The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai Institute for Continuing Medical Education provides this Compendium for Low Vision Services and Aids in the tri-state area as a service to our patients and physicians.

If visitors to the website are aware of additional low vision services or aids, please contact:

New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai
Institute for Continuing Medical Education
310 East 14th Street
New York, NY 10003

Call the Administrative Assistant at 212-979-4383
Or the CME Coordinator at 212-614-8269
Or e-mail the Director at kcorbin@nyee.edu

Updates will be added on an semi-annual basis

Special Thanks
We would like to thank Gabriel Felder for bringing the need for such a resource to our attention.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## New York City
- Andrew Heiskell Braille and Talking Book Library .......................................................... Page 3
- Blindline .............................................................................................................................. Page 4
- Computer Center for Visually Impaired People (CCVIP) .................................................. Page 5 & 6
- The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration, Inc ............................................................................ Page 7
- Helen Keller Services for the Blind ..................................................................................... Page 8
- Lighthouse Guild International ............................................................................................ Page 9
- Lighthouse International ..................................................................................................... Page 10
- MOMA – The Museum of Modern Art ............................................................................... Page 11
- The New York Institute for Special Education .................................................................. Page 12
- New York State Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped .............................. Page 13
- SUNY University Optometric Center and Low Vision Services ........................................ Page 14
- Rubin Museum of Art – RMA ............................................................................................ Page 15
- Visions (General information pages) .................................................................................. Page 16-17
- Visions (Children and Youth) ............................................................................................. Page 18
- Visions (Adults) .................................................................................................................. Page 19
- Visions (Seniors) ................................................................................................................ Page 20

## New York State
- Access-USA – Clayton, NY .................................................................................................. Page 21
- Association for the Visually Impaired – Spring Valley, NY ................................................ Page 22
- Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired – Utica, NY ............................... Page 23
- Glens Falls Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc. Glens Falls, NY .......... Page 24
- Guiding Eyes for the Blind – Yorktown Heights, NY ......................................................... Page 25
- Long Island Talking Book Library – Bellport, NY ............................................................... Page 26
- New York State List of Low Vision Services ..................................................................... Pages 28-31

## New Jersey
- Assistive Technology Advocacy Center of NJP&A – Trenton, NJ ........................................ Page 32
- Bergen Family Center – Englewood, NJ ............................................................................. Page 33
- New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired – Newark, NJ .................... Page 34
- New Jersey Foundation for the Blind – Denville, NJ ......................................................... Page 35
- The Seeing Eye – Morristown, NJ ....................................................................................... Page 36

## Low Vision Products
- LS&S ................................................................................................................................. Page 37
- Independent Living Aids, Inc ............................................................................................ Page 37
- ShopLowVision.com ......................................................................................................... Page 37

## Radio Reading Services
- Connecticut Radio Information System – Windsor, CT ..................................................... Page 38
- Electronic Information and Education Service – South Orange, NJ ................................. Page 38
The Andrew Heiskell Braille and Talking Book Library lends talking books and books in Braille to borrowers who are eligible to receive them according to the terms of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), a division of the Library of Congress.

A person is eligible if resident in New York City or Long Island, and if he or she has difficulty reading standard printed materials because of: blindness; a visual impairment; a physical disability that limits the ability to hold a book or turn pages; or a reading disability resulting from organic dysfunction.

Talking books are available in cassette and digital formats and require special playback machines. The Library provides digital and cassette players without charge.

Talking books, talking book players, and Braille books can be requested by mail, by telephone, by email, through the library’s online catalog, or in person, and can be sent and returned through the mail without cost to the borrower.

To qualify for service a patron has to complete an application, available at the Andrew Heiskell Library, any other public library in New York City, or from the Andrew Heiskell Library website at www.talkingbooks.nypl.org.

The application must be certified by a competent authority such as a professional in health care, education, or rehabilitation. Librarians may certify an applicant except for reading or learning disabilities. Family members may not certify applicants. Applicants with reading or learning disabilities must be certified by a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy. All applications must be sent to the library with the original signature of the certifier; copies or faxes do not meet the Federal requirements of the program.

The library hosts programs and activities that appeal to people with visual impairments.

The library offers adaptive technology that allows people with visual impairments to use computers and access the internet. We offer classes in how to use this equipment.

The library’s audio book studio produces 40 to 50 talking books per year to supplement the collection of National Library Service titles.

The Andrew Heiskell Braille and Talking Book Library is part of the New York Public Library, which operates it under the guidelines of the National Library Service. Its operation is funded by the State of New York, the City of New York, and the federal government. The National Library Service provides most Braille and talking book materials.
Blindline® is an information and referral service for people who are blind or visually impaired, their family members, friends, and professional service providers.

Our ever-growing database currently comprises more than 750 records of specialized resources located throughout New York State. The database contains a comprehensive list of blindness-related agencies, as well as many commercial businesses that provide accessible services and/or products to people with vision loss. As a "work in progress," we encourage consumers to let us know about businesses, products, or services that should be included in the database, or to comment on any of the products and services we currently catalogue.

Blindline® consists of both the web site and a telephone hotline staffed by trained individuals who are themselves visually impaired. If you are unable to find what you are looking for on the web site, please phone us toll-free, Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, at (888) 625-1616. Our trained Information Specialists will conduct additional research on any blindness-related topic, and return the results to you in the format of your choice (braille, large-print, via e-mail or phone).

**VISIONS Partners and Corporate Funders**

Blindline® (web site, call center and vocational training program) is an ongoing project of VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired. VISIONS acknowledges the many non-profit partners and corporate funders who support the project.

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) has been invaluable to the project, by sharing information from its *Directory of Services*, and by providing technical expertise in creating both the web site and database.

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) and the American Council of the Blind (ACB) have strongly supported the project from the start.

As the primary source of financial support, the Lavelle Fund for the Blind awarded VISIONS a major grant in support of Blindline®.

American Express responded with a grant for the cost of seven toll-free phone lines and marketing efforts.

IBM graciously donated seven state-of-the-art computer workstations and a printer, to get the call center up-and-running.

An exceptional Advisory Board of blindness professionals, consumers, technology and I&R experts assists our staff in expanding and strengthening the project, and planning for growth.

**Blindline® Headquarters**

Located at VISIONS main administrative office in Lower Manhattan (500 Greenwich Street), the call center is well-appointed and spacious. Employers, potential trainees, educators, and/or technical consultants are welcome to tour the center during normal business hours. Please phone or e-mail us to arrange a visit, to learn more about our training program, or to volunteer:

**Michael J. Cush, Blindline® Coordinator**

*(888) 625-1616*  
*mcush@visionsvcb.org*

The Blindline® project is just one of many ways in which VISIONS manifests its mission to promote the independence of people of all ages who are blind and visually impaired. VISIONS programs include rehabilitation services, therapeutic recreation for individuals and families at Vacation Camp for the Blind in Rockland County, NY, and a community center for blind adults and seniors at Selis Manor on West 23rd Street in Manhattan.
Computer Center for Visually Impaired People (CCVIP)
Expanding Technological Access for Greater New York’s Vision Loss Community

Who We Are
Since 1978, CCVIP, conveniently based at Baruch College in New York City’s Gramercy Park neighborhood, has been in the business of empowering people through access to Assistive computer technology. We accomplish this through training, applied research, product testing and development, and community awareness initiatives.

What We Offer
Courses and seminars
Contact Judith Gerber, 646-312-1420

Designed to meet students’ changing needs and to keep pace with advances in software and Assistive technology. People can be introduced to the computer and learn to type, master the basics of e-mail, Internet, word processing, and data management, explore what social networking is all about and acquire the skills that will assure success in the ever-expanding world of portable digital information and entertainment devices.
Learning Lab--Contact Judith Gerber, 646-312-1420

Where independent computer users and current CCVIP students can practice on Assistive technological systems under expert supervision.

Computer Skills Check-Ups--Contact Judith Gerber, 646-312-1420

Designed for job hunters and prospective college students, these assessments were specially developed by CCVIP to determine user strengths and weaknesses and help our advisors to identify further training needs and make placement recommendations.

Demonstration Center and bimonthly Tech Demos--Contact Gus Chalkias, 646 312-1422

Provide potential users opportunities to experience new devices from a variety of vendors before making a personal investment in Assistive equipment. Recent sessions—delivered on site and online—have reviewed magnification devices, Apple’s I products, color and object identifiers, accessible book readers and GPS devices.

SERVICES FOR AREA BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS

BRAILLE PRODUCTION--Contact Judith Gerber, 646-312-1420

CCVIP’s Braille production service is fast and affordable. Our basic rate for literary Braille is $1.50 per page for documents submitted in electronic text format with at least 24 hours notice. Our rush
orders rate is $2.00 per Braille page. Price exclude shipping or special formatting. Volume discounts are available.

SCRIPTING SERVICES--Contact Karen Gourgey, 646-312-1426

CCVIP now programs custom scripts for JAWS® screen reading software, its companion screen magnification program, MAGic® and the screen reader program Window-Eyes® to insure that you and your employer get the maximum accessibility possible from your software.

WEB USABILITY TESTING--Contact Bill Reed, 646-312-1420

CCVIP tests the degree to which web sites are useable by blind and visually impaired computer users for businesses and nonprofits. We offer feedback and suggest what must be done to make specific sites and screens accessible.

FREE EVENTS

Monthly Open Houses--Register with Madelyn Guilbeault, 646-312-1420

Conducted by CCVIP faculty to introduce the public to our courses and the latest in Assistive technology.

Annual Conference on Employment and Visual Impairment: Policy and Practice

Held in conjunction with the Baruch College School of Public Affairs usually in April. Check www.baruch.cuny.edu/ccvip for announcement and registration invitation—or join our mailing list and be kept up-to-date about all CCVIP activities.

CONTACT US: For more information on our courses, seminars or services, to join our mailing list, and to register for a course or a free Open House:

Computer Center for Visually Impaired People (CCVIP)
Division of Continuing and Professional Studies
Baruch College, CUNY
1 Bernard Baruch Way, Box H-648
New York, NY 10010
Phone: 646-312-1420
Fax: 646-312-1421
www.baruch.cuny.edu/ccvip

-Facebook: Computer Center for Visually Impaired People
-Twitter: CCVIP
-YouTube: ccvipatbaruch
The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration, Inc
120 Wall Street
New York, NY 10005
212-742-9000 24-hour number
www.eyedonation.org

- The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration, the world’s first eye bank, is devoted to restoring sight through eye donations and cornea transplants, as well as providing ocular tissue for research into treatment and cures for blinding eye diseases. Public awareness about the need for eye donations is a key component of our efforts to restore sight to thousands of men, women and children each year.

- View a Story, Tell a Story, Share a Story! Find The Eye-Bank on Facebook www.facebook.com/EyeBankforSightRestoration and read, tell or share a story about eye donation and restoring sight.

Patricia Dahl
Executive Director/CEO

See what your eyes can do for others
www.eyedonation.org
Low Vision Eye Service

➢ Staffed by NYS Certified Low Vision doctors

➢ Serve New York City, Nassau and Suffolk Counties

➢ Patients are seen by a doctor for both eye health evaluations and vision rehabilitation

➢ Optical aids may be prescribed which include magnifiers, telescopes, spectacles, and electronic vision aids such as desktop video magnifiers

➢ Training in the use of the aids and the patient’s residual vision is of great importance to gain optimum use of remaining vision. This service is one part of the overall care available to someone with vision impairment as we assist the patient with daily living training and the psychological adjustment to sight reduction too.

➢ An affiliated program of the Low Vision Eye Service is our Preschool Vision Screening Program where approximately 30,000 children are screened per year for vision limitations.

➢ In Richmond County, we are a member of the Staten Island Inter-Agency Council with access to a wide range of services and resources for seniors including partnerships with local ophthalmologists.

➢ For more information please contact Bill Dale at 516-485-1234, extension 607 or visit our website at www.helenkeller.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New York City</th>
<th>Nassau County</th>
<th>Suffolk County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>57 Willoughby St</td>
<td>1 Helen Keller Way</td>
<td>3385 Veterans Memorial Highway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn, NY 11201-5211</td>
<td>Hempstead NY 11550</td>
<td>Ronkonkoma, NY 11779</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Low Vision Eye Service at Helen Keller Services for the Blind was established in 1953. It is the first Low Vision Service integrated into an agency for individuals, both children and adults, who are legally blind. This service sees 1,000 patients on average a year, with Age Related Macular Degeneration and Glaucoma being the eye disorders most commonly cared for.
Lighthouse Guild International
15 West 65th Street
New York, NY 10023
212-769-6200 - 800-284-4422
Fax: 212-769-7825
www.guildhealth.org

The Lighthouse Guild International is a not-for-profit, nonsectarian agency serving persons of all ages who are visually impaired, blind and multidisabled. Jewish Guild Healthcare has been helping people with vision loss since 1914. We provide a wide range of programs and services developed to help seniors, parents and children as well as healthcare professionals and people who are blind or visually impaired. - See more at: http://www.guildhealth.org/Programs-And-Services-Overview/Programs-And-Services-Overview

The Guild offers a broad range of programs and services that include:

- Clinical Services: Low Vision Rehabilitation, Diagnostic and Treatment Clinic, Psychiatric Clinic, Diabetes Self-Management, Orientation and Mobility.
- Managed and Continuing Care: GuildNet, a Medicaid Managed Long Term Care Plan; The Guild Institute for Vision & Aging, a residential health care facility.
- Therapeutic Day Programs: GuildCare, an Adult Day Health Care program; Mental Health Day Treatment; Developmental Disabilities Day Treatment.
- Education, Training & Support: Guild School for students aged five to 21; Tele-support Groups for parents of children with visual impairment, as well as for teenagers planning to attend college; Academic skills instruction; SightCare education and training for care providers and professionals.
- Awards: The Guild Scholar program offers scholarships to blind and visually impaired college bound students.
Lighthouse International services for people with vision loss include:

- **Low Vision Care**: specialized eye exams by low vision doctors evaluate a person’s remaining vision and overall visual functioning to help make best use of existing vision – often with the prescription of optical devices along with instruction in how to use them effectively.
- **Psychosocial Services**: emotional support to help people – and their families – cope with vision loss at any stage of life.
- **Occupational Therapy**: training to help people utilize other senses and residual vision to improve functioning.
- **Vision Rehabilitation Therapy**: introduction of safe, new ways to manage household tasks such as cooking, personal grooming, and to manage medications and finances;
- **Orientation & Mobility**: training that helps people travel safely, take public transportation on their own, and prevent falls and injuries.
- **Career Services**: programs to enable people with vision loss to prepare for, obtain or retain a job; also match employers with qualified candidates.
- **Children’s Services**: including the early intervention program, which helps infants born with vision loss reach important developmental milestones. The integrated Lighthouse preschool welcomes children who are sighted and visually impaired for an enriched educational experience for all.
- **Youth Services**: programs enable teens with vision loss to build confidence and independent living skills to achieve success in school and, ultimately, in the working world.
- **The Filomen M. D’Agostino Greenberg Music School**: offerings that encourage people of all ages to pursue their interest in, and study of, music through lessons in voice and a broad range of instruments, along with Braille and assistive music technology.
- **Print Access Center**: conversion of printed materials needed for academic, personal or professional use into accessible formats; Braille transcription, reading and recording services.
- **The Center for Education**: online training for professionals and paraprofessionals in low vision care and vision rehabilitation.
- **The Arlene R. Gordon Research Institute**: advancing knowledge of how people who are visually impaired function in everyday life.
- **The Lighthouse Store**: featuring a wide selection of lighting, magnification and talking products that make living with vision loss more manageable.

Lighthouse International provides services for residents throughout the greater New York area wherever they are needed – in the home, on-site at our Manhattan headquarters and White Plains office, at work or in the community.
The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street
New York, NY 10019
212-708-9400
www.moma.org

The Museum of Modern Art is committed to enabling all visitors to experience its unparalleled collection of modern art. We recognize the diversity of our general public’s abilities and needs and offer a variety of programs and services to ensure the accessibility of the Museum and its collections. We hope to provide the most inclusive environment for every Museum visitor.

Programs and Services for Blind and Partially Sighted Visitors
For a complete schedule of dates and program topics, please visit http://www.moma.org/learn/disabilities/sight.

Art inSight
This program for blind and partially sighted adults is held monthly in the Museum galleries. Specially trained Museum lecturers highlight specific themes, artists, and exhibitions, engaging participants through extensive verbal descriptions.

Touch Tours
Blind and partially sighted visitors experience a selection of sculptures and design objects from the collection. These tours take place in the Museum’s galleries and Sculpture Garden and are available to individuals or groups by appointment. To schedule a touch tour, please call 212-708-9685 or visit http://www.moma.org/visit/plan/groups/accessform.

MoMAudio: Visual Descriptions
(English only) An audio program for blind and partially sighted visitors as well as the general public is available free of charge inside the Museum at the audio program desks. Developed with Acoustiguide in consultation with an advisory board of people with sight loss, this audio program provides vivid and detailed descriptions of key works from the Museum’s collection. Expert commentary, musical accompaniment, and historical perspective enhance the experience. Transcripts of this and all Museum audio programs are available in regular and large print upon request.

Tactile diagrams of numerous works from the Museum’s collection are available for loan at no charge for classroom use.

The information plan and select special-exhibition brochures are available in large print and Braille from the lobby information desk.

Detailed information about all Access Programs can be found on our website at http://moma.org/learn/programs/access or by calling Access Programs at 212-408-6347.
The New York Institute for Special Education (NYISE) supports four quality programs for children who are blind or visually disabled, emotionally and learning disabled and preschoolers who are developmentally delayed.

- The Schermerhorn Program recognizes our 179 year commitment to children who are blind and visually impaired. Many of these children, who range in age from 5 to 21 years, have a mild secondary disability and need a specialized educational environment in order to be successful in school. Students are placed in either the day or five day residential program.

- The children of the Van Cleve Program have emotional or learning difficulties. The highly structured educational day and residential component includes specialized services such as counseling for the students and their families. Our goal is to reduce the behavioral and learning deficits of students by providing academic and social skills necessary to enter less restrictive programs.

- The Readiness Program is a pre-school that helps children who are developmentally delayed from ages 3 to 5. They have disabilities that include speech impairment, mild orthopedic impairment, a learning or emotional disability. By providing specialized instruction, intensive therapies and early intervention many are able to be mainstreamed or are placed in a least restrictive educational environment when they reach the age of five.

As the only Summer Camp program in New York City for children that are blind or visually impaired, Camp Wanaqua is truly a unique offering of NYISE. Totally dependant on private support the camp provides children with classes, field trips, and activities that focus on the development of critical life skills. Applications are accepted each Spring. Please contact Anthony George, the Camp Director at (718) 519-7000 x356 or email your request to ageorge@nyise.org.
The New York State Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped (CBVH) provides vocational rehabilitation and other direct services to legally blind New York State residents, including children, adults, and elderly persons.

One of CBVH's primary objectives is to assist consumers in achieving economic self-sufficiency and full integration into society.

The mission of CBVH is to work with and on behalf of persons who have vision impairment or blindness in order to:
- Enhance employability
- Maximize independence
- Assist in the development of capacities and strengths

We value the worth, dignity and rights of people who are legally blind and we will:
- Continue to empower the consumer and foster independence and self-sufficiency
- Be non-judgmental toward a consumer's choice of services and goals
- Incorporate an interactive teamwork approach to providing quality vocational rehabilitation services that meet and exceed consumer needs.

New York CBVH is unique among other state VR agencies in its cooperative relationship with private not-for-profit provider agencies. Supported in part by CBVH contracts, these agencies deliver a variety of services to individuals who are legally blind in all parts of the state.

How We Can Help People Who Have Blindness and Vision Impairment
- Individualized Counseling and guidance
- Career counseling and Help towards Developing a Vocational Goal
- Referrals to Resources
- Rehabilitation Teaching (Activities of Daily Living)
- Orientation and Mobility Training
- Vocational Assessments and Training
- Academic Assessments and Training
- Computer Training
- Social Work
- Adaptive Equipment and Assistive Technology
- Programs for Children and Families
- Programs for the Elderly
- Programs for Those Who Are Not Seeking Employment
- Business Enterprise Program

We have several offices throughout New York State, including two offices in New York City – one in the Wall Street area and one in Harlem.
Our Mission: To design visual rehabilitation programs for patients of all ages with congenital or acquired vision loss.

Our comprehensive low vision evaluation assesses the patient’s current visual status, identifies goals and visual needs, and designs an individualized rehabilitation program to meet those needs.

Our Services:

- Prescription and training in the use of optical low vision aids (hand and stand magnifiers, high-powered spectacles, telescopes, etc.) and other adaptive equipment.
- Sunwear and lighting evaluations
- Bioptic (spectacle mounted telescope) fitting and evaluation
- Evaluation and training in the use of High-Tech devices such as CCTVs (video magnifiers), computer adaptations and specialized software, and other electronic low vision aids.
- Prism evaluation for patients who have peripheral vision loss from a stroke or advanced eye disease
- Rehabilitation training to improve eye movements for more efficient reading, tracking, and viewing around a blind spot.
Verbal Description and Touch Tours at Rubin Museum of Art:

The Rubin Museum of Art, a cultural and educational institution dedicated to the art of the Himalayas, is now offering Verbal Description and Touch Tours for audiences who are partially sighted and blind. Free with museum admission, tours are one-hour in length and take visitors on a journey that interweaves the arts, history, religion, and culture of the Himalayas.

The Rubin Museum guides have been trained to offer audiences who are partially sighted and blind multiple points of access into Himalayan art. Guides provide participants with close, careful descriptions of images and sculpture, helping them to form visualizations of the pieces. Participants are then invited to touch objects, including sculpture, art materials, wood blocks, and ritual implements. Visitors also experience some of the sacred sounds and smells of the Himalayas through incense and traditional music.

TOURS are offered on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 2:00 pm. Please schedule two weeks in advance by contacting the Group Visits Office by phone, 212.620.5000 Ext. 345, or by email at reservations@rmanyc.org. Special individual tours may also be arranged. Admission to the museum is waived for tour participants, making the experience completely FREE.

Himalayan art is known for its rich iconography and vibrant artistic tradition. Visitors who are partially sighted and blind will not only be exposed to the rich visual culture, but will also begin to understand what lies beneath: art that expresses the concept of the enlightened mind, the personification of wisdom, compassion, protection and loving kindness, the concept of cyclical existence, and so much more.

The Rubin Museum is located at 150 West 17th Street, New York, NY 10011 (between 6th and 7th Avenues).

The Rubin Museum is open Monday 11 am to 5 pm, Wednesday 11 am to 7 pm, Thursday 11 am to 5 pm, Friday 11 am to 10 pm, Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm; closed on Tuesday.
VISIONS Offers FREE Innovative Programs for People of All Ages with Vision Loss

Founded in 1926, VISIONS serves over 5000 individuals each year. The agency is driven by its mission to promote the independence of people of all ages who are blind or visually impaired and to educate the public about the needs and abilities of people who are blind.

- Individuals are eligible for VISIONS services if they experience vision loss that interferes with daily tasks or independent functioning at home, school, work or in the community. VISIONS services are provided free of charge (no co-pays, no billing of Medicaid or Medicare). Services are funded through VISIONS unrestricted income, foundation, corporate and government grants, and individual donations. VISIONS consumers are primarily people of low income, frail elders, non-English speakers, living in communities of culturally diverse consumers where vision loss is more prevalent, as well as people with multiple disabilities. Services are offered in 17 languages utilizing multi-lingual staff and interpreters.
- VISIONS offers free presentations on vision loss, organizing community events including educational forums and creating local advisory boards.

Vision rehabilitation training is provided according to an individualized plan based on the consumer’s expressed needs and level of ability. Instruction is tailored to meet specific goals such as meeting a school bus, family care giving, or gaining “soft skills” to become more employable.
- Vision rehabilitation therapy provides training by certified professional specialists in adaptive living skills to help consumers of all ages to carry out their daily activities with confidence and independence.
- Orientation & mobility training by certified professional specialists teaches consumers how to navigate safely at home, in school and college, in their neighborhoods, and throughout New York City.
- Occupational therapy by licensed professionals addresses visual and physical impairment needs of blind and low vision individuals with additional disabilities.
- Low vision enables people with vision loss to use their residual vision efficiently and effectively through refraction and the use of prescribed optical aids.
- Adaptive aids such as a prescribed long cane, talking watch or large print calendar enable individuals to manage their household, attend school, hold a job, and travel safely and independently and are supplied free of charge as part of a rehabilitation plan.
- Licensed social workers counsel consumers adjusting to deteriorating vision or blindness.

Other programs include:

**Blindline**, a database of services in New York State and resources for people who are blind or low vision:
- Provides information by phone 1-212-625-3301 or 1-888-625-1616 and an accessible web site www.blindline.org.
- Serves as a vocational training and job internship placement for blind adults and seniors, from Westchester, NYC and Long Island who can travel to Manhattan, to learn help desk, information and referral and customer services skills.

**Employment services for New York City residents & Technology programs for consumers without geographic restriction:**
Technology training in the use of adapted software is provided in the Computer Center at VISIONS at Selis Manor, at VISIONS/VCB, and the Blindline® program.

Employment and Technology Institutes (held at VISIONS/VCB) offer employment-related seminars, hands-on workshops, resume writing and interviewing clinics, and demonstrations of the latest adaptive technology for youth and adults who are blind or low vision.

Workforce Development Office at VISIONS at Selis Manor offers individual assistance with job searches and job placement for blind youth, adults and seniors.

Youth Employment Coordinator assists high school and college youth who are blind or low vision with finding paid internships after school or during the summer.

VISIONS at Selis Manor is a community center program, located in housing for low-income people who are blind on West 23rd Street in Manhattan. Services include:

- Social services, benefits assistance and individual and group counseling to adjust to and cope with vision loss.
- Individual and group vision rehabilitation training including learning Braille.
- Employment services including computer technology training and job placement.
- Youth services including after school and summer programs for blind or visually impaired high school students.
- Senior services including Senior Speak Out, a weekly seminar on Monday that includes speakers on topics of interest, a hot dinner meal and peer networking
- Wide variety of adapted classes including photography, fitness, yoga, bowling, ceramics, quilting, computers, Braille, etc.
- Volunteer readers and shoppers.

VISIONS Center on Blindness (VCB), a 35-acre year-round adapted temporary residential training center in Rockland County, New York, offers:

- Vision rehabilitation training including orientation & mobility and rehab classes.
- Services for populations with special needs (families with blind and/or multi-disabled babies, pre-school or school age children; frail seniors; grandparent caregivers of blind children).
- Employment and Technology Institutes throughout the year for youth and adults.

VISIONS Intergenerational and Caregiver Support programs enable seniors with vision loss to live at home as independently as possible with help from trained paid high school students and respite for unpaid caregivers (family, partners, companions, friends).

Visit us on the Internet at www.visionsvcb.org

To make a referral or to request services call VISIONS at 212-625-1616 ext. 134 Carmen Rivera (English/Spanish).
FREE Services for Children and Youth with Legal Blindness and Low Vision

After School and Summer Program for New York City High School Youth with Legal Blindness or Vision Loss
Funding by the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development Out of School Time (OST) grant includes paid employment, academic support and supervised recreation located at VISIONS at Selis Manor 135 W. 23rd Street, NY, NY. Activities include paid work experience in a snack bar, adapted computer center and bowling, dance, drama, photography, poetry, etc. Must be able to travel independently or use Access-a-ride.

For More Information Contact:
Melissa Phipps
VISIONS at Selis Manor
646-486-4444
Email: MPhipps@visionsvcb.org

After School and summer paid work experience training for legally blind high school students, graduates and college youth funded by the New York State Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped in worksites throughout New York City.

Pre-vocational training for legally blind youth age 14 and older. Overnight residential training is offered at VISIONS Center on Blindness (VCB) during February, April and a June session funded by the NYS Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped.

For More Information Contact:
Gia Venturo
VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
646-486-4444
Email: gventuro@visionsvcb.org

Family Services at VISIONS Center on Blindness (VCB) during selected weekends from October through June and during four summer sessions. Blind or visually impaired children of all ages including those with multiple disabilities attend VCB with their siblings and parents/guardians. For children who are legally blind, funding is provided by the New York State Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped.

For More Information Contact:
Carmen Thorne or Khaled Musa
VISIONS VCB
212-625-1616
Email: ethorne@visionsvcb.org
kmusa@visionsvcb.org

Children’s vision rehabilitation services at home or in the community funded by the NYS Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped for legally blind children. Funded by private grants for children with low vision who also have other disabilities. Service in all five boroughs may include vision rehabilitation therapy, orientation and mobility, occupational therapy and adapted equipment.

For More Information Contact:
Bill Hixson
VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
212-625-1616
Email: whixson@visionsvcb.org
FREE Services for Adults with Legal Blindness or Severe Vision Loss

Vision Rehabilitation Services
VISIONS Rehabilitation Department helps blind or visually impaired individuals achieve their highest level of independence. Certified Vision Rehabilitation Professionals provide instruction in adaptive independent living skills and mobility at home, school, work and in the community. Low vision exams, occupational therapy and social work counseling may also be provided.

For More Information Contact:
Carmen Rivera, Intake Coordinator/Outreach Specialist
212-625-1616 x 134
Email: crivera@visionsvcb.org

Employment, Job Placement and Technology Services
Employment services are provided to correspond to the age, qualifications and experience of each client. Participants explore the world of work including related social skills, interview techniques, job search skills, vocational training, adaptive computer training and visits to businesses. Work experiences provide participants with on the job training. Full time job placement matches an individual’s education and experience to career opportunities.

For More Information Contact:
Dawn Suvino, Director of Workforce Development and Training
646-486-4444 x 14
Email: dsuvino@visionsvcb.org

VISIONS at Selis Manor
VISIONS at Selis Manor is a center for blind youth, adults and seniors, located at 135 West 23rdStreet in Manhattan. VISIONS at Selis Manor offers employment services, support groups, adapted computer training, adapted classes from fitness to photography, assistance with benefits, social programs, volunteers and social work services.

For More Information Contact:
Ann DeShazo, Director of VISIONS at Selis Manor
646-486-4444, ext. 11
Email: adeshazo@visionsvcb.org

VISIONS Center on Blindness (VCB)
VISIONS Center on Blindness (VCB) is a residential vision rehabilitation and training center located in Rockland County, New York. VCB is open year round and is adapted to meet the needs of people who are blind and may also be independent wheelchair users. Sessions include employment and technology training, social and wellness programs and adapted programs. Facilities include a heated ramped swimming pool, a lake for peddle boating and fishing, adapted computer lab with wireless access, library with Braille and audio books, outdoor bowling and other outdoor sports.

For More Information Contact:
  212-625-1616
  Carmen Thorne, ext. 107 Or Khaled Musa, ext. 130
  Email:cthorne@visionsvcb.org
  kmusa@visionsvcb.org

Blindline®
Blindline® provides a toll-free number for access to a New York statewide database of resources and services for people who are blind or visually impaired, their family members, caregivers, and professionals. The call center is available Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm by calling 888-625-1616. A fully accessible website (www.blindline.org) with direct access to the database is open to the public. Trainees learn to use internet based technology to prepare for jobs in customer service, I & R and call center environments.

For More Information Contact:
Michael Cush, Assistant Director of Workforce Development and Training
212-625-3301 x 710
Email: mcush@visionsvcb.org
FREE Services for Seniors with Legal Blindness or Severe Vision Loss

Vision Rehabilitation Services
VISIONS Rehabilitation Department helps seniors achieve their highest level of independence. Certified Vision Rehabilitation Professionals provide instruction in adaptive independent living skills and mobility at home, at work and in the community, in addition to occupational therapy, social work counseling, and assistance with employment.

For More Information Contact:
Carmen Rivera, Intake Coordinator/Outreach Specialist
212-625-1616 x 134
Email: crivera@visionsvcb.org

Community Outreach and Training
Through inter-agency collaborations, VISIONS ensures that individuals who are blind have access to community-based resources. VISIONS sponsors advisory boards in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens. VISIONS provides staff training, public education forums on eye disease in all five boroughs of New York City, and has affiliations with over 150 senior centers.

For More Information Contact:
Mary Springer, Director of Development and Outreach
212-625-1616 x 128
Email: mspringer@visionsvcb.org

VISIONS at Selis Manor
VISIONS at Selis Manor is a center for blind youth, adults and seniors. Located at 135 West 23rd Street in Manhattan, Visions at Selis Manor offers support groups, adapted classes from fitness to computer training, assistance with benefits, social programs such as Senior Speak Out, volunteers and social work services for seniors with vision loss.

For More Information Contact:
Ann DeShazo, Director of VISIONS at Selis Manor
646-486-4444 x 11
Email: adeshazo@visionsvcb.org

Intergenerational and Caregiver Support Programs
VISIONS Intergenerational Program recruits, trains and employs high school students to assist blind seniors in their homes, and at Selis Manor. The youth provide escort and assistance with reading, shopping, and technology. VISIONS Caregiver project supports family, partners, and friends who help a senior with vision loss. Overnight respite at VCB and day respite at Selis Manor are provided.

For More Information Contact:
Intergenerational Program Manager
Carrie Lewy
212-625-1616 x 147
Email: elowy@visionsvcb.org

Caregiver Support Program Case Manager
Diana Cruz
212-625-1616 x 149
Email: dcruz@visionsvcb.org

VISIONS Center on Blindness (VCB)
VISIONS Center on Blindness (VCB) is a residential vision rehabilitation and training center located in Rockland County, New York. VCB is open year round and is adapted to meet the needs of people who are blind including people who are also independent wheelchair users. Sessions include employment and technology training, wellness programs and family services.

For More Information Contact:
Carmen Thorne
212-625-1616 x 107
Email: cthorne@visionsvcb.org

Blindline®
Blindline® provides a toll-free number for access to a New York statewide database of resources and services for people who are blind or visually impaired, their family members, caregivers, and professionals. The call center is available Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm by calling 888-625-1616. A fully accessible website (www.blindline.org) with direct access to the database is open to the public.

For More Information Contact:
Michael Cush, Assistant Director of Workforce Development and Training
212-625-3301 x 710
Email: mcush@visionsvcb.org
Access-USA offers transcription services and products for organizations, companies and industries interested in providing accessible information to all members of the community. We can translate your information into alternate formats such as Braille, Large Print, Audio and Video and Electronic.

Translation services are available for documents, brochures, menus, information sheets, manuals, collateral and promotional materials of all kinds.

Specialty items for education and ad promotions can also be adapted. Custom made Q&E Braille Labels and Braille TouchTags can make your products noticed even more.

Braille Business Cards. Braille business cards make a positive, inclusive statement without saying a word. Braille cards speak volumes about your business philosophy while giving immediate information to people who are visually impaired. When you send in preprinted business cards we can add Braille to them and return them. You will feel the effect and effectiveness. Call or email for an order form.
Provide vision rehabilitation services and programs to people of all ages living in Rockland and Orange Counties.

All services are free to the consumers.

We are a contract agency with the Comm. for the Blind and Visually Handicapped. We also are in contract with Rockland County, Office for the Aging in both counties, United Way in both counties. We have a full board of directors.

We have vision rehabilitation teachers, orientation and mobility instructors, social workers, an employment placement program, volunteer services program, early intervention, community outreach and education, information and referral services.

In Rockland we also provide transportation for those who have no other means of getting to a medical appointment particularly dialysis.

And also have a Resource Technology Center in Spring Valley.

All of the services are provided in the person's own home, preschool, school and employment environment.

We also run two educational support groups, one in Rockland which meets two times a month and one in Orange County that meets once a month.

We have an annual conference that is free, and have major fundraisers to help us continue to provide services such as a Golf Outing, a Distinguished Citizens' Awards Dinner Dance, and send out an Annual Appeal and newsletters.
Established in 1929, the Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired is a not for profit agency with professional and support staff who provide comprehensive vision rehabilitation programs to individuals who are blind and visually impaired in an eight county region of New York State. C.A.B.V.I. offers programs that serve people of every age from infants to the very elderly.

Services offered include:

- **Low Vision**- Certified low vision specialists provide evaluation and prescribe low vision optical aides and devices to maximize remaining vision. We have five clinic locations Hamilton, Oneida, Fort Plain, Utica and two in Watertown.

- **Independent Living Services**- Vision Rehabilitation Therapists assist patients in maintaining and expanding independent living skills including financial management, meal preparation, childcare, personal care and health needs.

- **Orientation and Mobility**- Professionals teach consumers how to travel safely in the home, school, workplace and community.

- **Technology**- Customized training in computer adaptive technology prepare individuals for educational and employment opportunities.

- **Social Work**- Individual and group therapy options are available to assist individuals and families adjust to vision loss.

- **Children’s Services**- Early intervention, preschool services and school age programs provide therapeutic teaching to ensure mainstream education. Pre-school vision screenings are provided throughout Central New York.

- **Employment**- Vocational evaluation, job training and employment search guidance prepare people for work in their chosen field.

- **Central Industries**- Our manufacturing and service divisions provides a variety of employment opportunities to individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

“We help people who don’t see well live like those that do”
The Glens Falls Association for the Blind, Inc. is an independent, private non-profit organization, founded in 1935. We are dedicated to preventing blindness and promoting the well-being of blind and visually impaired persons in all ways. The association is committed to equipping visually challenged persons with the skills needed for independent and productive life in the community.

We provide the following services to blind and visually challenged persons of all ages in Warren, Washington, Hamilton, Northern Saratoga and Eastern Fulton Counties:

- Advocacy
- Outreach and Home visits
- Educational Programs
- Medical Transportation
- Information and Referral
- Low vision
- Rehabilitation Teaching
- Orientation & Mobility Training
- Adult Social Activities
- Pre-School Vision Screening

Hours of Operation 8:30 – 4:30 Monday through Friday

The Glens Falls Association for the Blind Inc. believes that blind and visually challenged persons should have access to the same benefits and activities that sighted persons enjoy. To that end, the association provides support, guidance and instruction, as well as public education.

The Glens Falls Association for the Blind Inc. has a full-time professional staff and is governed by a community Board of Directors. If we can assist you or someone you know, please do not hesitate to contact us. All referrals are handled confidential and with professionalism.

Funding and Support:
GUIDING EYES FOR THE BLIND
Headquarters & Training School
611 Granite Springs Road
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
Phone: 914-245-4024
Toll Free: 800-942-0149
Fax: 914-245-1609
Website: www.guidingeyes.org
Email: info@guidingeyes.org

President & CEO: Thomas Panek

Hours: Monday-Friday / 9 am – 5 pm
Service Area: United States, Canada and other countries around the world
No fee to client for service
Handicap Accessible
Languages other than English: ASL (Sign)

Mission Statement: Guiding Eyes for the Blind is dedicated to enriching the lives of blind and visually impaired men and women by providing them with the freedom to travel safely, thereby assuring greater independence, dignity and new horizons of opportunity.

Provides professionally trained guide dogs to qualified, legally blind individuals who are seeking greater mobility and independence. Instruction includes proper use, care and handling of the guide dog. Applicants can call or write to the school for an application packet or apply on-line.

Requirements: Legally blind, 16+ yrs, physically and psychologically able to handle training and use of a guide dog, mobility trained. Application packet (includes current medical report from a physician). Applicants with a history of drug/alcohol abuse must be drug/alcohol free for at least one year. Applicants with multiple handicaps who can walk using a cane or support cane are considered for the program. We cannot serve wheelchair users.

Programs Include:

Residential Training Program: 26-day program held 11 times a year. Training experience in rural, suburban and urban settings; small class size with highly individualized instruction (typical class has 12 students with a Supervisor and two instructors).

Home Training Program: for applicants unable to attend in-residence program.

Special Needs Program: for students who, in addition to being legally blind, have a condition that affects their mobility, such as hearing impairments, cerebral palsy, MS or other.

ACTION Program: accelerated 10-day residential plus 5-day home training program for experienced guide dog users.
The Long Island Talking Book Library is a sub regional library of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

- We provide books on tape and Braille to individuals with disabilities who for whatever reason cannot read regular print materials

The Outreach department for the Suffolk Cooperative Library System provides

- Demonstrations of assistive technology for people who are visually impaired or blind
- Bi-folkal kits (reminiscence kits) through our public libraries
- Consultation and training to public libraries on the topics of disability awareness, inclusive programming and equity of access
- We offer information and referral services to individuals seeking appropriate programs and services for people with disabilities
- We offer sample materials of children's Braille and tactile books
SERVICES PROVIDED

- Low vision evaluations and training
- Vision rehabilitation therapy
- Orientation and mobility training
- Social casework counseling
- Job skills and placement services
- Adaptive technology assessments and training
- Pre-school vision screenings, employment in a manufacturing facility
- In-service presentations

COUNTIES COVERED

- Albany
- Columbia
- Eastern Fulton
- Greene
- Eastern Montgomery
- Rensselaer
- Southern Saratoga
- Schenectady
- Schoharie Counties of New York State.
NEW YORK LOW VISION SERVICES

Albany
Dr. Harry M. Judge Low Vision Center
Northeastern Association of the Blind
Christopher T. Burke, Executive Director
301 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12206
(518) 463-1211
Fax: (518) 463-3585

Amityville
Blind Services Program
Catholic Charities - Diocese of Rockville Centre
Kathleen McEntee, Program Coordinator
Office of Persons with Disabilities
147 Schleigel Boulevard
Amityville, NY 11701
(631) 789-5215
Fax: (631) 789-3844

Amherst
Western New York Center for the Visually Impaired
Dr. John Rundquist, Executive Director
3070 Transit Road
West Seneca, NY 14224
(716) 668-1166
Fax: (716) 668-1466
wnycener@verizon.net

Binghamton
Association for Vision Rehabilitation and Employment
Ken Fernald, President & CEO
174 Court Street
Binghamton, NY 13901
(607) 724-2428
Fax: (607) 771-8045

Brooklyn
Helen Keller Services for the Blind
John Lynch, Executive Director
57 Willoughby Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
(718) 522-2122
Fax: (718) 935-9463

Buffalo
Olmsted Center for Sight
Tammy Owen, Executive Director
Elizabeth Pierce Olmsted, M.D.
1170 Main Street
PO Box 398
Buffalo, NY 14209-0398
(716) 882-1025
Fax: (716) 882-5577
Western New York Center for the Visually Impaired  
Dr. John Rundquist, Executive Director  
3070 Transit Road  
West Seneca, NY 14224  
(716) 668-1166

Cooperstown  
P.O. 732  
Optometry Section  
Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital  
Cooperstown, NY 13326  
(607) 547-3140 Ext. 6848  
Fax: (607) 547-3192

Elmira  
Southern Tier Association for the Visually Impaired, Inc.  
Timothy Hertlein, Executive Director  
719 Lake Street  
Elmira, NY 14901  
(607) 734-1554  
Fax: (607) 734-9467

Glens Falls  
Glens Falls Association for the Blind  
Phil Jessen, Executive Director  
144 Ridge Street  
Glens Falls, NY 12801  
(518) 792-3421  
Fax: (518) 792-3430

Great Neck  
Long Island Jewish Medical Center  
270-05 76th Avenue  
Hyde Park, NY 11040  
(718) 470-7000

Hicksville  
Woodbury Ophthalmic Group  
Dean E. Hart, O.D., MA  
185 Woodbury Road  
Hicksville, NY 11801  
(516) 681-3937  
Fax: (516) 681-1272

Jamestown  
Chautauqua Blind Association  
Lisa Goodell, Executive Director  
510 West Fifth Street  
Jamestown, NY 14701  
(716) 664-6660  
Fax: (716) 664-1193

Jefferson Valley  
Valley Professional Center  
Dr. Sandra Kellett  
3630 Hill Boulevard, Suite 303  
Jefferson Valley, NY 10535  
(914) 962-8111  
Fax: (914) 962-8160
Lake Placid
Mountain Vision Center
Richard L. Erenstone, O.D.
96 Nash Street
Lake Placid, NY 12946
(518) 523-2020
Fax: (518) 523-3691

North Country Association for the Visually Impaired
Donna M. Abair, Executive Director
22 US Oval, Suite B15
Plattsburg, NY 12903
(518) 562-2330
Fax: (518) 562-2331

Lake Ronkonoma
Eye Vision Associates
Cohen, Soden, Gnadt and McGovern
Richard Soden, O.D., FAAO
624 Hawkins Avenue
Lake Ronkonkoma, NY 11779-2300
(631) 588-5100
Fax: (631) 588-5185

New York
Archdiocesan Catholic Guild for the Blind, Inc.
Celso Vera, Director
1011 First Avenue, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10022
(212) 371-1000
Fax: (212) 826-8377

Lighthouse Guild International
Dr. Alan Morse, President and CEO
15 West 65th Street
New York, NY 10023
(212) 769-6313
Fax: (212) 769-7825

Lighthouse International
Dr. Barbara Silverstone, President
111 East 59th Street, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10022
(212) 821-9200
Fax: (212) 821-9705

The Low Vision Associates
The Empire State Building
350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 608
New York, NY 10118
(212) 868-2020

The Low Vision Service
University Optometric Center
William F. O'Connell O.D., FAAO, Chief
Jay Cohen O.D., FAAO; Roy G. Cole O.D., FAAO
State University of New York
State College of Optometry
VISIONS Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Nancy D. Miller, Executive Director
500 Greenwich Street, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10013-1313
(212) 625-1616
1-888-245-8333
Fax: (212) 219-4078

Westchester
Westchester Low Vision
Bryant Park Lions Club
William F. O'Connell O.D.,
SUNY State College of Optometry
33 West 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10036
(212) 780-5040  Fax: (212) 780-5035

Rochester
Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired - GOODWILL
A. Gidget Hopf, President & CEO
422 South Clinton Avenue
Rochester, NY 14620
(716) 232-1111 Ext. 214
Fax: (716) 232-6707

Spring Valley
AVI, Inc.
Arlene Koeppel, President
260 Old Nyack Turnpike
Spring Valley, NY 10977
(845) 574-4950

Syracuse
Aurora of Central New York, Inc.
Donald Boudov, Executive Director
518 James Street
Syracuse, NY 13203-2019
(315) 422-7263
Fax: (315) 422-4792
TDD: (315) 422-9746

Utica
Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Donald LoGuidice, President
507 Kent Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 797-2233
Fax: (315) 797-2244
The Assistive Technology Advocacy Center (ATAC) is New Jersey’s designated Assistive Technology Act program. The Center is a program of Disability Rights New Jersey (DRNJ), with the New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) as its lead agency, and has served as the central clearing house for information about AT devices and services statewide since 1997.

- Provide telephone and e-mail information and referral
- A comprehensive website with links to AT resources
- Training and education
- Technical assistance
- Outreach
- Individual legal and non-legal advocacy assistance to support people with disabilities of all ages
- Access the Assistive Technology that they need through device loan, device demonstration, and device reutilization services.
SHINING LIGHTS: For Blind and Visually Impaired Adults
Programs are designed to maximize social interaction in a warm and caring atmosphere.
Meets: Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

LIFE: Living Independence for Frail Elders
Programs for mentally and physically frail elders. Meets: Monday through Friday.

Adult Day Care provides a “Respite to Caregivers/”
The programs stimulate social interaction and communication skills; Exercise, Art and Dance Therapy, games music, ESL Class, holiday celebrations, summer barbecues are among the activities offered.

Breakfast and Snack served daily

NUTRITION: Lunch is provided by the B.C. Division of Senior Services Nutrition Program and is open to all older adults. Reservations are required for those not attending the ADC program. Donation of $1.25 accepted.

Transportation provided through B.C. Community Transportation