Born without fully-formed legs, Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr., was given his first set of prosthetics at the age of 26. Refusing thanks or money, the doctor told him, "Just bring to others what I brought to you and I'll be well repaid."

The doctor could have never imagined the tremendous impact Dr. Viscardi would have on the lives of people with disabilities. Over the course of his life, Dr. Viscardi was a tireless advocate for people with disabilities, served as disability advisor to eight presidents, and founded or was prominently involved in many organizations serving people with disabilities. He spent his life spreading his staunch belief in the abilities, not disabilities, of all people.

In his book, Give Us The Tools (1959), Viscardi wrote that given the right tools, people with disabilities can live integrated and active lives. For over 65 years, The Viscardi Center has provided the educational, emotional, and physical tools through education, services, programming, technology, and job training to help the members of our community throughout their lifetimes.

In the spirit of Dr. Viscardi, we ask you to Give Us the Tools to build the future of The Viscardi Center.
"What we do every day is about people. It's about looking at needs and trends, and finding new ways to make lives better through education, employment, and empowerment."

- John D. Kemp, President and CEO
medically-fragile students with physical disabilities attend the Henry Viscardi School

Over 25% of people with disabilities live in poverty

20.4% of people with disabilities participate in the labor force by working or actively looking for work (compared to 68.4% without disabilities)

83% of people with disabilities were not born with a disability, but acquired their disability during their lifetime

170 medically-fragile students with physical disabilities attend the Henry Viscardi School

11,000 hours of therapy and nursing are provided by the Henry Viscardi School every year

More than 700 students have graduated from the Henry Viscardi School

Over 80% of Henry Viscardi School students graduate with a diploma, compared to the national average for students with disabilities (63%)

Did You Know...?

1952 Dr. Henry Viscardi founds Abilities, Inc., in a small West Hempstead garage

1958 The Viscardi factory moves to its present location in Albertson, NY

1962 The Henry Viscardi School opens its doors to students with disabilities

1966 The Viscardi Center holds its first Sports Night
The Viscardi Center at a glance

The Viscardi Center provides a lifespan of programs and services that educate, employ, and empower children and adults with disabilities. We employ nearly 400 educators, therapists, social workers, trainers, and other professionals.

1,700 adolescents and adults benefit from the life-changing services at The Viscardi Center

Graduates of the Henry Viscardi School are employed at a 50% Higher rate than the national employment rate for people with disabilities

We are a recognized leader and resource on disabilities and attract 100,000+ unique visitors to our websites every year

The Viscardi Center advises Nearly 43,000 employers on best practices for employing and retaining people with disabilities

1975 Dr. Viscardi inspires the passage of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

1982 Job training programs are introduced; the first Reach for a Star Luncheon is held

1990 The Viscardi Center begins consulting businesses on disability employment best practices

1990 The Americans with Disabilities Act is passed; The Viscardi Center begins consulting businesses on disability employment best practices

2014 U.S. Department of Labor awards The Viscardi Center the contract for Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion (EARN)
The Impact of Philanthropy

For over 65 years, The Viscardi Center has carried out our mission with the help of our generous supporters. Throughout our history, our donors have given us the confidence to be bold trailblazers and innovative thought-leaders in improving the lives of people with disabilities. For all we have accomplished in the past—and for all we hope to accomplish in the future—we acknowledge the impact of philanthropy. It has made possible the construction of our high school wing, our upgraded medical suite, our arts programs, and the inclusion of state-of-the-art technology in our classrooms.

The Viscardi Center is in a stronger financial position to uphold the excellence of all our programs, so we can now look ahead to new, innovative ways to elevate the lives of people with disabilities.

We hope that you’ll be a part of our great plans for the future.
Shums participates in occupational therapy

You Give Us the Tools...
Max learns with the help of a tablet...to Educate
We ensure our students are ready for school and life by

INVESTING IN THE VISCARDI STUDENT EXPERIENCE

**INDEPENDENT LIVING HOME**
Develop our Independent Living Home into an innovative smart home to showcase dynamic, state-of-the-art accessibility and teach daily life skills

$1,000,000

**BRIDGE TO ADULTHOOD**
Launch our post-secondary programs to provide social, educational, and vocational opportunities to young adults with disabilities

$300,000

**TECHNOLOGY**
Build our STEM curriculum by investing in technology in our classrooms, and providing student laptops and accessible materials

$300,000

"Not only did Viscardi help prepare and guide me toward a future in higher education, it gave me the fundamental characteristics I need to succeed. I gained skills in effective communication, advocacy, and most of all, confidence in myself."

– Mariah Sepulveda, Henry Viscardi School graduate
Ariel practices baking in our culinary skills program...to Employ
We engage employers and employees in our groundbreaking employment programs to

**EMPLOY AND RETAIN PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

**VISCARDI VETERANS PROGRAM**
Provide job training for veterans to ease reintegration into the civilian workforce, and assistance for employers in hiring veterans throughout the New York metropolitan area

$400,000

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR DISABILITY ENTREPRENEURSHIP**
Connect entrepreneurs with disabilities, including veterans, to training, resources, and start-up funding so they can create their own businesses

$500,000

"Viscardi truly helped me find my place in the world by interacting, socializing, and developing relationships with others my age. I was able to fully participate in all things pertaining to the schooling experience while gaining a stringent education and an unabated work ethic that would lay the foundation for future collegiate success and full-time employment in my field of study."

- Jimmy Valdes,
  Archivist at CBS Sports and Henry Viscardi School graduate
Victoria takes her first step with her new prosthetic leg.

The Viscardi Center advises...to Empower
We will develop a Universal Wellness Center to **EMPOWER OUR COMMUNITY TO LIVE HEALTHY LIVES**

**UNIVERSAL AQUATIC CENTER**
A renovated and fully-accessible aquatic center will serve the therapeutic and physical education needs of our community

**$1,000,000**

**UNIVERSAL WELLNESS CENTER**
Specially-designed universal equipment will be used by people with and without disabilities

**$200,000**

**ENHANCED PROGRAM OFFERINGS**
Aquatic therapy, yoga, massage, and oral health resources will support the wellness of our community members

**$250,000**

**ACCESS TO WELLNESS EXPERTS**
Expert speakers and nutritionists will give advice tailored specifically to people with disabilities

**$50,000**

"The Viscardi Center understands the unique health and wellness needs of people with disabilities, and that’s why I’m excited to be starting the new Universal Wellness Center. It will empower people of ALL abilities to live healthy, active lives."

- Denise Vargas, Alumni Relations & Advocacy at The Viscardi Center, Henry Viscardi School graduate
I envision [The Viscardi Center] as an education in the triumph of the human spirit, as a research and training center, as a pilot plant for all the world to copy. - Dr. Henry Viscardi
We will make the urgent and important capital upgrades, including a roof replacement and the installation of a heating ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) system and a fire safety system. These facilities upgrades are essential to meet the health, safety, and security needs of a population that is considerably more medically fragile than those we have served in the past. Our environment must accommodate people with severe disabilities and meet the needs of students who depend on life-sustaining care throughout the school day. These upgrades will significantly improve the quality of life for the vulnerable population we serve.

Roof Replacement - $700,000
HVAC System - $800,000
Fire Safety System - $500,000

We will create additional opportunities within our existing programs to provide the best possible outcomes for the people with disabilities who have chosen The Viscardi Center to enhance the quality of their lives.

$1,500,000
**Educate $1,600,000**

**Independent Living Home Renovation and Program $1,000,000**
Develop our Independent Living Home into an innovative smart home to showcase dynamic, state-of-the-art accessibility and teach daily living skills.

Funding is needed to:
- Expand the existing structure to increase the accessibility for wheelchair users. This will also include a more open layout, wider doorways, and an accessible kitchen ($350,000)
- Renovations will also include smart home technology; installing windows, flooring, fire system, and handrails; sourcing specialized furnishings; and waterproofing the basement ($150,000)
- In addition, to keep this critical program available to future students, funds will be used for ongoing programming for students and upgrades to the home and technology when necessary ($500,000)

**Bridge to Adulthood $300,000**
The Viscardi Center has identified a growing population of young adults who are over 21 and in need of a program that would provide them with life skills and social opportunities. We will launch our new post-secondary programs to provide social, educational, and vocational opportunities to young adults with disabilities. Funding is needed for:
- Start-up costs to establish the program, including renovating the classroom spaces, purchasing accessible vehicles, hiring staff, and marketing ($250,000)
- In addition, we seek to better prepare our HVS students for success in college by offering college-level courses while still attending high school ($50,000)

**Technology and Innovation Fund $300,000**
Build our STEM curriculum by investing in technology in our classrooms, and provide student laptops and accessible materials. Funding is needed to:
- Replace laptops, SMART boards, iPads, and assistive technology due to normal wear-and-tear ($200,000)
- Enhance our STEM-related curriculum in our classrooms, including the introduction of coding for all ages ($100,000)

**Employ $900,000**

**Viscardi Veterans Program $400,000**
Provide job training for veterans to ease reintegration into the civilian workforce, and assistance for employers in hiring veterans throughout the New York metropolitan area. Funding is needed for:
- Staff positions, including a director, instructor, career counselor and benefits counselor, all of which are important to providing a comprehensive program to offer veterans evaluations, career counseling, job-specific training, benefits counseling, and job placement services

**National Center for Disability Entrepreneurship $500,000**
Connect entrepreneurs with disabilities, including veterans, to training, resources, and start-up funding so they can create their own businesses. Funding is needed for:
- Staff positions, including a director, trainer, and part-time marketing and technology experts ($100,000)
- Hosting virtual online trainings via WebEx to a national cohort of entrepreneurs annually ($50,000)
- Creating an incubator, including access to marketers, website developers and accountants, to the top-tier participants who have completed the training ($250,000)
- Potentially granting small-business start-up loans to the entrepreneurs who have completed the training and incubator program, and also have a viable business model ($100,000)
Universal Aquatic Center Renovation $1,000,000
A renovated and fully-accessible Aquatic Center will serve the therapeutic and physical education needs of our students and community. Built over fifty years ago, the pool was constructed before innovations in accessibility. Through normal depreciation of pipes and tiles, the pool also now requires a complete renovation. Funding is needed to:
• Reconstruct the pool to meet new Health Departments standards, including a new piping system, floors, and walls ($250,000)
• Install an HVAC unit and fans to provide heat, A/C, and air circulation, and to dehumidify the pool area; install new boiler ($300,000)
• Purchase a new make-up tank, filters, pumps, and all new systems to chlorinate the water ($100,000)
• Install new windows and sliding doors ($100,000)
• Renovate locker rooms (tile work, counters, floor tiles, & bathroom fixtures) ($100,000)
• Miscellaneous (architect fees, new robotic vacuum, new lockers for locker rooms, etc.) ($150,000)

Universal Wellness Center $500,000
Our students, alumni, and the general community at large can benefit from a wellness program that features fitness equipment that is universally designed for everyone, adapted yoga classes, touch massage therapy, oral health initiatives, and expert speakers on health-related topics. Funding is needed for:
• Universal exercise equipment, such as hand-cycles and treadmills that can be used by people with or without wheelchairs ($200,000)
• Enhanced program offerings, such as aquatic therapy, adapted yoga and touch massage therapy ($250,000)
• Access to wellness and nutrition experts who can give tailored advice that is specific to children and adults with disabilities ($50,000)

Critical Upgrades to our Facilities $2,000,000
Urgent and important capital upgrades such as replacements of a roof, heating ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) system, and a fire safety systems are essential to meet the health, safety and security needs of our current and future students. Today, our population is comprised of students who are considerably more medically fragile than those we have served in the past, and our environment must be able to accommodate the many students who depend on life-sustaining care throughout the school day. These upgrades will significantly improve the quality of life for the vulnerable population we serve. Funding is needed for:
• Replacing the roof of the Henry Viscardi School and Abilities, Inc. section of the building ($700,000)
• Replacing four heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) units ($800,000)
• Upgrading the fire safety system throughout the facility ($500,000)

Expansion of Existing Programs $1,500,000
We will create additional opportunities within our existing programs to provide the best possible education and employment outcomes for the people with disabilities who have chosen The Viscardi Center to enhance the quality of their lives. These programs include, but are not limited to:
• PROSPER (at-risk youth drop-out prevention program) – this program’s excellent outcomes (96% of students graduate and go on to college, work or the military) has the potential to be replicated to many more school districts
• Web Accessibility Services to assist companies in correcting or developing their websites to be accessible for people with visual impairments and other disabilities. This will be an extension of our Document Remediation Services, which makes digital files accessible for people with disabilities.
• Employment Training programs (culinary skills, retail and hospitality) – the hands-on curriculum leads to proven success on the job, and these programs can potentially be offered to a wider audience in both Nassau and Suffolk counties
Together, we:
Educate, employ, and empower people with disabilities;
Ensure our students are prepared for their futures;
Employ more people with disabilities on Long Island and in surrounding areas;
Empower people with disabilities to maintain and enhance their health and wellness; and
Meet the health and safety needs of our Viscardi community.

Ryan enjoys a sunny day outdoors in our accessible playground.

The Viscardi Center
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