



Visually Impaired Preschool Services
1906 Goldsmith Lane
Louisville, KY 40218

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Dear Friends,

At year's end, we often send pictures and letters to those dear to us as a way of celebrating the past as we embrace the future, the new year and beyond. Nothing makes a parent, grandparent, friend, aunt or uncle more proud than to look at a growing child and see how they have blossomed.

What a privilege it is for those of us who know and support VIPS to see our graduates embrace life and find for themselves their own personal best, their own sense of confidence, well being and success in whatever way is their own. VIPS graduates are well known and highly regarded as well-prepared wherever they continue their education. Children who have experienced their early years through VIPS may not even be aware of the cheerleaders they have behind them for life! After 25 years, the 'children' are now beginning to speak for themselves by their own accomplishments as they enter adulthood. The values which drive an agency like VIPS are embodied in these young adults who know the meaning of believing in oneself. They have the confidence to hope for more than others may dream. Families, teachers, specialists, administration and staff, board members, legislators, volunteers, donors, so many – each has played a part. May our passion bear joy in the hopes and dreams we share for our little ones, and our growing ones.

Terri Connolly,
Board President

ANOTHER GREAT YEAR FOR VIPS

Kosair Charities Kidstown welcomed two new neighbors: The UPS Store where our children learn to sort, stack, pack and unpack, and Highland Cleaners where washing their nap bedding, towels and aprons is an important life lesson. We thank these businesses for their support.

Thanks to the generosity of Brightside, Ky Eye Care and The Glass Slipper Society, a learning Sensory Garden was completed at the Louisville Preschool.

VIPS served 177 children and families through its Louisville Office and 105 children and families through its Central-KY Office.

VIPS provided 2,331 home and center visits to VIPS children and families.

VIPS teachers traveled 89,448 miles visiting children and families throughout the entire state of Kentucky and several counties in Southern Indiana.

VIPS sponsored 17 educational and fun events for VIPS-Louisville families, attended by 143 families and a total of 431 family members.

VIPS started a new "Fun Fridays" for eight weeks in the summer months welcoming community parents and children to join VIPS parents and children for entertaining learning modules.

VIPS held eight weekly sessions of its Summer Enrichment Program in its preschool wing.

VIPS-CK held Summer "Sense-ations" program for VIPS children and siblings.

VIPS worked to have 12 needy VIPS families adopted for Christmas by local groups and corporations.

VIPS used a total of 230 volunteers throughout the year, contributing nearly 2796 hours of service.

VIPS held two new fundraisers to raise awareness of visual impairment – Dining in the Dark and Toast the Vision.

VIPS was nominated for Business First's Business of the Year Award; GLI's Incredible Awards and BBB Torch Awards.



TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF HOPE



Our mission is to offer appropriate services to infants, toddlers and preschoolers who are visually impaired and to their families; to maximize each child's developmental potential through direct services, advocacy and community education.



Executive Director
Diane M. Nelson

**2009-2010
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Dear Wonderful Supporters of VIPS:

As VIPS celebrates providing "25 years of Hope", I want to thank each and every one of you for making it possible to meet this milestone through your very generous support. Over those 25 years, it has taken the commitment of many benefactors whose sole concern is the education, preparation and advancement of children that are blind or visually impaired. In 1985, VIPS began with a caseload of 8 children and \$10,000 from the Crusade for Children and \$10,000 from Metro United Way. In 2010, our caseload is close to 300 children throughout Kentucky and into Southern Indiana, and our budget is close to \$1,400,000. In addition to the continued support from Crusade and

MUW, we also receive very generous annual operating grants from Kosair Charities, Kentucky School for the Blind Charitable Foundation, Osmondson Charitable Fund and United Way of the Bluegrass. However, we would be unable to operate without your generosity – the individuals, corporations, foundations, organizations, friends and staff who continue to help us make it possible.

In this year of tough economic challenges and tremendous state budget cuts, I would especially like to acknowledge the huge blessing which came in the form of a gift of \$400,000 from Dr. Mark and Cindy Lynn. Mark and Cindy's gift of \$80,000 a year for the next five years will allow us to continue sending teachers wherever a child is diagnosed blind or visually impaired. I would also like to recognize some of the new foundation partners that provided support this year – The Owsley Brown Frazier Family Foundation, Brown-Forman, The Humana Foundation, The McCord Family Foundation and the Helen Schmid Foundation.

In its 25 years, VIPS supporters have created an agency that families turn to for hope. Throughout this report you will find the current stories of several VIPS graduates and where they are today. However, I also want to share the story of a remarkable family who transferred to Indiana from California last year and found out about VIPS through an internet search. Rebecca Davis is the mother of Eliza Clouse, a visually impaired four-year-old from Bloomington, Indiana. Rebecca drives Eliza to Louisville from Bloomington so she can attend our center-based Preschool program. Rebecca says, "It was so much more than I could ever have wished for Eliza's first education experience. She is taught by experienced, compassionate teachers with a wide variety of multi sensory approaches. Seeing her eyes light up when we come in the door every morning makes all the driving worthwhile. For us it means the difference between looking towards the future with hope instead of despair. Believe me, families of children with visual impairment in other states wish they had what you have here."

Truly this story reflects what you have made possible for these past 25 years ... HOPE. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your continued support and generosity. Here's to another 25 years of this very important work!!!

With heartfelt appreciation,

Diane M. Nelson
Executive Director

FINANCIAL DATA

July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

REVENUES

PUBLIC SUPPORT

Individuals	\$ 59,223
Corporations/Foundations	29,199
Grants	538,083
Special Events	290,804

OTHER REVENUE

Fees for Service	7,860
(Local Schools)	103,237
(Kentucky Early Intervention System)	119,985
"Can Do" Sales	38,516
Seven Counties Outreach	66,258
Miscellaneous Revenues	55,614

TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE 1,308,779

EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES

Personnel Costs	651,957
Operating Costs	263,099

OTHER EXPENSES

Facility Costs	72,940
Management and General*	231,206
Fundraising Expenses	188,246
"Can Do" Expenses	2,577

TOTAL PROGRAM/OTHER EXPENSES 1,410,025

Excess (Deficiency) of Public Support and Revenue Over Expenses (101,246)

These numbers do not reflect capital campaign pledge payments.

**These numbers reflect depreciation of \$98,114 which is not an actual out of pocket expense.*

VIPS strives to be a national leader in services to young children who are visually impaired and their families through adherence to evidence-based, best practices in the field of education of visually impaired and early childhood education.

DATA ON CHILDREN SERVED

July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

TOTAL CHILDREN SERVED 282

NEW REFERRALS 81

SERVICE TYPE

Direct	210
Outreach	51
Parent Support	16

BY AGE

Birth to 3	197
3 - 5 yr olds	52
5 yr olds and up	28

BY GENDER

Male	160
Female	117

BY RACE

Caucasian	200
African American	34
Hispanic	10
Bi-Racial	15
Asian	2
Other	6
Unknown	15

KENTUCKY COUNTIES SERVED

Allen, Anderson, Barren, Bell, Bourbon, Boyle, Breckenridge, Bullitt, Butler, Caldwell, Carroll, Clark, Crittenden, Daviess, Estill, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Hardin, Harlan, Hart, Henderson, Hopkins, Jefferson, Jessamine, Johnson, Kenton, Knox, Laurel, Letcher, Lincoln, Logan, Madison, Mason, Meade, Menifee, Mercer, Monroe, Montgomery, Oldham, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Robertson, Rowan, Russell, Scott, Shelby, Spencer, Trimble, Union, Warren, Whitley, Wolfe, Woodward

INDIANA COUNTIES SERVED

Clark, Floyd, Harrison, Jefferson, Scott



Terry then

Terry now

We contacted VIPS in November 1987 when Terry had been diagnosed with Leber's Congenital Amaurosis at his three month check up. We were stunned, saddened and afraid of what the future might hold for our son. Through VIPS we learned ways to exercise Terry's eyes and to stimulate his other senses. VIPS taught us not to dwell on what Terry could not do, but rather what he could do. Through positive role models such as Kenny and Maria Jones, we saw the possibilities that existed. We met so many wonderful and supportive families during that time in our life. These experiences were key in shaping Terry's personality and his determination to succeed. Terry graduated from Arizona State University in May 2010 with a BS in Biochemistry, a 4.0 GPA and has been accepted into four medical schools! In fall of 2011, he will start the next chapter in his life that would not have been possible were it not for the early intervention of VIPS.

Thanks to the following individuals and organizations that so generously supported VIPS during fiscal year 2009-10.

Please contact the VIPS office with any omissions or corrections.

\$250,000 AND ABOVE

Kosair Charities

\$100,000 TO \$249,999

Metro United Way

\$50,000 TO \$99,999

WHAS Crusade for Children, Inc.

\$10,000 TO \$49,999

Brown-Forman Corporation

Children's Charity Fund of the Bluegrass

Cralle Foundation, Inc.

Fred B. & Opal S. Woosley Foundation

KSB Charitable Foundation

Karston & Eithelyn Osmondson Charitable Fund

Linda Neville Foundation

Louisville Downtown Lions Club

NFLPA Kentucky Chapter

Owsley Brown Frazier Family Foundation

Texas Roadhouse

UPS Foundation, Inc.

United Way of the Bluegrass

\$5,000 TO \$9,999

Anonymous

Coca Cola Refreshments USA, Inc.

GE Employees Community Fund

Helen Schmid Foundation

Irvin F. & Alice S. Etscorn Charitable Foundation

KFC

Lexington Lions Club

Louisville-Jefferson Co. Metro Government

McCord Family Foundation, Inc.

PNC Bank

Mrs. Margaret T. Redmon

\$2,500 TO \$4,999

American Printing House for the Blind

\$1,000 TO \$2,499

ACE Group

ACOSTA

ADT Security Services

APW Wyott Foodservice Equip. CO

Amick Farms

BB&T Insurance

BC Natural Chicken, LLC

Bar S Foods, Inc.

Bardenwerper, Talbot & Roberts

Ms. Bonnie Lyn Bizer

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Buddeke, Jr.

Butterball, LLC

Cargill Meat Solutions Corp.

Carl Buddig & Company

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Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Connolly

Coventry Workers Comp Services

Creative Alliance

Dr. & Mrs. Craig Douglas

Duke Manufacturing Co.

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Estate of Kenneth Owens

Eye Care for Kids LTD

Mrs. Maud R. Fliegelman

Ms. Sandra Anne Frazier

Genex Services

Harper's Country Hams, Inc.

ING

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Kenosha Beef

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 YUM! Brands, Inc.

\$500 TO \$999

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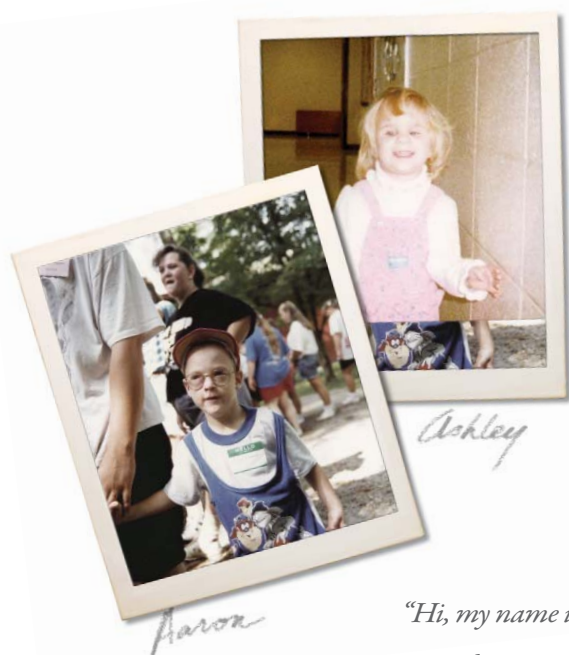
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\$250 TO \$499

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Patrick Henry was our first child and, along with being first time parents, we had the added challenges of having a visually impaired child who was also diagnosed with other disabilities. VIPS was an invaluable asset to our family. We had no idea on how to start to educate and train Patrick's other senses. VIPS walked us through the first five years of Patrick's life with in-home visits and opportunities to meet and discuss our child with parents who were in similar situations. With no information readily available on the internet as it is today, we relied solely on our contacts within VIPS and other contacts we had made through VIPS for guidance. Knowing we had the VIPS staff and their resources available to us was a huge comfort. Today Patrick is an internationally known speaker, author and musical performer, having traveled all across the United States, Europe & Asia. In December 2010, Patrick graduated magna cum laude from the University of Louisville with a degree in Spanish. Patrick regularly lends his musical talents to various VIPS events throughout the year.



"Hi, my name is

Aaron Linson and I am one of

the VIPS kids from a long time ago. With the help of VIPS, my parents became more at ease with blindness and were made aware of the challenges that faced us as blind babies. VIPS gave the parents of blind children confidence, as well as the children themselves. They also developed a list of toys that were great for blind and visually impaired children, because at that time there was no such list.

As for me, I'm now 21-years old and going to IUS (Indiana University Southeast), getting a bachelors in music with a concentration in sound engineering. I am also a tech geek and love helping people with adaptive technology anyway I can. I'm real big on advocating for blind and visually impaired people."

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UP TO \$99

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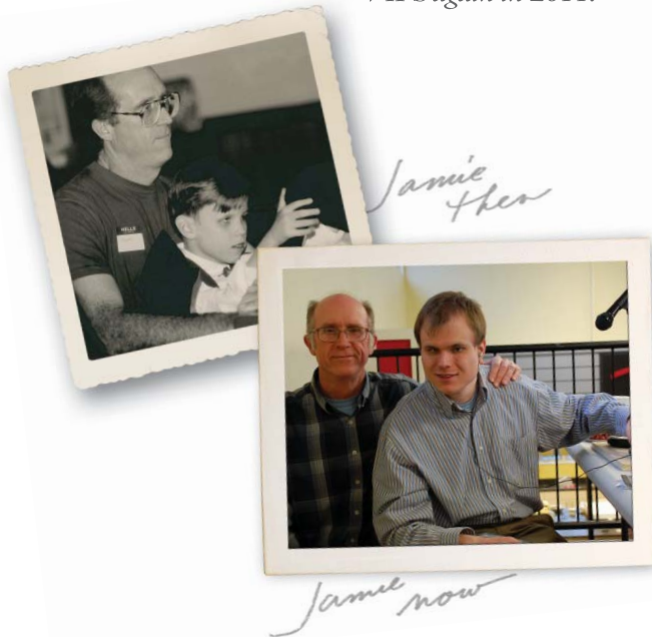
"I'm Ashley Reynolds, and I was very lucky to become a VIPS child back in 1989. I was very fortunate to have one of the best teachers, Melinda Atkins. I remember when I was real little, she would always come to our house and play with me. I thought she was just coming over to be my friend because I was little and cute. Little did I know, she was doing her job. She didn't treat me like I was different because of my blindness. I graduated from Atherton High School in May of 2006. Now I'm going to school to study music. I plan to be a voice teacher and whatever else God has in store for me. I will go to Indiana University in the fall, and I am very excited! Of course there are lots of teachers and friends who have been very encouraging along the way, but I do wonder where I'd be today if my family never connected with VIPS."



Aaron and Ashley became engaged to be married on Christmas Day 2010!

Jamie, who was born with Retinopathy due to prematurity, came to VIPS as a baby and never really left! His mother, Pauletta, recently retired from VIPS after 20 years, and his father still works here as an Orientation & Mobility Instructor/Maintenance Manager. So needless to say, Jamie has spent a lot of time over the years at VIPS. Throughout his adult life, Jamie has been a huge advocate for VIPS and supports the agency by speaking to groups, deejaying at special events and even interning this winter/spring! Jamie credits VIPS with helping him learn how to use his other senses to compensate for his lack of sight. He says VIPS prepared him well for kindergarten and gave him that extra push to help him understand the school experience.

Today Jamie is a junior at the University of Louisville, where he is studying communications. He is also an avid runner and is training for his fifth mini-marathon. You will also see him competing at the Stampede for VIPS again in 2011.



- | | |
|---|--|
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Steven says VIPS gave his family the tools needed to learn self-advocacy and to learn to be independent. He graduated from Miami University of Ohio in May 2009 with a Bachelor of Business in Management Information Systems. He now works as a consultant and computer programmer at Rosetta Marketing, a company based in Cleveland, Ohio. Steven says he enjoys his job and the direction his career is going!



Steven



My name is Dustin and I was born with Cerebral Palsy and Optic Nerve Hypoplasia. I started at VIPS when I was just 9 months old. I wasn't able to use my vision very well and had a hard time following things with my eyes. My VIPS Vision Therapists were awesome and they always made my therapy fun. I attended the VIPS Play & Learn (PAL) class until I was three and then Reach class from 3 to 5-years old. VIPS was a great support system and helped us with the transition to Kindergarten. I still have friends today that I met while at VIPS. I am now 14-years-old and in the 8th grade at Myers Middle School. I use a laptop at school to do my schoolwork and to help me communicate. My mom says VIPS helped me to be the fine young man I am today.

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“At seven weeks, Paul was diagnosed with Albinism, a hereditary condition affecting the hair, skin and eyes due to the lack of pigment. The ophthalmologists referred us to VIPS, and it was there that we would learn to establish a whole new road map for our family. Our bi-weekly visits with our interventionists kept us on track and focused on Paul’s education, development and endless opportunities.

The Family Retreat Weekend, holiday parties, family outings and parent meetings gave us so many opportunities to meet other families facing the same obstacles that we were, as well as gave siblings an opportunity to learn about other disabilities, inclusion and most of all acceptance. Over the years, Paul played t-ball, soccer, high school football, basketball and ran track and cross-country. Still today, Paul loves participating in college intramural sports and the Stampede for VIPS.

VIPS helped us start Paul on a path of advocacy and independence that has led him to Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA (eight hours from home!) pursuing a degree in Communications where he is now a sophomore.”



Paul now



Paul then

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<i>BD's Mongolian Grill</i>	<i>Coffee Times</i>	<i>Judy & Louis Hardesty</i>	<i>Kentucky Horse Park</i>
<i>Beaman Automotive Group</i>	<i>Comedy Caravan</i>	<i>Ms. Charlaine Harris</i>	<i>Kentucky Railway Museum</i>
<i>Bearno's by the Bridge</i>	<i>Congruent LLC</i>	<i>Ms. Jennifer Hash</i>	<i>Kentucky Repertory Theatre at Horse Cave</i>
<i>Mr. John Beasley</i>	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Connolly</i>	<i>Heaven Hill Distilleries, Inc.</i>	<i>Kentucky State Parks</i>
<i>Beaumont Bar & Grill</i>	<i>Corbett's</i>	<i>Heavenly Hams</i>	<i>Kinetic Corp</i>
<i>Bellacinos</i>	<i>Carol & Mitch Dalmke</i>	<i>Heavenly Touch Massage</i>	<i>King Fish Restaurants</i>
<i>Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bensingier</i>	<i>Dairy Queen Corporate Stores</i>	<i>Heine Brother's Coffee</i>	<i>King Pin Lanes LLC</i>
<i>Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest</i>	<i>Dance Designs</i>	<i>Highbridge Springs</i>	<i>Kings Island</i>
<i>Billy's Bar-B-Q</i>	<i>Dandelion</i>	<i>The Highlands Center for Therapeutic Massage</i>	<i>Krispy Kreme</i>
<i>Blood Horse Publications</i>	<i>Delta Airlines</i>	<i>Historic Diamond Caverns</i>	<i>Lafayette Golf Club</i>
<i>Bloom's by Essential Details</i>	<i>Mr. Harry Demery & Ms. Laura Frazier</i>	<i>Holiday Inn North</i>	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Pete Laguens</i>
<i>Blue Bell Ice Cream</i>	<i>Ms. Clarice Denoux</i>	<i>Home Depot</i>	<i>Laser Perfect Med Spa</i>
<i>Bluegrass Hospitality Group</i>	<i>Desha's Restaurant & Bar</i>	<i>Hot Locks</i>	<i>Lexington Country Club</i>
<i>Bluegrass Mystery Theatre</i>	<i>Dinsmore & Shohl LLP</i>	<i>Hotel Nashville</i>	<i>Logan's Roadhouse</i>
<i>Bonefish Grill</i>	<i>Dixie Dozen Theatres</i>	<i>Howard Steamboat Museum, INC</i>	<i>Looking Glass</i>
<i>Mr. Burt Boyer</i>	<i>Dollywood</i>	<i>Hubbuck & Co Westport Village</i>	<i>Louisville Aviation</i>
<i>Brasch-Barry General Contractors</i>	<i>Domain Fabric and Interiors</i>	<i>Charlie Hurst</i>	<i>Louisville Delta Gamma Alumnae</i>
<i>Bridgehaven</i>	<i>Donna Sharp, INC.</i>	<i>I Ching Asian Cafe</i>	<i>Louisville Slugger Museum</i>
<i>Brightside</i>	<i>Dundee Candy Shop</i>	<i>Iceland Sport Complex</i>	<i>Lovers Leap</i>
	<i>Elk Creek Vineyards</i>	<i>Idle Hour Country Club</i>	<i>Lowes</i>



M.A. Hadley
Mad Potter
Maker's Mark Distillery
Man O' War Golf Learning Center
Marengo Cave/Cave Country Adventures
Market Street Inn
Massage Emy
Max & Erma's Restaurant
Max Care
McClanahan Publishing House, Inc.
Therese Bird McGuire
Mega Caverns
Merkley Kendrick Jewelers
Midland Trail Golf Club
Mikato Japanese Steakhouse
Mike Linnig's Restaurant
Mr. Steve Milam
Mint Julep Tours
MML & K Government Solutions
Moe's Southwest Grill
Moore Jewelry
Mr. & Mrs. Cooper Moseley
Muhammad Ali Center
Mrs. Agnes Nelson
Ms. Diane M. Nelson
Mr. Ed Nelson
Newport Aquarium
Newport on the Levee
Norma's Posh Pets
O'Charley's Corporate
O'Charley's on S. Hurstbourne
Ms. Nancy O'Neill
Office Environment Co.
Old Chicago Pizza
Old Louisville Candy Co.
Panera Bread - St. Louis Bread Co.
George Patterson
Pat's Steak House
Pepsi Americas
Perennial Favorites

Mr. Tom Pfamerstill
Physician's Center for Beauty
Poppie Design, Inc.
Porsche of Lexington
Precise Air Filter
PriceWeber
Print Tex USA
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Prizant
Progress Paint
Pure Image
R & R Limousine Service
Radio Disney WDRD-AM
Rafferty's of Lexington
Rainbow Blossom Natural Food Markets
Rebecca Hook Jewelry
Regalo
Retreat at Chery Chase
Romano's Macaroni Grill
Rossi's
Saint Xavier High School
Salon 602
Salsaritas Fresh Cantina
Sarah Larson
Scheller's Fitness & Cycling
Shine LLC
Silver Spoon
Simplicity Salon
Sara Simpson
Sky Bar
Eileen & Steve Smith
SNC Systems
Speed Art Museum
The Spine Center
Sport/Fitness Exchange
SportClips
Squire Boone Caverns
St. James Court Art Show
St. John & Myers
Staybridge Suites
Stephen Foster Drama Association

Sullivan University
Texas Roadhouse
The Blackstone Grill at Prospect Point
The Lexington Fudge Company
The Lexington Legends
The Spring Salon & Spa
The Wilds
Triangle Grill
Trinity High School
Tumbleweed Southwest Grill
U of L Alumni Center
University Club of Kentucky
UPS Foundation, Inc.
Valhalla Golf Club
Mrs. Adele Vinsel

The Voice-Tribune
Wadia Newman Designs, LLC
Wakefield-Scearce Galleries, INC.
Wal-Mart #709
Wal-Mart Store #1269
Whole Foods Market
Winston's Restaurant
Wolfgang Puck Express
Woodhaven Country Club
Chip Wooley
WW Cousins Restaurant
Yoga on Baxter
Z Salon & Spa
Za's Pizza



VIPS STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

VIPS BELIEVES ...

- *That parents are the child's first and best teachers;*
- *That every child has a contribution to make to society and should be valued as an individual;*
- *That every child can learn and progress;*
- *That young children who are visually impaired need and have a right to individualized, specialized services to empower them to function maximally in the sighted world;*
- *That offering parent education and support benefits the child's development;*
- *That siblings, extended family members, and significant others should be included in family education and support activities;*
- *That building awareness of the needs and abilities of young children who are visually impaired and engaging in community advocacy are important responsibilities for VIPS staff and board members.*