



SUCCEED WITHOUT SIGHT **VIRTUAL SUMMIT 2021**

hosted by Thriving Blind Academy

N O V E M B E R 2 0 2 1

S P O N S O R S H I P
O P P O R T U N I T I E S



Hi! WELCOME!

THANK You for your interest in supporting the most important work I have ever done! My name is Kristin Smedley and 21 years ago I met a person that is blind for the very first time. It was my newborn son, Michael (pictured on the far right above) Three years later my second baby, Mitchell, was diagnosed with blindness as well. (He's standing to the left of me in the picture above.)

When my sons were diagnosed, I had no idea how to raise a blind child.

My journey began with tears, fear, frustration, anger, and thousands of nights praying blindness away. However, once I saw that blindness was not a barrier to living an extraordinary life, I scoured the world to find the tools, role models, mentors and resources that my boys needed to thrive. They are young men now and have succeeded far beyond anyone's wildest dreams! Unfortunately, that is not the case for the majority of people that are diagnosed with blindness... but that can change, and I am making sure it does!

I collaborate with a multitude of organizations to be the resource I never had, guiding families experiencing blindness to see the journey differently and take action that will set the foundations for succeeding without sight.

My children and I, and everyone we work with, are so very grateful for all of you that are jumping on board to be a part of a whole new vision of thriving with blindness!

PS: My daughter, Karissa, is sighted. That's her on the far left in the picture. She has a very unique take on this journey and we help families guide sighted siblings to see things Karissa's way!

With your support, this one of a kind global, virtual event and the year long program it supports will arm parents, individuals and professionals with tools and strategies that will help change perceptions of blindness and guide children and adults with vision loss to thrive.

HOW IN THE WORLD?

The first Succeed Without Sight Summit was held in 2020 during the global pandemic that shut down pretty much everything in our world. It was designed to be a half day Zoom call event with a few speakers that would inspire families to see possibilities for their blind children's lives. In the three weeks of planning from idea to main event, word quickly spread and there ended up being 17 countries represented with 27 speakers sharing their journey and strategies for succeeding without sight for over 10 live hours on Zoom!



WHY IN THE WORLD?

70% of blind adults are unemployed

70% of blind high school students do not graduate

Only 14% earn a Bachelor's degree or higher.

These horrific statistics can be changed for the better, much better. With the right beliefs and perceptions about blindness combined with access to resources, those that are blind and visually impaired succeed in school and find employment, just like their sighted peers.

Thriving Blind Academy was created to be the connection for those experiencing sight loss to the resources they need to thrive. The mission of the Thriving Blind Academy is to guide all families experiencing vision loss to not just survive the diagnosis, but to thrive. The TBA membership program connects those experiencing vision loss, either themselves or their child/family member, to tools, resources, mentors AND each other to inspire a Thriving Blind attitude AND provide weekly opportunities to connect and grow.

The Succeed Without Sight Summit is a FREE EVENT that supports scholarships for families and individuals to join Thriving Blind Academy.

While the Summit is one of the most inspirational and motivational events folks have ever experienced, the goal of it is to ignite families and individuals to take action to succeed without sight by joining the Thriving Blind Academy. Learn more about TBA [here](#).

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Succeed Without Sight Summit 2020 Impact

10+ Hours of presentations and Q&A

17 Countries represented

27 Speakers that are succeeding without sight

200+ Attendees included parents, caregivers, educators, industry, vocational rehab professionals, adults and teens that are blind/visually impaired

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The entire event was offered for FREE
- Keynote Address by Kirk Adams, CEO American Foundation for the Blind
- Original poem read by Dave Steel, The Blind Poet
- Speakers ranged in age from 17 to 50+ years old and were high school and college students, professionals, artists, entrepreneurs, educators, parents, corporate executives, and non profit leaders.
- Clarke Reynolds, braille artist from the United Kingdom, had blind AND sighted attendees wanting to learn braille due to his extraordinary passion and enthusiasm!
- Families from opposite sides of the world connected with each other
- A special Teen Night was held before the main event where teens got to hear about new technologies coming on the market
- Live closed captioning was provided for the entire summit
- Speakers and sponsors connected and some have created collaborations to enhance their missions

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Succeed Without Sight Summit & Thriving Blind Academy Feedback

"Wow! It's about time a parent lays out the fundamentals to a successful life for their blind children."

-Erik Weihenmayer, Totally Blind Adventurer, Author, Film Maker, and Speaker

"Sponsoring the 2020 Succeed Without Sight Summit provided Asset Based Consulting with an opportunity for a global reach. Our participation led to connections, relationships, and partnerships with people from all over the world. We're honored and grateful to have had the opportunity to support the mission and can't wait to be a part of the next one!"

-Michele Whitman, Founder, Asset Based Consulting, Succeed Without Sight Summit Sponsor

"Kristin takes something that is scary for some--perhaps many, and creates a safe space where people can come and talk and learn and share, and where the energy stays positive and practical."

-Ron Brooks, TBA Mentor, Succeed Without Sight Summit Speaker

"What you and your boys have given me is HOPE. I now feel empowered to start educating this school system and the community that blindness is not a death sentence, a game ender or a sad, depressing existence. What you are doing is SO important."

- Thriving Blind Academy Mastermind Member

We did not expect to be tuned in for the entire summit! We listened to every speaker and learned so much and are feeling much better knowing our blind grandsons really will be ok. Thank you!

- Succeed Without Sight Summit 2020 Participant

"Thank you for hosting this awesome summit. It was my first time attending something like this where I can relate to so many of the speakers. I am not a parent of a blind or visually impaired kid but I personally have usher syndrome 2a and am a wife and mom. I am grateful for how far I have come and so happy to be able to experience things like this and be a part of a community of others like me."

- Succeed Without Sight Summit 2020 Participant

"It was beyond amazing, I was tuned in for all 3 days, and every speaker every input was so diverse and so impactful."

- Summit Participant & Speaker

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Sponsorship Opportunities for the Succeed Without Sight Summit 2021

Sponsorships for this global event fund scholarships for families and individuals to join the Thriving Blind Academy, a membership program that connects people to mentors, resources, and most importantly, each other to receive continual support in thriving with a blindness diagnosis. TBA's annual fee for families is \$997 and includes free admission to the Succeed Without Sight Summit as well as weekly, monthly and quarterly programs and support.

TITLE SPONSOR \$20,000

This sponsorship will fund 20 scholarships in the Thriving Blind Academy:

- Logo on all Summit marketing materials and prominently on the TBA webpage
- Company name & website on recorded presentations
- Company representative to introduce the Keynote Speaker presentation during summit
- Priority Speaker slot during summit
- Interview on Thriving Blind Facebook page with Kristin Smedley pre-summit

GOLD SPONSOR \$10,000

This sponsorship will fund 10 scholarships in the Thriving Blind Academy:

- Logo on Summit marketing materials and TBA webpage
- Company representative to introduce a Speaker presentation during summit
- Interview on Thriving Blind Facebook page with Kristin Smedley pre-summit

SILVER SPONSOR \$5000

This sponsorship will fund 5 scholarships in the Thriving Blind Academy:

- Logo on Summit marketing materials and TBA webpage
- Company representative to introduce a Speaker presentation during summit
- Interview on Thriving Blind Facebook page with Kristin Smedley pre-summit

BRONZE SPONSOR \$2000

This sponsorship will fund 2 scholarships in the Thriving Blind Academy:

- Logo on Summit Marketing Materials
- Company mention during summit

SUMMIT SUPPORTER \$500

This sponsorship will fund 1 partial scholarship in the Thriving Blind Academy:

- Logo on Summit Marketing Materials
- Company mention during summit

[**CLICK TO REGISTER AS A SPONSOR/SUPPORTER**](#)

About the Summit & TBA Founder:

Kristin Smedley's mantra is "Life is funny...sort of." Her fun-loving spirit and energetic personality guided her life in the direction of a career in teaching. But fate had other plans. In 2000, Kristin found herself shockingly dealt a double dose of darkness. Her firstborn son, Michael, was diagnosed as legally blind when he was just four months old. Once known for her smile, Kristin found herself devastated and angry. Yet fate wasn't finished. Three years later, Kristin received another blow when her second son, Mitchell, was also diagnosed as legally blind too.

Kristin knew she needed to overcome anxiety, worry, and obstacles for the sake of her sons, but she had no idea how to proceed. Yet, knowing that Michael and Mitchell needed their mother to fight for them, Kristin began advocating for the tools her blind children needed. As Kristin found and equipped her boys with the resources to help them thrive, they not only took on the world, but changed Kristin's perception of blindness. With the right foundation and a multitude of resources and tools, her children have become popular, accomplished athletes, high-achieving students, talented musicians, and International Braille competition finalists. And they are just getting started.

Highlights of Kristin's journey thus far:

- Best Selling Author of *Thriving Blind: Stories of Real People Succeeding Without Sight* - the book achieved #1 New Release and #2 Best Seller, the Foreword is written by Erik Weihenmeyer
- Best Selling Co-Author of *Brilliantly Resilient*; the book achieved Top 100 Best Seller on Amazon (next to Deepak Chopra on the list)
- 2019 Champion of Hope Award Winner
- Achieved the first legislation in US history to be submitted in Braille
- TEDx Talk changing perceptions of blindness
- Partnered with Comcast media to spread awareness of the inclusive X1 product
- One of twelve people in the world invited to testify before the US FDA to advocate for the approval of the first-ever gene therapy to reverse blindness.
- Has spoken on over 200 stages sharing her message of SEEing blindness differently

[Connect with Kristin](#)

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[Facebook Community:](#)

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