

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: MCCPWD@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: <https://www.youreyes.org/resources/directory>

Advocate by Pharma Supply, Inc.

1-888-469-3579 (Toll Free)

www.advocatemeters.com

Manufacturer of talking glucose monitors.

American Council of the Blind (ACB)

1703 N. Beauregard Street, Suite 420

Alexandria, VA 22311

202-467-5081 (V)

1-800-424-8666 (Toll Free)

E-mail: info@acb.org

www.acb.org

Advocate for people who are blind and visually impaired. 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. ACB support is available through the Be My Eyes app. Download the app from the Apple Store or Google Play and locate ACB under "Blindness Organizations" in the "Specialized Help" section to speak with an ACB staff member or volunteer.

American Foundation for the Blind (AFB)

1401 South Clark Street, Suite 730

Arlington, VA 22202

212-502-7600 (V)

E-mail: communications@afb.net

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 information technology magazine.

Atlantic Low Vision, LLC

Phillip Linz, CEO

703-888-7134 (V)

E-mail: phil@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, desktop, 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

22512 Gateway Center Drive

Clarksburg, MD 20871

1-800-437-2423 (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

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.

Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind Continued

The Bridge to Work program offers employment and training for service disabled, visually impaired or blind

Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind Continued

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

2301 Argonne Drive
Baltimore, MD 21218

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>

Provides evaluation, training and case management services to individuals who are blind or visually impaired to help them live and work as independently as possible.

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. DORS rehabilitation teachers will come to your home to provide assessment and training. The program reaches out to individuals in all areas of the state, including those living in rural counties.

All About College Exploration (ACE) helps college-bound students who are blind or have a significant vision loss to explore career options and learn more about college life. During this two-week summer program, students visit local colleges, meet with college Disability Support Services staff, and learn about assistive technologies, college classes, dorm living, and campus social activities.

Adjustment to Blindness for Life & Employment (ABLE) program is designed to provide individuals with blindness/low vision the opportunity to develop basic adjustment to blindness skills.

Job Squad is an eight-week job seeking skills and employee development program.

Career Life Planning is a four-week program designed to determine if working is right for you. The program allows for self-guided assessments of skills, knowledge, abilities, strengths and weaknesses, and job readiness, as well as exploration of career choices.

Maryland Business Enterprise for the Blind

(MDBEP) provides opportunities for individuals who are legally blind to operate retail concession, gift, or food service businesses in public facilities. MDBEP operates under the Randolph-Sheppard Act.

Envision Technology, Inc.

4948 St. Elmo Avenue, Suite 303

Bethesda, MD 20814

301-654-3568 (V)

1-800-582-5051 (Toll Free)

E-mail: moira@envisiontechnology.org

www.envisiontechnology.org

Distributor of assistive technology for the blind and visually impaired. Products include magnification and screen reading software, desktop, handheld and video magnifiers, CCTVs, OCR readers and wearable technology. Demonstrations by appointment offered in our Bethesda offices for no charge. Serve Virginia, Maryland, Washington, D.C., Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

EyeCare America – Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology

1-877-887-6327 (Toll Free)

E-mail: eyecareamerica@aao.org

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

1-800-232-5463 (Toll Free)

E-mail: connectcenter@aph.org

www.familyconnect.org

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. Service offered by the American Printing House for the Blind.

Jewish Braille Institute

110 East 30th Street

New York, NY 10016

1-800-433-1531 (Toll Free)

E-mail: admin@jbrilibrary.org

www.jbrilibrary.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 Heritage for the Blind

1-800-995-1888 (Toll Free)

E-mail: services@jewishheritage.com

www.jewishheritage.com

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

Learning Ally

1-800-221-4792 (Toll Free)

E-mail: custserv@learningally.org

www.learningally.org

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

Prevention of Blindness Society

4948 St. Elmo Avenue, Suite 209

Bethesda, MD 20814

301-951-4444 (V)

www.youreyes.org/programs/low-vision/#low-vision-learning-center

Offers free services to help people with low vision find the resources they need to maintain independence. Resource Specialists provide personal guidance as clients move through their vision journey, expert advice and demonstrations of different visual aid technologies. Appointments are needed for in-person visits and are available Monday through Wednesday from 11am to 5pm and Friday from 11am to 5pm. Publish a free quarterly newsletter.

Maryland School for the Blind

3501 Taylor Avenue

Baltimore, MD 21236

410-444-5000 (V)

E-mail: info@mdschblind.org

www.marylandschoolfortheblind.org

Private, statewide resource center for providing outreach, educational, and residential programs to children from birth to 21 years old who are blind or visually impaired — including those with multiple disabilities. 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. Serve students in all 24 Maryland jurisdictions.

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. 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

Accessibility & Inclusion

240-777-0001 (Ask-A-Librarian)

<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/library/accessibility/index.html>

Books @ Home is a free service that sends library materials to the homes of Montgomery County residents who cannot visit the library because of a physical disability, health issue, or frailty. 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. 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. A full listing of locations can be found at: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/branches/

National Federation of the Blind

200 East Wells Street
Baltimore, MD 21230
410-659-9314 (V)
E-mail: nfb@nfb.org
www.nfb.org

Largest consumer organization of blind and visually impaired people in the U.S. Provide career mentoring, 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: A comprehensive evaluation, demonstration, and training center that serves as a resource for vendor-free advice on all aspects of access technology. Facility showcases the latest mobile devices with speech and magnification; digital magnifiers and magnification software; optical character recognition; digital bookreaders and software; screen access software; Braille displays; embossers; election technology; and tactile graphics equipment.

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/programs-services/free-white-cane-program

Free Slate and Stylus Program: NFB will distribute a plastic, four-line, twenty-eight cell slate along with a saddle stylus to those that need them. That includes those that are blind and low vision who know Braille or want to learn Braille. Applications available online at www.nfb.org/programs-services/free-slate-and-stylus-program

NFB-NEWSLINE®

1-866-504-7300 (Toll Free)

E-mail: nfbnewsline@nfb.org

www.nfb.org/programs-services/nfb-newsline

Offers access to more than 500 publications, emergency weather alerts, job listings, and more. Anyone who cannot read printed publications due to vision loss, dyslexia, or a physical disability is eligible to receive NFB-NEWSLINE.

Please register by calling your state's Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (Maryland: 1-800-964-9209) or the National Federation of the Blind at 1-866-504-7300 to request an application. NFB-NEWSLINE is available on phones, mobile applications, Amazon Alexa, digital talking book players, e-mail, and website.

National Federation of the Blind of Maryland

Ronza Othman, President
15 Charles Plaza, Apartment 3002
Baltimore, MD 21201
443-426-4110 (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, MD.

National Library Service (NLS) for the Blind and Print Disabled

1-888-657-7323 (Toll Free)

E-mail: nls@loc.gov

www.loc.gov/nls

Free national library program of Braille and talking books 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.

NVDA Screen Reader

www.nvaccess.org/download/

NVDA screen reader can be downloaded free of charge by anyone. Available for PCs running Microsoft Windows 7 SP1 and later.

Prevention of Blindness Society of

Metropolitan Washington

415 2nd Street NE, Suite 200

Washington, DC 20002

202-234-1010 (V)

www.youreyes.org

Children's Vision Screening program provides screenings for children ages 3 to 18. Screenings test for myopia (nearsightedness), amblyopia (lazy eye), and strabismus (a turned eye or crossed eyes).

The Glaucoma and Visual Acuity Screening program provides free screenings adults in the Greater Washington area. Host support groups and lectures.

Affordable Eyeglasses Clinic

202-269-0203, Option 1 (V)

E-mail: eyeglasses@youreyes.org

www.youreyes.org

Provides prescription eyeglasses at a nominal fee to individuals who need eyeglasses but cannot afford their full cost. Clinic open for visits by appointment only.

Vision Council

1-877-457-0536 (Toll Free)

<http://whatislowvision.org>

A resource for people with a vision impairment due to macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma and other eye conditions.

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.