



New Vision News

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Editor: TTabone

Check us out on the web at www.n-v-i.org



"Vision Impairment Services In Our Neighborhood"

Lake-Sumter Community College
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Leesburg, FL 34788

Be Counted - Census 2010

It is nearly time for the 2010 Census! The census is very important. Each question helps to determine how more than \$400 billion will be allocated to communities across the USA – including YOUR communities of Lake and Sumter Counties. The 2010 Census form is just 10 questions, such as: name, sex, age, date of birth, Hispanic origin, race, household relationship, if you own or rent. The census **DOES NOT** ask about the legal status of respondents or their Social Security numbers. In areas served by the United States Postal Service, postal workers will deliver the initial mailing in mid-March 2010. In all other areas, census takers will deliver the form packages between March 1 and April 30, 2010. Once you get your form in the mail, fill it in and mail it back in the postage-paid envelope provided. **If you need help completing the form, call 1-866-872-6868 between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., 7 days a week. The telephone call is free. Or take your form to New Vision or a VIP Support Group meeting.** Any request for census information from the Census Bureau will be clearly identified as coming from the U.S. Census Bureau and as OFFICIAL BUSINESS of the United States. It is a federal offense for anyone to pretend they represent the Census Bureau. Before your household receives a mailed form, a phone call or a visit from the Census Bureau, you will be given a few days notice with a letter from the Census Bureau Director. **The 2010 Census counts – so please be counted!**

Welcome!

We would like to welcome Jenna Pruett to our staff. She started in January and she is a Vision Rehabilitation Therapist who is pursuing certification. Jenna has worked with the Florida Center for the Blind and has recently moved to Lady Lake. Jenna brings knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm to the agency and has already proven to be an asset.

Graduates

Congratulations to all our clients who recently graduated:

Independent Living Skills class: Ruth Bayer, Dick Hosmer, John Annas, Alline Allison, Marty Holtz, Jon Jergins, Gladys Nordstrom, Harriet Sykes, Millie Raho, Cal Jeffrey, Jackie Baker, and Oli Jonsson.

Itinerant Independent Living Skills: Lillie Tanner, David Guy, Verna Norlander.

Assistive Technology: Ruth Kopelson, Herb Patchette, Delta Pryor, Karen Girkin.

Braille: Nancy Reed, Woody Wilson, Gordon Pierce.

Information to Share

In 2009, New Vision provided services to **104** people in Lake or Sumter County. As well as

- Provided **5** Family Workshops - **71 Individuals**
- Supported **7** VIP Support Groups - **271 Individuals**
- Provided Information & Referral to **210** individuals
- Received **54** new Referrals
- Referred **33** to Florida Division of

Blind Services

- Provided **180** Community Education Awareness Presentations reaching approximately **6736** attendees
- Received **1490** volunteer hours

Basic TAXES Done Free

VITA Program (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) - Free Tax preparation is available if you earned \$48,000 or less! You may also be eligible for up to \$5,600 in Earned Income Tax Credit. Call United Way at 352-787-7530 or New Vision at 352-435-5040.

New Vision Store

Thanks to Chris Gabbard and

Magnifying Aids.

New Vision is able to stock low vision aids to sell to clients and the general public. Having a local store gives you the opportunity to try an item to see if it will work for your particular vision need rather than order it from a catalog or on-line. Stop in and see what we have available. If there is something you would like, call ahead to see if we have it. If not, Magnifying Aids will gladly send most items to us for you to try. New Vision is grateful to Mr. Gabbard for providing this service to people with low vision or blindness.



Total Exemption of Homestead From Taxation

The homestead of a disabled person, who is **legally blind** and CAN PRODUCE A CERTIFICATE OF THIS FROM TWO PROFESSIONALLY UNRELATED LICENSED FLORIDA DOCTORS OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, and the income of all persons residing at the homestead does not exceed \$25,132, shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation upon the homestead. **This must be filed every year before March 1st.** Contact your local property appraiser's office for forms and more information

Our Mission Statement

New Vision for Independence is committed to excellence in providing rehabilitation, community education, and support services for people with low vision or blindness and their families to promote independence, acceptance, and self-confidence.

2010 FCB Scholarship Applications Available

The Florida Council of the Blind, Inc. is pleased to announce the 2010 Scholarship Program. Four scholarships will be offered in amounts ranging from \$2,500 to \$750. Also, the Florida Council of Citizens with Low Vision is offering one \$500 scholarship.

Applicants must be 1)attending high school or college or 2)must be accepted by a college or university. Please go to the Florida Council of the Blind website at www.fcb.org and click on the Scholarship application link for information. Only persons who are blind or visually impaired and meet the eligibility criteria are invited to apply.

Applications and all supporting documents including a sealed official transcript MUST be postmarked no later than March 15, 2010.

Please contact the Florida Council of the Blind, Inc. at 1-800-267-4448 with comments or inquiries. FCB is an advocacy and support organization for

Florida residents who are blind or visually impaired.

For more information about scholarships, email Barbara Gill at grillbh@comcast.net or call 941-966-7056.

Having difficulty seeing what is on your computer screen when on the internet? Opera 10.10 Web Browser is available to download free. It works like Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox as a web browser with the advantage of a simple key-stroke to enlarge the information on the web page.

Go to www.opera.com and download the free browser. Once you have followed the steps and made it your browser you are able to increase the size of the web page by simply pressing your + key until it reaches the desired size. It can then be reduced in size by pressing the - key.

Newsline - Would you like a newspaper with your morning cup of coffee? NFB-NEWSLINE® just added its 300th publication AND it's still growing. Five Spanish-language newspapers are now available to all subscribers. The service handles thousands of phone calls each day for individuals across the country who now access daily newspapers and magazines as never before. The toll-free centralized call-in center provides service on demand to any subscriber.

Every day, a subscriber can choose that day's, the previous day's, or the previous Sunday's issue of any newspaper in the service. On NFB-NEWSLINE®, the user can easily choose which newspaper, section, and article to read using a standard touch-tone telephone. The menu provided allows the user to change the speed and voice settings, spell out words, or search for a particular word or subject.

Anyone who cannot read printed newspapers due to vision loss, dyslexia, or a physical disability is eligible to receive NFB-NEWSLINE®.

Register by calling your state's [Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped](#), or by calling the National Federation of the Blind toll-free at 1 (866) 504-7300 to request an application.

And for those with access to a computer and the internet there is now Newsline on the web. NFB-NEWSLINE® Online is the newest and most exciting way of accessing your favorite content. You can read it on the Web, download it to your Victor Reader Stream or to a portable MP3 player, or you can have the publications and TV listings read to you over your computer using the same functions as with traditional, phone-based, NFB-NEWSLINE®. Go to www.nfbnewsline.org for more information.

Hadley School for the Blind

The Hadley School for the Blind is the largest worldwide distance educator of blind and visually impaired people, their families and blindness service professionals. Founded in 1920 by William Hadley and Dr. E.V.L. Brown, Hadley offers courses free of charge to its blind and visually impaired students and their families and affordable tuition courses to blindness professionals.

You can request a Hadley course catalog in Braille, cassette, large print or CD. Also, their website provides the catalogs in PDF format or in Rich Text Format for you to view online or download. Call 1-800-323-4238 or go to www.hadley.edu for a catalog or classes offered.

New Vision's Wish List:

We have been invited to participate in several outside events but have had to decline because of a lack of easily portable folding **tent, table, and chairs.**

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please call 352-435-5040 or e-mail info@n-v-i.org to be removed from the mailing list.