

RESOURCES FOR BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

M.I.C.E. Program

(Multi-Sensory Intervention through Consultation and Education)

151 A Manchester Street, Suite 51

P. O. Box 2274, Concord, N H 03302-2274

Telephone: (603) 228-1028

TTY: (603) 228-5755

Any child, aged 0-3, suspected of having a visual or hearing impairment may be referred to the MICE Program. Each child will then be referred to the local Area Agency to do an intake assessment and set up a developmental evaluation. The program serves children (age's birth to three) for whom there is a concern relative to vision and/or hearing. MICE is administered by the Parent Information Center in cooperation with the Bureau of Developmental Services.

NH Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired

78 Regional Drive, Bldg. 2

Concord, NH 03301

(603) 271-3537

SBVI is a statewide program that offers comprehensive services to enable blind and visually impaired individuals to secure employment and personal independence. Services include - vocational rehabilitation counseling, assessment, skills training, technology and rehabilitative engineering and job placement. Eligibility: Must meet New Hampshire vocational rehabilitation eligibility criteria. Clients may be referred at age 14.

NHBVI.com is a website that contains general information, website links, agency information, the NH Agenda for the Education of Students who are Blind and Visually Impaired, and information on parent groups and resources. This is a comprehensive NH resource list for services and information relative to blindness and visual impairments. <http://www.nhbvi.com>

Library Services for Persons with Disabilities

Dolloff Building, 117 Pleasant Street

Concord, NH 03301

Telephone: (800) 491-4200 or (603) 271-3429

Website: <http://www.nh.gov/nhsl/talkbks/>

Eligibility: Blindness, visual impairment, or physical disability making reading difficult. Any professional in the fields of eye care, education or rehabilitation of people who are blind can certify applicants. Students who are certified by a physician as having a reading disability are also eligible. Services include non-text book materials available on disk or cassette and machines to play the books. Services are funded federally without cost to the individual. Available to individuals ages four through adult. Temporary disabilities accepted.

Resources for Blind and Visually Impaired... continued

National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments

P.O. Box 317

Watertown, MA 02471

Telephone: (800) 562-6265 or (617) 972-7441

Website: www.spedex.com/napvi

NAPVI provides leadership, support and training to assist parents in helping their children reach their potential. NAPVI is dedicated to giving emotional support, initiating outreach programs, networking, and advocating for educational needs and the welfare of children who are blind or visually impaired.

NH Chapter of NAPVI

Nancy Feole, President

Derry, NH 03038

Telephone (603) 432-2273

Support group for families having children with blindness or visual impairments.

The National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation (NOAH)

PO Box 959

East Hampstead, NH 03826-0959

Telephone: (800) 473-2310 or (603) 887-2310

Website: <http://www.albinism.org>

NOAH is a non-profit corporation organized to provide information and support to individuals and families with albinism and hypopigmentation; provide community outreach, enhance public awareness, and educate professionals about these conditions; and encourage research and funding of projects that will improve the diagnosis and management of albinism.

National Federation of the Blind (NFB) of NH

John E. Parker, President

2 Center Street, Apt 1

Laconia, NH 03246-3737

Telephone: (603) 524-1945

Website: <http://www.nfb.org/>

A membership organization of people who are blind and visually impaired whose primary mission is to provide public education about blindness; information and referral services; scholarships, literature and publications about blindness, aids and appliances and other adaptive equipment for the blind; advocacy services and protection of civil rights; development and evaluation of technology; and support for blind persons and their families.

Resources for Blind and Visually Impaired... continued

New Hampshire Association for the Blind

McGreal Sight Center

25 Walker Street

Concord, NH 03301

Telephone: (800) 464-3075 or (603) 224-4039

Website: <http://www.sightcenter.com/>

The New Hampshire Association for the Blind is a private non-profit organization that provides vision rehabilitation services for blind and visually impaired people of all ages. The agency was founded in 1911 by three blind women in Hancock, NH. The services provided include: Individual, family and peer support counseling and referral; group services; rehabilitation teaching; orientation and mobility training; low vision services; volunteer services; technology and Braille; technical aids and devices; public education; and prevention of blindness. The Association's services are provided at the McGreal Sight Center in Concord and also in homes and communities throughout the state.

SERESC (Southeastern Regional Education Service Center, Inc.)

29 Commerce Drive

Bedford, NH 03110

Telephone: (603) 206-6800

Website: <http://www.seresc.k12.nh.us>

SERESC is a statewide non-profit agency providing a wide range of educational services for children ages 3 through 21 years. SERESC employs several certified teachers of the blind and visually impaired that are contracted by school districts. Services include: functional vision assessments, learning and literacy media assessments, as well as consultation and direct instruction.

NH Vision/Hearing Network

Dolloff Building

117 Pleasant Street

Concord, NH 03301

Telephone: (603) 226-2900

V/TTY: (603) 226-2900

Website: <http://www.nhassistivetechology.org/>

NH Vision/Hearing Network partners with 12 agencies/projects involved in services to students with vision and/or hearing disabilities. The network offers a variety of services, many available to schools at no cost to the district and others which may be purchased. The network strives to provide students, teachers, and families with competent, flexible and responsive services that support the on-going success of students with vision or hearing impairments in school and in life.

Resources for Blind and Visually Impaired... continued

NH Inter-Actions

6 Chenell Drive, Suite 205

Concord, NH 03301

Telephone: (603) 228-2803

Website: <http://inter-actions.org/>

Inter-Actions is a non-profit organization providing summer camping and recreational programming for children and adults who are visually impaired. Inter-Actions at Deer Hill Camp provides a traditional summer camp experience for boys and girls ages 9-14 who are visually impaired. A counselor-in-training program includes high school students who are visually impaired, providing a role model for the younger children. Activities include: swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, arts and crafts, woodworking, music, sports activities, and daily living skills.

National Organization of Parents of Blind Children

1800 Johnson Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21230-4998

Telephone: (410) 659-9314

Website: <http://www.nfb.org/nopbc.htm>

The National Organization of Parents of Blind Children is a national membership organization of parents and friends of blind children reaching out to each other to give vital support, encouragement, and information.

Here is some of what they offer:

- *Future Reflections*, a magazine for parents and educators of blind children. This publication of the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children offers insights into blindness as well as practical guidance in the day-to-day aspects of raising a blind child. The magazine addresses topics specific to blind youth of all ages—infants to teenagers.
- A Braille pen-pal service (Slate Pals) for blind youth.
- NOPBC provides parents with current information about the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and partner in the Families and Advocates Partnership for Education (FAPE) project. The objective of this project is to disseminate accurate information about the 1997 amendments to IDEA.
- An annual Braille Readers Are Leaders Contest for Braille students.
- NOBPC also distributes free literature, establishes cane banks so parents may trade in old canes for new ones, consults with legislators about the needs of blind children, provides assistance to parents and blind children whose rights have been denied, and much more. NOPBC provides guidance to parents as they come to grips with what blindness means and as they strive to instill independence in a child who happens to be blind.