

For more than 125 years, St. Joseph's School for the Blind has continued to provide specialized services for individuals with visual impairments throughout the State. Our stated mission is:

***St. Joseph's School for the Blind is committed to the educational, psychological, social, and physical development of persons who are blind, visually impaired and have additional disabilities while maintaining an environment of caring, acceptance and respect for each individual's rights and dignity.***

As the only school for those who are blind/visually impaired and multiply disabled in New Jersey, it is our responsibility to ensure we continue to fulfill our mission of providing the critical programs these individuals require to develop to their greatest potential. Although our programs are subsidized through grants and private donors like you, the costs surpass donations we receive. Our full-time education program, in particular, is free of charge to students and their families including tuition and transportation. **While education costs for the full-time day program are subsidized by the student's local school district, the costs of our services far exceed the reimbursement.**

Knowing firsthand the legacy of our work and commitment to those with special needs, we invite you to consider making a charitable investment that will help sustain our services for coming generations. Your gift will provide hope to families who rely on St. Joseph's School for the Blind to care for their children, from birth through adulthood, and offer them the opportunity to reach their full potential in life.

## A Light in the Dark...

Parent Kaleena Berryman's son Jharid, born at 24 weeks, battled early complications in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and today, is enrolled in an appropriate preschool program. He received critical care through St. Joseph's Early Intervention Program. Throughout it all, Kaleena kept her faith, expressing her emotions through poetry. Her book of poems was written to help and inspire other parents of preemies and keep them connected. She said, "My son being born prematurely toppled me over; I felt so many emotions. I had to let other parents know that different emotions are normal. I had to change the challenge into empowerment because if it remains a challenge, it breaks you down."

The road for children with disabilities isn't easy. From birth through adulthood, specialists at St. Joseph's School for the Blind help pave the way for growth and development by delivering vital services individuals with special needs require to reach their full potential. For parents like Kaleena, there is no greater comfort. While enrolled in our Early Intervention Program, Kaleena explained, "St. Joseph's means so much to me because they helped my son see physically but also to see beyond his limitations. My vision for his vision is brighter because his sight is improving."



**ST. JOSEPH'S**  
SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND