





## Children and youth develop skills through experiential learning

Our **Educational & Experiential Learning Program** offers children who are blind or partially sighted skill-building training and experiences that support cognitive and motor development, communication, independent travel, social networking and career development.

While children increase independence and self-esteem, parents access resources to help their child discover and develop their abilities.

## Children reach their potential through family support

Our **Early Intervention, Counselling & Family Support Program** offers support groups and individual counselling for children, youth, and parents, as well as early intervention retreats for families with pre-schoolers. Information, resources, and emotional support are provided to families by registered clinical counsellors and by other parents.

## Growing our impact

Blind Beginnings is dedicated to helping the 750+ children across BC who are blind or partially sighted. With the generous support of our sponsors and donors—we will make our programs grow!

## About our founder : Shawn Marsolais



Blind Beginnings was founded by Shawn Marsolais, who was born with a degenerative eye-condition which caused her vision to deteriorate throughout her childhood. Since the age of 18, Shawn has had less than two percent of her vision yet she lives a very full life. In 2004, she competed in the Paralympics, in 2012 she obtained her Masters Degree and in 2013 she became a parent.

Through both her personal and professional experience, Shawn identified a significant gap in services for blind and partially sighted children in

BC. In 2008, she founded Blind Beginnings with the vision of helping BC's 750+ blind and partially sighted children reach their full potential.

### CONTACT

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