

The New York Eye and Ear Infirmiry Institute for Continuing Medical Education is providing 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:

The New York Eye and Ear Infirmiry  
Institute for Continuing Medical Education  
310 East 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.*

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## **ANDREW HEISKELL BRAILLE AND TALKING BOOK LIBRARY**

40 West 20 St  
New York, NY 10011  
212-206-5400

Head Librarian Mark McCluski: 212-206-5499

[www.talkingbooks.nypl.org](http://www.talkingbooks.nypl.org)  
[ahlbph@nypl.org](mailto:ahlbph@nypl.org)

- 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](http://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<sup>1</sup>. 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®

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@blindline.info](mailto:mcush@blindline.info)

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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.eyedonation.org)



**Thomas J. Edwards**  
*President & CEO*

## **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](http://www.helenkeller.org).**

**New York City**  
57 Willoughby St  
Brooklyn, NY 11201-5211  
718-522-2122

**Nassau County**  
1 Helen Keller Way  
Hempstead NY 11550  
516-485-1234

**Suffolk County**  
40 New York Ave  
Huntington, NY 11743-2149  
631-424-0022

*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.*



## **The Jewish Guild for the Blind**

15 West 65<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10023  
212-769-6200  
800-284-4422  
Fax: 212-769-6266  
[www.jgb.org](http://www.jgb.org)

The Jewish Guild for the Blind is a not-for-profit, nonsectarian agency serving persons of all ages who are visually impaired, blind and multidisabled.

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 GuildScholar program offers scholarships to blind and visually impaired college bound students.



## LIGHTHOUSE. INTERNATIONAL

The Sol and Lillian Goldman Building  
111 East 59th Street  
New York, NY 10022-1202  
[www.lighthouse.org](http://www.lighthouse.org)  
(800) 829-0500

95 Church Street  
Suite A, Ground Floor  
White Plains  
New York, 10601  
[www.lighthouse.org](http://www.lighthouse.org)  
(800) 829-0500

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**

999 Pelham Parkway Bronx, New York 10469 USA

Phone: (718) 519-7000

Fax: (718) 231-9314

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

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 Jack Cuggy, the Camp Director at (718) 519-7000 x372 or email your request to [jackcuggy@yahoo.com](mailto:jackcuggy@yahoo.com).

# **New York State Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped**

## **New York City District Office**

Arnold Kramer, District Manager  
80 Maiden Lane, 23rd Floor  
New York, NY 10038  
Telephone: (212) 825-5710  
Fax: (212) 825-5716 or (212) 825-5717  
Email: [arnold.kramer@ocfs.state.ny.us](mailto:arnold.kramer@ocfs.state.ny.us)

- 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.

# University Eye Center

SUNY State College of Optometry

Low Vision Service

33 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street

New York, NY 10036

**(212) 938 - 4134**

- **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.



## RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART

150 West 17th Street, NYC 10011

212.620.5000 [RMANyc.org](http://RMANyc.org)

### Verbal Description and Touch Tours

RMA now offers Verbal Description and Touch tours for visitors who are blind or partially-sighted.

Free with museum admission, these tours are one-hour in length and take visitors on a journey that weaves together the culture, history, religion, and arts of the Himalayas. The tours present visitors with close, careful descriptions of works of art and allow participants to form visualizations of the pieces, touch objects including sculpture, art materials, woodblocks, and ritual implements, and visit the museum studio where they can hear sounds of traditional music and experience sacred aromas of the Himalayas through the use of incense.

Monthly public tours, and private group and individual tours are available. For more information, please contact Group Visits at 212.620.5000 x345 or email at [reservations@rmanyc.org](mailto:reservations@rmanyc.org).

Rubin Museum of Art is located at 150 West 17<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10011. To reach the museum by subway, visitors may take the A, C or E to 14th Street; the 1 to 18th Street; 1, 2, 3 to 14th Street; F to 14th Street; N, R, Q, W, 4, 5 and 6 to 14th or the L to 6th Avenue. By bus, visitors may take the B20 to the corner of 7th Avenue and 17th Street.

RMA 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.

For more information, please visit our website: [www.rmanyc.org](http://www.rmanyc.org).

## **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](http://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](http://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. 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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:**

Manju Mathews or Carmen Thorne  
VISIONS VCB  
212-625-1616

Email: [cthorne@visionsvcb.org](mailto:cthorne@visionsvcb.org)  
[mmathews@visionsvcb.org](mailto:mmathews@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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:dsuvino@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 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](mailto: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  
Manju Mathews, VCB Director, ext. 135  
Email: [mmathews@visionsvcb.org](mailto:mmathews@visionsvcb.org)  
Or Carmen Thorne, ext. 107  
Email: [cthorne@visionsvcb.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:mspringer@visionsvcb.org)

### **VISIONS at Selis Manor**

VISIONS at Selis Manor is a center for blind youth, adults and seniors. Located at 135 West 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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: [clewy@visionsvcb.org](mailto:clewy@visionsvcb.org)

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

Manju Mathews, VCB Director  
212-625-1616 x 135  
Email: [mmathews@visionsvcb.org](mailto:mmathews@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](http://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](mailto:mcush@visionsvcb.org)

# ACCESS-USA

PO Drawer 160  
242 James St.  
Clayton, NY 13624

**1-800-263-2750**

[info@access-usa.com](mailto:info@access-usa.com)

[www.access-usa.com](http://www.access-usa.com)

- 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.

## **The Association for the Visually Impaired**

**260 Old Nyack Turnpike**

**Spring Valley, NY 10977**

**845-574-4950 phone**

**845-574-4944 fax**

[avi@avi-eyes.org](mailto:avi@avi-eyes.org)

[www.avi-eyes.org](http://www.avi-eyes.org)

- 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 rehabilitations 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.

# **Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired**

**507 Kent St.  
Utica, N.Y. 13501**

**(315) 797-2233  
1-877-719-9996**

*“We help people who don’t see well live like those that do”*

***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.

**“Our mission is to assist people who are blind and visually impaired to achieve their highest levels of independence”**

**GLENS FALLS ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED, INC.**

144 Ridge Street  
Glens Falls, NY 12801  
518-792-3421  
Fax: 518-792-3430  
[gfab@mybluelight.com](mailto:gfab@mybluelight.com)

**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:**

Private donations, Tri-County United Way, Inc., NYS Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, Washington County Office for the Aging, Saratoga County Office for the Aging, Warren-Hamilton counties office for the aging, Gifts and bequests, Area Lions and Lioness Clubs.

# 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: 914-243-2232  
Website: [www.guidingeyes.org](http://www.guidingeyes.org)  
Email: [info@guidingeyes.org](mailto:info@guidingeyes.org)

**President & CEO:** William Badger

**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.

## **Long Island Talking Book Library**

Suffolk Cooperative Library System

P.O. Box 9000

Bellport, NY 11713-9000

Phone: (631)286-1600, X1365

FAX: (631)286-1647

Valerie Lewis, Director

vlewis@suffolk.lib.ny.us

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

## **Northeastern Association of the Blind at Albany, Inc.**

Harry M. Judge Vision Rehabilitation Center

301 Washington Avenue

Albany, NY 12206

(518) 463-1211

[www.naba-vision.org](http://www.naba-vision.org)

### **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 Schlegel Boulevard  
Amityville, NY 11701  
(631) 789-5213  
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  
[wnycenter@verizon.net](mailto:wncycenter@verizon.net)

### **Binghamton**

Association for Vision Rehabilitation and Employment  
Robert Hanye, 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**

Center for the Visually Impaired  
Dr. Ronald S. Maier, 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  
1-800-222-9816

**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, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10022  
(212) 371-1000  
Fax: (212) 826-8377

Jewish Guild for the Blind  
Dr. Alan Morse, President and CEO  
15 West 65<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10022  
(212) 769-6200  
Fax: (212) 769-6266

Lighthouse International  
Dr. Barbara Silverstone, President  
111 East 59<sup>th</sup> Street, 15<sup>th</sup> 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

33 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10036  
(212) 780-5013  
Fax: (212) 780-5207

**VISIONS Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired**

Nancy D. Miller, Executive Director  
500 Greenwich Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 42<sup>nd</sup> 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

## **Assistive Technology Advocacy Center of Disability Rights New Jersey**

210 South Broad Street  
3rd Floor

Trenton, NJ 08608  
United States

**Phone:** (609) 292-9742

**Fax:** (609) 777-0187

Website: <http://www.drnj.org/atac/>  
<http://backinaction.drnj.org/>

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.

# Bergen Family Center

44 Armory Street

Englewood, NJ 07631

201-568-0817

FAX: 201-568-0913

[adc@bergenfamilycenter.org](mailto:adc@bergenfamilycenter.org)

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

## Counseling Services Available At:

Bergen Family Center

10 Banta Place

Hackensack, NJ 07601

201-342-9200

*Hours from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM,*

*Monday through Friday*

- **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

# COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED

153 Halsey St., 6th Floor, P.O. Box 47017, Newark, NJ 07101

**Toll Free Number:** 877-685-8878

(973) 648-3333; Fax: 973-648-2043

**Web Site:** [www.cbvi.nj.gov](http://www.cbvi.nj.gov)

- **MISSION:** The New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired works to promote and provide services in the areas of education, employment, independence and eye health through informed choice and partnership with persons who are blind or visually impaired, their families and the community.
- **ELIGIBILITY:** CBVI services and programs are available to all blind or visually impaired NJ residents without regard to other disabling condition, sex, age, race, nationality or religious and cultural orientation. A person may be eligible for services if he or she is experiencing a vision impairment that is affecting his or her normal daily life activities.
- **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES:** CBVI provides educational services from birth through high school years to eligible children and their families. These services are designed to allow students who are visually impaired to participate equally with other students in regular classroom activities.
- **VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION:** The goal of this program area is to assist persons who are blind or visually impaired develop, acquire or update skills that will help in securing and maintaining suitable employment. This may include working in the competitive labor force, operating their own business, supportive employment, or managing their own home.
- **INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS:** The goal of this program is to enable persons who are blind or visually impaired to lead a full and productive life and to assist them in adjusting to their vision loss.
- **EYE HEALTH SERVICES:** The goal of this program is to save sight and restore vision whenever it is medically possible.
- **BLINDNESS PREVENTION:** Free of charge CBVI conducts and sponsors a variety of educational programs and eye health screenings throughout the state to detect vision problems.
  
- **THE SELMA AND NATHAN ROGOFF LOW VISION CENTER:** The Selma and Nathan Rogoff Low Vision Center provides clinical and training services. Services include education about vision loss, demonstration and prescribing of optical devices including high tech magnification devices, evaluation of non-optical devices such as sunshields, and triaging of emergencies. The Center works in conjunction with community low vision providers as well as ophthalmological sub-specialists to ensure best possible follow-up services. Group discussions are also held to further facilitate consumers' ability to convey what reasonable accommodations might be needed to function independently at home as well as in the work environment.
- **ADDITIONAL SERVICES:** services for people who are deaf-blind; business and entrepreneurial training; recreational programs for visually impaired children; adjustment to vision loss training and counseling; educational materials for visually impaired children; self-help peer groups; referral to community based programs and services; and low and high technical aids and appliances for people that are blind or visually impaired.



NJ Foundation for the Blind *Life for Independent Lives*

PO Box 929  
230 Diamond Spring Road  
Denville, NJ 07834  
973-627-0055  
www.njffb.org

## **Mission Statement**

To provide the emotional support and practical training to help adults who become blind or visually impaired return to a full and meaningful life, adjust to vision loss, acquire independent living skills and regain their physical and mental health.

## **Courses**

Health & Wellness Program- Designed to help adults lead rich, fulfilling lives after vision loss occurs. Combining therapeutic courses such as Yoga, Tai Chi Chih, Drumming and Horticulture, with opportunities to meet others who are facing similar challenges, helps our students attain a sense of well-being. Students attend this program weekly for ten weeks. Classes held at the Denville facility and various community locations.

Essential Low Vision Program- In just a few hours, this program provides immediate help to adults living with vision loss through expert instruction in techniques that will increase home safety, improve functioning in daily tasks, and provide understanding of assistive technologies and devices that greatly enhance quality of life and self-reliance. A friend, family member or caregiver is encouraged to accompany the participant at no extra cost. Also included is information about resources and services for persons who are blind or visually impaired.

Comprehensive Core Program- This program is based on grant availability. A functional performance evaluation is required. Training includes instruction in ADLs (Activities of Daily Living), Low-tech Communication Skills, Orientation & Mobility and Assistive Technology.

## **Community Resources**

Vision Store: Low Vision Aids and Catalog Ordering. Call for hours. Arts at Diamond Spring: Musical Performances and Art Exhibitions open to the community.

**Contact: Linda Groszew, 973-627-0055, Ext. 312, email: [lgroszew@njffb.org](mailto:lgroszew@njffb.org). M - F 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM**

# The Seeing Eye

P.O. Box 375  
Morristown, NJ 07963  
(800) 539-4425  
Fax (973) 539-0922  
[www.seeingeye.org](http://www.seeingeye.org)

## Our Mission & History

Since 1929, The Seeing Eye has partnered with people who are blind and visually impaired who seek to enhance their independence and self confidence through the use of Seeing Eye® dogs.

About 15,000 of these specially bred and trained dogs have brought a new level of mobility, safety, and self-sufficiency to almost 8,000 men and women. The school is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and receives no government funding. Its work is accomplished through the generosity of its donors. The programs The Seeing Eye offers all have one common goal: The empowerment of people who are blind.

## INSTRUCTION & TRAINING [admissions@seeingeye.org](mailto:admissions@seeingeye.org)

Twelve times each year, a group of up to 24 students arrives in Morristown from all over the United States and Canada to begin their instruction with Seeing Eye dogs. Every dog is specifically matched to meet the individual needs of each student. Matches are made based on handler/dog compatibility in strength, pace, temperament, and home environment. Students arrive on campus on Saturday and receive their dogs two days later. If receiving their first dog guides, they stay to train with the dogs for 27 days; for subsequent dogs, the instruction lasts about 20 days. Each student is assigned to work with one instructor, who has no more than four or five students in a class.

Daily instructional routines may include traveling throughout the heavily trafficked streets of downtown Morristown, the quiet residential areas, country roads, shopping malls, train stations, bus routes, hotels, and even the nearby streets of New York City. When the newly formed teams leave The Seeing Eye, they have mastered the techniques they will need to navigate safely through daily life in their hometowns.

## PUPPY RAISING [puppyraisers@seeingeye.org](mailto:puppyraisers@seeingeye.org)

When Seeing Eye puppies reach the age of 7 or 8 weeks, they are delivered to the homes of volunteer “foster families” who nurture and care for their charges until they are about 16 to 18 months old. Families in New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, and parts of Maryland and New York, give the dogs abundant affection, teach them basic obedience, and expose them to a variety of social situations they will later encounter as working dogs. Many of these volunteer families have children, while a number of retired adults also volunteer their time for our puppies.

## GENETICS & BREEDING

Before conception even occurs, throughout training, and until the end of its working career, a Seeing Eye dog has been directed to its special destiny with the benefit of science. Today, The Seeing Eye leads the way in its research in canine genetics, breeding, disease control, and behavior.

The Seeing Eye breeds German shepherds, Labrador retrievers, golden retrievers, and Lab/golden crosses. Our breeding station, dedicated in 2002, consists of interconnected geometric pavilions, designed so that dogs can see each other and see people enter the kennel, so barking –not to mention stress – are greatly reduced. The goal was to provide a facility most conducive to a positive early childhood experience for the puppies and to providing a healthy, active lifestyle for the adult dogs.

To make a gift: [donate@seeingeye.org](mailto:donate@seeingeye.org)

## LOW VISION PRODUCT CATALOGS

LS&S  
145 River Rock Drive  
Buffalo, NY 14207  
1-800-468-4789  
[www.LSSproducts.com](http://www.LSSproducts.com)

Independent Living Aids, Inc.  
P.O. Box 9022  
Hicksville, NY 11802-9022  
1-800-537-2118  
E-mail: [can-do@independentliving.com](mailto:can-do@independentliving.com)  
[www.independentliving.com](http://www.independentliving.com)

ShopLowVision.com  
3030 Enterprise Ct. Ste. D  
Vista, CA 92081-8358  
1-800-826-4200  
[www.ShopLowVision.com](http://www.ShopLowVision.com)

## RADIO READING SERVICES

Connecticut Radio Information System  
CRIS Radio  
315 Windsor Avenue  
Windsor, CT 06095

(860)-527-8000

Web: [www.cslib.org](http://www.cslib.org) - now streaming online

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Electronic Information and Education Service  
EIES of New Jersey  
59 Scotland Road  
South Orange, NJ 07079

(973)-762-0552

E-mail: [eiesnj@aol.com](mailto:eiesnj@aol.com)

Web: [www.eiesofnj.org/contact.html](http://www.eiesofnj.org/contact.html)