



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.

The Center's family would like to extend their best wishes for a Happy and prosperous New Year. Our Center has exciting plans for 2012 but first let us reflect on our many accomplishments of 2011.

Open House: On February 17, 2011, The Florida Outreach Center for the Blind celebrated the grand opening of its new facility. 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.

Kid's Club: The Center fulfilled a long-time goal when it launched it's Kids Club in March 2011. This gives blind children and their families an opportunity to attend activities where they can share support and resources. The Club hosted a fun night with food and games, bowling events, a



Halloween Festival, a touch tour of the Barnum and Bailey Circus and its 12th annual Christmas Party. This year's activities include a Valentine's Party, Easter Egg hunt and much, much more. Thanks to Karen Robb, FOCB Board Member, and Sharon Lucas, DBS Senior/Child Counselor, for all of their efforts in making this club successful.

Dining In The Dark: 5th annual Dr. Thomas Hartig's *Dining In The Dark* More than 200 guests joined us for our annual fund raiser and awareness event, bringing in about \$30,000 for our programs. Guests enjoyed a keynote address by Representative Mark Pafford, a speech about blindness by Kathy Davis, Founder of the Center for the Visually Impaired, and reflections on the life of Dr. Hartig by his lovely wife, Jeannie Hartig. We were delighted to have Brad Hedrick who provided the entertainment and Michael Williams, News Anchor for Channel 5, as our Master of Ceremonies. The Center was also excited to have FOCB's Executive Director, Carolyn Lapp, awarded the Dr. Thomas Hartig Inspirational Community Award. Thanks to Tom Hennon, DID Committee Chairman, and everyone who made this year's event a success.



Outreach Programs: FOCB's Outreach Programs at the Mae Volen Senior Center, Lakeside V and Prosperity Oaks Assisted Living Facility provides seniors who are losing their vision with a social opportunity while learning alternative techniques of doing everyday tasks.

Apple Workshop: Thirteen individuals from FOCB received hands-on instructions on using Apple products.

Student Breakfast: Volunteers joined students in preparing a breakfast while practicing their cooking skills.

Hadley School for the Blind: Randy Morgan informed FOCB's students of its more than 100 courses. Hadley is a distance education school offering courses in various formats and allows students to work at their own pace and in their homes. Find out more by calling 1-800-323-4238.

Hurricane Preparedness Seminar: Thanks to Red Cross Representative, Steve Bayer, everyone at the Center was prepared for the 2011 hurricane season.

Lions Dinner: The Center was delighted to have the Lions of Zone 3, District 35N tour our establishment and join us for a delicious dinner prepared by FOCB's Board Secretary, Tom Hennon and served by volunteer, William Lapp.

National Federation of the Blind (NFB): FOCB had seven attendees at NFB's 2011 National Conference in Orlando. There were seminars on blindness related topics, a book fair and vendors such as Humanware, Freedom Scientific, Magnify America and GW Micro demonstrating their products.

Transportation Disadvantage Day: FOCB students, volunteers and staff traveled with transportation advocates to attend *Transportation Disadvantage Day* in Tallahassee. Through their efforts, legislators continued funding our Transportation Disadvantage Program.

Cooking Without Looking Show:

FOCB's Executive Director, Carolyn Lapp, Co-Hosted the "Cooking Without Looking Show" at Zoo Miami. She taught blind youth in the transition program at the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind how to prepare pizza.

Calendar of Events:

January: Winter classes begin

February: 2nd Transportation Disadvantaged trip, 11th Kids Club/Valentine's Day Party

April: 2nd-6th Spring Break - center is closed

TBA-FOCB Open House

TBA-Kids Club/Easter Egg Hunt

On the business side in 2011:

A special thanks to FOCB's Board of Directors for their hard work and dedication. The Board met twelve times, added two Board Members and hosted a strategy planning session. If you are interested in serving on the Center's Board of Directors or Advisory Board, please call us. FOCB is very proud of our instructors. Congratulations to our Technology Specialist, Jason Goldfield, for completing the requirements for his Assistive Technology Endorsement Certificate for screen reader and screen magnification. We would also like to recognize Beverly Gallus, FOCB's Rehabilitation Teacher, who will become a Certified Vision and Rehabilitation Therapist in Spring 2012. Thanks for all of your hard work!

FOCB was very fortunate to have articles about our programs published in the Palm Beach Post, Who's Who In Nonprofits, TC Palm, Miami Herald, as well as, television coverage on Channels 5 and 10. In addition to media coverage, the Center is now represented on several social networks. Thanks to Ana Alba for creating and managing our Facebook Page. We would also like to express our appreciation for the hard work Jim Kamen has done over the years on FOCB's web site. A special thanks to Tamra Keels for designing the newsletter and creating a LinkedIn page.

The center's programs are free and include: Braille, Computers, Daily Living Skills, Cooking, and Home and Personal Management. It also hosts weekly support groups, recreational therapy and outreach programs for seniors. The Kids Club offers blind children and their families a variety of activities. On display in the store is a variety of visual aids, reading machines and adaptive equipment for hands-on inspection and purchase. The Equipment Loan Program enables clients to have adaptive technology which they otherwise could not afford. It also offers blind persons access to a Talking Books inventory. Contact the center to enroll in our programs.

The Center is always seeking opportunities to educate the public about blindness and spread the word about our programs. We were honored in 2011 to participate in exhibits held at the Palm Beach State College and Lakeside Assistant Living Facility. We were also delighted to present our programs to the Palm Beach County Optometric Association, Boy Scouts, Century Village VIPs, North County Senior Center, Bethesda Macula Degeneration Support Group, our local Lions Clubs, the Braille Club and the Palm Beach County Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind.

It is with the deepest gratitude that we thank our more than 58 beloved volunteers for their time and loyalty to the Center and its programs. It is due to their efforts that we are able to meet our client's ever-growing needs and raise the much needed funds for our programs.

The FOCB 2011

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**FREE MATTER FOR
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Mark Harlan.....Treasurer
Tom Hennon.....Secretary
Ozzie Osborne.....Member
Noreen Fleagle.....Member
Frank Seidman.....Member
David Evans.....Member

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 9:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M.
Tuesday-Thursday 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!