



Florida Outreach Center for the Blind, Inc. 2315 S. Congress Avenue

Palm Springs, FL 33406

Our Mission: To seek the total integration of the blind into their communities.

Our goal: To provide the opportunities in rehabilitation to the blind and visually-impaired to expand their personal expectations and reach their full potential.



Winter 2011 Newsletter

Today, as never before, blind people are leading normal, productive lives. One of the most important reasons for this is the development of new programs that have altered the course of services for the blind from traditional custodial approaches to ones which stress self-sufficiency and independence. The Florida Outreach Center for the Blind is one of the participants in a handful of these new programs.

Pictured below: Palm Springs Mayor, Mike Davis is joined by PB County Commissioner, Shelly Vana in the ceremonial ribbon cutting



GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

On February 17, 2011, The Florida Outreach Center for the Blind (FOCB) celebrated the grand opening of its new facility located at 2315 S. Congress Avenue in Palm Springs, Florida. Palm Beach County's Commissioner Shelly Vana and Palm Spring's Mayor Mike Davis performed the ceremonial ribbon cutting as friends of the Center looked on. The dignitaries attending were Palm Springs Police Chief Mark Hall, Florida Division of Blind Services District Director Bobbie Howard-Davis, Able Trust Senior Vice President Guenevere Crum, Lost Tree Village Foundation Pamela Ru, Quattlebaum Funeral & Cremation Services Vice-President Greg Quattlebaum, and former Mayor of South Palm Beach and nonagenarian Maurice Jacobson. The Florida Outreach Center for the Blind, in operation since 2003, offers full-service training to blind and visually impaired individuals. The Center provides, at no charge, instruction in Braille, Computers, Independent Living Skills, Cooking, Mobility, and personal and home management. Our students come from all walks of life – young and old, rich and poor, working and retired, with recent loss of vision or blind all their lives.

Join The Fun

Friendship Circle

Wednesday afternoons from 1:00-2:00 P.M.

If you would like to meet new friends and share tips and tricks for dealing with everyday challenges, then you will want to join the Friendship Circle! Learn about the newest technology, discover products that will simplify day-to-day tasks, and exchange ideas with others facing the challenges of vision loss.

Arts & Crafts

Mondays from 1:00-2:00 P.M.

If you like socializing with friends while creating something with your hands, then you will enjoy our arts and crafts class . You do not need to be a student or a client of the Center to join, but you must be visually impaired.

Independent Living Outreach Programs

Seniors have fun while learning alternative techniques of doing everyday tasks. This social opportunity for visually-impaired seniors offers wonderful solutions to daily activities and a chance to discuss vision-related problems.

Presenting Our New Vision Store.

The Florida Outreach Center for the Blind gives blind and visually-impaired consumers the opportunity to examine and obtain adaptive equipment in our Vision Store. Representatives can help consumers evaluate and order products.



The Center's Sunshine

Visually impaired since birth, Angela Morgan reached adulthood before she knew that there was something wrong with her sight. Then in October of 2001, twenty-three-year old Angela, already mourning the recent loss of her father, learned that she was not seeing the world the way others were. Angela had her family's support, but, new to southern Florida, she did not know where to turn for professional assistance. Then in 2003, Angela met Carolyn Lapp, the executive director of the Florida Outreach Center for the Blind. Mrs. Lapp told Angela about the Center and its program. Previously unaware that such a facility existed, Angela was excited to hear the news. In an effort to feel better about herself, Angela took all of the courses, including Braille, computers, independent living skills, cooking, and mobility. After she successfully completed the programs, Angela had the skills that she needed to live confidently and independently. She then found out that the Center needed a secretary. Because Angela wanted to help others in a way that the Center had helped her, she requested the secretary position. Angela enjoyed her job at the Center but recently relocated to North Carolina with her family. Everyone at the Center enjoyed working with Angela and will greatly miss her upbeat nature.

Carolyn talks to Senator Baxley about the need for transportation



Transportation Disadvantage Day

FOCB students, volunteers and staff joined transportation advocates from all over Florida to attend Transportation Disadvantage Day in Tallahassee on March 17, 2011. They spent the day speaking to legislators about funding our Transportation Disadvantage Program. It was a lot of hard work but everyone found time to have fun. Our students, Brian, Phyllis, Pauline and Debbie all felt that the legislators were very receptive to our goals. They all enjoyed lunch and the entertainment in the Capitals courtyard.

Established in 2003 by a group of blind persons, the Florida Outreach Center for the Blind is the only training facility of its kind in Palm Beach County. Our programs are free and include Braille, Computers, Daily Living Skills, Cooking, Mobility, and Personal and Home Management. The Center also hosts a weekly support group, craft class and outreach programs. All of the Center's programs are free and designed to teach and assist blind persons in building the self-confidence they need to live independently, pursue an education or choose a career path. It also provides an environment where blind individuals can share vital support, encouragement and information with one another. Through the skills learned at the Center, blind people are able to help themselves.

Directions: Take I-95 to Forest Hill Blvd. Travel west to Congress Avenue and make a left (south). Go to the second light and turn right (west) onto Dolan Rd. The Center is located on the southwest corner of Congress and Dolan.



Save the Date!

Tired of eating fast foods but don't feel like cooking? How about a delicious home cooked spaghetti dinner with all of the trimmings? You will find the price just as delightful as the meal, \$7.00 per person. The dinner is from 5:00-7:00pm on Friday, April 29th at the VFW Post 1463. The address to bring you appetite to is 226 Cypress Lane in Palm Springs. To reserve a ticket for you home cooked meal, call (561) 642-0005 or (561) 714-4143.

AND

Blind children and their families are invited to an Easter Egg Hunt and potluck picnic from 11:00-1:00pm on Saturday April 30th. There will be games, prizes, and goodie bags for everyone!

The FOCB 2011

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**FREE MATTER FOR
THE BLIND
AND PHYSICALLY
HANDICAP**

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Board of Directors:

Frank Seidman..... President
Dennis Stevenson... Vice President
Mark HarlanTreasurer
Tom HennonSecretary
Ozzie OsborneMember
Norine Fleagale.....Member
Karen Robb.....Member
David EvansMember

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 additional helpers to assist with a wide variety of important duties: reading, filing, mail-outs, newsletters, data entry, teacher's assistant, and much, much more! If you or someone you know is interested in helping, please contact us at: (561) 642-0005 or via e-mail at: info_focb@bellsouth.net

Winter Hours

Monday-Wednesday-Friday
Tuesday-Thursday

9:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M.
Conduct Outreach Programs

To enroll in our programs, call Carolyn Lapp, F.O.C.B. Executive Director, at (561) 642-0005 or e-mail: info_focb@bellsouth.net

Thank you for your support and interest