



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.



FOCB believes that with the proper tools, training, and opportunity, blind and visually impaired people can live full and productive lives.

10TH Birthday Celebration for FOCB

On Thursday, April 25, 2013, the Florida Outreach Center for the Blind (FOCB) will host an open house to celebrate 10 years of providing services to persons who are visually impaired. The Center is a full-service training facility that offers free instruction in Braille, Adaptive Technology, Independent Living Skills, Cooking, Peer Support, Recreational Therapy, and programs for seniors and children who are blind. The Center also has a Reading Center with an inventory of audible books and a store with visual aids for hands-on inspection and purchase. Guests will enjoy refreshments, guided tours of the facility, and demonstrations of the latest technology adapted for the blind. There will be sessions on Braille, Apple products, as well as what to do when you meet a blind person and a guide dog.

Transportation Disadvantaged Day

FOCB representatives joined other Florida advocates to attend Transportation Disadvantaged Day in Tallahassee on March 6, 2013. They spent the day speaking to legislators about funding our Transportation Disadvantaged Program. It was hard work, but everyone had fun.



A Special Rose

“You can’t direct the wind, but you can adjust your sails.” That’s exactly what **Rose Doery** did after she was diagnosed with Temporal Arteritis in 2005. She commutes from her home in Boca Raton to FOCB to study Braille, Computers, and Independent Living Skills and also participates in the Center’s Support Group and Craft Class. A Holocaust survivor from Holland, Rose’s story is in the Holocaust Museum. She came to America in 1948. Despite her limited English, she got a job selling cheese in a department store. Rose worked for many years as a secretary at Columbia University and lived in Manhattan until she retired and moved to Florida. She has three daughters, six grandchildren, and a great grandchild on the way. Rose loves ice skating, swimming laps, yoga, walking, dancing, and reading. Because Rose loves a challenge, she pursued her interest in photography. She has proven that by using alternative methods, a visually impaired person can accomplish the same tasks as a sighted person. She lives with her cat, Samson, and loves to make people smile by telling jokes. Rose has a zest for life and inspires everyone she meets.

Wild Bill: Volunteer Extraordinaire

William (Wild Bill) Lapp has done it all: from working in his dad’s garage to doing construction; from serving as a merchant marine on the Great Lakes to hiking for three months on the Appalachian Trail; from being the captain of a cross-country running team to hitchhiking across America; from being a roadie in a rock-n-roll band to a volunteer fireman; from landscaping to working at the Palm Beach Kennel Club - all while being visually impaired. Originally from upstate New York, Bill finally settled down in Florida in 1978. Wild Bill became Sweet William when he met his wife, Carolyn, on a blind date. They are the proud parents of four children and have three grandchildren. Bill helped Carolyn organize the Florida Outreach Center for the Blind in 2003 and continues to assist with the Center’s growing needs. He manages the Center’s store, which offers visual aids such as magnifiers, reading machines, closed circuit televisions, and other adaptive products for hands-on inspection and purchase. Bill volunteers with the Center’s Kids’ Club and outreach programs. Bill is also active in the community and serves on the Grant Review Committee for the PBC Office of Equal Opportunity and the PBC-N Lions Club Board. Since 1999, he has served on the local Transportation Disadvantaged Steering Committee, traveling annually to Tallahassee with other advocates to urge legislators to fund Florida’s TD Program. He has also been a coach for his sons’ baseball teams, bagged popcorn for the safety patrols, and helps with school fund raisers. When Bill is not working, he enjoys walking, swimming, and sports of all kinds. When Wild Bill is around, everyone is sure to have a good time!

Calendar of Events

- FOCB's 10th Birthday Celebration:
Noon-7 PM April 25th
- BELL Program: 9 AM-3 PM June 17-28th
- Spaghetti Dinner: 5-7 PM June 21st
- Dining in the Dark Event:
5-8 PM October 19th

FOCB's Hours of Operation:

Monday-Wednesday-Friday: 9 AM -4 PM

Tuesday-Thursday: Off Site Outreach Programs

Onsite Vision Store Hours of Operation:

Mondays & Wednesdays: 9 AM-4 PM



Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning (BELL) Program

The Florida Outreach Center for the Blind will host the state's only Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning (BELL) Program from June 17-28, 2013. FOCB's program is one of thirty BELL Programs in the U.S. that targets children with low-vision who are not receiving Braille instruction in school. Participants will learn the benefits of non-visual skills through fun activities centered on Braille.

By hosting the BELL Program, the Center hopes to reduce the 85% Braille illiteracy rate in blind children. For more information, contact FOCB.



Save The Date! Tired of eating fast foods but don't feel like cooking? How about a delicious, home cooked dinner, featuring spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, and dessert for only \$8 per person. Join us for dinner on Friday, June 21st from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the VFW Post 1463, located at 226 Cypress Lane in Palm Springs. To reserve your meal, call 561-642-0005.

Beeping Egg Hunt

The Florida Outreach Center for the Blind hosted its 2nd Annual Beeping Egg Hunt for visually impaired children on March 23, 2013. More than 45 children enjoyed decorating cookies, coloring eggs, and hunting for beeping eggs. After all of the fun, everyone cooled off by playing in the water park. A special thanks to advisors from the Florida School for the Deaf & Blind, **Sharon Lucas** from the Division of Blind Services, and all the volunteers who made sure the children had a great time. Call FOCB at 561-642-0005 to find out more about our Kids' Club activities.

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Board of Directors:

Dennis Stevenson..... President
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William Kilgallon.....Treasurer
Tom Hennon.....Secretary
Ozzie Osborne.....Member
Noreen Fleagle.....Member
Edna Strnad.....Member
Jill Brondolo..... Member
Zachary Sayer.....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 helpers to assist with important duties! If you or someone you know is interested in helping, please contact us immediately.

The Florida Outreach Center for the Blind provides, at no charge, instruction in Braille, Computers, Daily Living Skills, Cooking, Peer Support, Recreational Therapy, and programs for seniors and children. To enroll, call 561- 642-0005 or email: Info_focb@bellsouth.net

FOCB is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization that depends on grants and public donations. If you wish to remember the Center in your estate planning, please use the following language: "I give, bequest, or devise the following sum, stocks, or property to the Florida Outreach Center for the Blind, Inc. to be used for the worthy purposes of helping the Blind." If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation, please make your check payable to the Florida Outreach Center for the Blind (FOCB) and mail your gift to:

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Thank you for your support and interest!