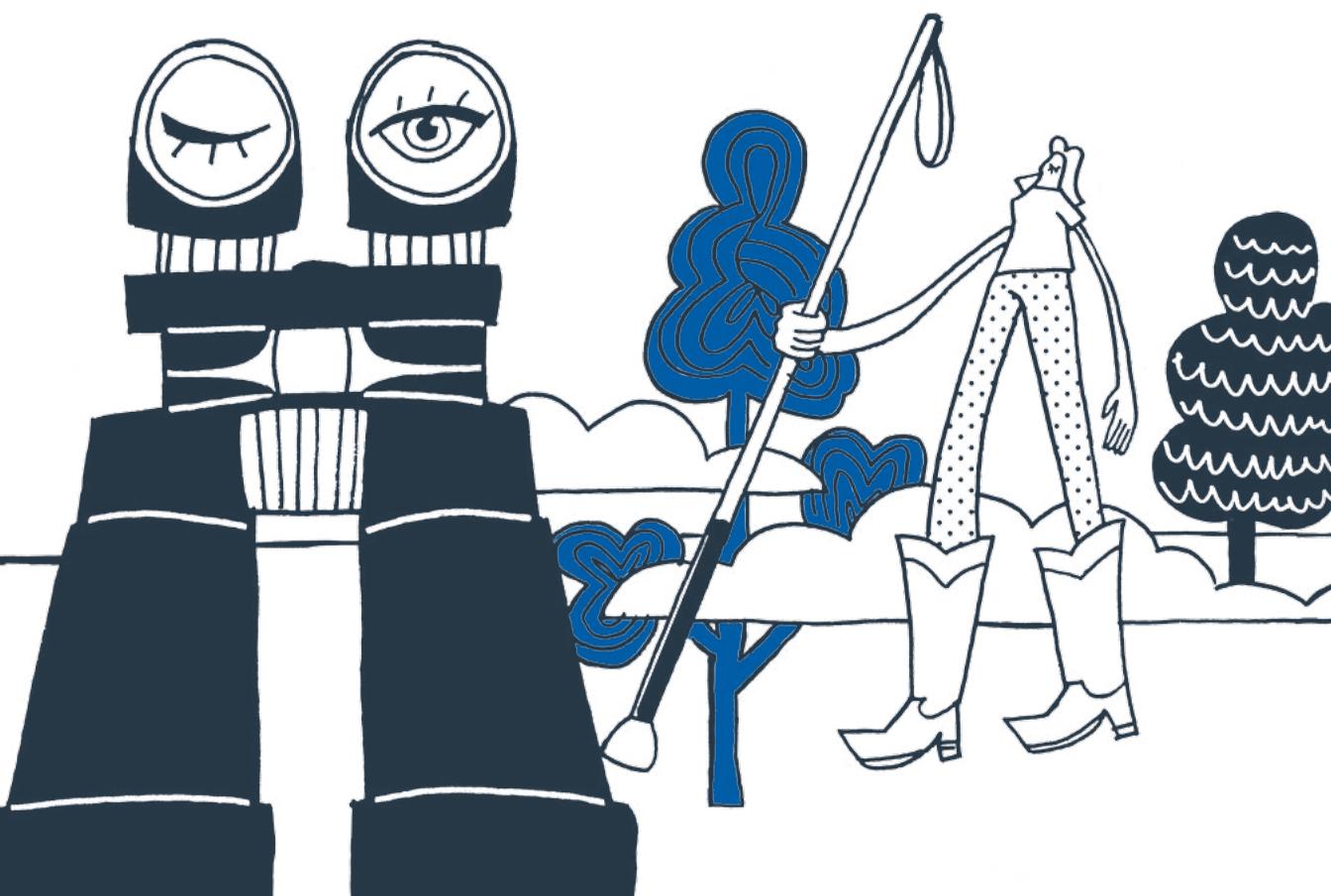


No Boundaries In Sight.

A closer look at
our services.



Braille Institute is a nonprofit organization that embraces the challenge of sight loss in all its facets and rejects its perceived limitations, with the belief that vision rehabilitation is a beginning, not an end.

Losing your vision doesn't mean losing yourself.



I want to tell people how empowering it feels for me to come here and be taught everything I need to know to be independent and have a fulfilling life.”



It doesn't mean losing sight of your goals and dreams. Or even your independence. But it does mean you need to learn a new way of doing things.

At Braille Institute, we've helped people just like you navigate their lives despite the challenges of low and lost vision for over a century. Our founder refused to let his blindness define him. And we refuse to let yours define you.

We offer a variety of services, classes, and groups, from mobility and technology training, to low vision rehabilitation and home visits, to arts and exercise classes, to a vast library of braille and audio titles for every age, and more. Classes and services are offered at our centers as well as remotely, meaning you can participate from the comfort of your home.

We're able to offer programs and services for free because of generous donors and volunteers. They say donating is the best way to spend money, and volunteering the best way to spend time. We agree! Visit us in person or online or give us a call to learn more about giving back.

Donate

Our programs and services are free because of generous donors like you. Call [1-800-272-4553](tel:1-800-272-4553), ext. 1238, or visit BrailleInstitute.org/donate.

Volunteer

Your help can change lives. Contact one of our centers or visit BrailleInstitute.org/volunteer-locations to learn how.

Low Vision Rehabilitation

When you hear “braille,” you probably think “blind.” But Braille Institute is for folks with low vision, too.

The truth is, more and more people are losing sight these days. Diabetes is a major culprit, but there are other causes, like retinitis pigmentosa, glaucoma, macular degeneration, and stroke.

Our specialists will complete an evaluation of your abilities and your vision impairment and recommend services to help you adapt. From magnification devices to maximize your remaining vision, to techniques for completing tasks and getting around, we'll help you get back to your real life. You can come in to one of our centers, or we can conduct a one-on-one assessment “virtually” by phone or video call.

We're here to help. Even if you can still see.

Meet with a Trained Professional

Learn about the latest technology to make your life easier, join a support group, take up pottery, browse our extensive library, and more. We're here, ready to help, at seven centers or remotely by phone or video call. To schedule a free one-on-one appointment, call **1-800-BRAILLE**.

Can't Visit Us? We'll Visit You

We offer home consultations and virtual one-on-one sessions to assess how you can maintain your independence safely, and live life to the fullest. Caregivers and family members are encouraged to attend. Visit BrailleInstitute.org/adult/in-home-services.

Library Services

Another part of your life we can help you get back? Reading. Our award-winning library offers books in every genre, for every age, in many languages. Whether you're a serious sci-fi fan, a connoisseur of poetry, or the first of your friends to finish every bestseller, we have titles you'll be excited to read.

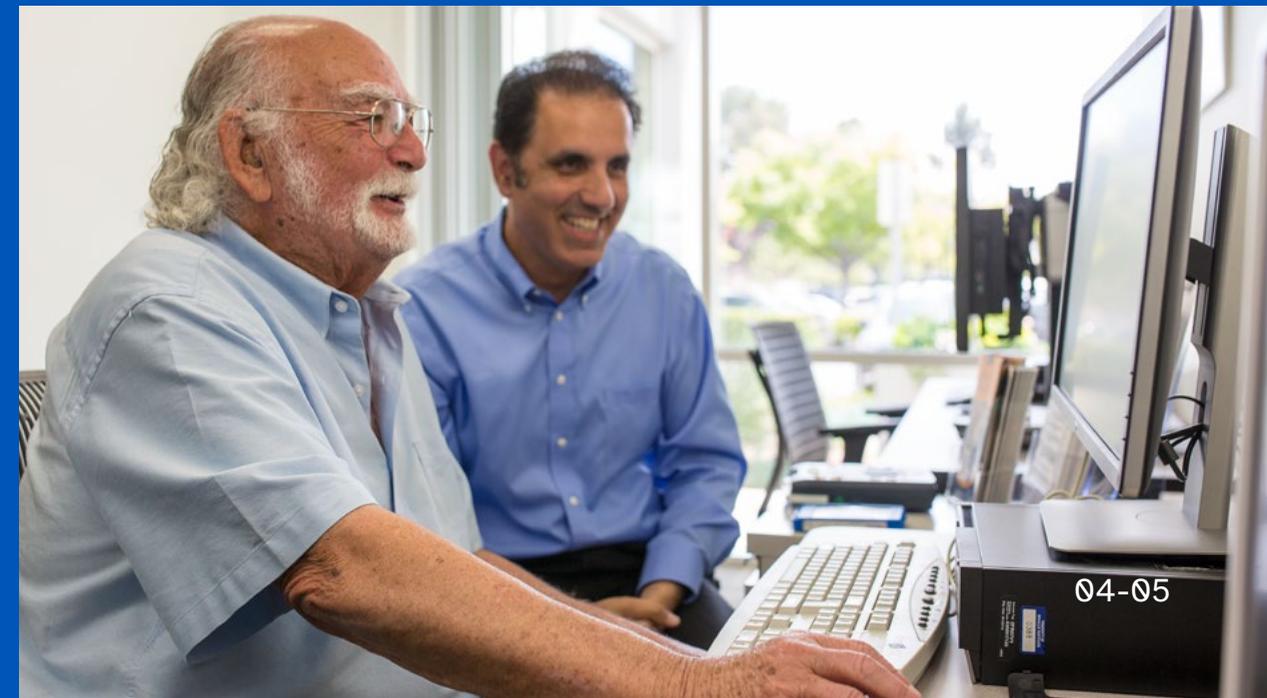
BARD

We offer free and instant access to over 100,000 book and magazine titles both in audio and digital through BARD. You don't need to wait for books to arrive in the mail, there's no machine you need to borrow or return, and there are never any late fees. You can download titles to your smartphone, computer, or mobile reading device anywhere, anytime.

Books on Demand

Library patrons and community partners can receive braille and audio books on demand. We can load up to 15 titles on a single book cartridge, including children's books and titles in foreign languages, and send it to you through the mail at no cost.

For more information or to become a library patron, call **1-800-808-2555** or email bils@brailleinstitute.org.



What We Offer Adults

Whether you traveled the globe, surfed the web, or circled the block, you probably never imagined a world where you'd have trouble getting to the fridge. Don't worry. We've got programs to help you find your way back to the life you loved before. Take classes at our centers or remotely from the comfort of your home.



Life Skills

Learn tips and tricks to help with everyday tasks. Get trained in specialized devices and mainstream technology. Manage your home, know your rights, find your resources. Brush up your social skills. Join support groups or attend individual sessions to help you cope with your vision loss.

Low Vision Specialists

Maximize your sight. Our low vision specialists work one-on-one with you to create a vision rehabilitation program that's tailored to your unique challenges and goals.

Arts and Healthy Living

Get out, meet people, make new friends, and have some fun at our weekly classes. Try painting, ceramics, dance, or exercise classes. Or learn to play music and perform with one of our groups.

Enjoy singing choir and choral arrangements where all voices come together—sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses. Or pick up a guitar, the congas, or a woodwind instrument and play to the beats of R&B, Latin, pop, and jazz. Thanks to two decades of support from the Johnny Mercer Foundation.

Learn to navigate your world...or just your kitchen.

Technology

Technology is a game changer for everyone, including people with any type of vision loss. Unlock the power available at your fingertips with your mobile phone, tablet, computer, and more.

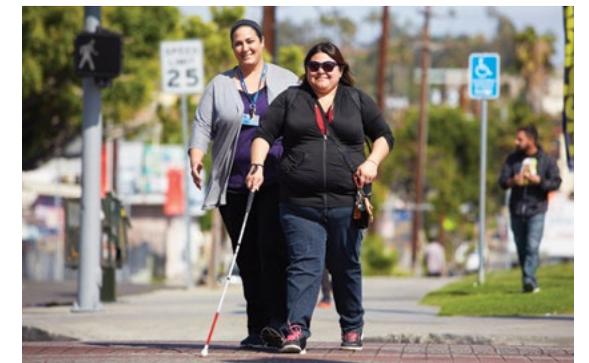
Check out the latest technology features and apps, and get one-on-one help from the technology experts at our tech lab, Connection Pointe.

Discover technology that will improve your life, whether you're trying to read the latest bestseller or schedule a ride to and from the store. Learn how to use VoiceOver, text readers, and even video conferencing apps to stay connected.

Our labs are equipped with computers, iPhones, Androids, and iPads. You can practice and try things out on our devices or bring your own device and we'll help you get set up.

Orientation and Mobility

Losing your sight is disorienting. Find your way around again—in your neighborhood and in the world. Learn to get around with a white cane, a guide dog, and more. Discover techniques that will help you navigate narrow spaces and stairs, take a seat, and travel.



Birth to Age 6

Sight loss and even blindness don't stop kids from growing up. It just means learning to do things a little differently to encourage each child's independence. That's where we can help.

Child Development Services

Work with trained consultants, medical professionals, and educators. Help your child develop motor skills, language, cognition, and social development through play. Discover resources to encourage early literacy and concept development, as well as community services to help build strong parent advocacy skills. We have virtual parent groups and mail activity kits to homes so parents and child can participate with consultants during visits.

Braille Special Collection

We'll introduce and help increase your child's braille literacy skills and foster a love of reading by providing free braille books and storybook kits throughout the year that build on developmental concepts.

Dr. Bill Takeshita Educational Series

Monthly educational series by Dr. Bill Takeshita, a pediatric ophthalmologist, who provides a wide range of topics including eye exams, eye patching, encouraging visual stimulation, and a whole lot more.

Kids can see beyond sight loss.



Ages 7–19

Just because they have a visual impairment doesn't mean they're not growing kids, teens, and—eventually—young adults. Our programs grow up alongside them, whether they want to get into college or headline music festivals, or both.

Recreation and Leisure

Having fun and learning can go hand in hand. Our applied skills outings are fun, educational, and build confidence. Through these activities kids will learn important life skills and make friends in the process, setting them up for an independent and fulfilling adult life.

Orientation and Mobility

In school O&M specialists will teach kids key travel skills to help them get around on their own. Our fun workshops further support those cane skills and other key travel techniques. Kids can also show off their skills on special routes and compete for various prizes in our annual Cane Quest.

Life Skills

Gain key skills for everyday living. Learn self-advocacy, money management, time monitoring, and food preparation, among other fundamental life skills.

Technology

Master tech through fun activities and projects in our free programs. Learn what's new in adaptive and mainstream technology, and work with devices, mobile apps, and more.

College and Career

Tour college campuses, explore disability services, attend student/alumni discussion panels, and more with our I'm Going to College Days program. Or network with blind and vision impaired professionals to help develop a plan after graduation.

Braille Challenge

Show off your braille literary proficiency in a comprehensive competition. Prove that you are the master at spelling, reading comprehension, speed and accuracy, and charts and graphs. The top 50 North American braille readers will compete in the National Braille Challenge Finals in Los Angeles.



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