

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD - DISABILITY NETWORK DIRECTORY

Blind / Low Vision Resources

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This is a project of the Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities. To submit an update, add or remove a listing, or request an alternative format, please contact: DHHSWebsite@montgomerycountymd.gov, 240-777-1246 (V), MD Relay 711.

For Low Vision Practitioners, Specialists, Physicians and other resources please visit:

Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington: <http://youreyes.org/resources/eye-care-providers>

Low Vision Center: <http://lowvisioninfo.org/special.htm>

Able Toolbox

8700 Georgia Avenue, Suite 303
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3605
301-818-2253 (V)
E-mail: info@abletoolbox.com
www.abletoolbox.com

Auditory and visual products for those who are Low Vision, Hard of Hearing, Blind and DeafBlind. Products include clocks, watches, phones, kitchen items, magnifiers, canes and more.

Advocate by Pharma Supply, Inc.

1-888-469-3579 (Toll Free)
www.advocatemeters.com

Manufacturer of talking glucose, blood pressure and hypertension monitors and talking thermometers for people who are blind. Covered by Medicare.

American Council of the Blind (ACB)

2200 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 650
Arlington, VA 22201
202-467-5081 (V)
1-800-424-8666 (Toll Free)
E-mail: info@acb.org
www.acb.org

Advocate for blind and visually impaired people. Provide public education and awareness training, scholarship assistance, legal assistance, health care services, information about Social Security benefits, vocational training and other health and social services. Publish a free monthly national magazine titled "The Braille Forum" and produce ACB radio, available on the internet, which broadcasts talk shows, music by blind people, and events.

American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)

Information Center
1-800-232-5463 (Toll Free)
www.afb.org

National non-profit that expands possibilities for people with vision loss. Information on living with vision loss, education, employment, technology, Braille, and blindness statistics. Publish AccessWorld, a free online technology magazine.

Atlantic Low Vision, LLC

218 Loudoun Street SW
Leesburg, VA 20175
703-732-4975 (V)
E-mail: kristi@atlanticlowvision.com
<http://atlanticlowvision.com>

Distributor of assistive technology for the visually impaired including macular degeneration and glaucoma. Products include magnification and screen reading software, desk top, hand-held and video magnifiers, CCTV's, OCR readers and wearable technology. Offer free demonstrations.

Audio Description Associates

6502 Westmoreland Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912
301-920-0218 (24-Hour Message Service)
E-mail: jsnyder@audiodescribe.com
www.audiodescribe.com

Audio Description provides a verbal version of the visual image. Record tours for museum exhibits training for professional describers, museum docents, tour guides, and children's librarians description for live and recorded arts events, broadcast television, DVDs, and videotape.

BrightFocus Foundation

1-855-345-6637 (Toll Free)
E-mail: info@brightfocus.org
www.brightfocus.org

Provide information, research updates and treatment options for glaucoma and macular degeneration.

Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind - Programs & Services

8757 Georgia Avenue, Suite 805
Silver Spring, MD 20910
240-737-5100 (V)
E-mail: info@clb.org
www.clb.org

Provide vision screenings, comprehensive eye examinations and low vision exams. Adult service programs include instruction in independent living skills such as shopping, cooking, computer skills, and Braille. Orientation and mobility classes include instruction in using a white cane and learning to navigate public transportation safely. Offer ongoing support groups and

case management. Youth and family programs include annual events, Braille Book Club, holiday activities, Reading Rally, summer camps, early intervention services, teen groups, and parent workshops. Provide hands-on assistive technology training, computer training classes, and consult with employers and working with employees experiencing vision loss to continue doing their jobs. Employment services department provides job-readiness assessments, computer skills assessments and job coaching for job development, and career life skills group workshops. The Bridge to Work program offers employment and training for service disabled, visually impaired or blind veterans. DeafBlind program provides services to the DeafBlind community including support service providers, assistive technology, Braille instruction, orientation and mobility training, and independent living skills.

Division of Rehabilitation Services -

Maryland State Department of Education

301-777-2119 (V)

1-866-614-4780 (Toll Free)

E-mail: obvs.dors@maryland.gov

<http://dors.maryland.gov/consumers/specialized/OBVS/Pages/OBV-ILOB.aspx>

Independent Living Older Blind Program helps individuals who are 55 or older who are blind or have a vision impairment to live independently in their homes and communities. Services may include training in how to manage personal care and household tasks, labeling and organizing personal care items, clothing, appliances, and medications, safe cooking techniques, orientation and mobility training, Braille instruction, and referral to community peer support groups and other services.

EyeCare America – Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology

1-877-887-6327 (Toll Free)

www.eyecareamerica.org

Raise awareness about eye disease and care, provide free eye health educational materials and facilitate access to medical eye care. Call to see if you qualify for a free eye exam.

FamilyConnect

E-mail: familyconnect@afb.net

www.familyconnect.org

Online, multimedia community created by the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) and the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI). This site gives parents of blind or visually impaired children a place to support each other, share stories and concerns, and link to local resources. Features a mom-authored blog, inspiring video testimonials from families, and articles authored by parents and experts in the field of blindness on multiple disabilities, technology, education, and more. Families will find all the resources they need to raise their children from birth to adulthood.

Jewish Braille Institute of America

110 East 30th Street

New York, NY 10016

1-800-433-1531 (Toll Free)

E-mail: admin@jbilibrary.org

www.jbilibrary.org

Provides the visually impaired, blind, physically handicapped and reading disabled of all backgrounds and ages with books, magazines and cultural programs in audio (in 8 languages), in large print and in Braille. Services are provided free of charge.

Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington Hurwitz Internal Light Program for the Visually Impaired

Debbie Sokobin, Director of Senior Adult Services

6125 Montrose Road

Rockville, MD 20852

301-348-3760 (V)

E-mail: dsokobin@jccgw.org

www.jccgw.org

Offer education and information for older adults who are visually impaired. Topics include daily living skills, aids and appliances, the latest research on vision and eye diseases, and peer support. Group meets the 2nd Monday of each month.

Jewish Heritage for the Blind

1-800-995-1888 (Toll Free)

E-mail: services@jhbinternational.org

www.jhbinternational.org

Provide large print and Braille prayer books and other materials. Cassette-recorded readings.

Learning Ally

1-800-221-4792 (Toll Free)

www.learningally.org

Nonprofit organization that maintains a collection of more than 65,000 digitally recorded textbooks and literature titles – downloadable and accessible on mainstream as well as specialized technology devices. Titles are available in every subject area and grade level. College Success program provides free mentorship for blind or visually impaired students pursuing a two and four-year degree from an accredited institution.

Low Vision Center

Terry Eason, Executive Director
4905 Del Ray Avenue, Suite 504
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-951-4444 (V)
E-mail: lowvisionctr@aol.com
www.lowvisioninfo.org

Nonprofit organization that helps people with low vision maintain their independence. Provide information services, a home-like demonstration area full of a variety of low vision aids and ideas, and sell low vision aids. Appointments are needed to visit LVC, are free of charge and available Monday through Friday from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. A typical appointment lasts about 1 to 1 1/2 hours and may include discussion of lighting and contrast, hands-on demonstration of hand-held magnifiers and CCTVs, and a chance to explore daily life aids such as talking clocks, writing guides, and touch enhancements. Publish a free quarterly newsletter.

Low Vision Support Group

Anita Cohen, Support Group Leader
301-299-7077 (V)

For individuals aged 25 to 60 with varying degrees of vision loss. Support group focuses on the interests, concerns, needs and challenges of vision loss. In addition to networking and sharing concerns, the group often welcomes guest speakers. Group typically meets at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Maryland School for the Blind

3501 Taylor Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21236
410-444-5000 (V)

E-mail: info@mdschblind.org
www.marylandschoolfortheblind.org

Provide a traditional classroom education in addition to a wide range of services, including Braille and low vision instruction, orientation and mobility, assistive technology, therapeutic recreation, residential services, career education, health services, psychology, social work, speech, physical, and occupational therapy, outreach and transition, and infant/toddler services. From infancy to age 21.

Metropolitan Washington Ear, Inc.

12061 Tech Road
Silver Spring, MD 20904
301-681-6636 (V)
E-mail: information@washear.org
www.washear.org

Nonprofit radio, reading and dial-in newspaper and magazine service for the blind, visually impaired, and physically disabled individuals who cannot read ordinary print. They are a free 24/7 service that has 350 dedicated volunteers that read and record the Washington Post, excerpts from the Washington Times, the New York Times, Time Magazine, and 100 other publications.

Montgomery County Public Libraries

Locations throughout Montgomery County. A full listing of locations can be found at:
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/branches/
Information about services for customers who have disabilities can be found at:

<http://montgomerycountymd.libguides.com/disabilityservices>

Library-by-mail service to customers who are homebound. Many branches have large print books, audiobooks, closed captioned videos, and braille-with-print books for children, and audio amplification sound systems in large meeting rooms. Website features downloadable e-books and audiobooks. Assistive Technology Workstations featuring video magnifier and computer with magnification and screen reading software at all locations except Noyes. Four locations have video phones for people who are deaf.

National Federation of the Blind

200 East Wells Street
Baltimore, MD 21230
410-659-9314 (V)

www.nfb.org

Largest consumer organization of blind and visually impaired people in the U.S. Provide job referrals, assistive technology evaluations, vocational training centers, scholarships for students, resources for parents of blind children and other services for people of all ages.

International Braille and Technology Center for the Blind (IBTC): A comprehensive evaluation, demonstration, and training center, complete with over \$2.5 million worth of nearly all of the tactile and speech output technology now available to the blind, the IBTC serves as a rich resource for vendor-free advice on all aspects of access technology.

Free White Cane Program: NFB will provide a free cane to anyone in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico who is blind or has low vision and who uses or desires to use a white cane in order to travel independently. Individuals may only request one free cane in any 6-month period. Applications available online at www.nfb.org/Free_Cane_Program.asp.

Free Slate Program: Provide, free of charge, an aluminum 4-line, 28 cell slate with the Whozit logo, and a round plastic bulb stylus. Applications available online at <https://nfb.org/free-slate-program>

NFB-Newsline®

1-866-504-7300 (Toll Free)

www.nfb.org/nfb/Newspapers_by_Phone.asp

Over four hundred newspapers and magazines, as well as TV schedules, localized emergency weather alerts, and job listings, available on demand to blind readers by telephone, online, or via an iPhone/iPad app.

National Federation of the Blind of Maryland

Sharon Maneki, President
9013 Nelson Way
Columbia, MD 21045
410-715-9596 (V)
E-mail: president@nfbmd.org
www.nfbmd.org

Affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind. Nonprofit made up of blind people of all ages, their families and friends. Protect, promote and advocate for the rights of people who are blind. Educational and training scholarships. Assist individuals who are blind in acquiring the skills of independence. Provide specialized information for diabetics losing their vision. Local chapters help newly blind people adjust to vision loss, and promote the full participation and integration of blind people in our communities.

National Federation of the Blind - Sligo Creek Chapter

Debbie Brown, President
301-881-1892 (V)
E-mail: DeborahB14@verizon.net
Monthly meetings the 2nd Saturday of every month primarily in Silver Spring.

National Library Service (NLS) for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

1-888-657-7323 (Toll Free)
E-mail: nls@loc.gov
www.loc.gov/nls
Free Braille and talking book library service for people with temporary or permanent low vision, blindness, or a physical disability that prevents them from reading or holding the printed page. Through a national network of cooperating libraries, NLS offers books in Braille or audio formats, mailed to your door for free, or instantly downloadable.

Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington Headquarters

1775 Church Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
202-234-1010 (V)

Eyeglasses Clinic
2216 Rhode Island Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20018
202-269-0203 (V)

Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
www.youreyes.org

Screen children for visual acuity and strabismus, and adults for glaucoma and vision loss. The Eyeglasses Clinic provides new eyeglasses to low-income and homeless persons at a nominal fee. Host support groups and lectures.

TCS Associates – Vision Rehabilitation & Education

7361 Calhoun Place, Suite 340
Derwood, MD 20855
240-428-1820 (V)
E-mail: info@tcsassociates.com
www.tcsassociates.com/rehab---ed.html

Provides orientation and mobility services to infants, school aged students and adults. Teach clients how to travel safely and efficiently in familiar and unfamiliar environments. This includes training in the use of a white cane or other mobility devices, navigation technology and travel on public transportation. Provides Vision Rehabilitation Therapy (VRT) to adults with vision loss who are in need of independent living skills training. Provides comprehensive services to the DeafBlind community including Support Service Providers, Orientation and Mobility, Vision Rehab Therapy, Assistive Technology and Job Development. Partner with Perkins School for the Blind to provide local services in the state of Maryland for the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program or iCanConnect. If you have significant combined vision and hearing loss and meet federal income guidelines, iCanConnect can provide you with free communication technology and training to stay connected with family and friends.

Tissue Banks International

815 Park Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21201
1-800-756-4824 (Toll Free)
www.tbionline.org

Non-profit network of eye and tissue donation banks. Supply corneas and other eye tissue for sight-restoring transplant surgery. Also recover such tissues as bone, ligaments and tendons (musculoskeletal tissue) that restore mobility, as well as skin used in burn and reconstructive surgery, heart valves to correct cardiac conditions, and saphenous veins to remedy circulatory problems.

Vision Council

E-mail: info@thevisioncouncil.org
www.visionsite.org

Provide news and information on vision health and care.

VisionAware

www.visionaware.org

A free, easy-to-use informational website for adults with vision loss, their families, caregivers, healthcare providers, and social service professionals. Visitors to the website will find: free, practical tips and resources; information on eye diseases and disorders; different ways to connect, including message boards and social media channels like Twitter and Facebook; breaking news on the latest developments in vision loss treatment, and directories of helpful services, products, and resources. Maintained by the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) and Reader's Digest Partners for Sight Foundation.

Windows Eyes

www.windoweyesforoffice.com

Free license screen reader that enables people who are blind, visually impaired, or print disabled to have full access to Windows PCs and makes the computer accessible via speech and/or Braille. Available at no cost to the user. Eligible customers, using Microsoft Office 2010 or higher, can download a full version of the software and instructions online.