

MICHIGAN

Blind/Visual Impairment Resources



Michigan Blind/Visual Impairment Resources

Assistive Technology of Michigan

43000 W. Nine Mile Rd., Suite 113

Novi, MI 48375

Phone: (248) 348-7161

Fax: (248) 348-7131

E-mail: atofmich@juno.com

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

Contact Name: Ghassan Sourì

Organization Type: General

Disabilities Served: General / Non-disability Specific

Assistive Technology of Michigan works to provide comprehensive assistive technology services. These services include on-site evaluations, custom design and development, equipment recommendations, equipment set-up and training, and follow-up services. Follow-up services fall in the following areas: computer access, electronic aids for daily living, worksite accommodation, AT training, computer skills training, funding consultation. Assistive Technology of Michigan provides these services to individuals with physical, sensory and learning disabilities. In addition, AT of Michigan sells hundred of AT hardware and software equipment for the convenience of their clients.

Blind Children's Fund

311 West Broadway Suite 1

Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone: (989) 779-9966

Fax: (989) 779-0015

E-mail: bcf@blindchildrensfund.org

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

Organization Type: Advocacy and Law, Disability/Disorder Specific, Information Centers, National Organizations and Associations, Parent/Family Support, Private Sector Companies

Disabilities Served: Deaf / Blind, Visual Impairment / Blind

Blind Children's Fund, a non-profit organization, promotes the development of materials and methods regarding how to care for and work with and educate infants and young children. BCF develops articles, handouts and video materials for use by both parents and professionals. The mission of BCF is to encourage the development, education and welfare of children with visual and/or multiple impairments. BCF seeks to increase global awareness regarding the need for early and continuing intervention services and to provide children, parents and professionals with information and resources for promoting the independence and dignity of children with disabilities.

Greater Detroit Agency for the Blind and Visually Impaired

16625 Grand River Avenue

Detroit, MI 48227

Phone: (313) 272-3900

Fax: (313) 272-6893

E-mail: information@gdabvi.org

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

Organization Type: General

Disabilities Served: Visual Impairment / Blind

The Greater Detroit Agency for the Blind and Visually Impaired (formerly Upshaw Institute for the Blind) primarily serves the seven southeast Michigan counties of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, Monroe, Livingston, and St. Clair. GDABVI is a non-profit organization which provides quality, innovative services that increase self-reliance, productivity and dignity for persons who are blind or visually impaired. The agency provides the following: rehabilitation instruction and services; speakers and information for schools, senior centers, and individuals about eyes, vision, blindness and its prevention; and support groups. Greater Detroit Agency for the Blind and Visually Impaired is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Certain services, such as rehabilitation teaching, are limited to the seven counties of southeast Michigan.

Henry Ford Center for Vision Rehabilitation & Research

The Vision Rehabilitation Program is offered in two convenient locations:

Henry Ford Medical Center - Livonia
29200 Schoolcraft Road
Livonia, MI 48150
(734) 523-1070

Henry Ford Eye Care Services - Grosse Pointe
15401 E. Jefferson Avenue
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230
(313) 824-2401

People with low vision – diminished eyesight that cannot be improved by corrective lenses, medical treatment or surgery – have another option.

The Henry Ford Center for Vision Rehabilitation & Research provides comprehensive rehabilitation to help people with macular degeneration and other low vision conditions make the most of their available eyesight. The program can also provide rehabilitation for patients with stroke-related vision loss.

The program offers the combined services of an ophthalmologist/certified low vision optometrist, who establishes the degree of vision loss, and an occupational therapist who tailors rehabilitation to an individual's needs, interests and visual capabilities.

Anyone whose vision is not good enough to accomplish their desired life activities may benefit from the Vision Rehabilitation Program. To schedule an initial evaluation, a report is requested from your primary care doctor including a diagnosis of the cause of visual loss. Full reports of your progress are communicated to your physician.

Leader Dogs for the Blind

1039 S. Rochester Rd.

Rochester Hills, MI 48307

- Email: leaderdog@leaderdog.org
- Phone: 248-651-9011
- Toll Free: 888-777-5332
- TTY: 248-651-3713

Leader Dogs for the Blind provides dog guides to people who are blind and visually impaired to enhance their mobility, independence and quality of life. Each year, over 270 students attend our 26-day residential training program to be paired with a dog guide. This is a life-changing event that opens the doors to independence, safety and self-worth for many of our students.

In addition to our dog guide program, we offer programs that enhance a person's independence and quality of life in other ways, including orientation and mobility training, Trekker training, and seminars for Orientation and Mobility professionals. Currently, Leader Dog is the only facility in the Western Hemisphere to teach Deaf-blind students to work with a dog guide.

Thanks to generous donations from our supporters, our dog guide services are provided free of charge, including room and board and travel to and from our campus in Rochester Hills, Michigan, for students living in North America.

MEE Inc.

5035 Geraldine Drive

Lansing, MI 48917

888-888-9533 (Toll free)

www.meewebsite.com E-mail: emailmee@comcast.net

MEE Inc. is a for-profit corporation, home-based in Lansing, Michigan. It is founded on the premise that blind and visually impaired people need choices and provides a showroom for more than a dozen manufacturers of adaptive equipment, either directly as a dealer or indirectly as a secondary re-seller.

Michigan Commission for the Blind

201 N. Washington, 2nd Floor; P.O. Box 30652

Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: (517) 373-2062 (517) 373-4025 (TTY)

Fax: (517) 335-5140

Website: http://www.michigan.gov/dleg/0,1607,7-154-28077_28313---,00.html

Organization Type: General

Disabilities Served: Visual Impairment / Blind

The Michigan Commission for the Blind is the state government agency that provides training, services, and other opportunities to individuals who are blind or visually impaired, so that each person can achieve his or her own goals for independence and/or employment. Each year, the Commission serves approximately 4,500 individuals who are blind or visually impaired, providing

services in all 83 counties of the state. The mission of the Michigan Commission for the Blind is to provide opportunity to individuals who are blind or visually impaired to achieve employability and/or function independently in society. They envision Michigan as a place where individuals with visual impairments can live, learn, work, raise a family, and enjoy life.

Michigan's Assistive Technology Resource (MATR)

1023 South U.S. 27

St. Johns, MI 48879-2424

Phone: (800) 274-7426 (989) 224-0333 TTY: (989) 224-0246

Fax: (989) 224-0330

E-mail: mits@edzone.net

Website: <http://www.cenmi.org/matr/>

Organization Type: Assistive Technology, Information Centers, State and Local Organizations

Disabilities Served: General / Non-disability Specific

The overall purpose of Michigan's Assistive Technology Resource (MATR) is to provide information services, support materials, technical assistance, and training to local and intermediate school districts in Michigan to increase their capacity to address the needs of students with disabilities for assistive technology.

The Michigan Loan Funds

3401 E. Saginaw, Suite 216

Lansing, MI 48912

Phone: 1-(800) 828-2714

Fax: (517) 203-1203

E-mail: info@michiganloanfunds.org

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

Contact Name: Carolyn Brown, Loan Fund Manager at UCP of Michigan

Organization Type: General

Disabilities Served: General / Non-disability Specific

The Michigan Loan Funds, run by UCP of Michigan, are two low-interest loan funds available to people with disabilities.

The Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund allows people with disabilities in the State of Michigan and their family members to obtain low-interest loans to purchase assistive technology. Examples include, but are not limited to: hearing aids, modified vehicles, wheelchairs, and scooters. Flexible loan terms are available and applicants can request loan amounts up to \$20,000.

The Michigan TeleWork Loan Fund allows people with disabilities in the State of Michigan, their family members, and in some cases, their employers to obtain low-interest loans to purchase any item or piece of equipment needed to work from home, a remote site, or from a telework center. This equipment does not have to be assistive technology. People with disabilities can either work from home for an employer or start their own home-based business. The maximum loan amount is \$20,000.

Vision and Sensory Center

4467 Byron Center Avenue
Wyoming, MI 49519

Phone: (616) 534-4953

E-mail: info@vscenter.com

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

Organization Type: General

Disabilities Served: Deaf / Blind, Hearing Impairments / Deaf, Visual Impairment / Blind

The Vision and Sensory Center serves children and adults in West Michigan. They offer therapy and assessments for people with sensory impairments. Their dedicated staff is constantly taking classes and trainings so that they may better serve their patients. The Vision and Sensory Center designs comprehensive treatment and strives to help each person calm, stimulate, and balance the whole body to operate more efficiently through a variety of complimentary therapies. They exist to provide understanding and knowledge to families who are willing to work with and appreciate the many personal functional differences.

Michigan Residents

The Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC) has established the Assistive Technology Loan Fund to help people with disabilities purchase assistive technology devices and services. The Loan Fund provides low-cost financing to persons with disabilities to purchase assistive technology devices that allow for greater access, enhanced communication and job opportunities. For more information please visit: <http://www.mi-atlf.org/>

Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (SBPH)

Michigan Library and Historical Center
702 West Kalamazoo St
PO Box 30007
Lansing, MI 48909-7507

The Michigan Network of Regional and Subregional Libraries serving people with visual and physical handicaps offers best-sellers, mysteries, westerns, biographies, how-to books and other types of materials found in a public library. The only difference is that the books are recorded on cassette or printed in braille and will arrive at your door through the regular U.S. postal service. Just like standard print books, these publications are unabridged (not condensed) and contain all of the information found in the print version - right down to the book jacket. And best of all, this service is FREE, there is not even a charge to mail materials to or from the library.

You do not need to be legally blind to use our services - if standard print has become difficult for you, a friend, or a family member, please call **1-800-992-9012**.

Schools and facilities that have eligible clients or patients are also welcome! We do 99% of our business through the mail, so you need never leave the comfort of your own home.

This program is made possible by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. See their Frequently Asked Questions for more information about this free, nation-wide program. For more information about the history of the

Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Michigan.

Programs for Children and Youth who are Blind or Visually Impaired or Deaf-Blind

Patrick Cannon, State Director
Michigan Commission for the Blind
Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth
201 N. Washington Square
P.O. Box 30652
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 373-2062
E-mail: cannonp@michigan.gov
Web: www.michigan.gov/mcb

The Michigan Commission for the Blind (MCB) was established on October 1, 1978. For more than 30 years, MCB has been "Changing Lives, Changing Attitudes" by providing services to people in Michigan who are blind or visually impaired. The mission of the Michigan Commission for the Blind (MCB) is to provide opportunity to individuals who are blind or visually impaired to achieve employability and/or function independently in society. The MCB vision is that someday it will be said that Michigan is a great place for blind people to live, learn, work, raise a family, and enjoy life because: 1. An excellent array of rehabilitation and education services are fully accessible to blind people, 2. Blind people in Michigan believe in themselves and their capacity to achieve excellence, 3. The state's general population believes in the abilities of blind people and understands what blindness is and what it is not, and 4. Michigan employers understand, believe in, and hire people who are blind. Read more information about MCB on this website or call 1-800-292-4200 (voice) or 1-888-864-1212 (TTY), both toll-free in Michigan.

Special Format Library

Susan Chinault, Librarian
Library of Michigan
Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
P.O. Box 30007
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 373-5614; (800) 992-9012; (517) 373-1592 (TTY)
E-mail: sbph@michigan.gov
Web: www.michigan.gov/sbph

That All May Read...

Braille and Talking Books for Students: A Primer for Schools and Parents

Books, players and magazines are also available for eligible students.

Playback Equipment and Accessories

Cassette players, as well as accessories such as headphones, are provided and repaired for all library patrons at no charge.

Order Books Online and Submit Book Requests

Order your books online using this form available twenty-four hours a day.

Book Services and Reader Advisors

There are a variety of service options tailored to each patron's personal tastes. You may call or send in book requests and have materials mailed to you, or you may come by the library to pick them up yourself.

Other Materials

Described Video Collection

Described videos are movies where the visual elements are narrated without interfering with the movie's dialogue or sound effects.

Magazine Collection Available Free of Charge to Registered Patrons

More than 70 magazines are available for no charge on cassette or in Braille.

Other Services

Braille & Recording Services

Our volunteer narrators are able to record materials on a first-come, first-serve basis for individual patrons including books, personal materials, and instruction manuals.

Adaptive Technology Center

Looking for information about adaptive technology?

Sources of Custom-Produced Books

Bloomfield Hills

Temple Beth El Braille Bindery

7400 Telegraph Road

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

(248) 851-1100

Chairperson: Laurel Epstein

4608 Maura Lane

West Bloomfield, MI 48323

(248) 851-7328

Chairperson: Lee Ann Salle

5550 Woodland Court

West Bloomfield, MI 48322

(248) 661-0335

Cochairperson: Irene Goldman-Sawyer

5145 Chestershire Circle

West Bloomfield, MI 48322

(248) 788-0358

Braille: spiral binding for any braille received

Farmington Hills

*Adat Shalom Synagogue
Tricounty Braille Transcribers
Braille chairperson: Sheri Biederman
35037 Quaker Way
Farmington Hills, MI 48331
(248) 559-7112*

Flint

*Visually Impaired Center
725 Mason Street
Flint, MI 48503
(810) 235-2544
Executive director: Sharon Reigle*

Braille : literary; computer-produced; software (Braille Talk); embosser (TSI)

Recording: general; cassette masters; 2-track cassette duplication

Other Information: accepts assignments from Genesee, Lapeer, and Shiawassee counties of Michigan only

Grand Rapids

*Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired
215 Sheldon SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 458-1187
(800) 466-8084
(616) 458-7113 fax
Coordinator: Jeanne Koehler*

Braille: literary, textbooks; thermoforming; spiral binding; computer-produced; software (Duxbury); large-print reading material

Jackson

*Michigan Braille Transcribing Fund
3500 North Elm Road
Jackson, MI 49201*

(517) 780-5096

Director: Francelia Wonders

Braille: literary, math, textbooks, computer notation, foreign languages; tactile drawings and maps; thermoforming; spiral binding; computer-produced; software (Ed-It, Duxbury, Edgar, BEX); embosser (Bookmaker)

Other Information: sponsors transcribing classes, maintains book-master collection

Kalamazoo

Services for the Visually Handicapped

1819 East Milham Road

Kalamazoo, MI 49002

(616) 385-1524

Chairperson: Marge Burk

(616) 385-1524

Braille: literary, math, textbooks; thermoforming; spiral binding; embossing

Recording: general, textbooks; cassette masters

Other Information: maintains book-master collection, provides title list

Kentwood

Helping Hands Braille Ministries

P.O. Box 8298

Kentwood, MI 49518

(616) 827-8270

Chairperson: John Hemphill

Braille: literary, specialize in Christian literature, textbooks; spiral binding; computer-produced; software (Duxbury); embosser (Index Basic D, Index Everest)

Other Information: sponsors transcribing classes; maintains book-master collection

Lansing

Library of Michigan

Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

717 West Allegan Street

Lansing, MI 48909

(517) 373-7133

Chairperson: Desire Kelly-Kato

Recording: general, math, textbooks, computer science; open-reel masters; cassette masters; 4-track cassette duplication

Other Information: maintains book-master collection, and contracts with braille book bindery for preparing braille materials

Lewiston

Michigan Association of Transcribers for the Visually Impaired

913 County Road 612

Lewiston, MI 49756

(517) 786-5311 voice/fax

Office manager: CaraLynn Pender

Braille: music, textbooks; thermoforming; spiral binding; computer-produced; software (Duxbury, MicroBraille, Pokadot)

Other Information: sponsors transcribing classes

Livonia

Nardin Park Braille Transcribers

16536 Fairway

Livonia, MI 48154

(734) 464-9507

President: Nancy Doute

Chairperson: Mrs. Helen Thomas

29654 Club House Lane

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 626-5244

Braille: literary, math, textbooks, computer notation, French, German, Spanish; tactile drawings and maps; thermoforming; spiral binding; computer-produced; software (Pokadot, Duxbury)

Braille chairperson: Mrs. Fran Hoetger

23043 Farmington Road

Farmington, MI 48336-3919

(248) 476-4973

Large-print chairperson: Mrs. Helen Smith

29630 Gilcrest

Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 626-6458

Other Information: accepts assignments outside state if time permits, sponsors transcribing classes, maintains braille master repository and computer disk repository for textbooks only

Mt. Pleasant

Onlooker Transcribing Group
421 South Fancher
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
(517) 772-1745
Chairperson: Barbara Sheperdigian
76574.3660@compuserve.com

Braille: literary, math, music, textbooks, computer notation; computer-produced software (Ed-It PC, Pokadot, MicroBraille)

Math chairperson: Virginia Fischer
2364 East Mount Hope Road
Okemos, MI 48864
(517) 349-3471

Oak Park

Sisterhood Congregation Beth Shalom
14601 West Lincoln
Oak Park, MI 48237
(248) 547-7970
Chairperson: Fay Isackson (Mrs. Charles N.)
27362 Strawberry, Apt. 103
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 476-8663

Braille: literary, textbooks, Hebrew

Other Information: sponsors transcribing classes

Sisterhood of Temple Emanu El
14450 West Ten Mile Road
Oak Park, MI 48237

(248) 967-4020

Chairperson: Shirley Mann (Mrs. Sidney B.)

(248) 960-8210

6081 Silverbrooke West

West Bloomfield, MI 48322

Braille: literary, textbooks

Southfield

Readings for the Blind, Inc.

29451 Greenfield Road, Suite 216

Southfield, MI 48076-2294

(248) 557-7776

Director: Emily McSweeney

Recording: literary, math, textbooks, computer science, owner's manuals, cookbooks; cassette and open-reel duplication; 2-track and 4-track cassette and open-reel duplication

Other Information: maintains book-master collection

Tri-County Braille Volunteers

17889 Bonstelle

Southfield, MI 48075

(248) 559-7112

Chairperson: Emily Buchman

Braille: literary, math, music, textbooks, French, German, Hebrew, Swahili; tactile drawings; thermoforming; spiral and velo-binding; computer-produced

Other Information: sponsors transcribing classes

St. Helen

Richfield Library Braille Volunteers

1681 North Kennedy Drive

St. Helen, MI 48656

(517) 389-4582

Chairperson: Helen Nelson

Box 253

St. Helen, MI 48656

(517) 389-4958

Braille: literary, textbooks, computer notation; tactile drawings and maps; computer-produced

Other Information: sponsors transcribing classes

St. Johns

Michigan Assistive Technology Resource

1023 South U.S. 27

St. Johns, MI 48879

(517) 224-0333

(517) 224-0330 fax

tomblair@mutch.org

Production processor: Janet Keefer

Braille: literary, textbooks, reference; computer-produced; software (Duxbury); embosser (Thiel); spiral binding

Large print: all materials; photocopy; color or black/white; spiral and perfect binding

Other Information: nonprofit, fee for service; maintains book-master collection

Troy

RFB&D Recording Studio

5600 Rochester Road

Troy, MI 48098

(248) 879-0101

(248) 879-9927 fax

Chairperson: J.G. Frauenheim, Ph.D.

(248) 691-4744 (w)

Executive director: Carla Reeb

Studio director: Don Haffner

Recording: educational texts for students in kindergarten through postgraduate studies; 4-track cassette duplication

Other Information: see [NJ-6](#) for national headquarters and more details

Volunteer Braille Transcribing Group

c/o Mrs. Carol Graville

5340 Abington Drive

Troy, MI 48098

(248) 689-7699

Chairperson: Mrs. Fran VanAllen

845 East Long Lake Road

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

(810) 647-1191

Assignment chairperson: Mrs. Carol Gravelle

5340 Abington Drive

Troy, MI 48098

(248) 689-7699

Braille: literary, textbooks, French, Latin, Spanish