



The Maryland
School for the Blind

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



- 4 Letter From the Superintendent
- 5 Maryland Instructional Resource Center, MIRC
- 6 Milestones and Achievements
- 8 MSB Class of 2024
- 12 Reflection on 20 Years of Service - Letter of Farewell
- 14 2024 Highlights - Outreach Services
- 16 Strength, Faith, and Opportunity - Virginia Jacobs' Story
- 18 See Beyond Festival
- 20 2024 Athletics Highlights
- 22 Financial Overview:
Sustaining Our Mission Through Diverse Funding
- 24 1853 Society and Major Supporters
- 26 Major Vehicle Donors & Legacy Society
- 27 MSB Board and Leadership

A Message of Gratitude and Growth

Dear Friends and Supporters of The Maryland School for the Blind,

As we reflect on the past year, we are deeply grateful for your unwavering support. The Maryland School for the Blind (MSB) remains dedicated to empowering students who are blind or have low vision with the tools to thrive.

This year brought remarkable growth and achievements. From expanding programs to enhancing facilities, every initiative is a testament to our dedication to helping students achieve their full potential. Our staff's commitment to excellence and innovation ensures MSB remains a leader in education.

Partnerships with local organizations and support from donors have further strengthened our efforts. Together, we are building a community where every student feels valued and empowered.

As we look ahead, we invite you to join us in shaping a brighter future. Your continued involvement—whether through volunteering, advocacy, or financial support—makes a profound difference.

On behalf of the Board, staff, and students, thank you for helping us transform lives.

With gratitude,



W. Robert Hair
Superintendent

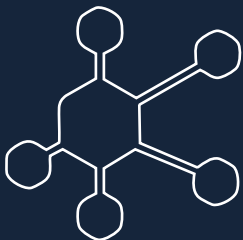


200+



On-Campus Students

24



Counties Reached by MSB

1500+



Students Served Yearly, In State & Out-of-State

170



Years of Blind & Low Vision Education

Empowering Education

MIRC

The **Maryland Instructional Resource Center** (MIRC) team produces braille and large print textbooks and educational materials for students throughout Maryland

Tactile Graphics & Diagrams Produced

92

Total Textbooks in the MIRC Repository

7,000

Pages of Braille Produced

6,383

American Printing House-Eligible Students Served

1,085

The MIRC is a centralized repository for braille and large print textbooks, as well as other educational materials, located on MSB's campus. In 1996, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) partnered with The Maryland School for the Blind (MSB) and local education agencies (LEAs) to establish the Maryland Instructional Resource Center (MIRC) to support students who are blind or have low vision.



**New Bledsoe Cottages and MIRC:
Fully Accessible Dorms and Teaching Kitchens**

Milestones and Achievements

In 2024, The Maryland School for the Blind (MSB) achieved key milestones that reflect its commitment to empowering students who are blind or have low vision. These accomplishments highlight MSB's focus on academic excellence, campus improvements, community partnerships, and fostering student independence in an inclusive, innovative environment.

Key highlights of MSB's 2024 accomplishments include:

Academic Excellence and Student Success

MSB achieved a 100% graduation rate, reflecting its commitment to providing high-quality, individualized education that prepares students for success beyond the classroom.

Innovative Program Expansion

MSB launched new educational programs that foster creativity, critical thinking, and independent living skills, equipping students for real-world challenges.

Campus Enhancements

The completion of the "Bledsoe Cottages" provided modern, supportive residential spaces that promote life skills and student independence.

Staff Professional Development

MSB remains a leader in best practices for educating students who are blind or have low vision through ongoing specialized training. This year, 100% of staff completed professional development, contributing to a 60% average increase in assessment scores.

Community Engagement and Partnerships

Collaborations with local organizations and events like the Maryland Regional Braille Challenge expanded student opportunities and celebrated achievements.

Statewide Impact Through Outreach

The Maryland School for the Blind's Outreach Department trained Maryland teachers on the APH Monarch, a 10-line, 32-cell braille display with tactile graphics, providing advanced tools to enhance education for students who are blind or have low vision.

MSB Class of 2024

Class Officers

President: Faithful Reed

Vice President: Alex DeSmith

Treasurer: Virginia Jacobs

Secretary: Marie Leocadie-Ijambo

Public Relations: Malik Britton

Alumni Award

Winner: Virginia Rose Jacobs

Recognizes exceptional improvement in personal and academic areas. Must be 16–21, in their second year at MSB, and not a previous recipient.

B. Frank Newcomer Award

Winner: Anderson Alejandro Ayala-Pacheco

For a 2024 graduate with 4+ years at MSB, active in 2+ extracurriculars, and exemplary in leadership, citizenship, and academics.

Special Staff Commendation Award

Winner: Marie-Leocadie Nyenyezi Ijambo

Awarded to a graduating senior for outstanding overall improvement.

Class Flower

Orchid

Class Colors

Silver & Gold



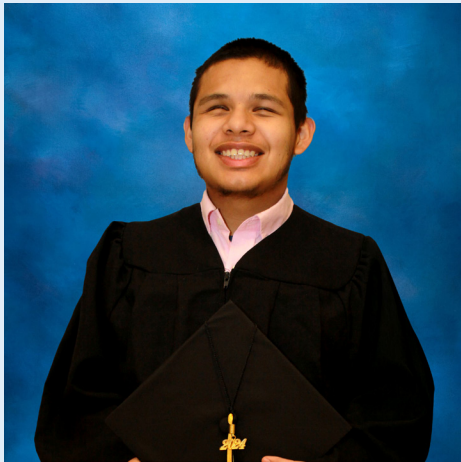
Class Motto
**Together
We Soar,
We're the
Class of 2024**



Photography by FJ Hughes



Alexander DeSmith
Cecil



Anderson Ayala-Pacheco
Washington



Jendayi Anomachi
Baltimore City



Julien Martin
Harford



Kaitlyn Marriott
Baltimore County



Aubrey Barkoye
Baltimore County



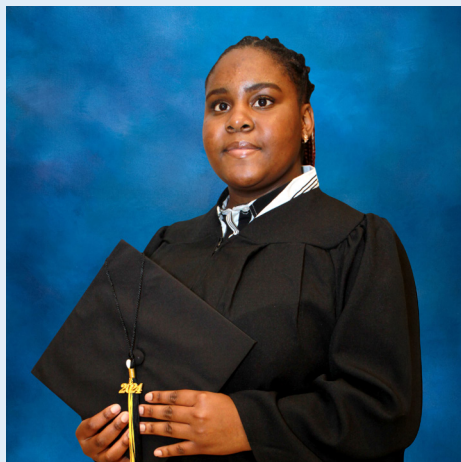
Charles Bainbridge
Baltimore County



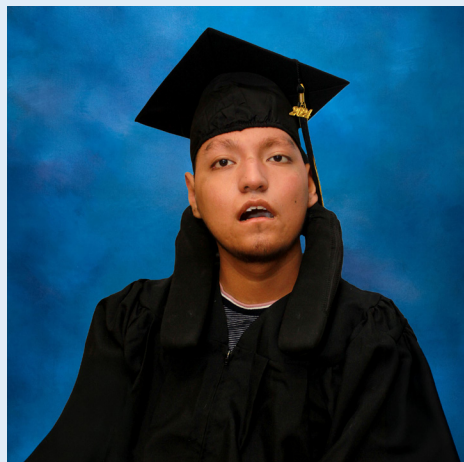
Emma Wynne
Baltimore County



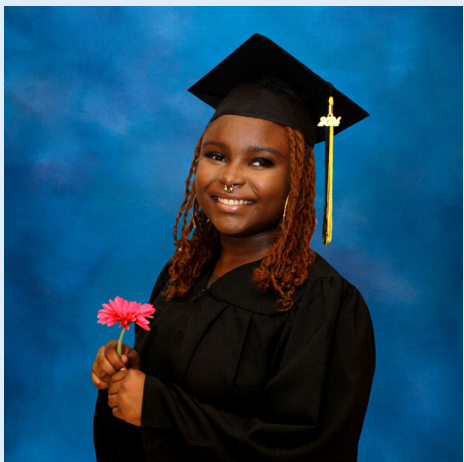
Malik Britton
Harford



Marie-Leocadie Ijambo
Baltimore County



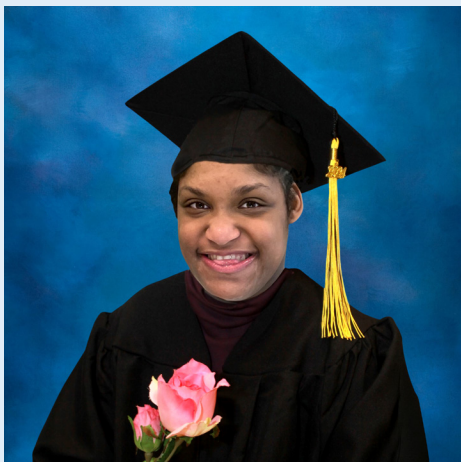
In Memory of
Sergio Garcia Ascencio



Faithful Reed
District of Columbia



Isaiah Morrison
Baltimore City



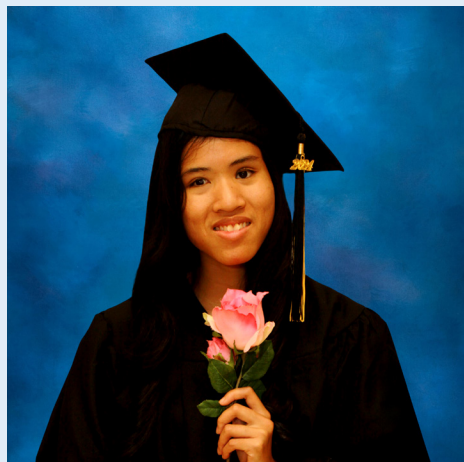
Je'Miyah Miller
Baltimore City



Tyreke Williams
Baltimore County



Victoria Eaves
Baltimore County



Virginia Jacobs
Baltimore County

Reflection on 20 Years of Service

at The Maryland School for the Blind (MSB)

Two Decades of Dedication and Progress

Serving the last 20 years on the board of The Maryland School for the Blind (MSB), with the last 8 years as the Board Chair, has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my career. It takes a village to serve children with multiple disabilities, and I have had the privilege of working alongside an incredible team of students' family and friends, guardians, MSB leadership and staff, legislative advocates, donors, and fellow board members.

Throughout these years, we have achieved remarkable milestones that have significantly transformed the landscape of MSB. Some of the key accomplishments include:

Transformation of the Campus

The campus has undergone a significant transformation to better serve the needs of today's students. Modernized facilities, state-of-the-art classrooms, and accessible spaces now provide an environment conducive to learning and growth for every student.

Elimination of Financial Risk

Through strategic planning and sound financial management, we have successfully eliminated financial risks, ensuring the sustainability and stability of MSB for future generations.

Formalizing Fundraising

We have formalized our fundraising efforts, creating robust mechanisms to garner support from donors and benefactors. This has allowed us to secure vital resources necessary for the school's continued success.

Innovative Programs

MSB staff have introduced innovative programs that enhance teaching and learning. These initiatives have provided our students with unique opportunities to explore, discover, and reach their full potential.

Staff Training

Investing in our dedicated and caring staff has been a priority. Comprehensive training programs are equipping our educators and support staff with the skills and knowledge needed to deliver exceptional education to our students.

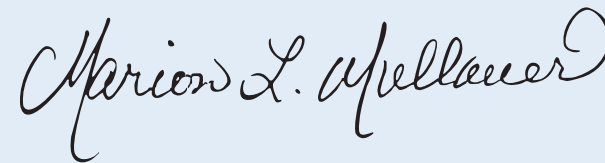
Bringing Technology Up to Date

Technology is being brought up to date, integrating cutting-edge tools and resources into our curriculum. This advancement has empowered our students to engage with the world in new and meaningful ways.

Over the past 20 years, I have been humbled by the patience, creativity, and love extended to our students. Observing the dedication of everyone involved has shown me the incredible power of working together to achieve great results. Each challenge faced and overcome has highlighted the resilience and strength within our MSB community.

As I step away from my role, I will always hold MSB close to my heart and thoughts. I am confident in the school's direction and the expertise within the board to keep improvement continuous. The future of MSB is bright, and I am thankful for the privilege of serving with you on this meaningful journey.

Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to making a difference in the lives of our students. Together, we have created a legacy of excellence that will continue to thrive.



Marion L. Mullauer

Chair, Board of Directors
The Maryland School for the Blind



2024 Highlights Outreach Services

In 2024, The Maryland School for the Blind (MSB) expanded its Outreach Services to support students who are blind or have low vision, their families, and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) across Maryland.

- Key Services
- Assessments:** Functional Vision Screenings, Learning Media Assessments, Orientation & Mobility Evaluations, and Technology Skill Assessments.
- Special Events:** Hosted Family Engagement Days, student workshops, and awareness campaigns.
- Low Vision Clinic:** Offered device trials, environmental adaptations, and collaborative planning.
- Summer Programs:** Focused on academic enrichment, life skills, and adaptive recreation.
- LEA Partnerships:** Provided consultation, educator training, and specialized student support.
- Parent Education:** Delivered workshops, resources, and family networking opportunities.
- Short Courses:** Offered training in assistive technology, daily living skills, and Orientation and Mobility.
- Community Resources:** Connected families with advocacy groups and assistive technology. 521 students in 20 counties and 4 states benefited from all the above services.
- Contract Services:** Provided 10 counties with TVI and O&M IEP direct services (approx 150 students).

MSB Outreach Services: Impact in 2024

In 2024, MSB’s Outreach Services assisted more students and families with specialized resources, innovative programs, and statewide support for lifelong success.

By providing personalized education, assistive technology, and community connections, MSB continues to break barriers and foster independence and growth. **Your support drives this impact.**

Program Highlights & Student Achievements:

- **Howard County Teen Group (2023–2024):** Engaged students through various activities and group initiatives.
- **Abacus Bee:** Three students represented MSB at the Abacus Bee Nationals last year, showcasing their skills.
- **Make48 Experience:** Three students were selected to travel to Kansas to showcase their creativity and talent at the event.
- **LEGO Braille Bricks Partnership:** Outreach established the partnership by bringing LEGO and the Braille Bricks to our annual regional Braille Challenge. One of our Outreach students advanced to the finals, showcasing their skills.
- **White House Tours & Experiences:** Cultural and educational exposure.

Future Goals

Inclusive Summer Programming:

Partner with camp providers like Elev8 and YMCA to offer customized, inclusive summer experiences.

Expanding LEA Partnerships:

Develop tailored extracurricular activities and enhance statewide support for teachers and specialists to improve student outcomes.

Low Vision Clinic Access:

Collaborate with Abil-I-See to host regular low vision clinics on campus and statewide, increasing accessibility for students.

Virginia Jacobs' Story

Strength, Faith, and Opportunity

Born in Thailand on March 17, 2003, Virginia Jacobs was adopted and moved to the U.S. in 2007. Adjusting to a new culture, language, and changes in her vision brought significant challenges in public school. Her life transformed when she joined The Maryland School for the Blind (MSB), where she found the support and confidence to thrive.

At MSB, Virginia discovered a passion for music, coding, and entrepreneurship. She developed her love and skill for playing the piano, learned braille, launched a successful knitting business, and gained the confidence to advocate for herself. Her performance at the See Beyond Festival in 2024 marked a milestone in her musical journey.

Virginia's music, deeply rooted in her faith, spreads messages of hope and love. Despite being born with Peter's Anomaly and losing her left eye in 2021, she continues to pursue her dreams with unwavering determination.

Her connection with MSB music teacher, Miss Linnie, was a turning point, helping Virginia overcome personal loss and depression during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now, Virginia shares her music on social media, inspiring others to overcome obstacles and follow their dreams.



Photography by FJ Hughes



The Maryland School for the Blind (MSB) hosted its 3rd Annual See Beyond Festival on April 27, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the MSB campus in Baltimore, Maryland.

The festival attracted approximately 1,500 attendees, reflecting a growing interest in accessibility and inclusivity within the community.

One standout aspect of the festival invited participants to wear light-blocking eyeshades during select activities, allowing them to experience firsthand the accessibility adaptations designed for individuals with vision loss. This immersive experience highlighted the impact of inclusive design and the importance of creating accessible environments for all.

Volunteer Highlights

160 Volunteers,
Including 27 Staff
Members

Over
7,000
Attendees

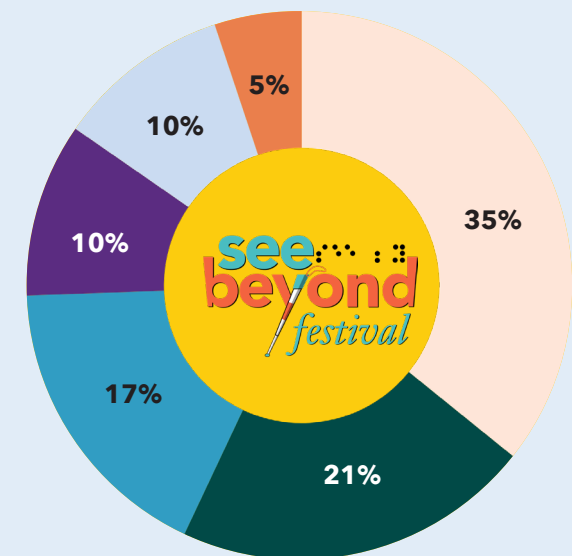
Over the past 3 years
the festival has attracted
over 7,000 participants

45,024,000
Million

Impressions through
media coverage

Festival attendees shared what they learned in a post-event survey.

- Blindness and low vision
- Braille
- Various vision conditions
- Understood their own adaptability
- Accessibility
- Adaptation in sports



MSB's 3rd Annual Festival

Highlighted Accessibility, Inclusion, and Adaptation

The success of the 2024 See Beyond Festival was made possible through the generous support of sponsors, including Presenting Sponsor Lewis Contractors, along with major sponsors Giant Landover, Marshall Craft Architecture, Maury Donnelly & Parr, Penney Design Group, and media sponsors Baltimore Fishbowl, Baltimore Banner, and WTMD/WYPR. Their contributions ensured that all activities and experiences at the festival were free for attendees.

2024 Athletics Highlights

At The Maryland School for the Blind (MSB), athletics are more than just sports—they are a foundation for building confidence, fostering teamwork, and creating a strong sense of belonging for all students. These programs empower students who are blind or have low vision to embrace challenges, achieve personal milestones, and experience the joy of camaraderie.

Through adaptive and accessible sports, MSB provides opportunities for students to explore their potential and showcase their abilities. Whether participating in track and field, goalball, or other athletic programs, students develop resilience and celebrate their achievements alongside their peers.

In 2024, MSB continued its tradition of excellence in athletics, inspiring students to push boundaries and shine both on and off the field. These programs underscore MSB's commitment to inclusivity, personal growth, and empowering every student to succeed.



Photography by FJ Hughes

Track and Field
16 athletes
M - 9
F - 7

Beep Baseball: Featured as part of the See Beyond Festival, offering participants a hands-on experience with this adaptive sport.

Soccer
15 athletes
M - 9
F - 6

Cheerleading
19 athletes
M - 2
F - 17

Goalball: A Unique Sport Designed for Blind Athletes
18 athletes
M - 9
F - 9

Wrestling
13 athletes
M - 7
F - 6

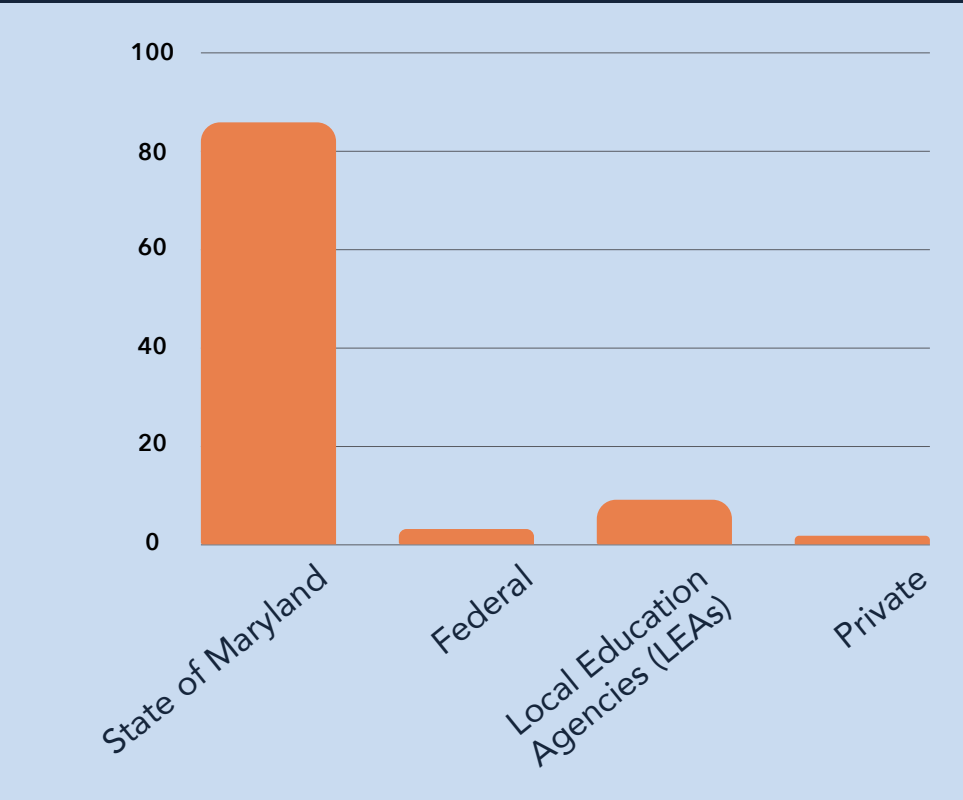
Financial Overview: Sustaining Our Mission Through Diverse Funding

The Maryland School for the Blind (MSB) operates as a private, nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization in accordance with Internal Revenue Service regulations. Our fiscal year concludes on June 30th each year.

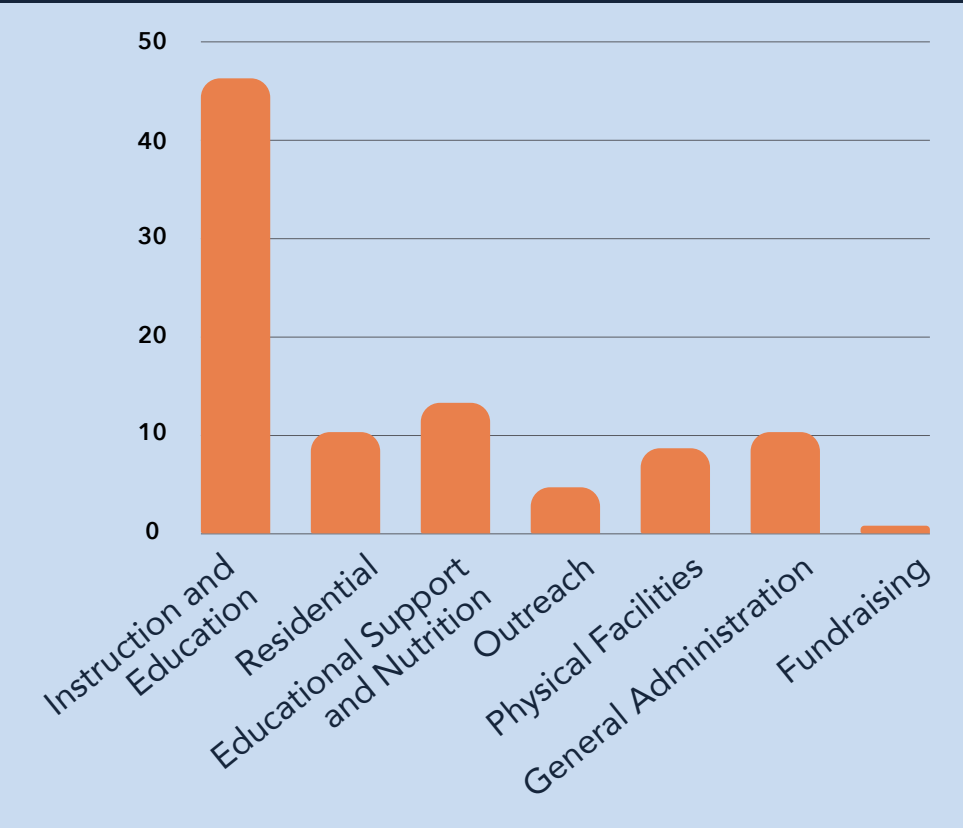
MSB’s primary funding comes from the State of Maryland as well as grants provided by the Maryland State Department of Education and reimbursements from School Districts and Local Educational Agencies. Additional financial support is generously contributed by individuals, corporations, foundations, and community organizations.

For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, total expenses were approximately \$37,775,219 million, reflecting our continued commitment to delivering high-quality, accessible education and support services for students who are blind or have low vision.

Revenue



Expenses



1853 Society and Major Supporters

- Alera Group, Inc.
- American Legion Caroline Post #29
- The American Legion Department of Maryland, Inc.
- Mr. Craig F. Ballew
- The Baltimore Eastside Athletic Club
- John and Sarah Barpoulis
- James Barrett
- Ms. Miriam Beck
- BoMark Electric
- Mr. Warren R. Bontoyan
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Bosley
- Mr. John Breen
- Dr. Stuart Brown
- Mr. Raymond Brown
- Mr. John Bryn
- Burdette, Koehler, Murphy & Associates, Inc.
- Mrs. Loretta C. Cain
- The Campbell Foundation, Inc.
- Carroll Engineering, Inc.
- Robert S. Childs
- Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company
- Club Fidelitas
- Mr. & Mrs. Charles G. Cole
- Mr. Robert B. Cole
- Dr. Lorraine A. Costella Ph.D.
- Kathy Crump
- Racine DeBolt
- Devaney & Associates, Inc.
- Mr. Russell Dickens
- Loretta M. Diforte
- Mrs. Phyllis Dyer
- Mr. Laurence Eisenstein & Ms. Robin Zimelman
- Ensign C. Markland Kelly, Jr. Mem. Foundation, Inc.
- Eugene B. Casey Foundation
- Fallston Supply, Inc.
- Mr. Robert P. Feldman
- First Financial Federal Credit Union
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael R. Ford
- The Frank and Miriam Loveman Foundation
- Ms. Jennifer Fratto

- G. E. Tignall & Co., Inc.
- Giant Food, Inc.
- Ms. Eileen Glaser
- Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick
- Ms. Mary E. Griffin
- Mr. W. Robert Hair and Dr. Steven J. Ralston
- Mr. Alexander A. Hassani
- Hirsch Electric, LLC
- Ms. Rachel Hise
- The Huether-McClelland Foundation, Inc.
- Mr. John Hutchinson
- Mr. Theron Jenkins, Sr.
- Mr. John Jerbi
- The John J. Leidy Foundation, Inc.
- Mrs. Kelly A. Jozwiak
- Mr. James L. Knell
- Knights of Columbus, Fr. Burggraff Council #6021
- Knights of Columbus, Council #2521
- Lewis Contractors
- Lions Club of Perry Hall-Kingsville
- Ms. Ann H. Maddox
- Ms. Karen Malinowski
- Margaret A. Merrill Memorial Fund
- The Markell Company LLC
- Marshall Craft Associates, Inc.
- Mary Jean & Oliver Travers Foundation, Inc.
- Maryland Relay
- Morris A. & Clarisse B. Mechanic Foundation
- Anita & Pio Marocco Fund
- Mr. Peter J. McArdle
- Mr. & Mrs. Timothy P. McGough
- Ms. Betsy B. Monks
- Mount Everest Construction, Inc.
- Mrs. Marion Mullauer
- Mrs. Marian Blanton Munson
- Maury Donnelly & Parr, Inc.
- Parker Flavors
- Penney Design Group
- Mr. Mark Potter
- Mr. Garrett Power
- Penelope R Power
- Rama Devi Raparathi
- Mrs. Nancy Ratchford
- Mr. John S. Rauth
- Ravens Foundation
- Reedbird Steel, Inc.
- Mr. & Mrs. Leo J. Rocca
- Rogers-Wilbur Foundation, Inc.
- Michele and Ralph Rothwell
- Ruff Roofers, Inc.
- Joseph R. Rutkowski
- Ryan Restoration, Inc.
- SC&H Group LLC
- Mr. & Mrs. Gary L. Schaum
- The Schluderberg Foundation, Inc.
- Mr. & Mrs. Alan Sinibaldi
- Nancy L. Slagle
- Mrs. Harriet Sollod
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Stevens III
- Ms. Lydia Hoover Stickley
- T. Rowe Price Foundation
- The Thomas W. Bradley Foundation, Inc.
- Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Tuchman
- Mr. Samuel Tuminello
- Ms. Jane Osburn and Mr. Scott Wales
- Wegmans Hunt Valley
- Mrs. Renee Winsky

Major Vehicle Donors

- Hatem Abdo
- Patricia Aleshire
- Chinweokwu Anadu
- James Archer
- Ms. Alice Arnold
- Sunshine Nkeiruka Augusta
- David Bandel
- Marcus Baynes
- Mark Beach
- Laura Beelen
- Bryan K. Benson
- Noel Benton
- Bonnie D. Beranek
- David B. Bowen
- Bruce Boyle
- Dennis Buckman
- Alison Carder
- Ms. Palma Castellano
- Chesapeake GeoSciences, Inc.
- Thomas Clocker
- Commercial Cabling & Sound, Inc.
- Mark C. Connor
- Patrick M. Cunningham
- Ms. Jane W. Daniels
- Leah Desai
- Kevin L. Drury
- Mary Dulowski
- Mr. Thomas W. Fitch
- Margaret Fitzpatrick
- Shelton R. Flemming Jr.
- Noreen Gilsinn
- Stephen Haube
- Kathleen Hayden
- John Healy
- Ben Heller
- Donald E. Hoffman
- Lisa Hresko
- Dwayne C. Jones
- David Jones
- Kevin J. Kane
- Amy Kemp
- Matthew J. Kurrle
- David H. Kutcher
- Brennan Lauritzen
- Larry D. Lee Sr.
- Ms. Lillian Leslie
- Catherine Teresa Mackel
- William R. Martino
- Caitriona Massengale
- Danny McDaniel
- Matthew Mclaughlin
- John McQuaid IV
- Caitlin Eileen Miller
- Russell Mitchell
- Marc O'Campo
- Temitope Olukoya
- Maya Opendak
- Ishaq Osman
- Elizabeth Ostermann
- Thomas Park
- Mr. & Ms. Leonard C. Pasqualone
- Mr. Norman C. Perry
- Lyn G. Phelps
- Elizabeth and Paul Picciotta
- Nikki Prysianzy
- Amol Puri
- Matthew S. Rader
- Shirley Richardson
- Estelle Roll
- Eugene Rucker
- Donald Van Ryk
- Mary Sachs
- Virinder M. Seam
- Nestor Serrano
- Smithouse Construction LLC
- Erin Stern
- Malle M. Stubbins
- Michael Sullivan
- Jamal Wasi
- Hope L. Whitaker
- Herbert S. Wilkinson
- Jeffrey Wolter
- Haijie Xiao
- Maureen Yench
- Breanna M. Yench
- Sara Zeback
- Frank Ziegler
- Louis Zwirlein

MSB Board and Leadership

Officers

Chair: Marion Mullauer

1st Vice-Chair: **Raymond Brown

2nd Vice-Chair: Karen Malinowski

Treasurer: Kati Penney

Secretary: Renee Winsky

Ex-Officio Member:

Robert Hair, MSB Superintendent

Directors

Craig Ballew

Liza Brown-DiCostantino

Dr. Lorraine Costella

**Dr. Nancy Grasmick

**Senator Guy Guzzone

John Huynh

Jim Knell

Mark Potter

Jack Pumphrey

Dr. Karen Rigamonti

**Paul Schroeder

**Delegate Stephanie Smith

Lou Smith

Christopher Trapani

Dr. Joanne Waeltermann

Scott Wales

Robin Zimelman

****Governor Appointed**

Senior Leadership

W. Robert Hair

Superintendent

Maureen Bisesi

Director of Residential & Related Services

Diane Colburn

Director of Statewide Outreach Services

Dr. Joshua Irzyk

Director of Education

Marlo Jacobson

Director of Advancement

Bill McCubbin Jr.

Director of Campus Operations

April Tucker

Director of Human Resources

Kibian Vazquez

Chief Financial Officer

Emeritus Members

- James J. Datovech
- In memory of Edward J. Veilleux, whose contributions continue to inspire us

Legacy Society

- Estate of Mary Carl
- Estate of Beatrice J. Dunphy
- Estate of Ms. Catherine E. Etchison
- Estate of Wayne N. Gallatin
- John and Dorothy Guidera Living Trust
- Estate of Elaine T. McDonald
- Estate of Victor J. Schenk



The Maryland School for the Blind

**3501 Taylor Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21236**

marylandschoolfortheblind.org

410.444.5000 • info@mdschblind.org