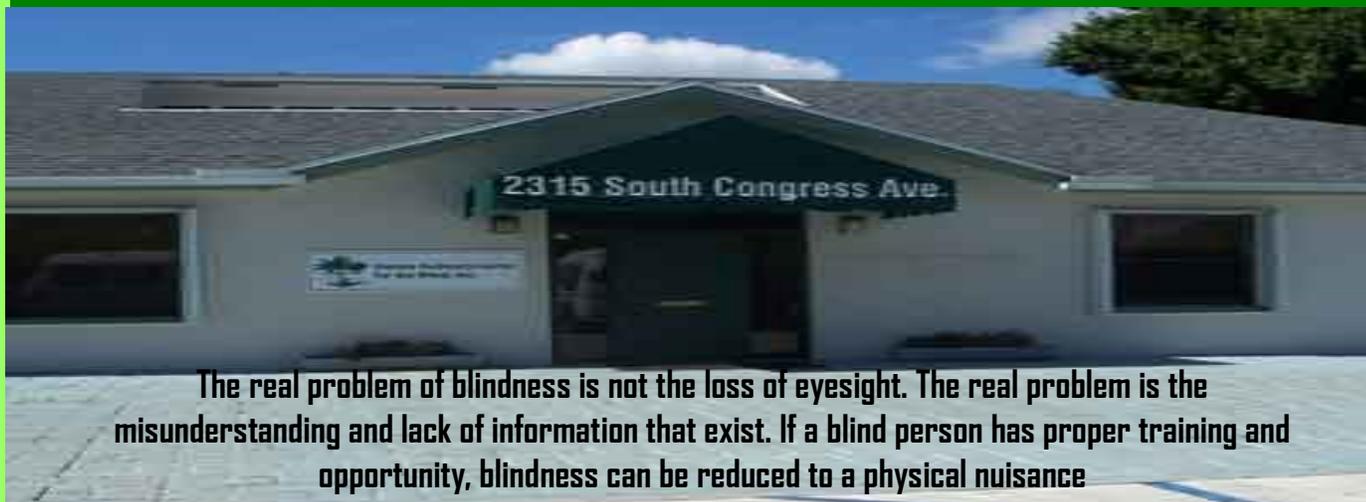




Our Mission: To seek the total integration of the blind into their communities.
Our goal: To provide the opportunities in rehabilitation to the blind and visually-impaired to expand their personal expectations and reach their full potential.



The real problem of blindness is not the loss of eyesight. The real problem is the misunderstanding and lack of information that exist. If a blind person has proper training and opportunity, blindness can be reduced to a physical nuisance

Palm Tran Connection

By: Louis Ferri

It has been a great 2011 for Palm Tran and Palm Tran Connection. Complaints are down and service quality and customer satisfaction is at an all-time high. It is busy out there; you may have noticed a few buses on the route 1, 2 and 3 at capacity. Ridership on the fixed-route bus system is averaging a record 40,000 passenger trips a weekday, over an 11% increase over 2010. This may be contributed to high gas prices and the amount of people out looking for jobs.

On Connection, you might be noticing that the vehicles are more crowded and you are riding with more people than ever. The greatest cost savings Palm Tran Connection can achieve is by multi-loading passengers. This efficiency factor is defined by the amount of passengers per hour on each respective Para transit vehicle. Palm Tran Connection is achieving a new record for passengers per hour, averaging over 1.78 passengers per hour. With the efforts of the Scheduling Department to achieve this milestone in efficiency, Connection continues to improve our service delivery, increase customer satisfaction and control our costs.

Palm Beach County is gearing up for another difficult budget session. With less money coming in from real-estate taxes there is less money to fund County programs. There is a possibility that Palm Tran will have a fare increase on both fixed route and Connection. The fixed route bus could increase by fifty cents to \$2.00 per one way trip and the connection would increase a dollar to \$4.00 per one way trip. For up-dates on our Para transit service call the Palm Tran Community Out-Reach Information Line at (561) 841-4300 or in south county (561) 274-1475. For more information contact Palm Tran Connections at (561) 649-9838 or toll free at 1-877-870-9849 or through their T.D.D. machine at (561) 749-0683.

Save the Date!

The Florida Outreach Center for the Blind would like to invite you to join us for our 5th annual Dr. Thomas Hartig's "Dining in the Dark" event. This is one of the most unique public awareness and fundraising events to occur in our area. You will experience food, drink and conversation as never before while **Dining In Total Darkness**. Your remaining senses will be enhanced to savor the smell, texture and taste of your meal. Your imagination is stimulated and you will better understand what blind individuals encounter in their daily lives. We will be honoring Dr. Thomas Hartig who brought NEWSLINE, newspapers via the telephone, to blind persons around the country. He was blind but did not let it prevent him from being an integral part of society. He passed away in 2007, but lives on through his good works and in this event. An award in his name will be presented to a blind person who is an inspiration to others. Forms for submitting a candidate may be obtained on our web site: www.flblindcenter.org.

Our **Dining In The Dark** event will be held from 5:00-8:30 PM on Saturday, October 15, 2011 at the Airport Hilton located at 150 Australian Ave. in West Palm Beach. We are delighted to have Representative Mark Pafford as our keynote speaker and Michael Williams, Channel 5 New Anchor, as our Master of Ceremony. We are also thrilled to have Brad Hedrick providing live entertainment. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team will once again wait on you with their night vision goggles. You can purchase your individual ticket for \$55 or a reserved table for eight for \$550 by calling (561) 642-0005 or by mailing a check to the Center. Sponsorship opportunities for you or your business are:

Angel: \$200	Table: \$550	Bronze: \$1,000
Silver: \$2,500	Gold: \$5,000	Platinum: \$10,000

By supporting our dinner, you will help the Center to fulfill a need in the community and continue impacting the lives of the blind.



Special Programs

Simple Cooking! Join us from 10:00-noon on Mondays & Wednesdays for some Simple Cooking. You will learn how to prepare healthy dishes to enjoy on your own and with friends. Safety tips for cooking and working in the kitchen will be covered while you practice cooking a variety of foods. *Braille is for everyone!* Would you like to read Braille? This introductory course presents the fundamentals of the Braille code, including the letters of the alphabet, numbers, and punctuation, giving you the tools to communicate in writing with friends and family members who read Braille. To enroll in these programs, call Beverly Gallus at (561) 642-0005.

The Center's Sunshine

One in a Million- There she goes! Who? Noreen Fleagle our volunteer for the month of July 2011. No matter who needs something, Noreen is the first one to help. In 1990, Noreen met with an accident at Publix, and the doctors said she would never walk again but after months of treatment, she was able to walk. One good thing came out of that, Noreen met Jerry at Publix and fell in love. They got married and are still going strong 38 years later. Noreen is also a mother of two grown children and has a grandson. She is a member of the Palm Beach County North Lions Club. Noreen is dedicated to the center and come rain or shine volunteers on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 to 4:30. She always has a smile and is the first to solve any problems. She is currently training Ms. Danielle, our youngest student, to be a receptionist. Noreen always makes us laugh when we make mistakes. Noreen teaches the craft class. She does wonders with a lot of simple things and always has lovely projects for us to do. With Noreen's help, we were able to sell some of our crafts to purchase supplies for the class. Noreen is one of a kind and motivates us so it's a pleasure to come to the center.

Noreen! You are one in a million and we all love you for loving us!



Calendar of Events:

Kids Club!

Call the Center to find out what fun activities are planned for your family.

Spaghetti Dinner

Tired of eating fast foods but don't feel like cooking? How about a delicious spaghetti dinner with all of the trimmings? The price of each dinner is \$7.00 and it will be held from 5:30-7:30 PM on Friday, September 16th at the VFW Post 4360 located at 226 Cypress Ln., in Palm Springs, FL 33461.

Apple Workshop

Join us from 8:30-10:00 on Tuesday, September 20th for a hands-on workshop on Apple PC's, I-phones, I-Pads and I-Pods. Please RSVP by calling (561) 642-0005.

Family Fun!

Blind children and their families are invited to join F.O.C.B. for monthly activities. For information call the center at 561-642-0005

Reading is for Everyone

By Sarah Smedley, Talking Books Librarian

Talking Books is a free service that provides Braille and recorded materials to anyone legally blind, visually impaired and physically handicapped in such a way that they cannot hold a book. All you need is an application with a signature from a doctor, registered nurse, or other qualified person. This service is provided by the Palm Beach County Library System in partnership with the National Library Service. Recorded formats include both analog cassettes and digital cartridges. Large print catalogs are also provided. All materials and equipment are mailed postage free. The Talking Books Library provides service to all Palm Beach County residents. For more information call the Library at 561-649-5500 or 1-888-780-5151. The Library is located at 4639 Lake Worth Rd.,

Hadley Correspondence School for the Blind

A Representative from the Hadley School for the Blind visited the Center and informed our students of its more than 100 courses. Hadley is a distance education school offering programs in 4 areas: high school, family, professional studies and adult continuing education. Courses are available in various formats allowing students to work at their own pace and in their homes. Find out more by calling 800-323-4238 or 1-800-526-9909



National Federation of the Blind 2011 Convention

Those who attended the 2011 NFB Convention in Orlando, Florida can vouch for the excellent seminars, exhibit hall and activities. Vendors such as Humanware, Freedom Scientific, Magnify America and GW Micro demonstrated their products and conducted training workshops. Convention attendees got a chance to test the NFB Blind Driver Challenge™ interfaces on a simulator. They also learned about JAWS 13, Android-driven devices, strategies for eBay selling and find a job in today's environment. Among the guest speakers were Governor of New York, David Paterson; Douglas Moore, General Motors; The Honorable Kathleen Martinez, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR; and Alan Eustace, Senior Vice President of Google. The conference was the largest ever with more than 4,300 attendees. Thanks to UPS volunteers and the staff of the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel for their commitment to making this event a success.

The FOCB 2011

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**FREE MATTER FOR
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AND PHYSICALLY
HANDICAP**

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Frank Seidman... President
Dennis Stevenson... Vice President
Mark HarlanTreasurer
Tom Hennon Secretary
Ozzie OsborneMember
Noreen FleagleMember
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!