



**SIGHT  
CONNECTION**

For the Blind & Partially Sighted

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

**ADAPT.  
LEARN.  
THRIVE.**



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# Letter to the Community

We are proud to share with you our achievements and the impact of Sight Connection's life-changing programs and services to the visually impaired in 2016.

Sight Connection's impact goes beyond the individual client. Our reach extends to family members, caregivers and our community's safety net of social services.

With each low-vision clinic evaluation, adaptive aids purchase, adjustment counseling session, home rehabilitation, assistive technology introduction and white cane training, a visually impaired child, adult or senior becomes more self-reliant, self-sufficient while reducing or eliminating current or future dependence on public services.

Towards that end, Sight Connection responded to the need for services in Island and San Juan counties by expanding our home services program to these two more isolated areas with a concentrated aging population.

Our low-vision clinic provided critical assessments each day. More and more clients took advantage of the life-enhancing features of assistive technology and the opportunity to experience and train on the features of the technology before making a purchase.

Sight Connection signed a ten-year lease with an early 2017 move-in at a far more accessible location in North Seattle with direct front-door entry, street signage, store-front parking and a major bus line less than a block away. Under the leadership of President/CEO Shannon Grady Martsolf, our new home was renovated to accommodate additional clinic staff, more accessible layout of the assistive technology training lab and adaptive aids store.

The end of 2016 was also the beginning of non-stop advocacy efforts to ensure seniors and the physically disabled were included in the 2017 King County Veterans and Human Services Levy. With funding for these populations at an all-time low, while seniors are the fastest growing population in King County, Sight Connection was committed to ensuring these two populations were not dismissed and that Sight Connection's unique services would never be compromised.

In 2016, you made a commitment to the future of individuals living with vision loss with your investment in Sight Connection's foundational program of independence-focused services. We thank you for this commitment. Your support transformed lives.

With regards,



**Mary Lewis**  
Chair, Board of Directors

## 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Mary Lewis, Chair**  
Community Volunteer

**Jonathan Avedovech, Vice Chair**  
Community Volunteer

**David McBride, Treasurer**  
Linux Foundation

**Tana Graedel, Secretary**  
Girl Scouts of Western Washington

**Amy Farrier**  
DRI Consulting

**Stu Frank, OD**  
Group Health Cooperative

**Chris Lona**  
CL Designs

**Chris Maple**  
Community Volunteer

**David Murphy**  
King County, WA

**Abe Otoupal**  
D. A. Davidson

**Keiko Namekata**  
Community Volunteer

**Shannon Grady Martsolf**  
Sight Connection

**Sally Kim-Miller, MD**  
Leave of Absence

## STAFF

**Shannon Grady Martsolf**  
President/CEO

**Emily Bader**  
Development Director

**Kerry Belles**  
Accounting Administrator

**Caitlin Walsh, OD**  
Clinic Director/Optometrst

**Leslie Burkhardt, MSLVR**  
Low Vision Specialist

**Jane Elliott, COMS, CVRT**  
Vision Rehabilitation/  
Orientation/Mobility Specialist

**Ben Feinen**  
Retail Operations Assistant

**Kate Fewel, LICSW**  
Social Worker

**Jeffrey Gerhardstein, LICSW**  
Social Worker

**Marèlle Habenicht**  
Administrative Manager,  
Donation Center

**Caylean Jewett**  
Retail Operations Assistant

**Karen Mehlhorn, COMS**  
Orientation/Mobility Specialist

**Andrew Price**  
Donation Center Manager

**Brenda Salazar**  
Receptionist

**Joyce Shoemaker**  
Retail Operations Manager

**Tina Tsou**  
Development and Marketing Assistant

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# Services Provided in 2016



**255** Low Vision Clinical Assessments



**210** Low Vision Therapy



**430** Counseling Sessions

**176** Assistive Technology Introduction/Training



**340** Information and Referrals



**320** Basic Orientation and Mobility Trainings

**560** Rehabilitation Services



**130** Advanced Orientation and Mobility Trainings

*“Until I went to SightConnection’s clinic, I had no idea that what I saw was only half of the real picture around me.”*  
—Mark



**“I always look forward to the social worker’s visits. I’m determined to staying in my house as long as possible. Sight Connection has been a blessing to me.”**

**—Janice**

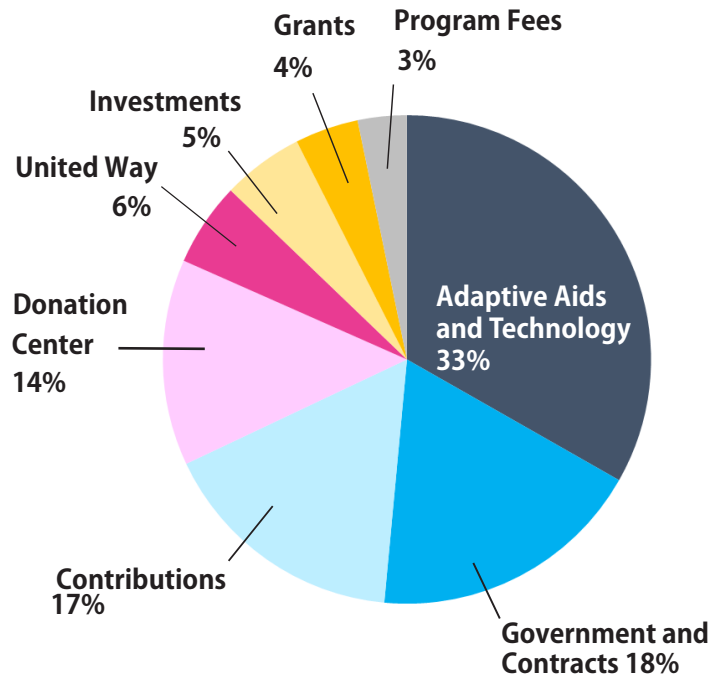
**“Sight Connection has changed my life. They understand my situation.**

**The most important thing is now I can see things I never could before. They’ve given me freedom I didn’t have before.”**

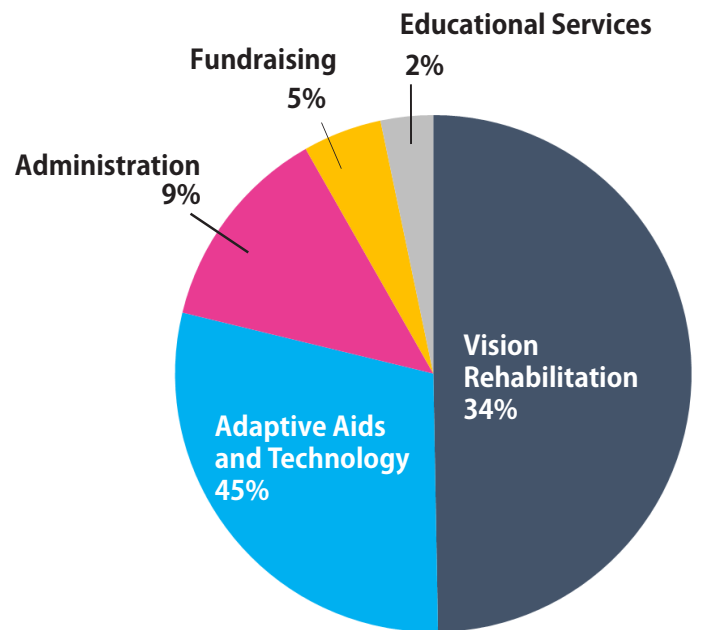
**—Rick**

# Financials

<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>\$1,444,467</b>
Adaptive Aids and Assistive Technology	\$479,993
Government and Contracts	\$263,645
Contributions	\$238,273
Donation Center	\$197,135
United Way	\$80,042
Investments	\$77,728
Grants	\$60,751
Program Fees	\$46,900



<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,299,791</b>
Vision Rehabilitation	\$646,164
Adaptive Aids and Assistive Technology	\$378,016
Administration	\$168,597
Fundraising	\$64,304
Educational Services	\$42,709



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**[sightconnection.org](https://sightconnection.org)**

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 [facebook.com/SightConnection](https://facebook.com/SightConnection)