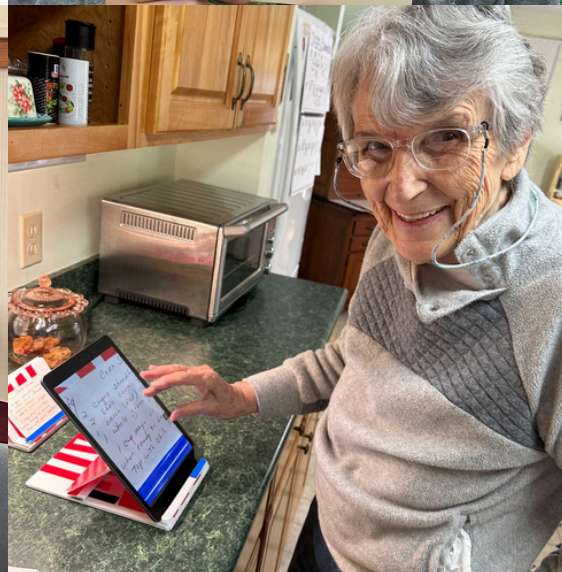
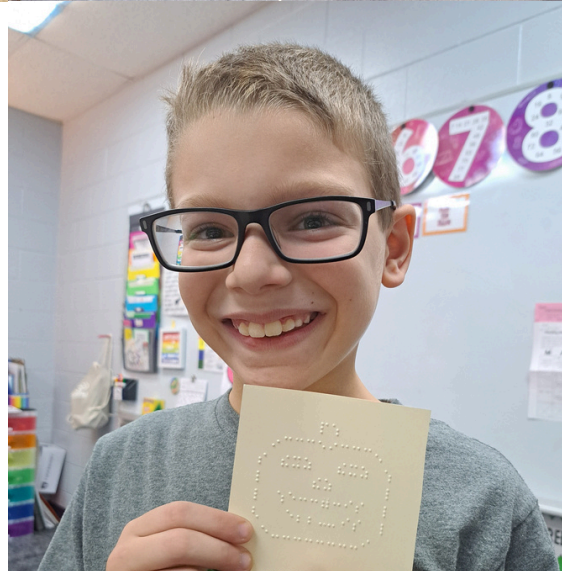


# FY2024

## ANNUAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 - AUGUST 31, 2024



# HOW TO HELP



## DONATE

Your support helps us further our mission. Donate securely online at [futureinsight.org/donate](https://futureinsight.org/donate) or mail your check to **Future In Sight** at:

25 Walker Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Future In Sight is a 501(c)(3) | EIN: 02-0223606



## VOLUNTEER

We are in need of volunteers to drive clients to vital appointments and essential errands, make friendly calls and visits, provide administrative support, and assist with special events - like our **Walk For Sight!**

Visit [futureinsight.org/volunteer](https://futureinsight.org/volunteer).



## SIGN UP FOR OUR MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

Our monthly e-newsletter includes exclusive updates about our organization and helpful info for individuals who are blind and visually impaired and their families. Sign up at [futureinsight.org/signupfornews](https://futureinsight.org/signupfornews).



## ENGAGE WITH US ON SOCIAL

Follow us then like, share and comment on our posts!

- Facebook: [futureinsight](https://www.facebook.com/futureinsight)
- LinkedIn: [future-in-sight-nh](https://www.linkedin.com/company/future-in-sight-nh)
- Instagram: [FutureInSightNH](https://www.instagram.com/FutureInSightNH)
- Twitter: [FutureInSightNH](https://twitter.com/FutureInSightNH)

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT/CEO AND OUR BOARD CHAIR: A YEAR OF INSPIRATION AND GROWTH

Dear Partners,

As we reflect on fiscal year 2024 at Future In Sight, we are inspired by the incredible accomplishments and partnerships that have shaped our mission. Working together with a focus on the needs of our clients, we've reached new heights by expanding our services and strengthening our dedication to transforming lives across New Hampshire.

Our commitment to clients is at the heart of everything we do. That's why we've expanded peer support groups to additional towns and cities across New Hampshire, ensuring every client has access to this vital adjustment to blindness service. Together, we're fostering connection, resilience, and a stronger community for all.

Our Adult and Youth Service Teams have grown significantly allowing us to provide impactful support to more individuals and families than ever before. This growth is a testament to the dedication of our staff whose tireless efforts continue to empower our clients to navigate life with confidence and independence.

Recognizing that people of all ages can be impacted by sight loss, we proudly launched two transformative programs: the Adjustment to Blindness Counseling Program and Early Support Services for infants and their parents. These initiatives address vital needs in our community, offering critical resources to clients when they are most needed, whether they are the youngest among us or adjusting to new challenges later in life.

We are also pleased to celebrate the recognition of our Lions Lift volunteer driver program, which won the Outstanding Award in the Group Category at Volunteer NH's "Spirit of NH" Awards. Our partnership with Lions Clubs across the state led to the development of this initiative, which has provided countless clients with reliable transportation along with fostering independence and building community connections.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our community as you have been inspired by the courage and resilience of our clients. We are grateful to our volunteers, who so generously give their time and energy; to our donors, whose contributions fuel our mission; and to our incredible teams, who pour their passion and expertise into every service we provide—we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

As we celebrate these milestones, we also look forward to the year ahead with excitement and determination to make a difference. Together, we will continue to break down barriers, empower individuals, and create a brighter, more inclusive future for those we serve.

With gratitude and hope,



**Randy Pierce**  
*President & CEO*



**Charles Mathews**  
*Board Chair*



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## BOARD OFFICERS

**Dr. Dorothy Hitchmoth, *Chair***

*CEO & Owner - Dr. Dorothy L. Hitchmoth, PLLC*  
Resides in New London, NH

**Andrew Crook, *Vice Chair***

*Lead Accessibility Architect - Paramount Streaming*  
Resides in Manchester, NH

**Jack Crisp, *Treasurer***

*Managing Member - The Crisp Law Firm, PLLC*  
Resides in Bow, NH

**Charles Mathews, *Assistant Treasurer***

*Senior Wealth Management Consultant - NBT Bank*  
Resides in Hopkinton, NH

**Clifford Harris, *Secretary***

*Principle Broker - Global LBH, LLC*  
Resides in Amherst, NH

## BOARD MEMBERS

**Judith Rogato**

*Retired Educator*  
*Theatrical Production Team - Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative, Laconia; Winni Playhouse, Meredith*  
Resides in Laconia, NH

**Logan Bergeron**

*Assistant General Counsel - TransMedics, Inc.*  
Resides in Hopkinton, NH

**Karen Lascelle, CPA, CVA, CFE**

*Managing Director - John G. Burk & Associates, CPAs, PC*  
Resides in Derry, NH

**David Kuhns**

*Retired Air Force Colonel*  
*CEO & Founder - The Blind Leading the Blind*  
Resides in Bedford, NH

## BOARD EMERITUS

**Timothy Murray**

*Retired Insurance Executive*  
Resides in Bedford, NH

**William Sirak**


*Retired VP - Citizens Bank Foundation*  
Resides in Manchester, NH





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

How To Help	2
A Message from our President/CEO & Board Chair	3
Board of Directors	4
FY2024 Service Impact	6
Denise Davis: A Senior Client Story	8
Scott Joffre: A Youth Client Story	10
David Kuhns: A Board Member Story	12
FY2024 Financial Overview	13
Our Key Partners	14
Walk For Sight	15





# FISCAL YEAR

**6,342**

Lives  
Impacted



**100% of clients**

surveyed during FY2024 reported  
that our services helped them feel

**more independent**

**148**

Group  
Meetings,  
Activities &  
Workshops



**2,270**

Participants Total



**97**

Youth Clients Served

**2,579**

Hours of Service  
Provided To Youth Clients



**33**

Schools We Partner With

# SERVICE IMPACT

**3,035**

Volunteer Hours

**1,506**

Rides Provided By  
Volunteers To Essential  
Appointments

**48,937**

Miles Driven By Volunteers  
To Assist Clients

**846** Adult Clients  
Served

**2,638**



Hours Of Service  
Provided To  
Adult Clients

**118,863**

Miles Driven By  
Staff To Provide  
Service to Youth  
and Adult Clients



## A SENIOR CLIENT STORY

**D** Walking into Denise Davis' home provides you with an immediate sense of calm. This is intentional. The 1970s mobile home was one of Denise's first purchases after receiving her diagnosis: Inherited Retinal Dystrophy (IRD). For the last couple of years, she has been renovating the home into something worthy of belonging in the Florida Keys or along the cliffs of the Mediterranean. The entire space centers around one of Denise's paintings – a woman dipping her toes in the ocean with turquoise and blue spilling off the canvas.

**E** "I wanted a feel of color and light in my life for as long as I could see it." The windows in Denise's home are big, casting light on every surface. The biggest windows look out over a yard that abuts a marsh. Denise chose this area (Nashua) because it offered her proximity to services while allotting her privacy, her own space and closeness to nature.

**N** Like so many of our clients, Denise is living off of her social security benefits. "I'm just getting by but yet I feel wealthy." Denise equates this feeling of wealth to knowing she has a tremendous support system. A fierce advocate for herself, Denise has gone so far as to create a recurring event at her community center to give her a human connection that is close to her home and easily accessible as her vision continues to decline.

**I** At 67, Denise believes age is just a number. While most days she says she feels younger than she is, she also admits that life has not dealt her a hand without loss. First, at a young age when she was diagnosed with Lupus; second, at the age of 55 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer and lost both breasts; now, with her diagnosis of IRD and the loss of her sight. Through all of this loss, there have been three constants that have gotten her through: her support system, her paintings, and her self-advocacy.

**S** Denise began advocating for her needs when she realized her vision was failing. "I walked into the bedroom of my former home after shutting the lights down in the hallway and I couldn't see my white dog on my bed. I knew he was there but I couldn't see him." Denise explains the countless doctors and specialists she visited after this moment, searching for an answer. The formal diagnosis of IRD didn't provide Denise with the answers she was looking for. "I have a loss of my peripheral vision. My cones and rods are going. I have difficulty seeing in bright light and dim light. I am preparing myself for complete vision loss."

**E** With this new reality, Denise got to work on creating a space where she could thrive – both literally in her home and figuratively in her support system. Denise began researching services that were available to her in her area and learned about our Silver Retreats through New Hampshire's Services for the Blind and Vision Impaired (SBVI), a service of the state's





Department of Education and Vocational Rehabilitation. Future In Sight cooperatively develops and presents the Silver Retreats with the state's Older Individuals who are Blind or vision impaired program (OIB).

"That retreat was groundbreaking for me. I mean, I get teary-eyed thinking about it." The retreat offered Denise her first opportunity to be with individuals like her – aging with severe vision loss. While Denise admits learning about the tools and technology that exist to help support individuals like herself was amazing, she believes the most powerful moments from the retreat occurred when the group was able to sit together and share their experiences. "The feeling of community was empowering."

During the graduation ceremony at the end of the retreat, Denise shared the following message of sincere gratitude with the team that had supported her over the last five days:

"We were bound by what we couldn't see. We didn't know what we didn't know but with an amazing five-day whirlwind of events, we have our future in sight. These committed, compassionate, insightful, and supportive professionals have given us the tools to move forward. We have developed independence, confidence, acceptance, a sense of self, determination, freedom, connection, courage, commitment, and self-advocacy. We learned to move beyond our fears and stubbornness to try something new and in doing so we broke the chains that held us back. All of this became possible because of this wonderful program and the Future In Sight staff."

Since Denise's experience at the Silver Retreat, she has continued to receive services and support from both the State of New Hampshire and Future In Sight. When visiting her home, she's most excited to show off the tools she has been given for her kitchen, allowing her to keep up with her

passion for cooking. In addition, she proudly displays an Alexa device in almost every room, which help keep her organized, turn on lights and play music. With music playing throughout her home, Denise dances her way through making her bed, doing the dishes, and whatever needs to get done. Why is dance so important to her? "My routines and my days are spent lifting myself up. That's my job."

Denise's positive outlook has made her an ideal candidate to co-chair Future In Sight's Peer Support Group in Derry. She views this as the perfect opportunity to give back to an organization that has given her so much.

How else is Denise giving back? Denise recently completed our orientation to become a Future In Sight volunteer, allowing her to act as a peer mentor to individuals who are new to receiving services through Future In Sight. Denise is currently mentoring two individuals who are also artists. She can encourage them by sharing her journey of using art to cope. Together, they are finding new ways to navigate their artistic endeavors with vision loss.

If you would like to volunteer your time to help support clients like Denise, visit [futureinsight.org/volunteer](https://futureinsight.org/volunteer) or scan the QR code to the right -->



Denise sharing her paintings that line her hallway

## A YOUTH CLIENT STORY

**S** Scott Joffre was born 14 weeks prematurely, weighing just 1lb 8oz. To complicate matters, he was born with severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID), increasing his risk of contracting life-threatening infections. Commonly known as ‘bubble boy disease’, SCID is a rare genetic disorder that prevents the body from producing enough immune cells to fight infection.

**C** While his doctors worked to give Scott a fighting chance, his mom worked to save his life. Scott’s mom knew that a bone marrow transplant was the only cure for SCIDs, having gone through the same process with Scott’s older brother Josh. Once Scott’s mom was deemed a match for Scott, she donated her bone marrow so the doctors could do a hematopoietic stem cell transplant. Once Scott was strong enough for the procedures the doctors began the long process of helping Scott’s body create an immune system.

**O** After months of treatment and recovery, Scott was officially under observation to make sure there were no adverse effects from the transplant. As his family tried to find some normalcy in their lives, they were hit with another diagnosis – retinopathy of prematurity, an eye disease that is commonly caused by prematurity and low birth weight and occurs when abnormal blood vessels form in the retina. For Scott, this has meant a lifelong impact on his vision. He remembers always having issues with his left eye, most likely due to the scar tissue and cataract, but as he entered high school his vision in his right eye had also begun to deteriorate.

**T** Today, Scott Joffre is 21 years old. He is a graduate of Merrimack Valley High School and while he works on building his YouTube channel following, he is working as a beta tester for his eye doctor and friend, Dr. Dorothy Hitchmoth. Scott remembers the day his mom told him he would be seeing a local eye doctor. Scott’s mom had been doing commercial cleaning in Dr. Dorothy’s office and asked her if she would be willing to look at her son’s eyes.



“Scotty is really a miracle child. Well, now he’s a miracle man,” Dr. Dorothy explains. “Here he is, as an adult, learning how to navigate the world through all the wonderful innovations and technologies that are now available to people with low vision, people with visual impairment and people who are blind. Scotty helps us in our office navigate those new technologies and bring them to other patients who also need them.”



**Dr. Dorothy performing an eye exam on Scott**

In the eyes of the world, Scott is an adult. At Future In Sight, Scott still receives services through our Youth Services Program. This is important because Scott is still developing physically, emotionally and mentally. Over the years, Scott has accomplished so many of his personal goals with the support of Future In Sight’s team of Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialists, Assistive Technology Specialists, and Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments. He recalls getting and learning to use his first white cane through Future In Sight, attending Zoom workshops on assistive technology topics, and his first Real World Skill-Building Workshop where he met his friend Noah.

“It was really cool to meet someone that has the same eye condition as me and has the same interests as me. We have a lot in common.”

When Scott reflects on his experiences with Future In Sight as a whole he says he feels

inspired. “I love the staff, love the community,” he explains. “It shows that I’m not alone in this journey.”

Scott also appreciates that the providers push him to try new things and do things independently. “When you do it by yourself you become more confident.”

It’s that confidence that has Scott excited for his future. He feels empowered to continue beta testing assistive technology/apps and inspired to grow his fan base on YouTube. He hopes to one day have a channel similar to Sam Seavey, an idol he got to meet at the 2024 Walk For Sight. When he considers his long-term goals, he smiles and says, “I want to try to get my own video game character in a video game. I would be wearing what I’m wearing right now (blue jeans, a *The Blind Life* hoodie, glasses and a baseball cap) and then I would have my white cane as the pickaxe [*Fortnite* reference]. It would help me honor my brother, Josh, who I know would have loved playing Fortnite with me and I just think something like that would be really cool to spread awareness of blind people.”

If you or someone you know could benefit from our Real World Skill-Building Series, visit [futureinsight.org/realworldskillbuilding](https://futureinsight.org/realworldskillbuilding) or scan the QR code to the right -->



**Scott with Noah and other participants at a Real World Skill-Building workshop**

# DAVE

## A BOARD MEMBER STORY

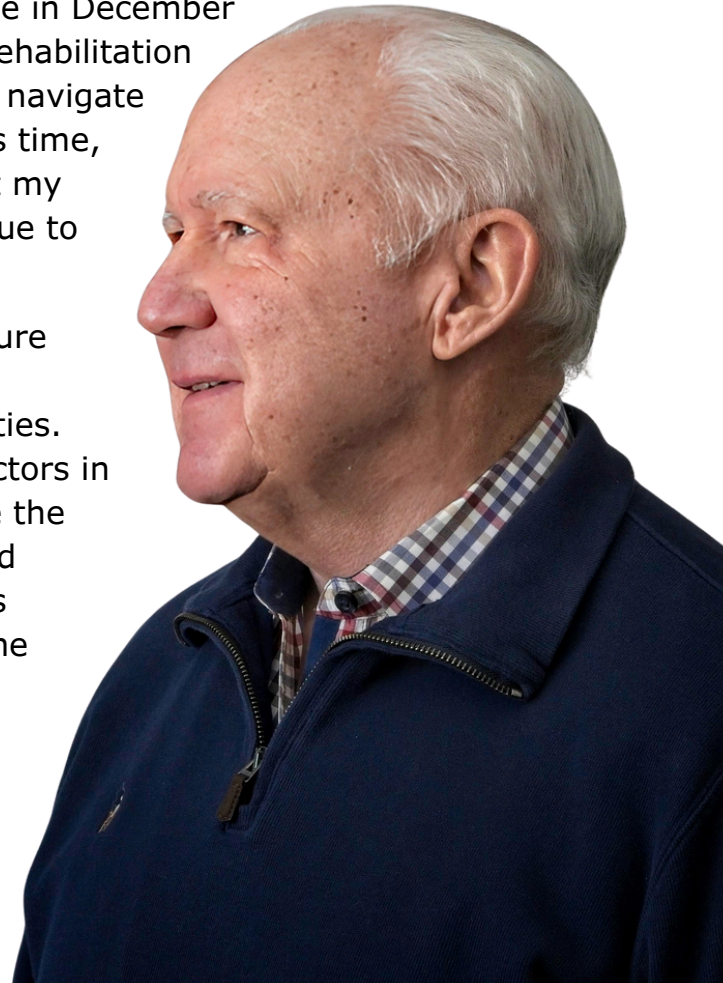
At 73 years old, David Kuhns is a man with immense pride. He sits a little taller when he discusses his military career, his family, and his belief that everyone should have equal access to the resources needed to live independently with visual impairment and blindness. For more than 30 years, Dave saw the world from the cockpit as a Command Pilot in the US Air Force. Today he lives in Bedford, NH with his wife, Becki, in a beautifully decorated home that he has never actually seen. When Dave reflects on a time when the world was at his feet and the idea of vision loss was unimaginable, he gives a small smile and says, "I got to do a lot of things."

Dave grew up as a 'military brat'. He attended college at Southwest Texas University where he entered the ROTC Program and at the end of his college career, he was commissioned and selected to enter Air Force pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base. His first assignment was learning to fly the T-38 Talon, a two-seat, twinjet supersonic jet trainer.

Upon completing pilot training, Dave took a brief break from the Air Force before returning to the military in 1981. He moved up from Aircraft Commander to Instructor Pilot to Flight Examiner all in a short time and ended his Air Force career as a Colonel. Following his time in the military, Dave worked in the private sector for nearly 10 years before he began noticing an obstruction in his right eye. By the Summer of 2014, without a diagnosis, his left eye also had an obstruction and the right eye had become so damaged that enucleation - removal of the eye - was necessary. By Christmas, without any answers, Dave began showing other physical and mental signs; fearing a stroke, his family rushed him to the hospital. A CT scan found a tumor in his optic chiasm, the area where the optic nerves cross in the brain. More testing led to a diagnosis of central nervous system lymphoma. Dave underwent more than 9 months of intense chemotherapy before being declared cancer-free in December of 2015. After chemo, Dave did an 11-week intensive rehabilitation class that was designed to prepare him to learn how to navigate his world as a person who is blind. Dave reflects on this time, "my only goal was to become independent enough that my wife could leave me at home safely so she could continue to have a social life and not have to worry."

When Dave returned home, he began working with Future In Sight, receiving Orientation & Mobility training and becoming an active participant in our calendar of activities. In 2023, Dave joined the Future In Sight Board of Directors in the hope of being part of a team that works to advance the independence of those living with visual impairment and blindness like him. Dave is also one of Future In Sight's monthly donors, helping to ensure that everyone has the same access to services and support that he does.

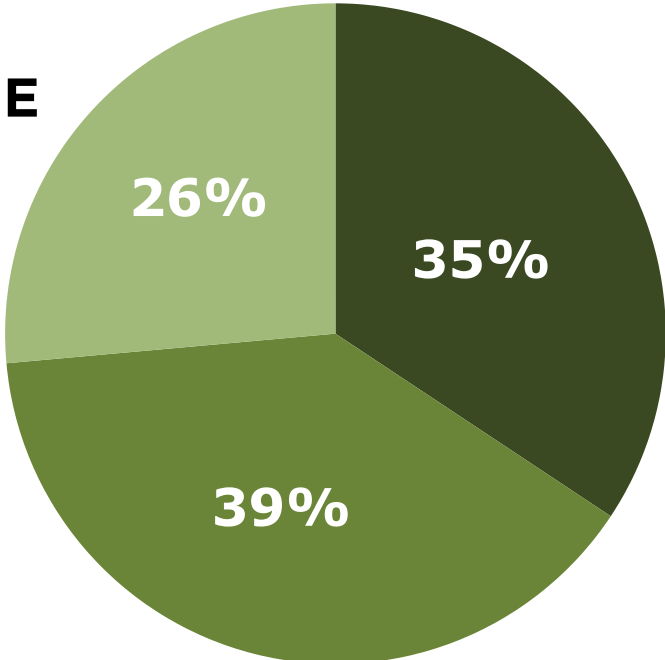
If you would like to find out more about becoming a monthly donor like Dave, visit [futureinsight.org/donate](https://futureinsight.org/donate) or scan the QR code to the right -->



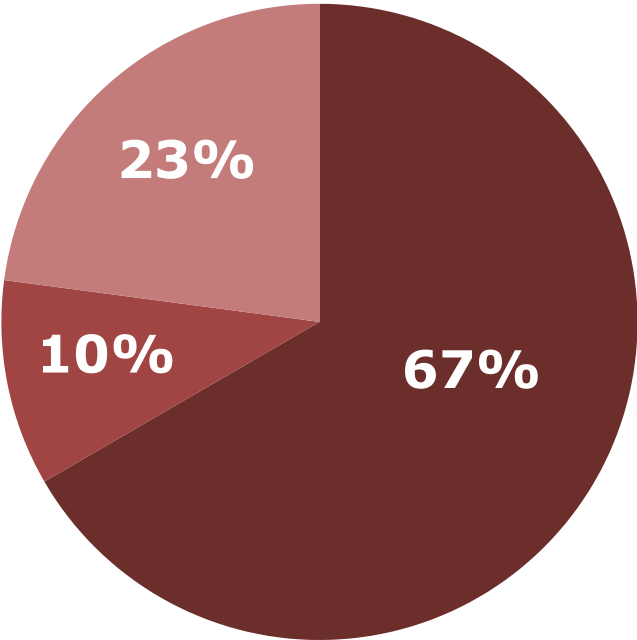
# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## FY2024 SOURCES OF REVENUE

Public Support	\$1,005,890
Service Revenue	\$1,150,456
Endowment Spending (Draw for Operations)	\$774,630
<hr/>	
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>	<b>\$2,930,976</b>



- Public Support
- Service Revenue
- Endowment Spending Draw for Operations



- Program Expenses
- Public Support Expenses
- General Administration

## FY2024 FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Program Expenses	\$1,839,324
Public Support Expenses	\$289,025
General Administration	\$632,253

---

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **\$2,760,602**

---

**REVENUE less EXPENSES** **\$170,374**

---

**NET RETURN ON INVESTMENTS** **\$928,402**

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS** **\$1,098,776**

# OUR KEY PARTNERS

## FY2024 GRANT AWARDS

Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation .....	\$150,000
The Mary Gale Foundation, Inc. ....	\$60,000
Sarah K. De Coizart TENTH Perpetual Charitable Trust .....	\$50,000
The Gibney Family Foundation .....	\$50,000
The Cogswell Benevolent Trust .....	\$25,000
Samuel P. Hunt Foundation .....	\$25,000
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's 2022 Nellie Mae Education Foundation Grant Fund .....	\$20,000
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's Delphinium Fund, Ellen A. and Gordon M. Tiffany Fund and Whit and Closey Dickey Fund .....	\$20,000
The Roger R. and Theresa A. Thompson Endowment Fund .....	\$15,000
Couch Family Foundation .....	\$10,000
Norwin S. and Elizabeth N. Bean Foundation .....	\$10,000
Foundation for Seacoast Health .....	\$10,000
Hannaford .....	\$10,000
Benjamin Couch Charitable Trust .....	\$7,500
Oleonda Jameson Trust .....	\$5,000
DCU for Kid .....	\$5,000
Ella F. Anderson Trust .....	\$2,500
Merrimack County Savings Bank .....	\$2,000
Eversource Energy .....	\$1,500

For a full list of donors and funders from FY2024, visit [futureinsight.org/supporters](https://futureinsight.org/supporters) or scan the QR code to the right -->



# 2024 WALK FOR SIGHT

Thank you for helping us raise over \$100,000!



We appreciate our sponsors who made this event possible.

If interested in sponsoring the 2025 Walk For Sight, contact **Courtney Hoppe, Director of Development, Marketing & Communications**, at **603-565-2427** or **choppe@futureinsight.org**



Concord Lions Club



## 2024 sponsors:



Brookline Lions Club



Goffstown Lions Club



Propane & Oil Since 1932



Bedford Lions Club



Salem Lions Club



JOIN US FOR GOOD

Join us at the **2025 Walk For Sight**  
on **Saturday, May 17th**  
in **Downtown Concord, NH!**



Scan the QR code or visit **futureinsight.org/walkforsight** to register to walk as an individual or to start/join a team!

## **OUR MISSION:**

To advance the independence of persons who are blind and visually impaired.



**THE FUTURE IN SIGHT STAFF  
AT OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY**

## **OUR VISION:**

"We imagine an inclusive world where every person who is blind and visually impaired lives with confidence and dignity."

