

YOU are EMPOWERING the BLIND

FOCB

Florida Outreach Center for the Blind, Inc.

2315 S. Congress Ave., Palm Springs, FL 33406

Email: info_blind@bellsouth.net Telephone: 561-642-0005

Website: <http://blindfocb.org>

The Center was very busy this year and able to provide services to over 200 blind individuals. We invite those with vision loss to join our free programs and extend thanks to the staff, volunteers, clients and donors for their contributions.

Below are some of the exciting things that happened at FOCB due to the generosity of our supporters.

- Students were trained in independent living, Braille, assistive technology and orientation and mobility
- Clients received support through the Book Club, Social/Craft Club, and Vision Impaired & Hearing Impaired Group
- Workshops were held to increase student's independence on topics that included the smartphone app Seeing AI, shopping on line, UBER, and 211
- Students were integrated into the community and increased their confidence to travel by visiting the Manatee Lagoon, Science Center, Palm Beach Zoo, Yesteryear Village and cruising on the Delray Yacht
- The skills of staff and students were updated by attending the National Federation of the Blind annual convention
- Holiday cheer was extended to blind children with the beeping egg hunt and the holiday party
- Community outreach services were provided by attending health fairs, making presentations to doctors and being interviewed for a radio station and podcast
- Major building renovations were completed by replacing the air conditioning system, upgrading the windows in the conference room, installing new doors, and painting the interior and exterior of the building



You're bringing spring fun to children at the beeping egg hunt



You're helping students to gain confidence while traveling throughout the county



You're helping to spread the word about the White Cane Law that is designed to make the streets safer for blind travelers

EMPOWERING WALTER



Walter was born in Berlin, Germany and moved to the United States in 1961. He has degrees from Gauss Engineering College and from M.I.T. Walter lost the vision in his right eye from a broken blood vessel and was later diagnosed with age related macular degeneration in his left eye. He can see large objects such as trees and cars but cannot see small things like steps or printed material. He was referred to FOCB by his ophthalmologist where he has taken classes in assistive technology and orientation and mobility. With the training he has received at FOCB, he is able to read magnified print on a

closed-circuit television and operate his iPhone and iPad with the built-in accessibility features. After the loss of his wife to Alzheimer's disease, he founded the Walter E. and Barbara A. Bauke Foundation to provide financial support to agencies serving people with Alzheimer's disease and severe vision loss. Walter joined the FOCB Board of Directors in 2016. He was the 2019 recipient of the Dr. Thomas J. Hartig Award that recognizes an individual for coping with vision loss, maintaining their independence and inspiring the community.



Mark your Calendar, *Dining in the Dark*, Sunday, 8

Florida Outreach Center for the Blind, Inc. invites you to attend the **14th Annual Dr. Thomas Hartig Dining in the Dark**, a unique dining, fundraising and awareness event that features a meal in total darkness. This event allows the public to experience what it is like to be blind for just a few hours and cope with a simple meal. A reception, silent auction and entertainment begins the night, followed by the Palm Beach County Sheriff Office's SWAT team seating guests for dinner in a blacked-out ballroom. During dinner, the keynote speech is given and the entertainment continues. After dinner lights are up, the Dr. Thomas Hartig Award is presented, and raffle prizes are awarded. We invite you to join us for this unique experience!