



# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

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Greater Detroit Agency for the  
Blind & Visually Impaired

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*Power Over Eye Health & Vision Loss*

# Education

GDABVI's programs and services specifically address the needs of individuals as they transition through vision loss. We base our offerings in self-sufficiency and a system of care that builds on each client's prior or existing knowledge and skills to help instill, improve, and enhance their independence.

This often requires a need for socioemotional support through a grief process that varies from person to person. We provide daily living and technology services to help people "re-tool" and prepare to achieve the goals they've set for themselves. We then guide them through real world experiences - outings - that allow them to use these skills in public settings. This includes using travel skills to access ride share or public transportation, orientation and mobility to navigate crowded outdoor settings or inaccessible indoor activities, technology through smart devices to help ensure safety and bridge inaccessibility, and new social skills to provide essential human connectivity.

Additionally, our staff is committed to continuous learning that supports current services and new approaches.



"I feel that every person who's visually impaired, blind or whatever their situation is, needs to take this class because it's very, very good and I learned a whole lot."

- A Grateful Client

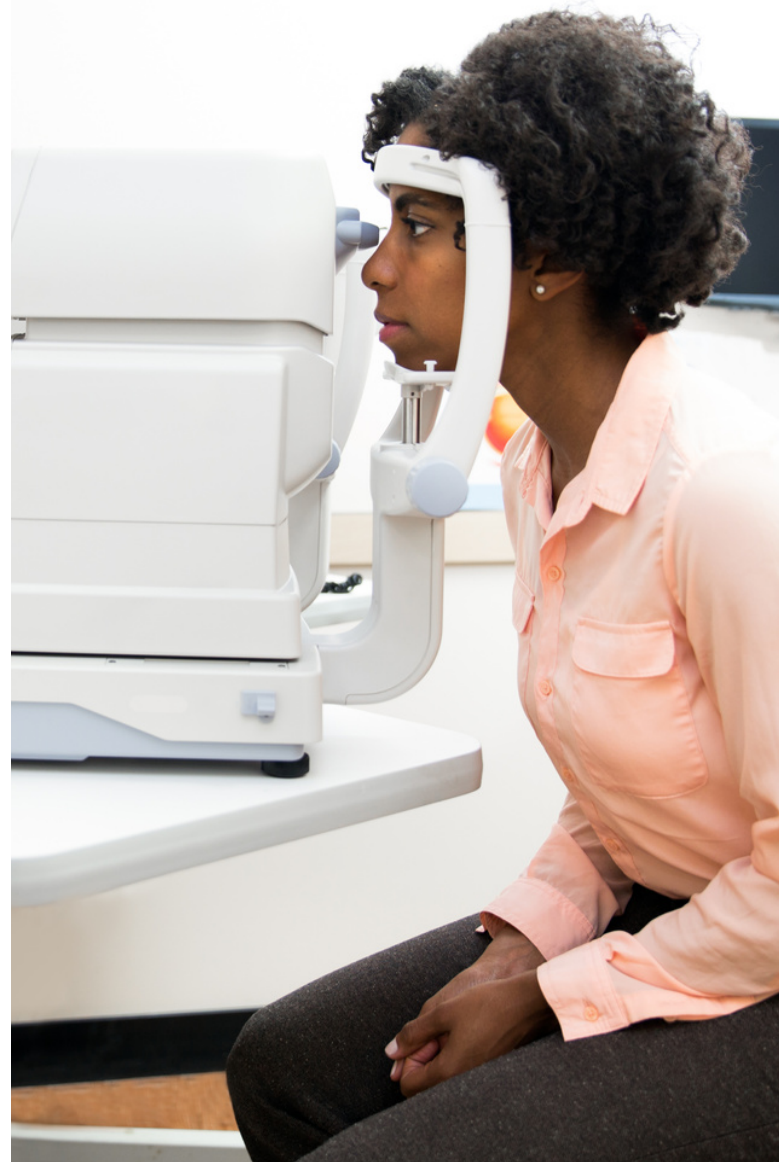
# Equity

At GDABVI, our quest for equity expresses itself in three primary ways:

First, we believe that everyone has a right to the healthiest vision possible. Eye care shouldn't be limited by barriers such as access to proper healthcare, reliable transportation, nutritious food, safe and affordable housing, or a good education. We provide social services navigation to help clients overcome these challenges. Additionally, GDABVI's vision preservation efforts include generating awareness around healthy living behaviors and chronic disease management.

Secondly, we offer a safe and inclusive environment for those who've lost their vision. From our core values to our physical space, our teaching staff and educational methods, to events and activities, our agency embraces and demonstrates diversity, equity, inclusivity, belonging, and justice.

Finally, we advocate for the people we serve and support those who advocate for the rights of individuals who are blind, visually impaired, or disabled.



According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), diabetes is the main cause of blindness in adults aged 20 to 74 and a major cause of blindness for people 75 or older.\* Diabetic retinopathy is also largely preventable and controllable. With that in mind, GDABVI launched a partnership with the North Rosedale Park Farmers Market and hosted a field trip for clients and friends. About two dozen participants joined us to shop for fresh, healthy food, utilize their travel skills, and enjoy the social atmosphere of a crisp autumn evening.

\*<https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/library/factsheets/diabetes-and-healthy-eyes.html>

# Empowerment

Collectively, our programs, services, and activities give people power over their eye conditions and help prevent vision loss.

## We provide:

- Extensive training in activities of daily living (ADL) skills
- Introductory to advanced-level computer classes
- iPhone and Android device training
- Cane sizing and distribution
- Orientation and mobility training for safe travel
- Opportunities to socialize
- New Direction adult support group
- Public outings to use O&M travel skills
- Online vision health education series
- Youth reading room/braille library
- Help with social services for basic needs
- Online linkages to health professionals
- Healthy living tools and resources

Vision loss costs  
**over \$11,430**  
per person each year in Michigan in terms of medical care, supportive services, and productivity.

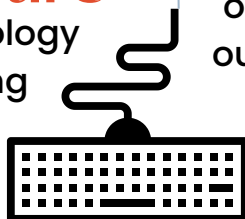


  
**1 in 4** people reaching out to us are seeking help with basic needs - especially food and housing.



**120**  
clients served

Provided more than  
**96 hours**  
of technology training



**208**  
online views of our educational series

Nearly  
**540**  
contact hours of community outreach



  
Our Movie Outings rated **4.5 stars** among participants!



What's the most helpful thing you learned?  
“**How to keep living my best life. Thank you all.**”  
- Melody, GDABVI Client

**61**  
years of service



We launched our new logo and new web site at  
[www.LifeBeyondSight.org](http://www.LifeBeyondSight.org)



We joined LinkedIn and increased our Facebook followers by **over 150%**

Our new address:  
**26777**  
Central Park Blvd., Suite 150  
Southfield, MI 48076

# '22

Our mission is to provide services and support that help blind and visually impaired individuals live productive, independent lives with confidence and dignity.

## Our Message to You

We updated our core values this year to include Joy. Trying to attach the idea of "great pleasure and happiness" to the reality of blindness might seem aspirational to some, but we make it an everyday pursuit at GDABVI. We care about the people we serve. We care about each individual's path to sight loss. We care about giving people tools to preserve their vision when possible. We care about each person's challenges, dreams, and achievements, and how they feel on the journey to their goals. Our clients deserve to have laughter in their lives.

So, we're grateful for your trust in our mission. We thank you for enduring our pandemic pause. We appreciate your belief in our work. Together we can accomplish the big things we strive for as individuals and as an agency. #TeamGDABVI looks forward to helping lead the way to brighter days with you by our side. You bring us joy and we want to do the same for you.



**Stefanie Worth**  
Executive Director



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Fax: 313.272.6894  
[www.LifeBeyondSight.org](http://www.LifeBeyondSight.org)

### GDABVI Board of Directors

**Mallory Beard**  
*President*

CEO, Mallory Beard & Associates  
(Retired)

**Deborah Love**  
*Vice President &*

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HR and Finance professional  
President, Greater Metro Detroit Lions  
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Director at Michigan Commission for  
the Blind

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36th District Court Judge (retired),  
multi-award winning author,  
motivational speaker

**Randy Martin**

Community Member

**Roshni Patel**

*Chair, Fundraising Committee*

Retired Detroit Public Schools teacher  
Detroit Renaissance Lions Club, District  
Governor 11 A1

**Leonard W. Robinson**

Community Member

**Frederick J. Simpson**

*Past President*

Community Member

**John R. Spotts**

Community Member

### GDABVI Staff

**Aya Beydoun, M.S., CLVT**

Life Skills Specialist

**Malaika English, CCHW**

Community Care Coordinator

**Kashonia Graham**

Engagement & Outreach Coordinator

**Alice Landino, M.S.Ed.**

Orientation & Mobility Specialist

**Nina Mallia**

Program Operations Assistant

**Priscilla Miley, M.A., CVRT**

Program Manager

**Stefanie Worth, CFRE**

Executive Director

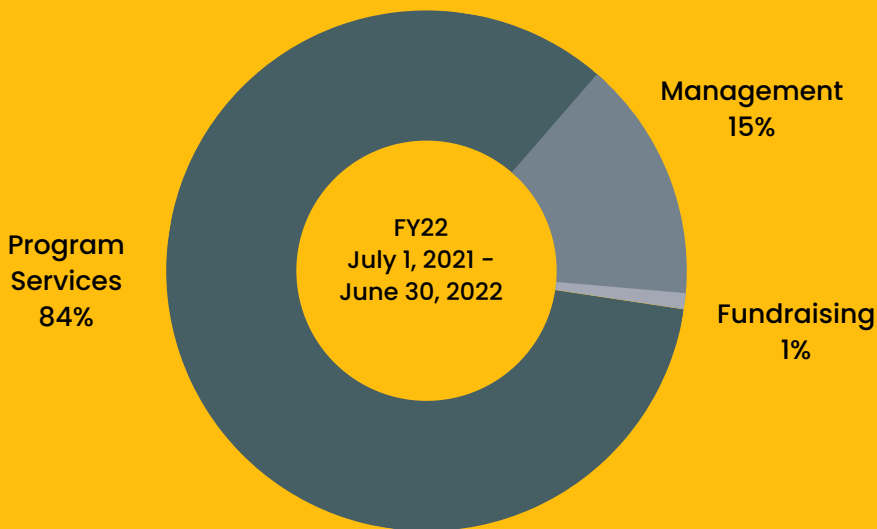


# Your Investment

For decades, GDABVI has been fortunate to have an endowment to support its critical services during difficult economic times. However, as with many other nonprofits, the pandemic accelerated the need for new approaches to our services. We were excited to face this challenge and re-launch programming in 2022 following limitations presented by COVID-19 during the previous two years.

We've emerged in this new space with new vision, new determination, new ideas, and thus a need for new funding channels. We look forward to maintaining our existing community partnerships while expanding our revenue streams in the coming years. We appreciate your support of this important work.

## Stewardship



*Our current 990 is available at [www.LifeBeyondSight.org/financials](http://www.LifeBeyondSight.org/financials)*

## Our Funders



## Upshaw Circle

**Pledged to provide \$500 or more in support for at least two years**

Alan Hayman  
(In Memory of Anita Hayman)  
Stefanie Worth  
Mallory L. Beard  
Susan & Larry Gormezano  
(In Memory of Tim Daniel)

## Major Donors

**\$500 or more in support**

Canton Lions Club  
Plymouth Lions Club  
John Gilchrist  
David Gumenick  
Lance Heilbrun

## Friends of the Agency

**\$100 - \$499 in support**

Anonymous  
John Daoud  
Detroit Renaissance Lions Club  
Garden City Lions Club  
Lula Gardfrey  
Pia Jarrett  
Christopher Loving  
Loyola High School Detroit  
Randolph Martin  
Melissa Merkau  
(In Memory of Dell J. Small)  
Northeast Detroit Lions Club  
Erwin A. Rubenstein, Rubenstein Isaacs, P.C.  
Frederick Simpson  
Trenton Lions Club  
The Tucker-Gruchala Family  
Wayne Lions Club

**Thank you for your continued support!**