



# BEACON TURNS 150! BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER, BOLDER AND BRIGHTER IN 2025



We help children learn how to look after their eyes and support those with sight loss



Bring your school together to fundraise and learn – simple ideas, big impact!



Access to Beacon's team and promotional materials



Your support can make a difference to our local sight loss community

[www.beaconvision.org](http://www.beaconvision.org)

Charity Number: 216092





# 150 Years of Brightening Lives

Did you know Beacon has been lighting the way for blind and partially sighted people for a whopping 150 years? That's right—since 1875, we've been at the heart of the community, supporting people with sight loss to live fuller, more independent lives. From humble beginnings to a multi-service charity making a big impact, here's a snapshot of our amazing journey:

## 1875: Where It All Began

We were founded with one big mission: to help people with sight loss learn Braille. Back then, it was all about providing education and skills to help people gain independence.

## Early 1900s: Building on Braille

As times changed, so did we! Beacon expanded its support to include workshops, offering employment opportunities for people with sight loss, a truly life-changing initiative at the time.

## Mid-20th Century: Evolving to Meet New Needs

Beacon embraced new challenges, adding activities and services to promote wellbeing. By this point, we weren't just a service, we were a community!

## 21st Century: Innovating for Independence

Fast forward to today, and we're leading the way in tackling health inequalities, offering digital support, independent living skills, information and guidance, and much more. Our award-winning programmes, are transforming how sight loss support is delivered across communities encouraging organisations to work together for better outcomes.

## Did You Know?

We opened one of the first charity shops in the UK, back in 1899 in Victoria Street in Wolverhampton.

**As we mark this milestone anniversary, we're reflecting on how far we've come and how much further we can go with your school's support. From fundraising events to volunteering, there are so many ways to get involved and be part of Beacon's incredible journey. Together, let's build a brighter, more inclusive future!**

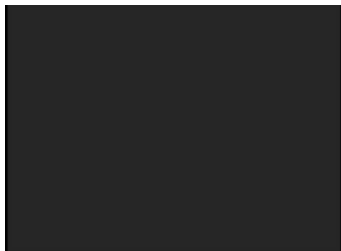


# ABOUT OUR CAUSE

In 2025, Beacon is celebrating 150 years of guiding people through a world they can't fully see. The images below offer a glimpse into what life is like for those living with various sight loss conditions.



**Normal Vision**



**Totally Blind**



**Diabetic Retinopathy**



**Macular Degeneration**



**Tunnel Vision**

## Experience Sight Loss through Sim Specs

We can provide Sim Specs to give pupils a powerful understanding of what its like to live with sight loss. By wearing these glasses students can gain a meaningful insight into the challenges faced by those with visual impairments, helping them better to understand the people Beacon supports.



# HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER!

**2025** marks **150 years** of Beacon supporting blind and partially sighted people to live well with sight loss. We're inviting schools to join the fun and fundraise for Beacon, helping us build a bigger, bolder, and brighter future!

It's estimated that **236,000** people in the West Midlands will be living with sight loss by **2032**, that's equivalent to almost the entire population of Wolverhampton. Beacon is here to ensure that no one has to face sight loss alone, and with your support during our milestone anniversary, we can continue empowering people to lead independent, fulfilling lives.

## HOW WE CAN SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL

We'd love to support your school's fundraising efforts by delivering engaging assemblies and workshops that raise awareness of sight loss and Beacon's vital work. These sessions are suitable for Key Stage 1 or 2 and can be tailored to your school's needs, with topics including:

- **Put your senses to the test:** Can you figure out what everyday household items are without using your sight?
- **Why accessibility matters:** How small changes can make the world more inclusive for everyone.
- **See the magic of tech:** Watch as we show you incredible tools that help people with sight loss navigate daily life.
- **Protect those peepers:** Learn why looking after your eyes is so important.
- **Step into someone else's shoes:** Pop on our sim specs to experience what it's like to live with different sight loss conditions.
- **Get hands-on with Braille:** Find out how Braille works and even use our Braille machine to write your own name.



# EXCITING WAYS TO SUPPORT BEACON IN 2025

## Get involved with Beacon's Bright for Sight Day

Beacon's **Bright for Sight Day** coincides with World Sight Day on **Thursday 9th October**, and we invite schools and students to get involved by holding a non-uniform day where students wear their brightest clothes. Bright colours and good contrast can make everyday tasks easier for people with sight loss.

During Bright for Sight Week, we're also offering the Bright for Sight Roadshow, where we can visit your school and provide engaging workshops or tailored assembly talks. These sessions will explain what Beacon does, offer simple, practical ways to protect your eyes, and give a deeper understanding of our mission.

To make your Bright for Sight Day even brighter we can provide Bright for Sight materials including stickers for all participants to wear, balloons to add fun to the day and Bright for Sight buckets to encourage donations. We also offer a bright for sight pack that you can incorporate in your lesson plan.



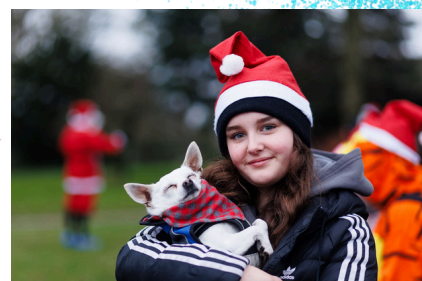


# EXCITING WAYS TO SUPPORT BEACON IN 2025

## Help promote our two major fundraising events

Beacon's **Family Fun Colour Run** and **Santa Run** are two of our biggest events raising crucial funds to support our work. You can help make a difference by featuring these events in your school newsletter and spreading the word in your community. We can provide flyers for children to take home, as well as posters to display around your school. To make things even more special, we can offer your school a unique **discount code** for pupils, their families, and friends to use when registering for these exciting events.

Why not take it a step further? Turn the fun into a sponsorship fundraiser and help us raise even more for the sight loss community. Your school will receive a certificate to showcase your fundraising total, along with special sponsorship incentives to celebrate your incredible support.



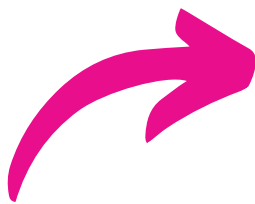


# EXCITING WAYS TO SUPPORT BEACON IN 2025

## Hold a Beacon collection box at your school



A simple yet effective way to support Beacon in 2025 is by hosting a Beacon Collection Box at your school reception. Once the box is full simply contact us and we will arrange to collect it. We will also provide a certificate showing how much you've raised which you can proudly share with your pupils and staff.



SCAN HERE



## TO DISCOVER BEACON'S UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES





# FUNDRAISING IDEAS TO SUPPORT BEACON IN 2025

1. **Join Beacon's Bright for Sight Day 9/10/2025:** Hold a non-uniform day where students wear their brightest clothes to raise awareness and funds for sight loss.
2. **150 Challenge:** Encourage students to complete 150 of any activity, star jumps, skips, press-ups, or even writing 150 words. They can collect sponsorship to celebrate Beacon's 150th birthday.
3. **Bake Sale:** Host a bake sale with a "bright and colourful" theme, encouraging students and parents to bring in eye-catching treats to sell.
4. **Sponsored Silence:** Challenge students to stay silent for a set period (e.g., 150 seconds or minutes) and raise money through sponsorship.
5. **Beacon's Family Fun Colour Run and Santa Run:** Take part in these exciting events in 2025 and help spread the word to support Beacon.
6. **Braille Experience Workshop:** Host a Braille learning session where students can write their names using a Braille machine. Charge a small participation fee.
7. **Obstacle Course:** Design a fun, sight-related obstacle course where students navigate blindfolded or with limited vision to better understand sight loss. Charge an entry fee to participate.
8. **Penny Drive:** Start a "Penny Challenge," where students and families donate spare change to fill up a collection jar in each classroom.
9. **School Talent Show:** Host a talent show and charge a small entry fee for participants and audience members.
10. **Readathon:** Encourage students to read 150 pages or books over a set period and raise funds through sponsorship from family and friends.

**If you need any help or support with your fundraising, please don't hesitate to contact our fundraising team on **01902 880111** or email **[supportus@beaconvision.org](mailto:supportus@beaconvision.org)**. We are here to assist you every step of your fundraising journey!**



# TOOLS AND MATERIALS TO BOOST YOUR FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

To help make your event a success, we can provide a variety of fundraising materials, including balloons, bunting, and collection boxes.

If you'd like to take your efforts a step further we also have Beacon badges and silicone wristbands available which are fantastic for raising additional funds. We can also supply Sim Specs an educational tool that provides greater insight into the experience of sight loss which can add a meaningful element to your fundraiser.





# HOW YOUR FUNDS CAN HELP

£10.00

Could help provide a **session** of sight loss advice support for someone who has recently lost their sight.

£50.00

Could provide more than **three hours** of sight friendly cookery classes to help someone be more independent at home.

£150.00

Could provide **11 hours** of reception support where our team deal with thousands of calls a year helping people take their first step in their sight loss support journey.

£500.00

Could provide more than **30 hours** of 1:1 digital support to help blind and partially sighted people get online.

£1,500

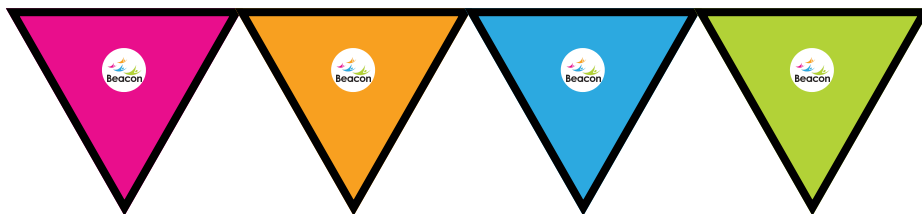
Could fuel our four minibuses enabling blind and partially sighted people to get out and about in their community for **six months**.

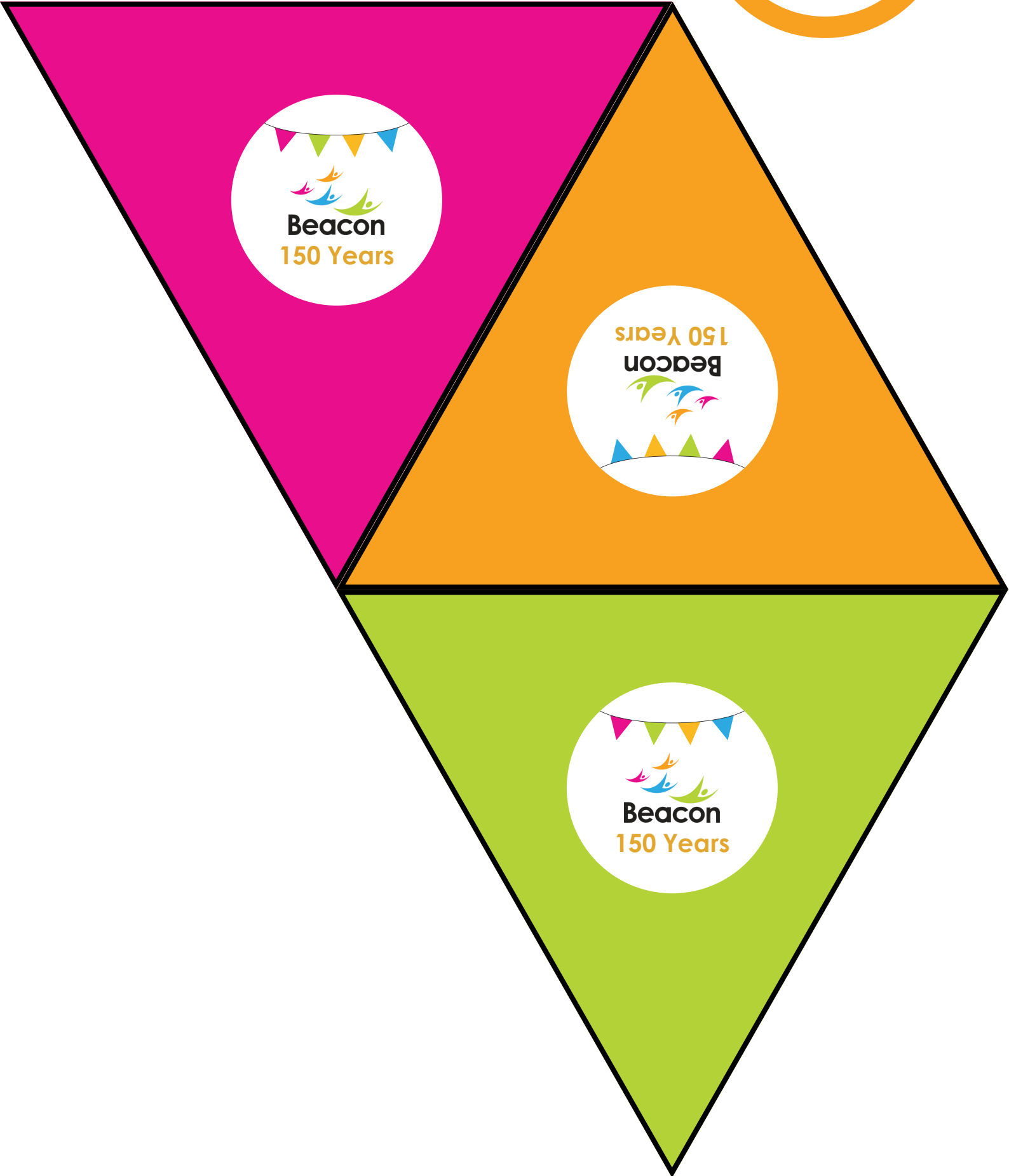


# IT'S NOT A PARTY WITHOUT BUNTING!

## How to make your own bunting

- 1 Print the party bunting template, each A4 sheet makes three bunting templates so print as many as you need.
- 2 Cut the triangles out.
- 3 Make two holes at the top corners of each triangle.
- 4 Thread a piece of string through the holes.
- 5 Repeat for each triangle to create your bunting.







# LET'S TALK MONEY

Now that you've done all the hard work raising money, you can pay in the funds you've raised through various ways.



## Online

Bank the money you raised and make a donation via our website:  
**[www.beaconvision.org](http://www.beaconvision.org)**



## Cheque

Send a cheque to: **Beacon Centre for the Blind,  
Wolverhampton Road East, Wolverhampton, WV4 6AZ**  
(cheque made payable to Beacon Centre for the Blind)

Please don't forget to provide your contact details along with the cheque



## By Phone

Call the Fundraising Team on **01902 880111** we are happy to process your donation over the phone or discuss alternative banking methods that suit you



## BACS

You can pay money straight into our account using online banking:

**Sort Code: 560069**

**Account Number: 38276917**

Please don't forget to reference your donation with your fundraiser details when making the payment. This helps us track and acknowledge your amazing efforts.





# THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF BEACON'S LEGACY

“

I found it really beneficial to know what services are available at Beacon. I found it a big help just to be able to talk to someone about my sight loss and to meet others in my situation and learn how they coped was a real help.

**Beacon Member**

“

Blinded by the light but so desperate to see. Often saddened by living life in the shadows of who I used to be. Searching for equality in a society where my sight loss often defines me.

**Beacon Member**

”



**Lisa Cowley**

“Join us on our mission to help people live well with sight loss. Your support is crucial in providing essential services, resources and hope to the visually impaired community. Together we can help individuals regain their confidence and quality of life. Be a part of our journey and help us create a brighter future for everyone living with sight loss. Your generosity and commitment will make all the difference.”

**Lisa Cowley CEO**

“

The Support I have received has been excellent and the team at Beacon are always happy to go the extra mile for you. Attending the Beacon has helped me gain more confidence and independence and with support helped me gain back some skills that will help me get back to work and live a better life. I can't thank the team there enough for the help they have provided for me.

**- Beacon Member**