



## IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT LIVING WITH VISION LOSS, WE HAVE ANSWERS

The Florida Outreach Center for the Blind serves as our area's "Go-To" resource for information and training related to blindness. Whether you are new to the circumstance, been blind for a lifetime, are a parent, child or caregiver to a visually impaired person or recently diagnosed with a progressive eye disorder, the Center is uniquely equipped to serve you. We believe that with the proper tools, training and exposure to positive blind role models, the challenges of vision loss can be overcome and personal independence can be obtained!

The Florida Outreach Center for the Blind recognizes that for every technique used by a sighted person to accomplish a task, alternative methods can be used by a blind person to achieve the same results. It is our goal to teach these alternative techniques in our programs.

As an independent "one-stop" resource center, we strive to offer answers to those elusive blindness questions such as:

- Can I get back to reading books and newspapers?
- Where can I get transportation if I can't drive my car?
- How do you cook meals without good vision?
- Is there a way for me to return to work?



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- How do blind people use a phone or get a phone number?
  - How do blind people handle currency?
  - Can I use a computer or access the Internet?



Answers to these and many other questions are now at your fingertips, but you have to take the first step toward independence.

**\*\*PICK UP THE PHONE AND CALL US AT (561) 642-0005\*\***

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## **Dining in the Dark Event**

Join the Florida Outreach Center for the Blind for one of the most unique awareness and fund raising events to occur in our area. The Center will be hosting its 9<sup>th</sup> annual Thomas Hartig "Dining in the Dark" event. You will experience food, drink and conversation as never before while Dining In Total Darkness. Your imagination is stimulated and you better understand what blind individuals encounter in their daily lives.

The Center will honor Dr. Thomas Hartig who brought NEWSLINE, newspapers via the telephone, to the blind. An award in his name will be presented to a blind person who is an inspiration to others. Forms for submitting a candidate are on our web site: <http://www.blindfocb.org>

Our event will be held from **5:00-8:00 PM on Sunday, November 1, 2015** at the Airport Hilton located at 150 Australian Ave. in West Palm Beach. We are delighted to have Emerson Lotzia, Sports Anchor for ESPN, as Master of Ceremony and Jason Colanino, Singer/Song Writer, providing live entertainment. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's SWAT Team will serve as the wait staff by wearing night vision goggles. Purchase an individual ticket for \$75 or a reserved table for eight for \$650 by calling (561) 642-0005 or mail a check to FOCB. Sponsorship opportunities are: Angel \$200; Table \$650; Bronze \$1,000; Silver \$2,500; Gold \$5,000; and Platinum \$10,000.

By supporting our Center, you will fulfill a need in the community and impact the lives of blind people.



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## What Our Clients are Saying

If there is ever any doubt about the need for an organization that specializes in serving the visually impaired, ask a Florida Outreach Center for the Blind client! They know better than anyone does how to overcome the challenges of blindness.



*“I started losing my sight 2 years ago and have been coming to the Center for a few months. I have learned to cook, do laundry, get around on buses and be independent. I want to learn everything I can.”* – Judy retired from Ford Motors and has Diabetic Retinopathy, Glaucoma and Miopathy.

*“I learned access technology, iPhone, CCTV, and ZoomText. I love everything about the Florida Outreach Center for the Blind.”* – Manes is a bookkeeper and diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa.

*“My goal is to get back to teaching special education. The staff at the Center are supportive, caring and make me feel like I am part of a family.”* – Cynthia is an educator who is Legally Blind due to Encelapathy.

*“This agency is so special. There is nothing they won’t do for you.”* – Pat worked for an insurance company and has Macula Degeneration and Glaucoma.

*“I have learned so many different techniques from the classes at the Center. Techniques that work when you do not have equipment to help you.”* – Wesley was a school bus driver before his diagnosis of Diabetic Retinopathy.

*“The Florida Outreach Center for the Blind is small and more individualized. The Executive Director has heart and will take people no one else will. The Center has the only venue for Deaf/Blind and started a support group 3 months ago. I was an excellent cook before vision loss and want to regain that part of my identity.”* – Brooke is a leader among the Deaf/Blind and has Usher syndrome Type 2.

*“The Center is providing me with computer training so I can get an office job. I have overcome denial and learned to live independently. The Center has great role models who encouraged me to use a white cane. I am so happy about finding the center.”* – Drucilla was a receptionist for Ambulette Transportation and has Retinitis Pigmentosa.



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## Fun and Useful Stuff

ADA Law Workshop.....	Sept. 9 <sup>th</sup> .....	1:00 p.m.
Walgreens Workshop ( <b>FREE Flu shots</b> ) ....	Sept. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	
Computer/IPhone/IPad Training .....	Mon & Wed	
Daily Living Skills Training.....	Mon & Wed	
Book Club.....	4 <sup>th</sup> Wed .....	1:00 p.m.
Peer Support Group .....	Wed .....	1:00 p.m.
Deaf and Blind Support Group .....	3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri .....	Noon
White Cane Event .....	Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup> .....	Noon – 2:00 p.m.

To enroll in these programs, call (561) 642-0005.

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## Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser

The Florida Outreach Center for the Blind is pleased to report that our Spaghetti Dinner on August 28, 2015 brought in \$500 for our programs. A special thanks to Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 4360 in Palm Springs for loaning us the use of their facility. Bill Lapp's spaghetti was as delicious as ever and the fresh salad and hot garlic bread topped off the dinner. Of course, no meal is complete without dessert, and thanks to Pat Erickson and Judy Doherty there was plenty of scrumptious sweets. In addition to these folks, our dinner would have not been the success it was without our volunteers: Leo Thompson, Arthur and Barbara Novello, Aaron Viles, Raven Goldfield and Patricia Moore who generously gave of their time to create and put up signs, serve as wait staff and cleaned up afterwards. We would like to also thank Rick Gonzalez from First Transit for making the karaoki a lot of fun.

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## DEEP DISCOUNTS ON USED CCTVs

Not many people can afford \$3,000 for a new close circuit television (CCTV). The Florida Outreach Center for the Blind has manual and auto focus, colored and black and white used machines starting as low as \$250. All equipment has been fully tested and is ready for re-sale.

Call Bill at (561) 642-0005 for more details.



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## FOCB Hours

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays  
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



Tuesdays & Thursdays  
By Appointment Only

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## Volunteer Opportunities

The Florida Outreach Center for the Blind depends on the generosity of volunteers to assist with our clients' ever-growing needs. As our enrollment continues to increase, we are always seeking helpers to assist with various duties! If you don't have time to spare out of your busy schedule, then consider donating funds, gift certificates, copy paper, printer ink, paper towel, toilet paper, cleaning products, etc. If you or someone you know is interested in helping, call (561) 642-0005 or e-mail:

[Info\\_focb@bellsouth.net](mailto:Info_focb@bellsouth.net)

We hope you enjoyed the Fall issue of our newsletter. Please help us create a future full of opportunity for people with vision loss by remembering the Florida Outreach Center for the Blind (FOCB) in your will or living trust. Use the following language:

*"I give, bequest or devise, the following sum, stocks or property, to the Florida Outreach Center for the Blind, to be used for the worthy purposes of helping the Blind."*

If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation or become one of our monthly pledge partners, please mail your gift to:

Florida Outreach Center for the Blind (FOCB)

2315 S. Congress Avenue  
Palm Springs, FL 33406

Phone: (561) 642-0005

Thank you for your support and interest!

