhancing our Summer Youth Vocational Program for 2026 with expanded opportunities and innovative programming. The enhanced program will offer transition-age youth (ages 16-24) an even more dynamic experience over four themed weeks, combining career exploration with enrichment activities that foster confidence and independence.

### 2026 Enhanced Program Features:

#### STEAM Activities

Science, technology, engineering, arts, and math projects including 3D printing, prototyping, and accessible technology tools

#### Adaptive Surfing & Recreation

Building resilience, teamwork, and problem-solving skills through adaptive sports education

#### Motivational Speakers & Advocacy Workshops

Independence strategies and inspiring success stories

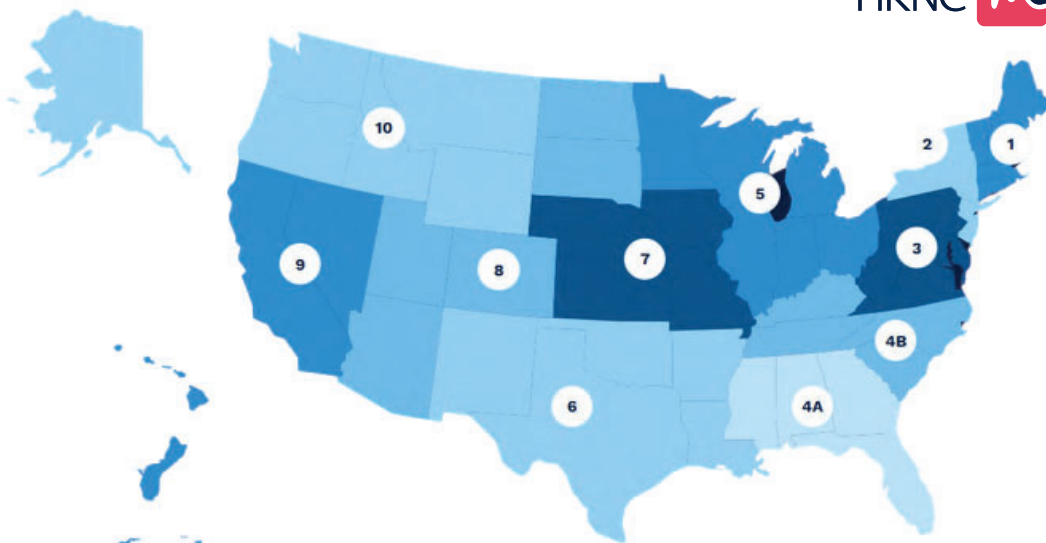
#### Real-World Work Experiences

Practical skills in food service, technology, and community-based roles

#### Camp-Ability Outdoor Exploration

Nature-based activities encouraging goal-setting, leadership, and career exploration in education

Participants will develop comprehensive skills: job exploration, workplace readiness, self-advocacy, independent living strategies, communication and social skills, career preparation techniques, and technology proficiency for workplace success. This innovative program combines experiential learning with enrichment activities that build essential skills while creating lasting memories.



## Field Services & National Network

HKNC's impact extends far beyond our Sands Point campus. Through 11 regional offices with 7 Regional Representatives and 4 Regional Service Coordinators, 10 DeafBlind Employment Specialists, 2 Youth Service Coordinators, and California and New York Community Services Programs, we bring specialized expertise directly into local communities across all 50 states. This ensures individuals who are DeafBlind can access critical services wherever they live, building sustainable capacity within state and local agencies.

**229**

### Outreach presentations nationwide

Delivered across multiple states and sectors including vocational rehabilitation, education, community providers, emergency preparedness teams, and disability coalitions

**534**

### Agency support requests

Case consultations, team meetings, interagency coordination, and complex service navigation helping local teams strengthen their support

**1,016**

### Family support instances

Resources, guidance, and emotional support for families navigating diagnoses, educational challenges, and transition services



## Comprehensive Support Activities

Beyond direct service delivery, HKNC field services teams engage in systematic capacity-building that strengthens the entire support network for DeafBlind individuals nationwide. These activities demonstrate the breadth and depth of our work building sustainable systems change.

**2025 Field Services Activities** - 12,595 total field services activities, building systems, strengthening capacity and impacting lives nationwide.

**4,787**

### Direct consumer support

Hands-on assistance helping DeafBlind individuals navigate services and overcome barriers

**1,016**

### Family support activities

Training, resources, and guidance for families and family organizations

**191**

### Consumer organizations supported

Strengthening DeafBlind-led advocacy and self-determination

**720**

### Interagency collaboration

Systems change activities, policy development, and DeafBlind Awareness Week coordination

**2,640**

### Lead agency collaboration

Partnership with vocational rehabilitation, blind services, and Deaf/hard of hearing agencies

**16,017**

### National Registry members

Connecting DeafBlind individuals nationwide to specialized services and support

**1,396**

### Community living training

Covering housing, communication, mental health, transportation, and community services

**156**

### New National Registry enrollments

Connecting DeafBlind individuals to HKNC's national network

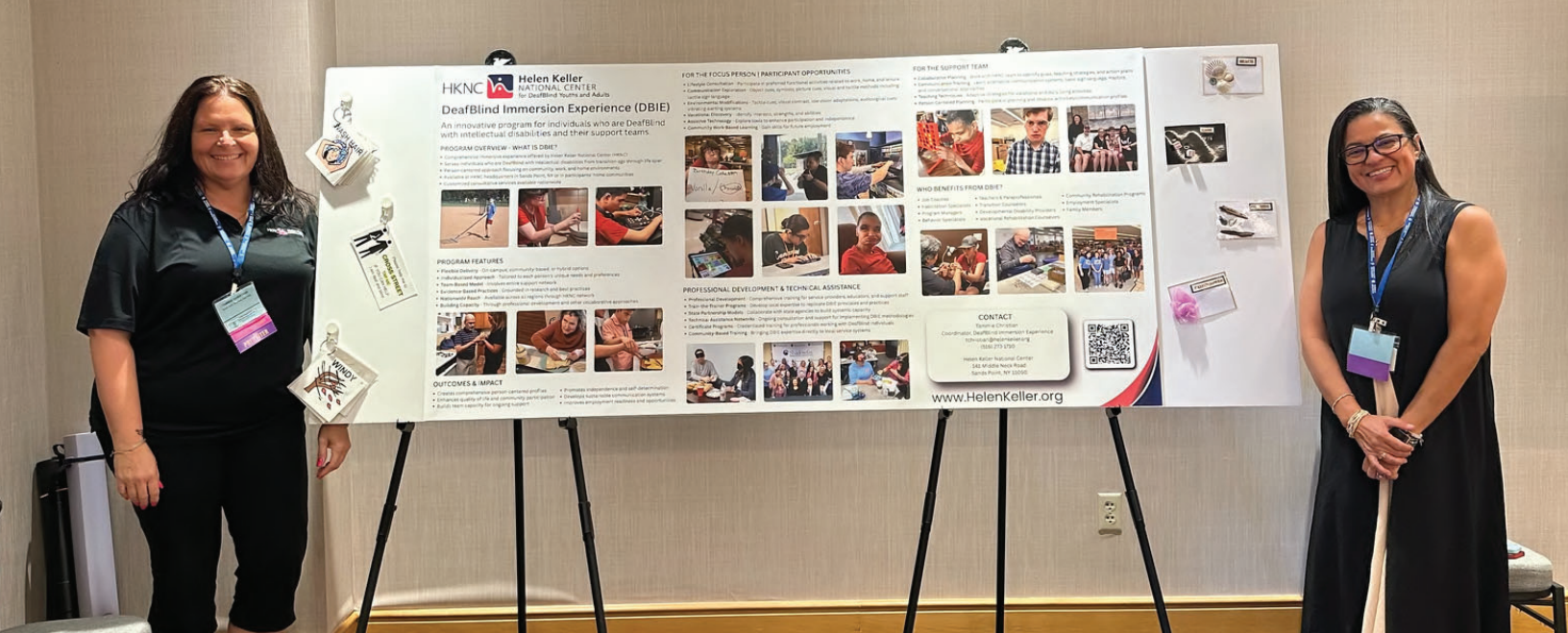
The substantial volume of direct consumer support reflects an essential reality: DeafBlind individuals benefit from personalized training and support tailored to their unique needs. Field services staff play a critical role bridging gaps, providing expert technical guidance, and ensuring individuals receive the responsive support necessary to achieve their goals. This work strengthens both individual outcomes and local agency capacity.

## Building Professional Capacity Through National Leadership

HKNC's regional network demonstrated thought leadership at major national conferences, presenting evidence-based practices and innovative approaches that advance the field.

### Conference presentations delivered at:

- FOCUS Conference
- New England AER Conference (multiple DeafBlind sessions, Brian Switzer keynote)
- Southeastern Research Institute for the Deaf (SERID)
- International CHARGE Syndrome Conference
- Deaf.Blind.Limitless Conference



## Regional Network Highlights - Expanding Reach, Building Capacity

Through 11 regional offices spanning all 50 states, HKNC's field services network delivered targeted expansion initiatives, strategic partnerships, and professional development that strengthened local capacity to serve DeafBlind individuals.

### Strategic Partnerships Driving Systems Change

**Communities of Practice:** Regional Representatives facilitated multiple collaborative forums including Leading By Convening training pilots, the Region 1 VR Community of Practice (grew from 12 to 45 members), and Region 7's SSP Community of Practice—creating sustainable peer learning networks that continue beyond formal HKNC support.

**Puerto Rico Partnership:** Established the territory's first DeafBlind Interagency Team (DBIT) meeting, engaging 15 providers and planning statewide VR training, expanding HKNC's reach into underserved communities and building infrastructure for sustainable services.

**Legislative & Funding Success:** Regional partnerships secured significant resources including Connecticut DBAC's \$135,000 in funding for SSP and assistive technology programs, and Massachusetts DBCAN's annual DeafBlind Legislative Awareness Day planning, demonstrating the policy impact of strategic regional advocacy.

**New England Mobility Services:** Expansion of Orientation & Mobility services across Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire resulted in 20 referrals and 18 completed services in 2025. This expansion reopened communication with Rhode Island after a two-year gap and resulted in the first CVRP referral funded by Rhode Island ORS in years.

**Support Service Provider Pilots:** Groundbreaking SSP infrastructure development in Nebraska (first statewide pilot program), Alabama (transportation matrix system), and Georgia (innovative legislative framework) created models for sustainable support services that other states can replicate.

**Virginia Statewide Training:** Launched in September 2025 in partnership with two VR agencies and the DeafBlind Project, this initiative provides all counselors with updated training on managing DeafBlind cases—the first in a series addressing mental health services, communication access, and community integration.



## DeafBlind Employment Specialists (DBES)

### Nationwide Deployment

DBES specialists operate in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Kentucky, Tennessee, Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Hawaii—bringing specialized expertise to communities where DeafBlind individuals live and work. In 2025, 56 individuals received VR-authorized services across these 11 states. By partnering with local VR agencies, employers, and service providers, our DBES team creates sustainable employment pathways and builds capacity that extends beyond individual placements.

**139**

Individuals served

**107**

Services completed

**21**

Employment outcomes

### Growing Impact

In partnership with state vocational rehabilitation agencies, HKNC's DBES team achieved significant growth in 2025.

- Service authorizations increased 54%
- Completed services grew 64%
- Successful employment outcomes increased 52%—with 21 individuals securing competitive integrated employment compared to 11 in the prior year.



## Community Services Programs (CSP)

Within New York and California, HKNC's Community Services Programs extend specialized expertise through intensive local support. The CSP is staffed by credentialed professionals including Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialists, Certified Vision Rehabilitation Teachers, Certified Rehabilitation Counselors, Vocational Specialists, and Assistive Technology Instructors—all proficient in American Sign Language and alternative communication modes. These programs provide comprehensive rehabilitation, vocational, and support services to DeafBlind individuals in their homes, workplaces, and communities.

### The New York CSP delivered services across critical domains:



For transition-age youth, NY-CSP collaborated with local schools for the Deaf in downstate New York to enhance work readiness training opportunities. Three DeafBlind young adults participated in 4-10 week Work Experience Training programs at work sites in their communities, receiving transdisciplinary support from the Youth Services Coordinator and vocational staff.

NY-CSP provided complete vocational assessments for 10 participants and supported 5 individuals in paid internships at community work sites. The program achieved 3 successful job placements and 2 critical job saves, demonstrating the program's ability to both facilitate new employment and preserve existing careers.



## DeafBlind Immersion Experience

### Transforming Lives Through Immersive, Person-Centered Support

The DeafBlind Immersion Experience (DBIE) exemplifies HKNC's commitment to creating sustainable, systems-level change for individuals who are DeafBlind with complex support needs. Through intensive, relationship-based training that extends far beyond individual intervention, DBIE transforms how families, professionals, and agencies serve DeafBlind individuals.

**14**

Individuals served directly

**207**

Professionals trained

**21**

Agencies engaged

### Pennsylvania Expansion: Building Statewide Capacity

In partnership with the Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs' Special Populations Unit, DBIE delivered six immersive experiences across residential and community-based settings in 2025. These DBIEs reached direct support professionals, supervisors, program leaders, and interdisciplinary team members—building shared understanding of communication methods, relationship-based practice, and consistency across environments. This strategic collaboration positions Pennsylvania as a model for statewide systems transformation, with additional DBIEs scheduled to continue strengthening capacity and sustainability in 2026.

**6**

DBIE's Conducted

**97**

Professionals trained

**19**

Agencies impacted



## Program Innovation: Deepening Impact Through Extended Engagement

2025 brought two new innovations to DBIE: a first-ever two-week immersion model designed for participants who need additional time to build trust and establish routines before demonstrating progress. The program also launched individualized online portals that provide focus persons and their support teams with centralized access to person-centered resources, ensuring strategies and progress continue long after the immersion experience concludes.

Each DBIE is uniquely designed to reflect the individual's communication styles, sensory access needs, routines, and goals. By delivering services across residential, community, and program-based environments, DBIE ensures strategies are immediately relevant and applicable to daily life—whether at home, work, school, or in community settings.

# 85%

of DBIE participants ages 15–24 were introduced to work experiences

*FOR YOUTH PARTICIPANTS, DBIE EMPHASIZES EXPLORATION OF VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS THROUGH HANDS-ON, EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING.*

A 16-year-old from North Carolina participated in a home community DBIE focusing on building independence, vocational skills, and confidence through real-world opportunities including volunteering at a food pantry, visiting the Library for the Blind, and completing tasks in retail and mail delivery environments.

## Sustainable Impact: Embedding Practices for Lasting Change

DBIE's emphasis on team learning and systems capacity distinguishes the program from traditional direct service models. By training entire support networks—including families, direct support professionals, teachers, job coaches, behavior specialists, and program administrators—DBIE creates shared understanding and consistent implementation across shifts, settings, and transitions.

This collaborative approach ensures that person-centered practices introduced during the immersion period become woven into the fabric of daily support, creating lasting change that extends far beyond the initial five-day training.



## Information, Research & Professional Development (IRPD)

The Information, Research and Professional Development (IRPD) department advances DeafBlind services nationwide through evidence-based research, comprehensive training programs, and intensive technical assistance that builds sustainable capacity within agencies serving DeafBlind individuals. This work transforms practice, informs policy, and creates lasting systems change across all 50 states.

In 2025, IRPD delivered 37 professional trainings across the country to 1,689 professionals, reaching vocational rehabilitation agencies, schools, residential programs, services for the blind, Deaf and hard of hearing programs, transition and family organizations, community rehabilitation programs, and medical and educational settings.

**37**

Professional trainings  
delivered

**1,689**

Professionals trained

## Building Capacity Through Intensive Technical Assistance

IRPD's intensive technical assistance projects combine training, mentoring, customized learning tools, and facilitator development. These multi-year investments ensure agencies develop internal expertise that continues long after formal support ends.

### Washington State Services for the Blind

Supporting 25 vocational rehabilitation counselors and 5 emerging mentors through monthly modules, trainer meetings, and online discussion groups, this intensive TA reached a transformative milestone: staff began leading their own training sessions, demonstrating the increased confidence and internal expertise that defines successful capacity-building.

### The New York Foundling

Working with group homes serving 9 DeafBlind residents with complex needs, IRPD developed highly visual training materials, integrated short videos into staff meetings, and provided hands-on in-home coaching. A key breakthrough: creating individualized learning and communication profiles that strengthened staff's ability to recognize and respond to each resident's unique communication style.

### Kentucky Vocational Rehabilitation Partnership

Partnering with Kentucky's regional representative to support a cohort of VR counselors and direct service providers, this structured training and mentoring model produced results leadership teams could measure: a noticeable shift in how staff understand and engage with DeafBlind consumers.

Across all three projects, IRPD created customized training plans, facilitator guides, and sustainable structures that enable agencies to continue the work independently—ensuring impact that extends years beyond formal technical assistance.

## National Community of Practice

HKNC's National Community of Practice (NCOP) connects organizations and agencies serving DeafBlind individuals across the United States, creating a collaborative forum for sharing innovations, addressing emerging challenges, and strengthening service delivery nationwide.

97

Participating organizations

72

Peak attendance

Quarterly meetings throughout 2025 covered assistive technology, trending research, interagency collaboration, DeafBlind identity, parent and family engagement, and working with DeafBlind individuals with complex support needs.

## Advancing Knowledge Through Research

### International Classification of Functioning Core Sets for Deafblindness

*Partnership: University of Montreal & World Health Organization*

HKNC represented the United States in developing the first-ever WHO-recognized International Classification of Functioning (ICF) model for Deafblindness—a monumental achievement involving 54 countries. As one of only two U.S. organizations in this consensus process, we helped create a holistic, person-centered assessment framework that standardizes the global definition of Deafblindness while considering physical environment, societal attitudes, and interpersonal relationships. This work enables more effective rehabilitation planning and establishes accessibility standards that will shape policy and practice worldwide.

### Spatial Localization Research

*Partnership: Johns Hopkins University (NIH-Funded)*

Through an NIH-funded collaboration with Johns Hopkins University, HKNC is advancing critical research on how combined hearing and vision loss impacts spatial localization. This multi-phase study creates assessment tools for orientation and mobility specialists, audiologists, and rehabilitation professionals. Based on the success of initial in-person assessments with DeafBlind participants, Johns Hopkins invited HKNC as a sub-awardee on their next five-year NIH grant proposal—elevating this partnership to study AI-integrated hearing aids and smart glasses. This research directly informs clinical practice and shapes the development of assistive technology.

## Accessible Learning at Scale

HKNC's online learning platform offers professional development anywhere, anytime. With comprehensive accessibility built into every course, we ensure professionals, families, and DeafBlind individuals can learn in the format that works best for them.

277

Course completions in 2025

174 through public enrollment + 103  
through customized agency learning hubs

30

Fully accessible courses available

Every course includes ASL interpretation,  
captions, alt text, audio description, and  
Spanish language options



## Technology Research and Information Center (TRIC)

The Technology Research and Innovation Center (TRIC) bridges the gap between assistive technology developers and the lived experiences of DeafBlind users. TRIC works with companies on how they approach and design accessibility features, including braille connectivity, to advance how emerging technologies better serve the needs of individuals with combined hearing and vision loss.

37

Companies provided with testing and feedback

124

Tech articles distributed to staff

50

Employers and stakeholders attended Train-the-Trainer seminars on workplace communication

45

Professionals and DeafBlind individuals attended the American Council for the Blind virtual session on AI and accessibility

## Apple Partnership: Advancing VoiceOver and Braille Accessibility

One of TRIC's most significant collaborations involves testing beta builds of Apple's iOS for users who are DeafBlind, focusing on the intersection of VoiceOver functionality and braille device compatibility.

During the 2025 reporting period, TRIC tested 42 iOS builds, identifying bugs related to VoiceOver and braille accessibility. Through collaborative problem-solving with Apple's development team, 86% of the issues addressed were successfully fixed, a significant percentage rate that demonstrates the power of developer-user partnerships.

42

iOS builds tested in 2025

86%

Bug resolution rate

**Braille Access:** A new suite of features from Apple released in September 2025 specifically designed for braille display users, refined through TRIC's comprehensive feedback and user experience testing.

TRIC represents a distinctive model in assistive technology development—one that positions DeafBlind individuals as active partners in shaping how technology serves them. By connecting developers directly with end users, TRIC ensures that innovation serves real needs, addresses genuine barriers, and creates meaningful pathways to independence and communication.



## Advancing Audiological Care

For many in the DeafBlind community, maximizing residual hearing is crucial for independence, safety, and communication. HKNC's Audiology department provides comprehensive services including diagnostic evaluations, hearing aid assessments and provision, and assistive listening device recommendations, ensuring individuals receive personalized audiological care that enhances their connection to the world around them.

**63**

Individuals served  
across HKNC programs

**33**

Community Service  
Program participants

**28**

CVRP participants

**2**

Destiny Home  
residents

## AI-Integrated Hearing Aids & Smart Glasses Research

Johns Hopkins University Five-Year NIH Grant Proposal

HKNC was invited as a sub-awardee on Johns Hopkins University's next five-year NIH grant proposal focused on AI-integrated hearing aids and smart glasses research. This partnership demonstrates HKNC's recognition as a leader in serving individuals with combined hearing and vision loss and positions the organization to contribute to emerging accessibility technology development.

## State-of-the-Art Audiology Suite

Through an extraordinary gift from the Tepper Family Foundation featured in our 2024 Annual Report, HKNC inaugurated a state-of-the-art audiology suite with a new audiologic test booth and audiometer. This infrastructure investment created a more welcoming environment and equipped the department with cutting-edge diagnostic capabilities. In 2025, this enhanced facility enabled the department to deliver the highest standard of personalized audiological care, directly supporting the 64 individuals who received services throughout the year.



## Low Vision Services

HKNC's Low Vision Services supports individuals across campus-based and community service programs, providing comprehensive visual assessments, adaptive technique instruction, and environmental modification consultation. For individuals with residual vision, these specialized services are essential for maximizing functional vision and maintaining independence in daily activities.

**50**

Individuals served  
across HKNC programs

### Comprehensive Service Delivery

- **Visual Assessments:** Comprehensive evaluations to identify functional vision and needs
- **Lighting Optimization:** Identifying optimal lighting conditions for various tasks and environments
- **Magnification Solutions:** Determining appropriate magnification needs for reading, workplace tasks, and daily activities
- **Contrast Enhancement:** Strategies to improve visual discrimination through contrast modification
- **Assistive Devices:** Personalized technology and tool recommendations based on individual needs
- **Adaptive Technique Instruction:** Training on methods to leverage remaining vision effectively
- **Environmental Modifications:** Guidance on adapting living and working spaces for optimal vision use

## Integrated Approach to Independence

Low vision specialists work with participants to identify optimal lighting conditions, magnification needs, contrast enhancement strategies, and assistive device recommendations. Through comprehensive evaluations and personalized training, individuals learn to leverage their remaining vision effectively for navigation, reading, workplace tasks, or daily living activities. These services integrate seamlessly with HKNC's broader rehabilitation approach, ensuring participants receive holistic support that addresses both their visual and auditory needs while honoring each individual's sensory profile and personal goals.

# CULTIVATING LEADERSHIP

## *Together, We Grow*

Leadership within the DeafBlind community flourishes through cultivation, education, and courage. From youth discovering possibilities to adults sharing wisdom, each journey illuminates the path for others, offering guidance and shared experiences that turn challenges into opportunities across all life stages.



### **DeafBlind Awareness Week & Leadership Development**

Helen Keller National Center marked the 41st annual DeafBlind Awareness Week (June 22-28) with the national theme, "Cultivating Leadership: Together We Grow," a comprehensive campaign focused on leadership development within the DeafBlind community across all life stages. The campaign emphasized how leadership flourishes through cultivation, education, and courage—creating a continuous cycle of growth that connects generations.

The 2025 campaign poster showcased five DeafBlind individuals at various life stages positioned along a path leading to a lighthouse, powerfully symbolizing how individual progress illuminates the way for others to follow. Featuring youth discovering possibilities, working professionals breaking barriers, and experienced adults mentoring the next generation, the poster—which includes a braille message component—was distributed nationally to vocational rehabilitation agencies, partner organizations, community stakeholders, and the DeafBlind community. The campaign extended HKNC's reach through digital resources and offered free access to professional development courses during the week.

### **HKNC DeafBlind Leadership Work Group**

Supporting this public awareness initiative, the HKNC DeafBlind Leadership Work Group undertook strategic development work throughout 2025 to create sustainable pathways for emerging leaders. This dedicated team conducted interviews with DeafBlind leaders to identify unique challenges and opportunities, while developing actionable recommendations for future programming. The workgroup's initiatives include expanding the Professional Learning and Leadership Institute (PLLI), establishing mentorship programs and peer learning networks. Through this approach, HKNC is strengthening leadership capacity and ensuring that DeafBlind individuals have the resources, representation, and community support necessary to lead and inspire future generations.



## **Helen Keller National Center Unveils The Walters-Smithdas Legacy Atrium**

On November 17, 2025, we proudly unveiled the Walters-Smithdas Legacy Atrium—a newly reimagined space, made possible by a generous gift from the Estate of Barbara Walters. Designed with the DeafBlind community to be both beautiful and accessible, this reimagined space will now serve as the welcoming entrance to Helen Keller National Center's national headquarters.

The atrium stands as a lasting tribute to the friendship between Barbara Walters and Dr. Robert J. Smithdas—a connection that spanned decades and demonstrated that the most meaningful connections happen when we reach across boundaries with patience and respect to understand and celebrate our differences. Bob's advocacy helped establish HKNC as a place of hope and empowerment, and Barbara used her influential platform to champion his work and shine a light on the DeafBlind community.

The ceremony brought together elected officials, supporters, design partners, community leaders, and members of HKS staff, with WABC New York covering the event and bringing the story to broader audiences across the region. We're grateful to Mayor Peter Forman for presenting a proclamation from Sands Point, as well as Town of North Hempstead Supervisor Jennifer DeSena and Councilwoman Mariann Dalimonte, Mayor Nora Haagenon of Baxter Estates, and New York State Senator Monica R. Martinez, for their recognition.

We were honored to have former HKNC participants Elizabeth Schmaltz and Dr. Francis Casale join us for the ceremony, sharing powerful reflections on how the National Center has impacted their lives. Elizabeth spoke directly to the DeafBlind community: "To all the DeafBlind individuals out there, we are not living in the dark. If it wasn't for Helen Keller National Center, I would not be here. This experience changed my life. I found my identity, I found my purpose."

Dr. Casale reflected on his decades of connection to HKNC and how Bob Smithdas inspired his own global advocacy work: "Here, we have a place for DeafBlind people to grow, be independent, get jobs and live full lives. This is where the transformation happens." Their words beautifully capture the enduring impact of HKNC and the legacy that the Walters-Smithdas Atrium now honors.



## Troy Finds Fulfillment at Walmart

For Troy, starting a new role as an Online Order Filling & Delivery Associate at Walmart Supercenter marked the beginning of a journey toward workplace independence and success.

When Troy began on January 18, 2025, he received comprehensive onboarding support from a dedicated team including a coworker, ASL interpreter, and Laurie McBride, Iowa/Minnesota DeafBlind Employment Specialist at Helen Keller National Center. This collaborative approach ensured Troy had the foundation needed to thrive in his new position.

“The initial training period was critical,” explains Laurie McBride, who served as Troy’s job coach. “We worked closely with Walmart’s team to establish effective communication strategies and workplace accommodations that would set Troy up for long-term success.”

Troy’s responsibilities include the complex task of simultaneously picking and preparing online grocery orders for multiple customers—work that demands precision, efficiency, and careful attention to detail. Embracing these opportunities for growth, he quickly demonstrated remarkable aptitude for the role.

His performance has impressed both team leads and coworkers, who consistently praise his work ethic and accuracy. By his 30-day milestone on February 28, 2025, Troy had already progressed to working with minimal assistance, showcasing his ability to adapt and excel in a fast-paced retail environment.

The partnership between Helen Keller National Center and Walmart exemplifies how specialized vocational support can transform employment outcomes for individuals who are DeafBlind. Through HKNC’s DeafBlind Employment Services program, specialists like Laurie provide the crucial bridge between employers and job seekers, ensuring both parties have the resources needed for successful workplace integration.

Troy’s achievements demonstrate how HKNC’s specialized employment services create pathways to meaningful careers through thoughtful collaboration, personalized support, and ongoing guidance. His success not only advances his own independence but also helps employers recognize the valuable contributions DeafBlind individuals bring to the workforce—standing as a model for what can be achieved when employees are given the opportunity to succeed and the tools they need to thrive.



## The Right Fit: Ben's Pathway to Employment

Ben came to HKNC from Utah with diverse work experience spanning dog daycare and warehouse environments. While he brought enthusiasm for animals, technology troubleshooting, and hands-on work, Ben faced a common challenge: uncertainty about which career path would provide long-term stability and satisfaction. Rather than pushing toward a predetermined outcome, HKNC's team designed a person-centered assessment process that would help Ben discover his best fit.

Through CVRP, Ben explored multiple community-based work sites including Hilton Hotels, Jersey Mike's, eWorks, and the local library. Each placement provided valuable insights—not just about job tasks, but about work environments, communication demands, and personal preferences. Meanwhile, HKNC's employment team was strategically building partnerships with local employers, including Lincoln Line, a warehouse operation with departments in assembly, packaging, and data entry.

When Ben tried Lincoln Line, the connection was immediate. The work aligned with his warehouse experience and comfort with structured tasks, while the company's supportive culture created space for success. With guidance from his Employment Training Specialist and HKNC's interdisciplinary team, Ben developed the skills and confidence to work independently, master the commute, and navigate workplace communication using adaptive strategies and assistive technology.

Ben's dedication and positive attitude made a lasting impression on Lincoln Line's leadership. In late 2025, the company offered Ben a permanent remote position—a testament to both his capabilities and the employer's commitment to accessible employment. Ben's journey demonstrates the power of person-centered vocational training and strategic employer partnerships. Ben will begin this role after completing his comprehensive training at HKNC, equipped with the skills, technology proficiency, and self-advocacy tools that will sustain his career success.



## **Finding Her Place: Zakiya's Success at Indianapolis Public Library**

When Zakiya Nelson completed her first month as a Page at Indianapolis Public Library in November 2025, her performance review reflected what her manager already knew: Zakiya brings creative problem-solving, consistent accuracy, and a collaborative spirit to her work every day.

Zakiya began working with Helen Keller National Center in January 2025, initially interested in retail positions that would draw on her organizational strengths and prior experience as a cleaner. She secured an early placement at K&G Fashion, where she developed skills in categorization, reading product tags, and merchandising. When that position proved physically demanding due to extended standing requirements, Zakiya and her DeafBlind Employment Specialist returned to the job search process together—this time exploring opportunities that would better align with her strengths while offering workplace flexibility and accommodations.

The library environment was unfamiliar territory—Zakiya had questions about whether her skills would translate to sorting books and materials. Through practice sessions with Genevieve, she built confidence in alphabetizing systems and library workflows. Her dedication paid off when she passed the library's baseline assessment, leading to a job offer in October 2025.

Indianapolis Public Library proved to be an ideal partnership. Manager Bethany customized accessibility features on Zakiya's computer, arranged ASL interpretation for trainings and team meetings, and structured her schedule to include varied tasks. The library provided practical accommodations including a handheld magnifier, alphabet reference card, and stool for accessing lower shelves. Zakiya uses a whiteboard and laminated communication cards with coworkers and library patrons, while also teaching basic ASL to interested colleagues.

"I thoroughly enjoy my work," Zakiya shares. "I feel challenged and supported at the same time." Through HKNC's DeafBlind Employment Services, specialists like Genevieve provide ongoing support that extends well beyond initial job placement—helping individuals navigate career transitions, develop new skills, and work with employers to create accessible workplace solutions.



## **Building a Career in Customer Service: Collin’s Path to Full-Time Employment at Con Edison**

Collin came to Helen Keller National Center's Comprehensive Vocational Rehabilitation Program (CVRP) ready to develop professional skills. Through HKNC's strategic partnership with Con Edison, Collin secured a work experience opportunity with the utility company's Customer Engagement Support team.

During his first weeks at Con Edison through the summer of 2025, an HKNC Employment Training Specialist worked alongside Collin on site, guiding tasks, modeling workflows, and ensuring the transition was both smooth and accessible. By early fall, Collin was traveling to Con Edison and completing his responsibilities without support—demonstrating his dedication and quick mastery of complex customer service processes.

As Collin's independence grew, so did his responsibilities. Con Edison adjusted his schedule to include remote work, reflecting both his capabilities and the company's commitment to flexible, accessible employment. In his role, Collin manages customer service requests for gas line inspections—communicating appointment details to customers and providing status updates to his supervisor. These responsibilities demand reliability, attention to detail, and strong organizational skills—all of which Collin demonstrated consistently.

Collin's performance led to interviews with both the Section Manager and the Supervisor of Customer Engagement Support for a permanent position. In late 2025, Con Edison extended an offer that Collin accepted. He will transition from his CVRP work experience to full employment with Con Edison, where the team plans to expand his duties to include phone-based customer support—creating even more opportunities for Collin to strengthen his professional skills.

Collin's success reflects both his commitment to professional growth and Con Edison's recognition that accessible employment practices benefit everyone. His journey from supported work experience to permanent position demonstrates how HKNC's person-centered training and strategic employer partnerships create pathways to meaningful careers.



## **From Lagos to the Courtroom: A Legal Career Rebuilt with Comprehensive Support**

When Kassim immigrated to the United States from Nigeria in 2023, he brought extensive legal expertise earned as a practicing attorney across multiple areas of law. Kassim, who is blind and hard of hearing, faced both opportunity and challenges settling in Brooklyn. While eager to continue his legal career, he would need to navigate New York's bar admission process, master independent travel in an unfamiliar city, and build professional connections in a new legal system.

Through Helen Keller National Center's Community Services Program (CSP), Kassim received the comprehensive support that would impact his transition to legal practice in the United States. The CSP team began with intensive Orientation and Mobility training—a critical foundation for his independence. In Nigeria, Kassim had usually traveled with an assistant providing human guide services, an accommodation not readily available in New York. Through dedicated O&M instruction, Kassim learned independent travel throughout New York City using paratransit services, gaining the mobility that would be essential for professional success.

As Kassim prepared for the New York Bar Exam, his CSP team coordinated access to materials in accessible formats and guided him through the accommodations application process. His hard work paid off when he passed the bar in 2024. While awaiting formal admission to the New York State Bar, Kassim worked with his Employment Specialist to strategically position himself for legal employment. Together, they identified an opportunity that would allow him to gain practical U.S. experience: a Project Management Internship with the New York City Economic Development Corporation, where he analyzed compliance in NYC agency hiring and workforce programs.

In May 2025, Kassim received the news he had worked toward: admission to the New York State Bar. Shortly after, another call came—this time with a job offer he accepted: Assistant District Attorney for Fulton County, Georgia. From navigating unfamiliar subway platforms in Brooklyn to stepping into a courtroom as a prosecutor, Kassim's journey spans two continents and countless hours of determination. With mobility training, accessible exam materials, and employment guidance as his foundation, Kassim is now beginning his legal career in a new country.



**HKSB**  **Helen Keller**  
SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

Helen Keller Services for the Blind provides a continuum of services from early childhood through senior years—nurturing early development, building educational foundations, creating employment pathways, and fostering lifelong independence.

Serving program participants who are blind or have low vision as well as developmental disabilities, in the New York metropolitan area and Long Island, HKSB provides comprehensive vision rehabilitation services, assistive technology training, low vision clinical services, and programs for seniors experiencing vision loss. Our Children's Learning Center in Downtown Brooklyn offers specialized early intervention and preschool programs, while Camp Helen Keller provides summer experiences for children ages 4-15 on Long Island.

Building on this foundation, employment-focused programs for teens and young adults develop essential skills, while comprehensive employment services for working adults include career exploration, job placement, and work experience training internships with on-site vocational support.



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718-522-2122

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

**HKSB Suffolk County**  
1767 Veterans Memorial Hwy  
Islandia, NY 11749  
631-424-0022



In 2025, Helen Keller Services for the Blind delivered comprehensive services across three locations in Brooklyn, Nassau County, and Suffolk County—serving hundreds of individuals from early childhood through senior years. Our multidisciplinary teams of certified specialists provided personalized training and support, building pathways to independence, employment and community participation.

## Early Childhood & Youth Programs

**92**

Children's Learning Center students

**43**

Camp Helen Keller campers

## Rehabilitation & Clinical Services

Core Rehabilitation Services provide essential training enabling participants to navigate independently, manage daily living tasks, and access digital technology. Certified specialists deliver Orientation & Mobility instruction, Vision Rehabilitation Training, Independent Living Skills training, Social Casework support, and comprehensive Assistive Technology Center training.

Through personalized assessments and hands-on training, participants master cutting-edge devices and software—from screen readers and magnification tools to smart home devices—designed to improve communication, information access, and productivity. Low Vision Services at three clinic locations provide comprehensive evaluations and training with adaptive devices—addressing conditions including retinitis pigmentosa, macular degeneration, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy.

**901**

Low vision clinical services

**114**

Orientation & Mobility training

**107**

Vision Rehabilitation training

**155**

Social Casework clients



## The Children's Learning Center

The Children's Learning Center offers comprehensive programs for preschool children who are blind, have low vision, or other disabilities including autism, Down syndrome, and pervasive developmental delays. As the only center in New York City specializing in serving these students, the CLC provides academic, social, and therapeutic supports to prepare children for kindergarten and beyond.

The program uses a whole-student approach that considers every aspect of development—including vision and hearing ability, communication skills, social and emotional skills, cognitive abilities, and motor skills. By accounting for these factors along with each student's strengths and preferences, the multidisciplinary team makes meaningful adaptations, provides inclusive and integrated communication, and offers sensory support that significantly impacts outcomes. Services include in-home early intervention for infants and toddlers and full-day preschool programming integrating therapeutic services. Programming incorporates music therapy, visual arts, movement classes, and adaptive technology integration.

### Comprehensive, Multidisciplinary Support

- Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVIs) trained to work with children who have complex needs
- Speech-Language Pathologists who address communication development and assistive tech needs
- Occupational Therapists focusing on fine motor skills, sensory processing, and daily activities
- Physical Therapists supporting gross motor development, mobility, and balance
- Social Workers and Family Support Coordinators who partner with families throughout their journey

Children arrive at age three facing significant developmental challenges and work with specialists on essential early childhood skills—communication and language development, fine and gross motor skills, social interaction with peers, and building independence. By graduation, children have made remarkable strides, gaining skills and confidence that prepare them for the next phase of their education. The Parent Resource Center provides multilingual family support, and weekly updates help families reinforce developmental skills at home.



## Camp Helen Keller | 5-week summer program for children ages 4-15

For over 70 years, Camp Helen Keller has provided children ages 4-15 who are blind or have low vision with transformative summer experiences at no cost to families. Hosted at LIU Post Campus in Brookville, Camp Helen Keller is a place where barriers transform into opportunities and campers discover new ways to express themselves, connect with others who share their journey, and experience a world without limits.

Throughout the summer, campers participated in swimming, arts & crafts, music, dance, and adapted sports while building confidence and independence in a supportive environment. Special themed days created lasting memories – from Jurassic Park Day (where NYS Assemblyman John Mikulin joined in the fun) to an epic foam party celebration (where Town of North Hempstead Supervisor Jen DeSena dove right into the festivities alongside our campers).

This summer's exciting field trips, including unforgettable days at Urban Air, Snapology, iFly Trapeze, and Adventureland Long Island, were made possible thanks to a grant from The Viscardi Center's Viscardi Investment Program (VIP) as venture philanthropy via a donation from John and Janet Kornreich. From thrilling water rides to zip-lining experiences, our campers embraced new challenges and proved that adventure truly has no boundaries.

The season culminated in a spectacular Beatlemania-themed showcase where campers took the stage with remarkable confidence and creativity, performing everything from "Yellow Submarine" to "All You Need is Love." We were honored to welcome NYS Assemblymen Ed Ra and Mike Durso, along with Town of North Hempstead Supervisor Jen DeSena, to this celebration, where they joined parents, family members, and supporters in witnessing the magic that happens at Camp Helen Keller.

As camp concluded, NYS Assemblyman Chuck Lavine surprised our campers with a special visit, presenting Camp Helen Keller with a \$30,000 grant to ensure children who are blind or have low vision can continue having these transformative summer experiences on Long Island. We appreciate our amazing staff, families, and all our supporters who make Camp Helen Keller a place where friendships flourish, confidence grows, and every child experiences a summer of wonder and discovery.



## Employment & Technology Programs

Comprehensive employment services guide participants along a clear pathway from assessment through successful job placement and ongoing support. Vocational specialists help individuals build the skills, confidence, and strategies needed for competitive employment through personalized coaching, work-readiness preparation, resume development, and interview practice. Work Experience Trials and internships offer real-world learning with employer partners—supported on site by vocational specialists who help identify accommodations and provide ongoing coaching to strengthen workplace success.

**82**

Assistive technology assessments

**44**

Assistive technology trainings

**34**

TEAM Program participants

**5**

Teen Tech Program students

**13**

Work Experiences for participants

**11**

Job placements

Teen Tech introduces students ages 14–18 to the digital tools and accessibility strategies they'll use in school, training programs, and first jobs. Through hands-on practice with common workplace platforms like Microsoft Windows, screen readers and magnification, video conferencing, and Office applications, students build confidence, independence, and practical tech fluency they can carry into next steps.

TEAM (Technology, Employment, Achievement, Mastery) is designed for blind and low vision professionals. Participants progress through a structured curriculum that builds advanced productivity skills while integrating the professional competencies employers expect. Delivered by instructors with deep accessibility expertise, TEAM helps participants connect what they learn to real job tasks, strengthening confidence and competitiveness for office, technology, and customer-facing roles. Job roles of TEAM Program graduates include: Administrative Assistant; Senior Administrative Analyst; Project Manager; Health Care Advocate; Assistive Technology Instructor; and Braille & Audio Technician.

In 2026, HKSBS will expand our employment-focused technology programs with two new, fully remote programs designed to reach participants nationwide. **A11Y Fundamentals** builds the core navigation, screen reader, and introductory web accessibility skills needed to evaluate websites and document findings. From there, participants can advance to the **Digital Accessibility Testing Academy (DATA)**, an intensive training pathway focused on WCAG-aligned testing workflows, professional reporting, and career-ready preparation for roles in digital accessibility testing.



## Adaptive Living Program (ALP) for Older Adults

The Adaptive Living Program for Seniors (ages 55+) helps older adults maintain independence despite vision loss from age-related conditions including diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, cataracts, and glaucoma. Services include in-home environmental modifications, technology training, and personalized mobility instruction covering essential skills from indoor safety to outdoor travel and public transportation use. Low vision evaluations from New York State certified specialists provide adaptive equipment recommendations and strategies to help seniors continue favorite activities independently.

**407**

Adaptive Living  
Program participants

## Sight Through Support: Community-Based Vision Loss Support for Nassau Seniors

Launched in early 2025, our Sight Through Support program brings peer connection and adaptive strategies directly to seniors experiencing vision loss. What began at Hempstead Senior Center expanded to Wantagh by summer, now offering weekly sessions at both locations. Led by Clinical Program Director of Social Work, participants access educational resources, guest presentations on topics like assistive technology and health management, and the meaningful peer support that makes adjusting to vision loss less isolating.



## Services for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Helen Keller Services is proud to provide support and services to people with developmental disabilities and are either blind/low vision or DeafBlind, a population that requires specialized services that are tailored to their specific needs.

In HKS' Wantagh group home, we currently support five blind/low vision individuals. This program has been operating for 24 years and provides training to help the people living there to become independent with managing their finances, shopping, caring for their home, and many areas of their lives. In addition, the program maintains an active recreation schedule, providing the individuals with a wide range of activities both at home and in the community.

HKS' Destiny Home is unique in New York State as it is the only group home certified by the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to support individuals who are DeafBlind. Opened in 2008, Destiny was founded to provide a home for people whose unique needs were best served by a team of staff who are able to communicate with them in their preferred mode, whether it was American Sign Language, object cues, or the use of assistive technology such as an iPad paired a braille display. This one of a kind program stands a model of person centered support and the belief that every person deserves a place to live where accessible and preferred communication is a cornerstone principle.

The Day Habilitation Program at Hempstead and Islandia provides person-centered support for adults with developmental disabilities through small 3:1 participant-to-staff ratios, enabling individualized planning and skill development. Programming includes personal care, meal preparation, budgeting, assistive technology, orientation and mobility, and pre-vocational training, along with arts and crafts, music, community outings, and social activities.

**50**

Day Habilitation participants

**10**

Individuals supported in community residences



## Expanding the Children's Learning Center

Helen Keller Services is expanding our Children's Learning Center program to Long Island, opening two new locations in 2026. For almost four decades, the CLC has provided specialized early childhood education for children ages 3–5 who are blind or have low vision, as well as children with autism, Down syndrome, and complex developmental needs. Through coordinated, multidisciplinary support, children receive the educational and therapeutic services they need during the most formative years.

On Long Island, families face limited options for comprehensive specialized preschool programs. This expansion represents a significant investment in early childhood infrastructure, bringing our proven model directly to Nassau and Suffolk County communities where these comprehensive services have not been readily available.

Two new locations will serve up to 120 children annually. Each center is being designed with accessible classrooms and specialized spaces where multidisciplinary teams—teachers, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists—work together daily, aligning instruction and therapy to support each child's development. Early childhood is a critical period for development. Access to appropriate support during the preschool years can influence long-term educational and functional outcomes.

The success of this expansion depends on strategic partnerships, community support, and philanthropic investment. By supporting this initiative, partners help ensure that children across Nassau and Suffolk Counties have access to comprehensive specialized services during the critical early years—strengthening Long Island's early childhood infrastructure and enabling long-term educational and developmental success for children with complex needs.



## **I Learned What I Am Capable Of: Anthony's Story**

When Anthony walked into his first Assistive Technology Center (ATC) session at Helen Keller Services for the Blind, he didn't know what to expect. The ATC provides individualized training in screen readers, computer access, and workplace technology solutions for individuals who are blind or have low vision.

His trainer, Joe Dinero, outlined what Anthony would learn and what he'd gain from the program. "Joe and the rest of the HKSB staff made me feel comfortable and gave me the confidence I needed to succeed," Anthony recalls.

***"Helen Keller Services for the Blind changed my life. They helped open my mind to what I am capable of—and to the support systems available for people like me." - Anthony***

Toward the end of his ATC training, Joe recommended Anthony for the TEAM program—Technology, Employment, Achievement, and Mastery. TEAM is a remote learning initiative where small cohorts build advanced skills in Microsoft Office, professional networking, and digital workplace readiness.

Anthony was nervous. He knew it would be a significant commitment. "I had hardly used programs like Excel and Outlook," he says, "let alone with only a keyboard."

Our TEAM Program instructors changed his outlook. "From day one, they showed nothing but patience and genuine care," Anthony says. "They were always available to answer questions and built an environment that invited us to learn."

Regular check-ins helped participants stay grounded throughout the process. After completing TEAM, Anthony transitioned to Work Experience Training—a program that places participants in real work environments with support from HKSB vocational specialists. He was matched with a nonprofit organization, where he took on grant writing responsibilities.

"Thanks to the skills I developed in both ATC training and the TEAM program, I was able to excel in that role," he says. Upon completing his training, Anthony interviewed at a company specializing in digital accessibility. He got the job—and now serves as an account manager, helping organizations make their websites more accessible.

HKSB's Assistive Technology Center and employment-focused tech programs serve individuals who are blind or have low vision seeking to advance their careers in today's digital workplace. The next success story is already underway.



## From Uncertainty to Entrepreneurship: Johnny's Story

Six years ago, Johnny Severino went to bed with vision and woke up the next morning without it. Diabetic retinopathy had taken his sight in a single night. "I went through depression, I went through frustration, I went through anger," he recalls. Nearly two years passed before he finally connected with HKSB. That connection changed everything.

Johnny began with independent living training, learning to navigate his world without sight. His first orientation and mobility lesson was terrifying—"My legs were like two boiled spaghettis," he remembers—but he persevered, mastering white cane techniques and street navigation. Before HKSB, Johnny had no idea that assistive technology existed or how individuals who are blind or have low vision navigate digital environments. The Assistive Technology Center opened his world to entirely new possibilities.

The TEAM program became his turning point. Over six months, Johnny immersed himself in JAWS screen reader, NVDA, Windows navigation, and Microsoft Office. "All of them were challenging," he admits. With instructor Marcia's guidance, Johnny transformed from uncertain beginner to confident user. Within just a month or two of starting TEAM, Johnny had an idea. Watching other blind individuals struggle with technology, he realized he could help. Some people suggested it would be too hard, but Johnny pursued this ambition regardless. The concept persisted and grew stronger.

What followed was itself a valuable learning experience. Johnny researched business structures, registration processes, and service models. He consulted with his vocational counselor, who encouraged the idea while advising him to proceed carefully. The process of establishing JS Tech for the Blind—from concept development to official registration—became its own form of work experience, building confidence alongside practical business skills.

Johnny is active in the blind and low vision community, regularly attending events and support groups where he connects with potential clients and fellow advocates. Through word of mouth and these community connections, he has built a growing client base. Using phone, Zoom, and in-person sessions, Johnny teaches clients to navigate screen readers, smartphones, and other assistive technologies. He also introduces emerging AI tools like Be My Eyes, Seeing AI, and Meta AI Ray-Ban glasses when appropriate for his students' needs. He's available whenever clients need support, even during their most frustrated moments. "I explain to them that it's not easy. It's going to take time," drawing from his own experience.

In spring 2026, Johnny plans to launch his website and expand JS Tech for the Blind into an LLC, formalizing what has already become a meaningful service to his community. "Helen Keller Services has done so much for me," Johnny reflects. "They went above and beyond." Johnny's message to others facing vision loss is simple but powerful: "You are not alone."

From TEAM program graduate to business owner, Johnny exemplifies how HKSB's comprehensive training empowers individuals to chart their own paths forward. After mastering assistive technology himself, he recognized he could share that knowledge with others facing similar challenges. When Johnny's students call to share their breakthroughs—navigating a website independently for the first time, sending their first email using a screen reader—he knows exactly what that moment means.

"I feel proud of it," Johnny says of his journey from vision loss to helping others navigate similar transitions. That pride is well-earned.



## From Camper to Counselor to Colleague: Tom's Story

Tom has known Helen Keller Services his entire life. Born with a visual impairment and connected to the Commission for the Blind since birth, Tom first experienced HKS as a camper at Camp Helen Keller at age five. Nearly two decades later, he'd walk into the HKS Islandia office—not as a participant, but as a colleague.

During his senior year of high school, Tom began receiving assistive technology training and orientation and mobility instruction from Helen Keller Services. That fall, he enrolled at the University of Hartford to study audio engineering and music production.

***“HKS helped me become very independent, not just at work, but in my life!” - Tom Ryan***

But during his first semester, Tom's cornea began failing. His vision deteriorated rapidly, and navigating this crisis while away from home became overwhelming. “Being away from your comfort zone... it was really stressful,” Tom recalls. He withdrew and returned home, then underwent cornea transplant surgery that spring.

The experience shifted his perspective. Tom turned to Helen Keller Services' Youth Services program for vocational support. Tom participated in soft skills training groups that helped him prepare for the world of work. In the summer of 2016, Tom returned to Camp Helen Keller—this time as a counselor. “I really enjoyed it because it taught me a lot about helping other individuals who have similar experiences that I did,” he says.

From 2019 to 2023, Tom served as a camp director at Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck, a summer camp and year-round respite facility for children and young adults with special needs in Center Moriches, deepening his commitment to disability services. While attending Suffolk County Community College, a counselor introduced him to rehabilitation counseling—and Tom pursued graduate training in the field.

Tom earned his bachelor's degree at SUNY Empire State College in 2022 and was then accepted into the Rehabilitation Counseling master's program at Hofstra University. For his first practicum placement, he reached out to someone he hadn't spoken with in nearly a decade—his former youth counselor, Karen Barrett, Program Director of Placement Services at Helen Keller Services.

Tom completed his practicum with Helen Keller Services, then moved to the Commission for the Blind for his final internship in spring 2025. In December 2025, he graduated with his master's degree in rehabilitation counseling. In January 2026, Tom officially joined the Helen Keller Services team as Youth Coordinator/Employment Training Specialist in the Islandia office.

When Tom thinks about the young people he'll serve—nervous, uncertain, wondering what's possible—he sees himself. “I was so intimidated at that age... you really don't know what's out there,” he says. His message to them is grounded in his own experience: “Come with an open mind, be ready to learn, and understand that there are possibilities out there.”



## Tech Blitz 2025 Brings Community Together for Day of Innovation, Discovery, and Connection

Tech Blitz returned to Helen Keller National Center for its third year on May 15, 2025, bringing together assistive technology vendors and the blind, DeafBlind, and low vision community. The event's continued growth reflects the value of its focused approach. Unlike larger conferences, Tech Blitz creates space for in-depth demonstrations and direct exchanges between technology developers and end users. With comprehensive communication support including ASL and tactile interpreters throughout the day, vendors gained practical feedback while community members explored solutions ranging from AI-powered navigation tools to refreshable braille displays and smart home technologies.

This year marked increased community involvement in the event itself. HKNC participants enrolled in a Tech Blitz planning class researched university accessibility offices, created registration materials, and staffed the event alongside our professional team. Great Neck South High School's Rebel Robotics Team brought their competition robot, creating unexpected connections across different ways of experiencing and communicating about technology. The timing also aligned with our Regional Representatives' bi-annual meetings, bringing together current participants, alumni, and regional staff for extended networking and shared learning.

Sponsors including Bellman & Symfon, Samsung, Signia, and C TECH showcased both specialized assistive devices and mainstream products with built-in accessibility features. Notable demonstrations included American Printing House's Monarch braille display, Tatum Robotics' T1 Fingerspelling Hand designed specifically for DeafBlind communication, and the Andrew Heiskell Library's work in accessible graphics. Local businesses Amalfi Pizza, Crazy Cakes, Gino's, Harbor Deli, Yummy Gyro, and Smusht donated food for attendees and staff.



## AccessAbility Awards

In October 2025, we honored five remarkable organizations at our 2025 AccessAbility Awards ceremony at the Helen Keller National Center. Since launching in 2021, these awards have recognized industry leaders who understand that accessibility is more than a compliance checkbox—it's essential for creating a world where everyone can fully participate.

This year's honorees span technology, infrastructure, arts, and education: ADP for embedding accessibility throughout their organization and products serving 1.1 million clients; Tatum Robotics for developing the first tactile ASL fingerspelling robotic hand for the DeafBlind community; Polara Enterprises for nearly three decades pioneering safer, more accessible intersections; The Heckscher Museum of Art for comprehensive accessibility across digital and physical experiences; and Teach Access for reaching 1.5 million students through curriculum integration, faculty grants, and free courses—addressing accessibility at its educational foundation.

What shapes our perspective is our daily work with individuals who are blind, DeafBlind, and have low vision—helping them develop skills, pursue careers, and build independent lives. Through our vocational rehabilitation and independence training programs, we see the real impact when organizations embraced and prioritized accessibility. When organizations embrace accessible design, they create better experiences for everyone—and we're committed to recognizing and celebrating those who lead the way.

We were honored to have Nassau County Office for the Physically Challenged Director Matthew Dwyer in attendance (pictured top right), who presented each awardee with a special citation from the Nassau County Executive's Office. Every accessible workplace, every inclusive design choice, every thoughtful approach opened doors for the individuals we serve and the broader disability community.



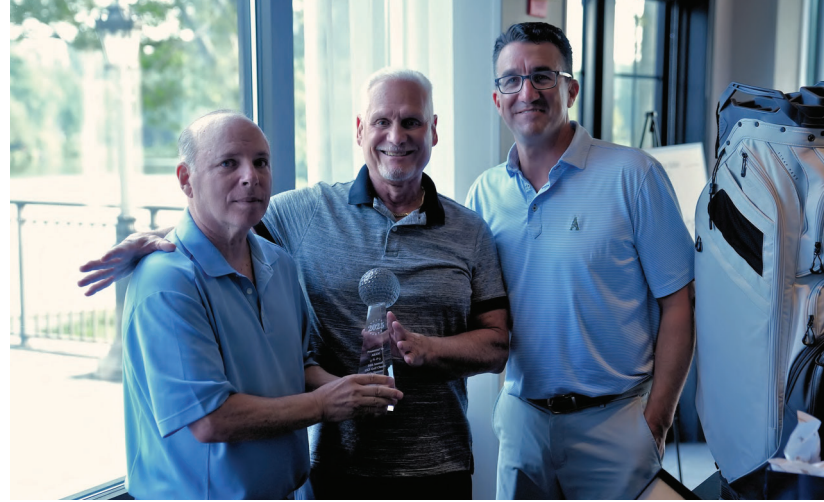
## Dining in the Dark – Shifting Perspectives

On May 17, 2025, Helen Keller Services hosted its Dining in the Dark benefit at the historic Castle Gould at Sands Point Preserve. This immersive evening invited guests to step beyond familiar perspectives and experience a farm-to-table meal under blindfold, offering meaningful insights into how individuals who are blind, DeafBlind, or have low vision navigate meals and daily life. Guided by expert instruction from Maricar Marquez, Supervisor of Independent Living at Helen Keller National Center, attendees discovered how their senses heightened when visual cues were removed.

Many guests found themselves seated among DeafBlind staff members, creating natural opportunities for connection and conversation facilitated through interpreters using tactile ASL and haptics. The evening's most powerful moment came during a conversation between Ryan Odland, Associate Executive Director, and Ashley Benton, Director of Field Services at HKNC, who shared their remarkable journeys from program participants to organizational leaders. Their stories demonstrated that accessibility isn't just about accommodation—it's about creating opportunities for everyone to fully participate and contribute their unique gifts.

We extend deep gratitude to our Visionary Sponsor, Global Industrial, along with LISS Technologies and the McCaffrey Family, for their generous support. Special thanks to Green Top Farms for their culinary artistry and Sands Point Preserve for providing the perfect venue.

At events like Dining in the Dark, we are reminded of the beauty and richness that can be found in experiencing the world from a different perspective. We deeply appreciate connecting with our community of supporters and engaging with new friends, offering everyone an opportunity to learn more about the breadth of our programs and services and the difference Helen Keller Services makes in the lives of individuals we serve across both divisions.



## 34th Annual Golf Classic

The 34th Annual Helen Keller Services Golf Classic on Monday, June 23, 2025, at the Village Club of Lake Success brought together over 130 golfers and guests and raised over \$120,000 in support of our vital programs and services. This year marked a significant milestone with AKAM joining as Title Sponsor, reflecting growing corporate recognition of our work and impact.

Participants enjoyed continental breakfast before the shotgun start, BBQ lunch on the turn, and an evening cocktail reception and awards dinner that celebrated both the day's competition and collective purpose. The day featured the beloved "Kinitsky's Bullseye" challenge, where Board of Trustees member Ed Tepper landed his shot just 8 inches from the pin.

Under the leadership of Board Chairman Larry Kinitsky, the Golf Classic has become one of our signature fundraising events. The \$120,000 raised in 2025 supports specialized vocational training, assistive technology programs, and comprehensive rehabilitation services that enable DeafBlind individuals and those who are blind or have low vision to achieve competitive employment and meaningful independence in their communities.

We extend our deepest appreciation to Title Sponsor AKAM and all event sponsors: Benedict Realty Group, Borah Goldstein Altschuler Nahins & Goidel PC, Corporate Synergies Group LLC, Cullen & Dykman, Eagle Sanitation, Epic Insurance Brokers, Hydraulic Plumbing & Heating, Lawless & Mangione Architects & Engineers LLP, LISS Technologies, Schneider Buchel LLP, SEBCO Laundry Systems, Windsor Park Owners Corp, and Xinos Construction Group.

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## Helen's 5K Run/Walk



On November 2, 2025, nearly 200 runners, walkers, volunteers, and supporters participated in Helen's 5K Run/Walk at Sands Point Preserve and Helen Keller National Center. This USATF-certified event has become a cornerstone of our annual fundraising efforts, drawing participants from across Long Island.

The event raised funds supporting the Children's Learning Center Long Island expansion and communication access services at HKNC—ensuring ASL interpreting, tactile interpreting, and Support Service Provider services remain available where they're needed most. The morning brought together participants of all abilities, families, corporate teams, and community members. The visible energy and engagement throughout the day reflected the strong connection our community has to supporting our mission.

The course began at the historic Sands Point Preserve before finishing at HKNC's scenic campus, where the awards ceremony recognized top finishers across multiple age and ability categories. The post-race festival featured vendors, food, and activities, with Bach To Rock of Port Washington providing live music throughout the morning.

Corporate partners and community sponsors played an essential role in the event's success: AKAM, Dime Bank, Ocean First Bank, Cleanco Distributors, Jersey Mike's Subs of Albertson, NY, Spectrum Design, Sysco, and Krystal Fruits and Vegetables.

Helen's 5K continues to demonstrate the impact of community partnership, bringing together individual participants, corporate sponsors, volunteers, and local businesses in support of programs that serve individuals who are blind, DeafBlind, or have low vision.



## Through Our Hands: A Tactile Art Exhibit

On July 16, 2025, HKNC unveiled "Through Our Hands: Creativity Through Touch and Expression" at The Art Guild in Manhasset—a tactile art exhibition showcasing the extraordinary artistic talent of our DeafBlind participants. Art therapist Antonia Isnardi led the exhibition, which emerged from HKNC's creative arts therapy program. The program serves as a therapeutic outlet and vital support service within our comprehensive vocational rehabilitation, helping participants build confidence and discover powerful pathways for self-expression.

For the DeafBlind community, art transcends conventional boundaries—it becomes a language of its own. Each piece displayed told stories of perseverance, problem-solving, and meaningful choices. The collection featured paintings, sculptures, and mixed media works that invited viewers not just to observe, but to touch, connect, and truly engage through multiple senses.

We're grateful to Hearts PW for generously sponsoring the exhibition and to The Art Guild for providing the ideal venue. Together, they created a space for fostering genuine community connection and deeper understanding of the DeafBlind experience. The opening night reception was extraordinary, with participants standing proudly beside their works, engaging directly with visitors through tactile communication and interpreters. The exhibition demonstrated that with appropriate support and opportunities, creativity can flourish without limits.



## Follow My Art: Creativity Beyond Campus

In June 2025, Laura Bollet established Follow My Art for DeafBlind participants to continue their creative journey after completing training at HKNC. Through this initiative, participants receive gift cards from Blick Art Materials, made possible by individual donors, allowing them to independently order art supplies in their home communities. We are deeply grateful to Laura for launching this meaningful program and to the donors whose support helps participants stay connected to their artistic passions after they leave campus.



## **Bridging Innovation and Experience: Helen Keller Services and Polara Collaborate on Pedestrian Accessibility**

In March 2025, Helen Keller Services partnered with Polara Enterprises, the nation's leading manufacturer of accessible pedestrian signals (APS), for a groundbreaking two-day workshop that transformed how infrastructure decision-makers understand accessibility. This collaboration brought together traffic engineers from Nassau County, Suffolk County, and New York State with orientation and mobility specialists and community members at HKS locations in Brooklyn and Sands Point—creating a powerful intersection of technical innovation and lived experience.

The workshop invited traffic engineers and professionals who design and implement street infrastructure to navigate busy Port Washington intersections under blindfold, guided by HKS's certified orientation and mobility specialists. These decision-makers experienced firsthand the barriers faced by individuals who are blind, DeafBlind, or have low vision when accessible pedestrian signals are absent, insights that data alone could never provide.

The impact was immediate and profound. Engineers left with completely new perspectives that will directly influence future infrastructure planning across New York communities.

The workshop's impact extended beyond changing professional perspectives. Community members who are blind or DeafBlind participated in discussions to better understand accessible pedestrian signal technology and practical advocacy strategies—knowledge they can use to champion accessibility improvements in their own neighborhoods

In September 2025, a Senior Orientation & Mobility Instructor with HKNC worked alongside Polara representatives, Traffic Systems Inc., and NY State DOT Region 10 representatives for a hands-on installation and setup of APS systems with PedApp technology—a mobile application that provide real-time crossing information directly to smartphones. Together, the team activated PedApp on all four corners and increased the APS volume to better serve the wider community. One of our Community Service Program participants who previously couldn't travel safely beyond her corner due to a dangerous intersection now has access to the APS she needs to navigate her community independently.

This partnership exemplifies Helen Keller Services' unique leadership between innovative technology and real-world implementation. By bringing together technology providers, community members, mobility specialists, and transportation officials, HKS created a collaborative space where technical expertise and lived experience combine to drive meaningful accessibility advances.

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# FINANCIALS

**Helen Keller Services  
Statements of Financial Position  
June 30, 2025 and 2024**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 7,330,285	\$ 5,548,064
Grants receivable	2,022,915	2,000,328
Program fees and accounts receivable, net	5,316,833	5,351,735
Investments	98,464,696	85,553,685
Other assets	<u>1,381,929</u>	<u>834,219</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>114,516,658</u>	<u>99,288,031</u>
Investments	10,842,445	10,462,448
Right to use assets - operating	26,541,322	26,904,690
Property and equipment, net	10,887,851	11,768,098
Investment in trusts	<u>2,478,070</u>	<u>2,504,923</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>\$ 165,266,346</u>	<u>\$ 150,928,190</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expense	\$ 3,498,748	\$ 4,060,287
Contract liability	421,404	421,404
Current portion of operating lease liabilities	1,808,355	1,067,553
Other current liabilities	<u>75,743</u>	<u>56,273</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>5,804,250</u>	<u>5,605,517</u>
Refundable deposits	113,100	108,767
Operating lease liabilities, net of current portion	<u>30,648,333</u>	<u>31,698,751</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>36,565,683</u>	<u>37,413,035</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Without donor restrictions	<u>124,674,094</u>	<u>109,258,110</u>
With donor restrictions		
Time and purpose restricted	1,097,154	1,300,287
Perpetual trusts	2,478,070	2,505,413
Endowment funds	<u>451,345</u>	<u>451,345</u>
<b>Total Net Assets With Donor Restrictions</b>	<u>4,026,569</u>	<u>4,257,045</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u>128,700,663</u>	<u>113,515,155</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<u>\$ 165,266,346</u>	<u>\$ 150,928,190</u>

# FINANCIALS

## Helen Keller Services Statements of Activities Years Ended June 30, 2025 and 2024

	2025		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
<b>Revenues, Gains, and Other Support</b>			
Contributions	\$ 1,404,906	\$ 113,929	\$ 1,518,835
Legacies	261,692	-	261,692
Special events			
Gross receipts	162,791	-	162,791
Less direct donor benefits	(98,549)	-	(98,549)
<b>Total Public Support</b>	<u>1,730,840</u>	<u>113,929</u>	<u>1,844,769</u>
National Center for DeafBlind Youths and Adults - grant income	23,094,293	-	23,094,293
Helen Keller Services for the Blind - grant income	595,264	-	595,264
Training fees and allowance	13,536,692	-	13,536,692
<b>Total Fees and Grants From Government Agencies</b>	<u>37,226,249</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,226,249</u>
Rental income			
Gross receipts	777,413	-	777,413
Less direct costs	(131,837)	-	(131,837)
Interest and dividend income	2,159,755	-	2,159,755
Gain on sale of building	8,236,323	-	8,236,323
Miscellaneous	8,853	-	8,853
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<u>11,050,507</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,050,507</u>
<b>Net Assets Released From Restrictions</b>	<u>317,062</u>	<u>(317,062)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support</b>	<u>50,324,658</u>	<u>(203,133)</u>	<u>50,121,525</u>

# FINANCIALS

**Helen Keller Services  
Statements of Activities  
Years Ended June 30, 2025 and 2024**

**(Continued)**

	2025		Total
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	
<b>Expenses</b>			
Comprehensive services	\$ 5,518,645	\$ -	\$ 5,518,645
Day habilitation services	3,121,201	-	3,121,201
Children's Learning Center	4,624,540	-	4,624,540
Summer camp	274,827	-	274,827
National Center for DeafBlind Youths and Adults	20,689,556	-	20,689,556
National Center on DeafBlindness	1,975,353	-	1,975,353
Residential	976,413	-	976,413
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>37,180,535</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>37,180,535</b>
Management and general	5,049,242	-	5,049,242
Fundraising	1,564,990	-	1,564,990
<b>Total Support Services</b>	<b>6,614,232</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,614,232</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>43,794,767</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>43,794,767</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets Before Net Investment Return</b>	<b>6,529,891</b>	<b>(203,133)</b>	<b>6,326,758</b>
<b>Net Investment Return</b>	<b>8,886,093</b>	<b>(27,343)</b>	<b>8,858,750</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>15,415,984</b>	<b>(230,476)</b>	<b>15,185,508</b>
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>109,258,110</b>	<b>4,257,045</b>	<b>113,515,155</b>
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 124,674,094</b>	<b>\$ 4,026,569</b>	<b>\$ 128,700,663</b>



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