



New Vision News

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



"Vision Impairment Services In Our Neighborhood"

Lake-Sumter Community College

9501 US Hwy 441

Leesburg, FL 34788

Blind Babies Program

New Vision signed the contract to provide services to children from birth to age 6 through the Blind Babies Program with the Division of Blind Services.

The Blind Babies Program was established by the Florida Legislature in 2000 to provide community-based early intervention education for children from birth through five years of age who are blind or visually impaired, and for their parents, families, and caregivers.

The goal of the Blind Babies Program is to maximize the overall development and independence of blind or visually impaired infants and toddlers by providing direct Early Intervention Services, information, and resources to the children and their caregivers.

Early Intervention Services are provided to enhance all areas of child development. Services are specialized as they relate to blindness and visual impairment. The Blind Babies Program helps ensure that visually impaired and blind children enter school as ready to learn as their sighted classmates. It also links children and their families to other avail-

able resources that could assist these families in the future.

We are all excited to begin serving the pre-school aged children in Lake and Sumter Counties.

More Good News!

Through a generous donation of space it is expected that by July we will have a second office location! We will be sharing an office with United Way at 415 Citrus Tower Blvd in Clermont. This is a building that is used by a thrift store called Best Little Thrift. The store portion does not take up all of the building space so the offices have been offered at no cost to non-profits. Several other non-profits will be in the building. The building also has a conference room and a kitchen and we have been invited to hold classes there.

And More Good News!

The Division of Blind Services Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, William Cook, will be working out of our Leesburg office on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. If you have any questions for him or if you

know of any clients or potential clients, please let them know. They will be able to schedule their appointments for his days at our office instead of traveling into Orlando.

Congratulations!

to our recently graduated ILS students. June 10th was a very special day! A Family Workshop and Graduation was held at the Senior Center in Leesburg for Mary Lou Brobst, Ruth Cucinotta, George Kautz, Windy Pugh, and Joseph Asselin. We hope to see you at the VIP meetings!

Our Mission Statement

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

Sneakers and Paws for New Vision - 5K Run/Walk and Costumed Dog Contest

We are pleased to announce our annual fundraiser set for October 17, 2009 to raise funds for rehabilitation services for individuals with blindness or low vision. Planning is ongoing and anyone is welcome to attend meetings which are held in the Williams-Johnson Building on the Leesburg campus of Lake-Sumter Community College. Call New Vision for the next meeting date. Volunteers will be needed to help with each event - the 5K Run, Walk, and Costume Contest for Dogs. If you are unable to attend the meetings but would like to volunteer, please call Terry at 352-435-5040.

Sponsorships are available for \$500 to \$5,000. If you would like to sponsor the event or know of someone or a business that may be interested, please call Terry at 352-435-5040. Participation information will be going out soon. If you are interested in receiving a packet, please call Terry at 352-435-5040.



2009 TRIPS FOR THE BLIND

Mind's Eye Travel, which organizes trips for people who are visually impaired or blind, recently released its 2009 schedule. This year's trips include: Discover the Coast of Maine, July 22-26, with prices starting at \$995; and Santa Fe and Taos, Sept. 16-20, with prices starting at \$1,195. All prices are per person based on double occupancy. For more information, visit www.mindseyetravel.com. For reservations, call 207-542-4438

The Braille Commemorative Coin

The Braille Dollar coin is the first U.S. coin that has actual readable Braille on it. The Braille Bicentennial Dollar commemorates the 200th anniversary of the birth of Louis Braille, the French man who invented the universally-accepted reading system for the blind. Braille was born in 1809 in the tiny village of Coupvray, in the Brie region of France.

The "heads" side of the Braille Dollar coin features a handsome and gentle portrait of Louis Braille.



The Braille coin was officially issued on March 26, 2009. Mintage is limited to 400,000 total coins. \$10 from the sale of each coin, for a maximum of \$4 million, will benefit the National

Federation of the Blind and its programs to promote literacy among blind people.

Although Braille-like designs have appeared on U.S. coins before (on the Alabama State Quarter's tribute to Helen Keller, and the Paralympics Commemorative Dollars dated 1995 and 1996), the Braille was too small and in too low of a relief to be readable by the blind. The 2009 Braille coin fixes this lapse by providing the fully tactile Braille letters BRL, which stand for "Braille," as part of the design.

The "tails" side depicts a blind child reading a book written in Braille, along with the genuine Braille inscription across the upper field.

It is hoped that the issuance of this coin will raise awareness of the issues faced by the blind in everyday commerce, and further public awareness of the Braille system of writing and how indispensable it is to those who depend upon it.

2010 Census

The next US Census is April 1, 2010. New Vision is serving on the US Census Community-Based Organizations subcommittee to help ensure that everyone understands the Census. It is important that all US residents are counted – returning your Census form can bring additional funding to Lake and Sumter Counties. New Vision is available to answer questions you may have about the Census, and we would be happy to speak to VIP Support Groups about the Census.

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.

WMFE Ends Readings for the Blind

On July 1st, WMFE will drop local radio readings for the blind and visually impaired. The state budget eliminated funding for the nine radio reading services.

Starting next month, WMFE will concentrate on national reading programs from In-Touch radio network. Listeners can try Newsline from the National Federation of the Blind by signing up at NFB.org. Using a push-button phone, listeners can hear computerized voices read from more than 280 newspapers. You can read the newspaper at your convenience, read the articles you're interested in, or read the entire article or skim it.

For more information call New Vision.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

In these tough economic times non-profit organizations are also facing drastic cuts in budgets. No non-profit is secure from funding losses. If you are fortunate enough to be in a position to offer financial assistance, here are some ways you can help make a positive difference:

Send a donation today.

Make an Honor or Memorial gift.

Take Advantage of IRA Rollover Before End of Year.

Remember New Vision in your estate planning.

Items for Sale:

2 very old CCTV's - make an offer
Add'l CCTV's: call for prices.

Television Screen Magnifier

Accepting donations of computers, CCTV's, low vision aids

Mount Dora Historical Society Ghost Walk - Ghost Walks for people with low vision or blindness are a collaboration of the Mount Dora Historical Society, the Mount Dora Lions Club and New Vision for Independence and is an evolving program to bring history and mystery to all. The Ghost Walk includes a tour of the Mount Dora Museum, an interactive theatrical venue, and a 45 minute walk through the streets and back alleys of Mount Dora. Guide and service dogs are allowed. Sighted guide will be provided by the Mount Dora Lions Leo Club and New Vision. Scheduled events are June 27th with additional dates to be announced. There will be 2 tours and space is limited. For reservations or more information call Andrew Mullen at (352) 383-6969 or e-mail at royellou@gmail.com.

