



Gala Sponsorship Opportunities



Providing Critical Early
Vision Interventions
and Parental Support

vips.org

Our Mission



VIPS empowers families by providing educational excellence to young children with blindness or low vision in order to build a strong foundation for reaching their highest potential.

Since 1985, VIPS has been the only nonprofit in Kentucky and Indiana dedicated to providing statewide early intervention and education services for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers who are blind or have low vision. Early intervention is essential; it fosters sensory development, strengthens adaptive skills, and builds a strong foundation for lifelong success.

VIPS delivers individualized, family-centered services designed to empower children with the skills, confidence, and independence they need to thrive. By addressing the unique needs of each child and engaging families as partners, VIPS ensures that early intervention creates a lasting impact.

VISION INTERVENTIONS

Core Programs & Services

- Home, Virtual, and Community-Based Visits
- Orientation & Mobility Instruction
- Deaf-Blind Instruction
- Kids Town Preschool
- Pre-Braille and Braille Instruction
- Child Advocacy and Transition Planning
- Consultation with Child Care Providers and Preschools



What Sets VIPS Apart

- VIPS is the first and only nonprofit organization in Kentucky and Indiana that provides vision-specific early childhood education to children and their families.
- Located in Louisville, VIPS operates Kentucky's only full-time preschool for children who are blind or have low vision. The program is nationally accredited and was Jefferson County's first five-star-rated early childhood educational facility.
- VIPS educates service providers in other specialties during VIISA training, presentations, and collaborative visits.
- VIPS partners with hospitals to introduce the NAVEG screener that identifies babies in the NICU who may have blindness or low vision, specifically Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI).

PARENTAL SUPPORT

Family Support & Resources

- Parent Lending Library (including lightboxes, braille books, switches, magnifiers, and braille writers)
- Parent Newsletter and Educational Events
 - Family Service Program
 - » Annual Family Retreat
 - » Adaptive Family Events (e.g., Halloween, Beeping Egg Hunt, Holiday Party)
 - » Feeling This Life Podcast
 - » Playgroups
- VIPS "Can Do" Educational Video Series
- VIPS "Every Child Can" Educational Video



Impact of Your Support*

786 Families Served

4,467 Home & Community Visits

29,500 Hours of Face Time with Children

204,940 Miles Traveled

74 Indiana Counties Served

71 Kentucky Counties Served

Mira's Story

Miracle "Mira" Blaise's story begins with a miracle in every sense of the word. Mandy and James Blaise, parents to Mira, who happen to both be blind, had already faced loss and were navigating serious medical challenges when Mandy unexpectedly became pregnant. Early tests didn't detect the pregnancy, and it wasn't until seven months in that anyone, even Mandy herself, knew she was expecting. The combination of these impossibilities, being told they couldn't have children, the hidden pregnancy, and the life-threatening birth, led James to turn to Mandy and say, "With everything we're going through... why don't we name her Miracle?" The name captured not just her survival, but the courage, love, and hope she brought to her family from her very first moments.

"People question me all the time as a blind mother. Miss Michelle has given me the confidence to know I'm doing things right."



Mira's early days came with complex medical challenges. High myopia impacts the health of her eyes, Stickler syndrome limits her mobility and functional vision, and the Pierre Robin sequence, a rare condition affecting jaw and airway development, required surgery to help manage her breathing. Feeding, movement, and communication each require careful attention. As blind parents, Mandy and James rise to every challenge, showing that they are just as capable as any other parents. They master G-tube feedings, diaper changes, therapies, and advocacy, turning every small victory into a milestone to celebrate and proving that love, determination, and support can overcome any obstacle.

Mira was referred to VIPS just weeks after her birth, through a combination of her ophthalmologist and her First Steps service coordinator. Starting services so early allowed her to benefit from interventions that supported her development from the very beginning. With guidance from her VIPS teacher, Miss Michelle, Mira has made remarkable progress. She has reached milestones in fine motor skills, like zipping and manipulating objects, and is growing cognitively through engaging with books. "Yesterday was one of those moments," Mandy recalls. "We were having a [community-based visit] at the zoo [with Miss Michelle], and Mira was actively interacting with another child while tracking the fish in the aquarium. Normally, she wouldn't do that. It was such a proud moment for us."

These milestones have created lasting memories for the Blaise family. Storytime sessions at the Family Resource Center, in-home and community-based visits, and accessible community outings allow Mira to fully participate, bringing joy and confidence to the entire family. Amanda says, "It's given some pep back in our family life. We're not alone, and Mira isn't limited by her challenges; she's thriving with the right support."

Miss Michelle's guidance has strengthened Mandy and James as parents. She offers practical strategies for Mira's growth, from positioning for visual engagement to adaptive techniques, while also instilling



"With everything we're going through... why don't we name her Miracle?"

confidence in them as blind parents navigating a complex journey. "People question me all the time as a blind mother," Mandy says. "Miss Michelle has given me the confidence to know I'm doing things right." Looking ahead, the Blaise family is focused on momentum, preparing Mira for preschool, exploring adaptive tools like magnifiers and white canes, and teaching her to advocate for herself. They hope to mentor other families and help make educational settings more accessible, continuing to "Blaise" a trail for children like Mira.

Mira's story is more than a journey of milestones; it's a testament to courage, resilience, and the extraordinary power of support. Every step she takes, every new skill she masters, is a triumph over challenges that might have held others back. Through VIPS and the dedication of teachers like Miss Michelle, Mira's family has learned how to help her thrive while gaining confidence and community along the way. "Don't give up," Mandy says to all the teachers across Kentucky and Indiana. "You see and do so much more than you may hear or think. Thank you for seeing the family as a whole, because when parents are supported, the child thrives too." For donors, this is where your impact becomes real: your contributions provide the visits, tools, and guidance that transform moments of possibility into milestones, turning hope into achievement and dreams into reality. Mira isn't just surviving, she is thriving, and with your support, her story is just beginning.

2025 Gala Photo Gallery





SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026

TIME: 5:30 to 11:00 pm

VENUE: Progress Park
4503 Progress Blvd
Louisville, KY 40218

A Dinner and Program Benefiting VIPS

2026 CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

\$15,000

Visionary Sponsor

8 Guests (1 Table)

Receive naming rights for the 2026 VIPS Gala: "Presented by {Name}"

Company representative gives a two-minute welcome from the podium.

Logo will be featured during the Cocktail Hour presentation.

Branding opportunity at event entrance; signage to be provided by the sponsor.

Comped team in the 2026 VIPS Golf Tournament (\$1,500 value).

Two comped teams in the 2026 Pickleball Tournament (\$200 value).

Recognition on all event communications and registration/bidding software.

Full-page Ad in Gala Program.

\$10,000

Guiding Light Sponsor

8 Guests (1 Table)

Logo will be featured during the Cocktail Hour presentation.

Recognition on all event communications and registration/bidding software.

Comped team in the 2026 VIPS Golf Tournament (\$1,500 value).

Full-page Ad in Gala Program.

\$8,500

Bar Sponsor

8 Guests (1 Table)

Logo will be featured during the Cocktail Hour presentation.

Recognition on all event communications and registration/bidding software.

Two comped teams in the 2026 Pickleball Tournament (\$200 value).

Full-page Ad in Gala Program.

\$5,000

Changing Lives Sponsor

8 Guests (1 Table)

Logo will be featured during the Cocktail Hour presentation.

Recognition on all event communications and registration/bidding software.

Two comped teams in the 2026 Pickleball Tournament (\$200 value).

Half-page Ad in Gala Program.

\$3,000

Hope for the Future Sponsor

8 Guests (1 Table)

Logo will be featured during the Cocktail Hour presentation.

Recognition on all event communications and registration/bidding software.

Quarter-page Ad in Gala Program.

\$1,500

Helping Hands Sponsor

4 Guests (1/2 Table)

Logo will be featured during the Cocktail Hour presentation.

Recognition on all event communications and registration/bidding software.

Quarter-page Ad in Gala Program.

\$2,500

Bourbon Sponsor

Naming rights for the Gala Bourbon Raffle: "Presented by {Name}."

Recognition on all event communications and registration/bidding software.

Full-page Ad in Gala Program.

Two tickets to the Gala!

Limited Availability

Contact Us Today to Reserve Your Sponsorship

Contact Rebecca Osley to Become a Sponsor of the 2026 VIPS Gala

Direct: (502) 498-2926

Cell: (502) 594-3022

rosley@vips.org



Gala Program Ad Sizes

File Formats Accepted
Please provide art for your ad in
one of the following formats:

JPEG

PNG

PDF

Full Page
4.75" x 7.75"
\$500

Philanthropic Impact
Provides professional development
training for a Blind/Low Vision
Specialist(B/LVS).

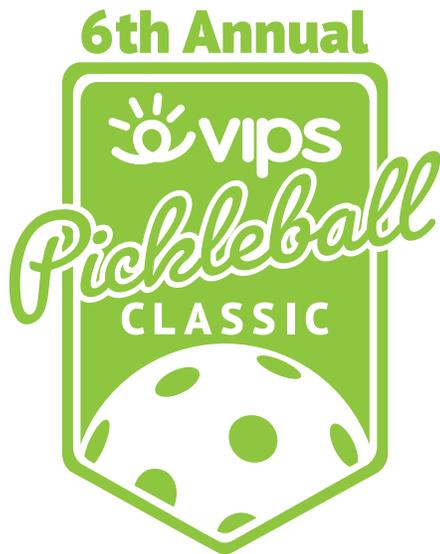
¼ Page
2.25" x 3.75"
\$100

Philanthropic Impact
Provides the children
that we serve with a
successful transition
to Kindergarten and
Public School.

½ Page
4.75" x 3.75"
\$250

Philanthropic Impact
Provides one child with an
orientation and mobility session
provided by VIPS Services.

Upcoming Events



Late Summer 2026



RIMS Greater Bluegrass Golf Tournament

September 16, 2026

Contact Rebecca Osley
to Learn More About
Becoming A Sponsor
of a Future Event

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