This story begins in 1918 in Vermont, where Robert Larner was born into a poor immigrant family from Russia.

His father was a roofer—and this too seemed young Robert’s destiny. But after one hot summer of backbreaking work, they both agreed this was not Robert’s calling.

“My family couldn’t afford anything—haircuts or a nickel for the movies!”, he recalls. So he studied hard and earned a number of scholarships—becoming the only one of his six siblings to go to college.

“I focused on pre-med,” he says, “finishing my undergraduate studies in three years, then moving on to medical school and my internship.” Soon thereafter, Dr. Larner was in uniform treating the troops in military station hospitals in the U.S., Guadalcanal, and Okinawa during World War II.

After the war and a residency in Baltimore, Dr. Larner moved to Southern California, where he established an internal medicine practice and spent the next 40 years healing the people of Los Angeles.

Dr. Larner and his wife, Helen, worked hard and invested wisely. “I’d been very fortunate to have come from nothing and achieve success, and it was time to start giving back,” he explains.

So in 1985, the Larners established the Larner Endowment and Student Loan Fund to make medical education more affordable for students at the University of Vermont, his alma mater. That fund now totals more than $8 million and has inspired gifts from more than 1,700 other donors.

Then, in 2008 Dr. Larner began losing his vision. “My eyesight was perfect until I hit 90,” says the now 98-year-old physician.

“After a lifetime of healing others, I suddenly felt powerless. The experience gave me a firsthand understanding of what the precious gift of sight means to each and every one of us, and it gave me a true appreciation for the vital work of Braille Institute.”

To help other people who are visually impaired, the Larners decided to make one of the largest gifts in Braille Institute’s history. “We wanted to make a big, permanent impact and help students achieve their dreams, just like we were able to do at the University of Vermont. So, when I found out Braille Institute didn’t have a formal endowment fund, we decided to start one,” says Dr. Larner with a smile.

The result is The Larner Endowment Fund for Transforming Lives, a permanent fund to guarantee Braille Institute will always be here to help students transition from lives of desperation to lives filled with hope.

To inspire other donors to also give back, the Larners have established a permanent mechanism to make matching gifts for all contributions, regardless of size, from everyone else who gives to the fund. “Simply put, the larger the endowment fund becomes, the more lives we can change together,” says the doctor.

“"We wanted to make a big, permanent impact and help students achieve their dreams.”
—Dr. Robert Larner

“"The larger the endowment fund becomes, the more lives we can change, together.”
—Dr. Robert Larner
KEY PROGRAM STATISTICS

**Library Services**
- Registered Library Patrons: 30,592
- Books Circulated: 931,146
- Depositories at Public Library Locations: 1,491

**Adult Education and Counseling**
- Adults Served: 1,938
- Contact Hours: 143,362

**Outreach Services**
- Adults Served: 2,840
- Contact Hours: 17,108

**Mobile Solutions Outreach**
- Sites Visited: 275

**Low Vision Services**
- Low Vision Consultations: 3,272

**Orientation & Mobility**
- Students Served: 807
- Contact Hours: 6,121

**Child Development: Infants through age 5**
- Families/Children Served: 342
- Hours of Service: 6,182
- Accompany Families to Medical Visits: 414
- Additional families served through parent groups: 44

**Youth Services: Ages 6 to 18**
- Youths Served: 193
- Contact Hours: 10,026

**National Programs**
- The Braille Challenge®:
  - Number of Participants: 1,122
  - U.S. States & Canadian Provinces Represented: 47
- Braille Special Collection:
  - Active Subscribers: 5,015
  - Children’s Books & Story Kits Distributed: 12,940
- Cane Quest:
  - Number of Participants: 139
- Vision Connect:
  - Total Phone Inquiries: 2,826
- Community Training Programs:
  - Professionals Trained: 682
  - Eye Disease Seminar Attendees: 2,166
- Volunteer Services:
  - Volunteers: 1,220
  - Service Hours: 108,679
  - Special Event Volunteers: 1,618
  - Service Hours: 8,136

"I’ve learned that my limited vision, which I’ve had from birth, does not have to be an impairment because I’ve learned how to do things in my everyday life differently.”
— Diana C.

LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – FISCAL YEAR 2016
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George E. Thomas

Members
- Michael C. Corley
- Caryl O. Crahan
- Percy Duran III
- James H. Jackson
- John F. Llewellyn
- Richard A. Nelson
- John G. Nuanes
- Jeanne Olenicoff
- Nishan O. Partamian
- James J. Rhodes
- Harvey Strode
- Lester M. Sussman
- Philip V. Swain
- David J. Wiegand
- Diane Wilkinson

CLINICAL ADVISORY BOARD
- Richard Casey, M.D.
- Jon K. Hayashida, O.D., F.A.A.O.
- Barty J. Mondino, M.D.
- Steven D. Schwartz, M.D.
- Roger F. Steinert, M.D.
- Bill Takeshita, O.D., F.A.A.O.
- Rohit Varma, M.D., M.P.H.

BR AILLE INSTITUTE OFFICERS
- Peter A. Mindnich, "President
- David L. Burkhardt, "Vice President of Philanthropy
- Gene M. Mathiowetz, "Vice President of Programs and Services
- Reza Rahman, "Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Finance
- Anthony J. Taketa, "Vice President, Corporate Secretary and General Counsel

"I used to be ashamed about being blind, but not any more. I owe Braille Institute for saving my life. They helped me put it back together.”
— Adelaida O.

WHO WE SERVE

Gender
- Male: 35%
- Female: 65%

Age
- Up to 19: 6%
- 20 to 64: 26%
- 65 and Over: 68%

Primary Causes of Visual Impairment
- Macular Degeneration: 43%
- Cataracts: 15%
- Glaucoma: 11%
- Diabetic Retinopathy: 12%
- Retinitis Pigmentosa: 2%
- Other: 17%

Nature of Visual Impairment
- Congenital (blind since birth): 7%
- Adventitious (formerly sighted): 93%

HOW WE HELP

At Braille Institute, we demonstrate that vision loss is not the end of independence, but the beginning of a new way of living.

Our FREE SERVICES help people of all ages learn practical skills and techniques.

"I’ve been coming to Braille Institute for one year and it was one of the best decisions of my life. Now I’m able to do things I never thought I could do without my sight.”
— Berenice C.

"I used to be ashamed about being blind, but not any more. I owe Braille Institute for saving my life. They helped me put it back together.”
— Adelaida O.
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Income ($000)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years Ended June 30</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Support</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bequests and Trusts</td>
<td>9,383</td>
<td>12,753</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions and Foundations</td>
<td>10,900</td>
<td>4,455</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Public Support</td>
<td>20,283</td>
<td>17,208</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Royalties</td>
<td>2,507</td>
<td>3,414</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Library and Grants</td>
<td>844</td>
<td>876</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>2,491</td>
<td>2,654</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Other Revenue</td>
<td>5,842</td>
<td>6,944</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>26,125</td>
<td>24,152</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allocation from Reserves</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>979</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Funds received</td>
<td>26,125</td>
<td>25,131</td>
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</table>

Expenditures ($000)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years Ended June 30</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braille Publishing</td>
<td>926</td>
<td>1,099</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Development</td>
<td>888</td>
<td>832</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Services</td>
<td>3,013</td>
<td>3,107</td>
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<td>Los Angeles Center</td>
<td>3,699</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing and Public Relations</td>
<td>939</td>
<td>980</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orange County Center</td>
<td>2,054</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rancho Mirage Center</td>
<td>1,681</td>
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<td>San Diego Center</td>
<td>1,877</td>
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<td>Santa Barbara Center</td>
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<td>1,843</td>
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<td>Volunteer Services</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>371</td>
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<td>Total Program Services</td>
<td>17,268</td>
<td>17,975</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>801</td>
<td>836</td>
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<td>Philanthropy</td>
<td>3,682</td>
<td>3,699</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support Services</td>
<td>1,685</td>
<td>1,444</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Operating Expenditures Before Depreciation</td>
<td>23,436</td>
<td>23,954</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Expenditures</td>
<td>873</td>
<td>1,177</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allocation to Reserves</td>
<td>1,816</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenditures</td>
<td>26,125</td>
<td>25,231</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
<td>145,397</td>
<td>146,342</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Income Sources
- Bequests and Trusts
- Contributions and Foundations
- Royalties
- State Library and Grants
- Investment Income

Operating Expenditures
- Program Services
- Philanthropy
- Support Services
- Administration

* Including Depreciation of $1,539

For complete financial results, prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the USA, refer to the Report on Audited Consolidated Financial Statements for Braille Institute, which is available on our website: www.BrailleInstitute.org.

Thank You

You, our donors, are the key to our successful efforts to provide free, life-changing help for people who are blind or visually impaired.

Thank you for helping us make miracles happen every day and enabling Braille Institute to provide all of its programs and services free of charge. Your gifts are a lifeline to hope and independence.

To view a list of major donors from calendar year 2015, please visit our website at www.BrailleInstitute.org/donor-recognition, or call 1-800-BRAILLE (272-4553), Ext. 1238 and we’ll be happy to send you the list.

“I used to sit home all the time feeling depressed. Then a year ago I found Braille Institute and it changed my life. Now I’m truly happy. I’ve learned how to set up my kitchen and safe ways to cook, how to use an iPad, and I’ve found I have a talent for art. Larry is my art teacher, and he’s been so helpful, patient, and encouraging. He taught me not to let my disability get in the way of my life.”

“Thank you for giving me my life back!” — Paul W.

Paul W. (left) with Larry Beavers (right)