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BEYOND BLINDNESS SET TO UNVEIL NEWLY REMODELED CAMPUS IN SANTA ANA

The nonprofit's renovated headquarters provides more modernized, welcoming spaces for children and their families

SANTA ANA, Calif. (Sept 29, 2022) – [Beyond Blindness](#), an Orange County-based nonprofit that empowers children with visual impairments and other disabilities to achieve their fullest potential, today announced it will unveil its newly remodeled campus with an official ribbon-cutting in October. Beyond Blindness commenced the phased renovation in spring 2022, committed to ensuring no disruption of its early intervention, education and enrichment, and family support services. To celebrate the exciting new changes and completion of the remodel, the nonprofit has invited families, board members, donors, medical professionals, educators, other partners, and friends for a private grand re-opening and ribbon cutting ceremony taking place Oct. 4.

“We are thrilled to reveal our updated campus, which plays an important role in our new five-year strategic plan to impact even more families and help a wider population of children, no matter their abilities, live full and rewarding lives,” says Angie Rowe, President and CEO of Beyond Blindness. “With this remodel, our goal was to modernize our spaces and create a welcoming environment for children and families we serve.”

Beyond Blindness moved to its current home on Vanderlip Avenue in Santa Ana in 1992 after outgrowing its old location. The new campus featured larger classrooms and a playground that gave the nonprofit's early intervention and education programs room to grow. This is the first extensive remodel of the original campus.

Highlights of the remodel include the Low Vision Optometry Clinic and Assistive Technology Lab. A \$15,000 grant from the Ueberroth Family Foundation funded the purchase of the clinic's new optometry lane exam station, a comprehensive site with equipment and instruments. The addition of the station over the summer has increased the number of clients in an expanded range of ages that can be served by Beyond Blindness through its partnership with Marshall B. Ketchum University.

Made possible through a \$20,000 grant from Impact Giving, the Assistive Technology Lab also underwent a major remodel that included the purchase of low-tech and high-tech devices and optical aids. A dedicated space was created next to the Low Vision Clinic to house the new equipment. The lab will offer walk-in hours, appointment-based access to individual training, and a technology lending library.

“For students with visual impairments, assistive technology is a fundamental tool that allows them to participate on equal footing with their peers,” Rowe says. “The remodel of this lab will allow us to maximize performance, inclusion and access for Beyond Blindness children and families, ensuring visually impaired students reach their full potential.”

The entire campus was updated with new paint, flooring, and an updated kitchen. These enhancements create a brighter, more inspiring space for staff and visitors, as well as reflect the evolution of Beyond Blindness, including its new name and branding that were unveiled last year. The renovation was done using capital improvements money allocated by the fiscally responsible board of directors.

Future improvements for the growth and expansion of services and to meet the organization’s 2022-2027 Strategic Goals will include two inclusive playgrounds (infant/toddler and preschool), signage, ADA compliant bathrooms in the main building, and landscaping.

For more information about Beyond Blindness’ programs and services offered at the newly remodeled Santa Ana campus or how to volunteer, donate or attend one of our many events, please visit www.beyondblindness.org.

About Beyond Blindness

Beyond Blindness, formerly Blind Children’s Learning Center, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission to empower children with visual impairments and other disabilities to achieve their fullest potential. Areas of service include Early Intervention, Education + Enrichment, and Family Support, which all aim to help children, no matter their abilities, live full and rewarding lives. The Beyond Blindness team embraces a people-first approach and values family, connection, impact, inclusion, stewardship, and optimism. For more information, please visit www.beyondblindness.org.

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