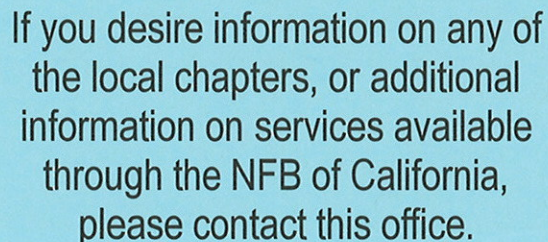


It is critical for parents of blind children to learn that blindness is not a tragedy. Parents who have been properly educated about blindness will guide their blind children so that they will lead happy, productive and successful lives. The NFB of California provides a support group for these parents and children.

The Diabetes Action Network of the NFB of California is a dynamic support and information network serving blind and sighted diabetics, their families, and health care professionals. A grassroots organization, the Diabetes Action Network was founded in 1985 by blind diabetic NFB members who recognized that a leading cause of new blindness in adults is diabetes.

The real problem of blindness is not the loss of eyesight. The real problem is the misunderstanding and lack of information that exist. If a blind person has proper training and opportunity, blindness is only a physical nuisance.



We present a variety of workshops and seminars to ophthalmologists, educators, senior citizen centers and other community organizations. These workshops are provided free of charge.

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(Voice of the Nation's Blind



What is the National Federation of the Blind of California?

THE NFB

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) is the largest organization of the blind in America. Interested sighted people also join. Founded in 1940, the Federation has grown to include more than 10 percent of the nation's blind (over 50,000 members).

The Federation is organized in every state and has local chapters in almost every community of any size in the nation. Where there is no local chapter, there are members-at-large. Each year, the national convention of the Federation is attended by approximately 3,000 blind people from all over the United States.

The NFB of California has more than 20 local chapters throughout the state. The state office is located in Burbank, California. An annual

statewide convention brings in a variety of speakers and programs. A wealth of literature and opportunities to dialogue with other blind people are available.



**Nancy Burns, President
NFB of California**

PURPOSE

The ultimate goal of the National Federation of the Blind is the complete integration of the blind into society on a basis of equality. This objective includes the removal of legal, economic, and social discrimination and the education of the public to new concepts concerning blindness. It means the right of the blind to work along with their sighted peers in the professions, skilled trades, and regular occupations.

JOBLINE

Looking for a job? Jobline is a free public service provided by state agencies with assistance from the National Federation of the Blind and the United States Department of Labor. This service is available on the telephone 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Dial (800) 414-5748.

NFB-NEWSLINE

Newsline was created by the NFB to make it possible to access newspapers on the phone early on the day of publication. Modern telecommunications technology, high-speed computers, and synthetic speech are utilized to make newspapers available to blind people. For further information phone (410) 659-9314.

CHAPTER ON AGING

California is projected to be one of the fastest growing states in the nation in total population. In this state, the senior population is expected to grow more than twice as fast as the total population. As our population ages, the number of people experiencing vision loss increases.

It is quite normal for anyone who experiences a major loss of vision to feel fearful, frustrated and helpless. Many times the well-intentioned family members and friends inadvertently reinforce the negative feelings of the newly visually impaired individual by treating him or her as an invalid. Learning alternative methods for doing things by using touch and hearing, rather than sight, can be relatively easy to accomplish.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF BLIND STUDENTS

This division of the NFB of California addresses issues relevant to blind students attending colleges, universities or other training facilities.

The NFBC has a substantial scholarship program. Numerous scholarships are issued annually to qualifying blind students.

You Need To Know:

that society's attitudes as educators, counselors, employers, etc. have a tremendous impact on the lives of blind people. The world needs to know that it is OK to be blind. We just do things a little differently.

- We read Braille rather than print.
- We take buses instead of driving.
- We use synthesized speech, large print or Braille to access our computers.
- Our hearing, and other senses, are not better than yours, we simply utilize them more effectively.
- We live and love, work and play, just as you.

The membership of the NFB of California is willing to share its wealth of information with you and the community. We can provide speakers for your classroom or your meeting.

We can present informative, thought-provoking and educational seminars. The NFBC realizes that the key to erasing erroneous stereotypes is education and we stand ready to provide that education.

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1800 Johnson Street
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Other available literature:

- Aging and Vision Loss
- Diabetes, Complications, Options
- Parents of Blind Children
- What Is The NFB?
- What Is The NFB of California?
- White Cane Safety Laws
- and Kernel books

You Need To Know What Blindness Is Not



Of California

(*Voice of the Nation's Blind*

You Need To Know What Blindness

Is Not:

Blindness is not a tragedy. Not all blind people are super bright nor are we especially dull. Blind people come in an assorted variety of sizes, colors and ethnicities, as well as cultural, religious and educational backgrounds. Blind people are just “people” who happen to be blind.

Why Do You Need To Know?

Society’s attitudes about blindness have a profound impact on our lives. Studies have shown that blindness is the most feared condition only following cancer and AIDS. Because of this fear, most people do not have a realistic attitude toward blindness or vision loss.

We, as blind people, do realize that we live in a visually oriented world. We use simple alternative methods of performing everyday tasks to function in this world. It is not our blindness that has created the 70 percent unemployment rate. It is society’s discrimination and false belief systems about blindness that have caused this inequity.

You Need To Know:

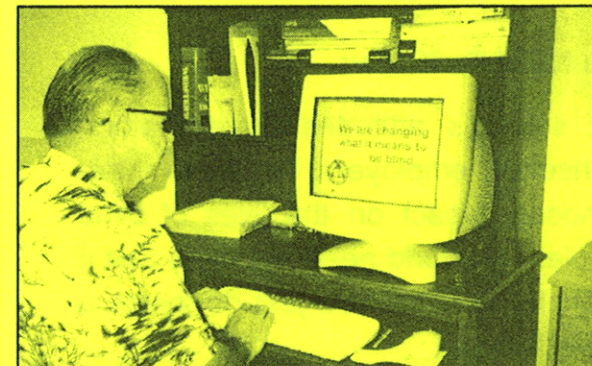
that blind people use the word “see.” Yes, we do “watch” television.

Some of us, just as some of you, like to:

- go dancing
- garden
- surf
- water ski
- attend sports events
- go bowling
- ride Harleys
- take cruises
- create gourmet meals
- drink beer and eat pizza
- *and* climb mountains



Caroline Rounds, elementary school teacher, and husband Glen.



Don Burns, NFBC legislative representative.

You Need To Know:

that some of us are employed as:

- counselors
- ministers
- school teachers
- social workers
- attorneys
- tour guides
- civil engineers
- *and* cabinet makers

You Need To Know:

that society must open its mind and embrace those of us who are labeled “different.” Without this understanding, blind and visually impaired children will never receive an equal education, our unemployment rate will remain at its ridiculous level, and we will never be accepted as equal citizens.