Delta Gamma Center for Children
with Visual Impairments

CRITICAL MOMENTS
Life-Changing Opportunities

2013 ANNUAL REPORT
LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

We often refer to infancy as a critical period in development because of the impact of early experiences on the developing brains of infants. The neuroplasticity of the brain is what makes growth and development possible, and this period is one of rampant growth and change. It is no longer theory, but fact! Each week new information is available to help us better understand how these experiences are laying a foundation for learning for each child.

It is also a metaphor for a time in the life of families when their world has been rocked. Teachers step in to provide guidance, counsel and direction. Their services take many forms from introducing families to apps that can address early visual skills, or meeting at a park near home for a mobility lesson. Who knew how much fun a child could have while learning new skills in communication, independence, social skills and more! Teaching a parent to help their child grow and learn is key, but supporting families through this life-changing period is equally as important.

We strive to deliver outstanding services for families and work with community partners to provide seamless and effective services. We help our GRADS deal with powerful challenges during their school years, with friends and others. Just this past year, it was amazing to witness a young client run the 5K at our Run for Sight because his belief in himself inspires us all to believe; and learn about another young boy who qualified for the National Braille Challenge and took third place at the age of 7. Their achievements are ours as well!

There were a number of highlights in the past year. One of our most important achievements was identifying a roadmap for the next three years which will add new services, start a young friends group, build strong community outreach, and continue efforts to assure continued funding for Missouri First Steps services.

We couldn’t possibly take on initiatives like these without the support of our “DGC Community.” The blood, sweat and tears (not really, we hope) behind the 4,000+ hours of volunteer service which provides the engine for our special events and some programs is staggering. We are indebted to others who provide passion, expertise and leadership that help us to evolve and steer into new territory. Thanks to each and every one!

Sincerely,

Debbie Naucke  Cara Brouder
Executive Director  Board Chair

The mission of the Delta Gamma Center for Children with Visual Impairments is to help children who are blind or visually impaired reach their full potential through family-centered and specialized services and support.
Passionate about children

In addition to their expertise in the education of children with visual impairments, the excellence in services offered by the DGC reflects a passion for teaching during the young years and a lifelong commitment to learning in order to do their jobs well.

Comprehensive early intervention services are offered for children from birth to three years old who are blind or visually impaired and their families. Services include education, orientation & mobility services, and as needed, occupational, physical and speech therapy services and assistive technology. Services are provided primarily in the family’s home or other community settings.

170 CHILDREN RECEIVED EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES INCLUDING:

- 1,885 hours of home visits from teachers of the visually impaired
- 1,159 hours of home visits from occupational, physical and speech therapists
- 351 hours of parent/child classes and parent workshops
- 94% of the children accomplish their individual goals
**FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES**

The fabric of life

“Family capacity” is described in the Final Regulations for the Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities (34 CFR 303) as activities to influence families’ knowledge of their rights, to effectively communicate their needs, and assist their children to develop and learn.

The caregiving practices of the DGC staff are intended to provide parents with the knowledge, skills and experiences that create competent and confident parents whose daily life is filled with active learning, enjoyable family experiences and assistance as needed with the unique challenges of raising a child with a disability.

Family Support Services responds to individual requests from family members for assistance with community resources and parenting help on a wide array of topics. Specialized groups connect families with each other, to enjoy various community activities and gain knowledge and skills.

### WHO WE SERVE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County/Locality</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Charles County</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis City</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson County</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Missouri Counties</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis County</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois Counties</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **257 individuals in 119 families** received at least one service throughout the year
- **219 hours** of social work consultation
- **517 hours** of group services, including training, support and family activities
Attainment and adventure

Becoming a well-rounded adult is an important goal in one’s youth, and attaining such requires growing from one’s mistakes, a healthy sense of self-confidence, being valued by others and much more. Instilling such behaviors and attitudes requires experiences that teach many skills and important values. The GRADS (Group Recreation and Developmental Support) Program offers group experiences where participants are taught in a manner that addresses the unique ways in which youths with visual impairments learn. The experiences foster teamwork and independence, social skills necessary to promote friendships, and community experiences that expand their horizons.

GRADS offers fun, community-based groups for youth of all ages who are blind or visually impaired. The groups include monthly meetings, special projects and summer challenge trips, plus a seasonal tandem cycling team that rides weekly.

47 youths participated in the GRADS program (unduplicated)
2,045 hours of GRADS group services
2013 Trip Destinations: Angel Island, California, Breckenridge, Colorado
91% of GRADS members made improvements or accomplished their goals of increased independence, social skills and community participation

Our Champions

A Special Salute for Outstanding Service:
Shining Light Award
Joe Toohey
Visionary Award
Ruth Spence Nelson
Gretchen Ross
Professional Service Award
Greg Barth, Photography
Jim Rooney, Mercy Optical
Volunteer Service Award
Heather Backes
Bill Hansen
Scott LaPresta
Blair Rudert
Scott Swartzbaugh
Community Service Award
Mimi Ravarino
St. Louis University, Delta Gamma Chapter

Delta Gamma Center for Children with Visual Impairments 2013 Annual Report
Due to the vision that a group of Delta Gamma alumnae from Washington University had sixty-two years ago, our community friends have helped hundreds of children and their families in reaching their dreams this past year. From leadership and wisdom, expertise with art projects and design services, converting books into Braille for babies, financial support, cheering on runners at the Run for Sight, leading our GRADS on tandem bike rides, committee service, volunteering with our programs, and much more, our community friends have, often unknowingly, allowed so many dreams to be fulfilled.

We deeply appreciate our community of donors who have a hand in making each and every hour of service possible for a child. To our Board of Directors and Committee Chairs for board and fundraising events: we have strength and security in ways that we cannot achieve alone because of your leadership.

**SPECIAL EVENT COMMITTEE**

Blair Rudert  
Shining Light Tree Lot Chairperson  
Katie Hunter  
Run for Sight Chairperson  
Georgia Relich and Sheryl Breadman  
Holiday House Co-Chairs  
Jennifer LaPresta and Courtney Rakers  
Ride to Unite Co-Chairs  
Betty Smith and Joann Clay  
Eye For Style Co-Chairs

**SPECIAL THANKS FOR GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND**

2e Creative  
Lighthouse for the Blind – St. Louis  
McCarthy Building Companies  
Strategic Technology Group, LLC

1,782 preschool children received vision screenings  
450 volunteers provided over 4,000 hours of service
SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL DATA

FISCAL YEAR 2012/2013

REVENUES

Contract/Government Grants $ 251,570
Special Events (Net) $ 132,934
Contributions $ 369,651
Investment Income $ 79,482
United Way $ 70,996
Bequest $ 121,329
Realized and Unrealized Gain on Investments (Net) $ 244,076
Net Assets Released from Restrictions (Capital Campaign) $ –
Publications $ –

TOTAL REVENUE $ 1,270,038

EXPENSES

Program
Early Intervention $ 552,705
Family Support $ 158,215
GRADS Trips $ 23,972
Outreach $ 62,985
TOTAL $ 797,877
Management/General $ 85,211
Development/Fundraising $ 117,449

TOTAL EXPENSES $ 1,000,537

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

NET ASSETS
Unrestricted $ 6,288,040
Board Designation $ –
Temporary Restricted $ 114,541
Permanently Restricted $ 31,218

TOTAL NET ASSETS $ 6,433,799

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS $ 6,497,086

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Cara Brouder, Board Chair
Danielle Uy, Vice-Chair of Administration/Secretary
Melissa Brueggeman, Vice-Chair of Finance
Lisa Sullivan, Vice-Chair of Resource and Development
Lissa Johnson, Vice-Chair of Programs and Services
Tracy Polansky, Vice-Chair of Public Relations

STAFF
Administration
Deborah Naucke, Executive Director
Cassandra Cooke, Director of Development
Stacey Hutchens, Development Associate
Sharon Niethe, Office Manager
Tom Meyer, Accountant
Flora Robinson, Facilities/Assistant

DIRECTORS
Heather Backes
Beth Bell
Jay Byrne
Dr. Jay Epstein
Brent Jackson
Jeremy Kingma
Scott LaPresta
McGeehon
Ed Maglasang
Lisa Marquard
Tim Rogan
Blair Rudert
Charles Walch

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Design by 2e Creative
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