



# BEST NEWS

Blind Early Services TN - Newsletter for Caregivers and Providers



## Introducing BEST!

By Co-Founders Alison & Stacy

When our boys were born with visual impairments one year apart in Nashville, TN, we immediately sought out services to help support our sons in their early development. We were both led to early intervention services in our state, but soon learned that professionals specifically trained to help infants with visual impairments were not easily accessible.

In 2020, we founded BEST with one goal in mind – to ensure all families in Tennessee with blind or visually impaired young children have a place to go for support, and are equipped with the specialized service, resources and information they need to support their children in achieving their BEST start in life.

We are thrilled to have you alongside us in our mission and journey!

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MARCH 1ST  
7:30PM CST

**BEST TOGETHER WEBINAR  
WITH BROOKE PERNICE**

MARCH 9TH - 12TH  
**TN COMMISSION ON  
CHILDREN & YOUTH  
CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY  
DAYS 2021**

MARCH 12TH  
9:00AM CST  
**BEST FRIENDRAISER  
VIRTUAL EVENT**

## Meet Brooke Pernice

By Stacy Cornwall

Join us virtually on March 1st at 7:30pm CST as we invite Brooke Pernice to be our first guest speaker in our BEST Together webinar series. Brooke is a singer-songwriter currently working full-time in ministry. She attended Belmont University and currently resides in Kentucky. She also happens to be blind.

Sighted individuals - and I speak as one of them - seem to have an outright fear about blindness. Losing a sense that I rely on so heavily seems downright frightening. For so long I viewed blindness as an "absence" of something because that's what it would be for me. But that's not what it is for my son who has never seen more than light and shadows. Why focus on one sense that isn't present when he has other robust senses intact? Senses that give an individual a "view" of the world that - though different than mine - is incredibly beautiful and, dare I say, magical. Speaking recently with Brooke, who has been blind since birth, gave me an altogether new outlook on what it means to live and thrive with blindness. Register to attend her webinar below!



## Friendraiser Event: Let's be BEST friends!

As important as raising funds is raising friends! To accomplish our mission, we need to get the word out that we are here to serve families of blind and visually impaired young children in TN. Please join us on March 12th as we share what BEST is all about and answer questions that you may have. And we can't introduce BEST without also introducing our inspiration organization from Kentucky and Indiana, Visually Impaired Preschool Services (VIPS). Executive Director, Diane Nelson, will join us to talk about the success of VIPS and the importance of early intervention for our families. Please register below to attend this virtual event and we look forward to seeing you there!



## Tennessee's First VisionServe Alliance Member

Blind Early Services TN is the first in the state to join the nationally and internationally recognized organization, VisionServe Alliance. VSA promotes "leadership development, ethical management, quality services, and professional growth" for nonprofits in the US and Canada that provide specialized services to people with vision loss. As a member of VisionServe Alliance, we continue to gain valuable insight and access to resources to BEST prepare us to meet the needs of Tennessee families.



## WHAT WE'RE LOVING THIS MONTH!

Want to have an inclusive egg hunt or just a fun game around the house? Available now online and in select stores are Ouaps Talking Eggs. Find online link below.

Grab some before they run out and show us how you used them by tagging us on Facebook or Instagram!

\*No part of the sale or promotion of this item benefits BEST.

