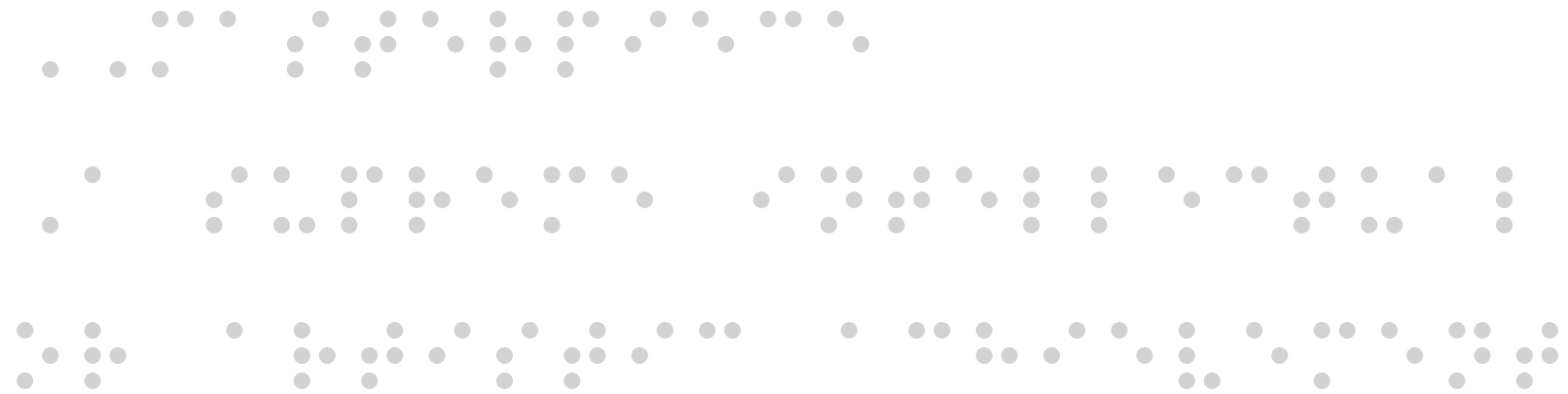


THE MARYLAND
SCHOOL FOR
THE BLIND



MASTERPIECE:

A supreme intellectual or artistic achievement

DEAR FRIENDS:

When I think back on this past year at The Maryland School for the Blind (MSB), the words “evolution” and “masterpiece” inevitably come to mind. From outstanding musical performances and artistic endeavors, to successful business ventures and breakthroughs with assistive technology, our students have indeed chalked up a long list of remarkable accomplishments. The year included changes in personnel and program development, including leadership transition which will position the School to better meet future challenges. We expect to name a new school president this Spring, and look forward to growth of our outreach activities while strengthening our on-campus programs.

As a school, MSB also logged in its share of “masterpiece” achievements, beginning with staff recognition at both the national and state levels. Jane Farber and Brian Kuczynski, proudly took home Outstanding Service Awards from this year’s Council of Schools of the Blind (COSB) National Conference — bringing MSB’s total number of award winners to an impressive 17 over the past decade. MSB’s Residential Program also earned the State Department of Human Resources “stamp of approval,” with staff members receiving high marks for both their excellent student care and impressive spirit of cooperation.

On the fundraising front, among several programs, the MSB Vehicle Donation Program netted over \$188,000; while *BaltOween* netted over \$46,000 and brought nearly 1,000 friends and neighbors to the MSB campus for a “spooktacular” day of safe family fun.

Even more important, our students are now safer and our buildings more accessible, thanks to the completion of two major Capital Improvement Projects — fire-alarm upgrades in all 21 student-occupied buildings and extensive renovations in all 22 bathrooms on the first floor of the Wolfe East and Wolfe West dormitories, which were jointly funded by state grants and donor contributions. We also completed and implemented an Emergency Management Plan, with multiple staff trainings and practice drills to ensure schoolwide protection in the event of disaster or emergency.

Of course, none of these achievements would have been possible without our loyal investors and volunteers, who have so generously given many thousands of dollars *and* hours to support critical programs and services for the hundreds of children we serve throughout the state. Once again, thank you for everything you do to make MSB such an amazing place — a place where *every day* is truly *an evolving masterpiece in progress*.



Carl Lancaster, Interim President and CEO



John Hart, Chairman, Board of Directors

At MSB, we are harnessing the power of innovation to help our students live and learn more independently — with assistive technologies (AT) that enable them to fully access their abilities and tap into their talents. These devices can be as simple as a customized switch for turning on the TV or as sophisticated as a computer-assisted braille display. But in every case, they are fundamental work tools for learners such as ours, who in addition to their visual impairments, come to school with a variety of other physical, social, and cognitive challenges.

Ellie Smith has finally found her voice — and oh, what a big voice it is!

Known far and wide for her generous nature and sunny disposition, 10-year-old Ellie was born with a medical condition that left her muscles too weak to coordinate such basic — yet logistically complicated — functions as vision, fine motor coordination, and speech. Over the years, her eyes actually grew stronger, but her coordination continued to lag far behind and her speech never developed. So Ellie struggled mightily with a combination of picture books and sign language to express her thoughts, socialize with her friends, and tell her teachers what she knew.

But all of that's behind her these days, thanks to an innovative piece of assistive equipment called an *augmentative communication device*. The device consists of a portable closed circuit monitor with a touch screen. Using "real voice" technology, this device allows Ellie's speech therapist to program a vast repertoire of appropriate phrases and responses (including information about the school day and answers to questions about the lesson), which can then be easily activated when Ellie wants to "speak."

Her mom, Carin, is delighted with the new technology. "It's opened a whole new world for Ellie. She has always been such a sweet, intuitive child, who is pretty independent in other ways. This equipment has given her the additional freedom to initiate a conversation with just about anybody — which is exactly what she does wherever we go."

I N N O V A T I O N :

Change that creates a new dimension of performance



MSB's Recreation Program provides an extraordinary outlet for healthy self-expression, while also promoting teamwork; fostering sensory integration; and of course, fueling creativity. In the arts and crafts component, students work in an array of highly tactile media like paint, sand, foil, string, and clay. Our students use their fertile imaginations to communicate through the senses; celebrate holidays and events; and cultivate leisure time hobbies. And for those budding actors among us, there is the ever popular theatre component of recreation, where we produce our very own adaptation of a popular musical each spring, complete with elaborate costumes and props.

When the stage lights go up at MSB's Jen C. Russo Arts Center, the magic begins for 19-year-old **Joe Grzelik**.

A true entertainer, Joe puts his heart and soul behind every musical performance at MSB, most recently enchanting audiences as the wizard in last year's "Once Upon a Mattress" production — a testament to his admiration for yet another young wizard, Harry Potter. According to his mom, Victoria Watts, Joe caught the acting bug not long after arriving at MSB four years ago, and has been hooked ever since. "He's a very social guy, who loves to make people laugh. So the musicals have given him a wonderful outlet for all that energy."

Although born with a rare form of pervasive color-blindness called achromatopsia (which makes the eyes very light-sensitive), Joe attended his neighborhood school with assistance. In 2003, a car accident left him with a brain injury that makes it hard for him to remember what he's learned, but as his mom puts it, "Memorizing and practicing lines has definitely helped the learning issue; and if he forgets a line or two, well, he's great at improvising. Performing on stage has also given him the extra confidence he needs to do his best in school."

In pursuing his creative passion, Joe also volunteers one evening a week with the MSB arts program, plays percussion in the school's highly acclaimed Blue Duffs jazz band, holds two part-time jobs, and recently purchased a condo.

C R E A T I V I T Y :

An original product of human invention or imagination



MSB's unique, Career Education Program provides students with the job skills they need to achieve greater self-sufficiency. This program begins in kindergarten with small jobs in the classroom; adds career exploration to the mix by age 10; and provides on-the-job training and continuous coaching — at sites both on and off campus, once our students turn 16. With this program framework in mind and a little help from our friends in the community, MSB recently unveiled its Supported Business Enterprise (SBE) — an income-producing venture that doubles as a job training program, in which MSB students actually learn to manage their own vending machine company.

Brandon Hurt was born with an entrepreneurial spirit and a knack for numbers.

And thanks to MSB's new vending machine venture, he has been able to put both of these talents to work for him, while also acquiring a repertoire of other marketable work skills and a lot of practical, hands-on job experience. Brandon's mom, Karen Brown, says it's a perfect fit for her 17-year-old son, a "real leader" and "whiz in math," who has always been "very good with money and very creative when it comes to making it." (In addition to the MSB enterprise, he also runs a "side business" of his own at the dorm, taking in laundry to iron.)

Brandon first came to MSB, four years ago, after struggling with a brain tumor that not only claimed his vision at the age of 10, but kept him out of school for two years, as well. So in adjusting to his new lifestyle, he has had to learn more than a few new skills — like reading braille and navigating with a cane. Yet his mom is quick to point out that Brandon "hasn't missed a beat." He uses his taxi access pass to go wherever he wants; he bowls like a pro; and he plays the drums in the MSB jazz band."

In looking ahead to the future, Brandon hopes to parlay his love for math into a teaching career. Then, who knows... maybe a business of his own someday?

S K I L L :

An ability that has been acquired by training



Music changes lives, especially for children with visual impairments — which is why we take our music program so seriously at MSB. Whether in class or in concert, MSB’s highly experienced music teacher and therapist work tirelessly with students of all ages and abilities to bring the therapeutic gift of music into their lives — music that stirs the soul and stimulates the senses. Music that gives form to a world that cannot be seen in the traditional sense. And music that can unlock the simplest of skills, while also inspiring the greatest of talents.

For **Danny Price**, it’s all about the music.

A prodigy, by any definition of the word — his, is indeed, a rare talent. Danny began playing the piano when he was two, and by the age of six had mastered such intricate pieces as Johann Strauss, Jr. “The Blue Danube.” What makes his gift even more amazing is that he plays entirely by ear, calling upon what his teachers have dubbed his “photographic memory for music” to recreate every note with incredible precision after hearing a piece played. In fact, Danny can master, in three lessons, complex compositions that would take the average musician six months or more to perfect.

Having lost his sight as a small child from a genetic disorder that causes detached retinas, Danny also has Asperger’s Syndrome, a high-functioning form of autism. His mother, Rebekah Price, credits Danny’s musical ability, in part, to both of these conditions, which have graced him with an unusually acute sense of sound and a highly organized mind.

With more than a decade of private piano and guitar lessons behind him, Danny is well on his way to an extraordinary career in music. He has already recorded an original CD and performs regularly with MSB’s Blue Duffs jazz band. Most recently, he was chosen from among 600 applicants to receive one of only eight scholarships to the prestigious Berklee College of Music’s Summer Performance Program in Boston.

T A L E N T :

Unusual innate ability in some field or activity (Wordnet)



GRADUATES 2007

Jamie Amos – With nearly perfect pitch and an amazing memory for songs, Jamie spent many hours in MSB’s music room. He attends Ardmore Enterprises during the day and resides at Living Hope. **Patrick Barrett** – Known as “Mr. Music,” Patrick is a talented singer, and emerging “author.” He lives with his parents and receives support during the day from Chimes-Liberty Club East.

Erickia Bartee – As Class President and the only wheelchair-dependent member of MSB’s cheerleading squad, Erickia’s motto is “think it, do it.” She now lives in an apartment with supports from Forward Visions and is seeking employment through The League for People With Disabilities. **David Bolling** – Known for both his leadership skills and his amazing prowess on the sports field, David is enrolled at Essex Community College and living in an apartment at TABCO Towers. **Marco Carter** – Voted “most original” by the senior class for his cool dreadlocks and splashy fashions, Marco attends the Ardmore Enterprises program and receives residential support through EBED Community Improvement. **Laura Cefaratti** – A talented and dedicated musician, Laura plays piano by ear and loves to perform her own songs. She is currently looking for a job with the help of Opportunity Builders, and living at home with her parents.

Lauren Donaldson – Known affectionately by all as “Puddin” (because she genuinely loves the dessert), Lauren attends the LIFE Program, where she also receives residential services. **Dorethera Edelen** – Fiercely independent with an indomitable spirit to boot, Dottie made a great deal of progress in her 17 years at MSB. She now attends the ARC Bridges Program by day and lives at Southern Maryland Vocational Industries. **Angela Kreutzer** – One of MSB’s most diligent workers, Angela has come a long way on the road to independence. While living at home, she is working with ARC of Baltimore to parlay her hard-earned job skills into paid employment.

Justin McMullen – An avid keyboard player and enthusiastic conversationalist, Justin made great strides toward independence during his 19 years at MSB. He now lives at home with his family and attends the Chimes Intervals Program. **Courtney Morris** – If there was ever an “ambassador” for MSB, Courtney fit the job description, having always greeted everyone on campus with a happy smile and a kind word. She is now working and living with supports from Bayside Community Network. **Patrick Raschi** – A real “people person,” Patrick was a good friend to staff and students alike at MSB. He now works and lives in a group home with support from Southern Maryland Vision Industries. **Matthew Rice** – A great guy all around, as well as a true history buff, Matthew impressed the staff with his initiative to move out on his own. Today, he is successfully enrolled at Essex Community College, and living in an apartment at TABCO Towers.

Luigi Rigamonti – Luigi has always had a good ear for music, especially the classical variety. He now works part-time at OakCrest Village and lives close by with a roommate, with support from ARC of Baltimore. **Joseph Stocker** – Known far and wide for his great sense of humor and occasional practical jokes, Joe is living at home with his parents, and receiving support during the day from Opportunity Builders.

Justin Stocker – As anyone who knows him will insist, Justin can accomplish anything he sets his mind to. A quiet young man with a “million dollar” smile, he attends Anne Arundel Community College and lives at home with his family. **Tiffany Wike** – A young woman of many expressive faces and a signature stride, Tiffany now attends the Change day program in Carroll County and lives with her sister.



Jamie Amos



Patrick Barrett



Erickia Bartee



David Bolling



Marco Carter



Laurie Cefaratti



Lauren Donaldson



Dorethera Edelen



Angela Kreutzer



Justin McMullen



Courtney Morris



Patrick Raschi



Matt Rice



Luigi Rigamonti



Joseph Stocker



Justin Stocker



Tiffany Wike

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 Co., Inc.

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 Lions Club of Churchville
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 Lions Club of Queenstown
 Lions Club of Union Bridge
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 St. Augustine School
 St. John's Evangelical Lutheran
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 Stephen A. Bank Fund
 Tire Distributors, Inc.

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 AARP of Dunfield-Fullerton
 Chapter #3822
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 Lions Club of Fruitland
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 Charity
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 VFW #8950 Ladies Auxiliary,
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Benefactors Circle (\$5,000 +)

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Chairman's Circle (\$1,000 +)

United Way of Central Maryland

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Ms. Ellen S. Gladden
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 ParTee Golf
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 Phonak Hearing Systems
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 Putt-Putt Fun Center
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 Ravenwood Press
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 Mr. & Mrs. William F. Rochford
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 The National Aquarium in Baltimore
 The Peppermill Restaurant &
 Lounge
 The Tremont Plaza Hotel
 Ms. Emily Ulrich
 Ms. Leslie Updegraff
 USS Constellation Museum
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 Watermark Cruises
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 Wockenfuss Homemade Candies

IN HONOR

Sam & Brian Baker
 Dr. Arden Baker

Barbara Canagio at Christmas

Ms. Janet Atwood
 Ms. Beverly J. Becker
 Ms. Joan L. Greiner

Jo Clifford's Speedy Recovery

Mrs. Gertrude Surosky

Birth of Cohen's Grandson

Mr. & Mrs. Fred E. Sacks

Mark Compitello

Mr. & Mrs. Alfred E. Moffit, Jr.



Brenda Cook's Recovery

Ravens Nest #6 of Overlea

Jill Eidelman

Beth Tfiloh Day School

Mrs. Frei's family and friends at Christmas

Mrs. Grace I. Frei

Birth of Rivolee Gitomer's Great Grandson

Mrs. Gertrude Surosky

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Leibowitz's New Home

Mrs. Gertrude Surosky

Ruth Ann Mazer's Speedy Recovery

Mrs. Gertrude Surosky

Lisa Ashman & Jim Meyer's Marriage

Ms. Janice L. Regester

J. B. Mills' 91st Birthday

Mr. & Mrs. Fred E. Sacks

Julianna, Kristen, Caroline, Scott and Joe Novak at Christmas

Mr. Daniel J. Novak

Gary & Leslie Plotnick's 40th Anniversary

Drs. Daniele & Karen Rigamonti

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Prenger's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Ms. Eleanor Packard

Luigi Rigamonti's Graduation

Mrs. Bonnie Stainman

Sima Scherr's Speedy Recovery

Mrs. Gertrude Surosky

Mike Schwebel

Mr. Jay Seaton

Anita Setlien's Birthday

Mr. & Mrs. Fred E. Sacks

Dr. Yuval Shafir

Mr. Daniel S. Butler

David Surosky's Birthday

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Sacks

David Surosky's Granddaughter

Mr. & Mrs. Fred E. Sacks

Catherine Zorn

Mr. & Mrs. Louis A. Tarricone

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Mrs. John Zorn
Ms. Kimberly B. Zorn
Mrs. Lorraine A. Zorn

Gloria Zoubeck

Mrs. Judith L. Wolfe



VOLUNTEERS : Those who serve the community without compensation

Our dedicated volunteers provide a wide range of valuable services — from clerical support and classroom assistance to grounds and facilities maintenance — logging in more than 13,000 hours this past year.

Organizations

Super Fresh
Boy Scout Troop #701
AARP
Long and Foster
St. Elizabeth's School

Individuals

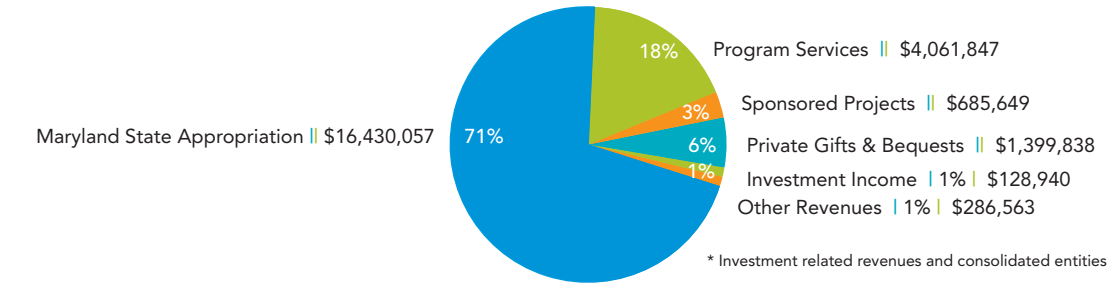
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Linda A. Althoff
Ed Baran
Rose Baran
Chris Baugh
Duke Baugh
Howard J. Beares
Tamika Brown
Sally Billsky
Xiechi Bobadilla
Nicholas Alexander Borowy
Carol Bozman
Tyrone M. Bratcher
Libby Carnes
JoAnn Dorothy Castro
Sal Catanzaro
Jessica Cavanagh
Jennifer Cirri
Gloria F. Cobb
Joann Coffin
Joan Concannon

Sara V. Cook
Meghan Couet
Stella Czajkowski
Patricia Anne Davis
Joan Dichiera
Darlene Marie Dominguez
Ellen L. Dunn
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Jacob Fraley
Kathleen Susan Fromme
Dana Marie Hare
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Andrew Johnson
Adam Jones
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Sandya S. Lakkur
Matt Laney
Nancy L. Lillbridge
Charles Litzinger
Dee Ann Lommers-Johnson
Tess Lommers-Johnson
Kim M. Lott
Joe Malstrom
Beatrice Mautino
Rachel P. McCandliss
Darlene Miller
Frank Millner

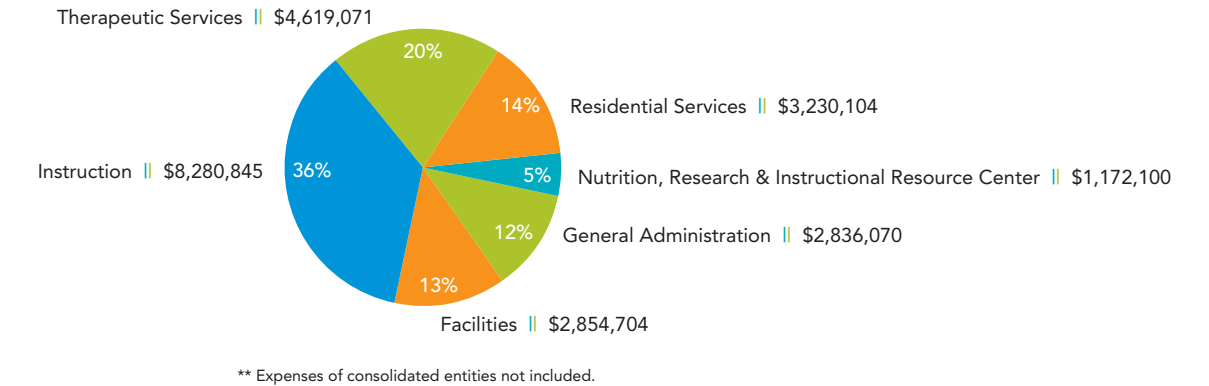
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Dorothy Morris
Nicholas Morris
Anna Mary Morrison
Theresa Lynn Nettles
Lucille O' Brien
George Papadimitriov
Brett Parry
Donna Poehlman
Beverly Railey
Natalie K. Redyk
Andrew Burton Richwien
Sylvia Karlyn Richwien
Helen Rochford
Linda P. Rosenblatt
Josh Sgambellu
Holly Wren Sims
Matt Smith
Scott S. Solomon
JoAnn P. Sparks
Sarah A. Sveen
Alannah Thorn
Tamara Thorn
Lori Wald
Theresa Watson
Mary L. Wenzel
Matt D. Zembower
Christine Mary ZuZarte

FINANCIALS '07

REVENUES* \$22,992,894



EXPENSES** \$22,992,894



NOTE: Each year, the Board of Directors of The Maryland School for the Blind engages an independent certified public accountant to audit the School's financial statements. Copies of the School's complete financial statements and auditor's report are available upon request from the Finance Office, by calling 410.319.5723 or writing to The Maryland School for the Blind, 3501 Taylor Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21236-4499. Information filed under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act is available from the Secretary of State for the cost of copies and postage.

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**The Maryland School for the Blind
thanks these members for their service.
They left the board during the fiscal year 2007.*

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VISION

It is the vision of The Maryland School for the Blind to be;

- The premier statewide resource for the specific educational and living skill needs of all individuals (particularly 0-21) with visual impairment in Maryland.
- The statewide training center for those who work or live with individuals with visual impairment.
- A model demonstration site for the education and employment of individuals with visual impairment.

MISSION

The Maryland School for the Blind (MSB) educates children and youth with visual impairments, including those with multiple disabilities, for functional independence.

The Maryland School for the Blind is a private, nonprofit school founded in 1853. It is accredited by both the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Impaired (NAC) and the Middle States Association for Colleges and Secondary Schools. It is the only school of its kind in Maryland.

MSB is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, sex, marital status, religion, age, veteran status, or handicapping condition in its admission procedures, educational programs, employment policies, or procurement procedures.

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thank you to photographer Mike Ciesielski for donating his services, free of charge for this Annual Report. By giving so generously of his talent, time, and equipment, Mike allowed us to focus our resources on preparing our students for life.

THE MARYLAND SCHOOL
FOR THE BLIND
3501 TAYLOR AVE.
BALTIMORE, MD 21236-4499

