

MINNESOTA

Blind/Visual Impairment Resources



Minnesota Blind/Visual Impairment Resources

AbleNet, Inc.

2808 Fairview Ave. North

Roseville, MN 55113-1308

Phone: (800) 322-0956 (651) 294-2200

Fax: (651) 294-2259

E-mail: customerservice@ablenetinc.com

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

Organization Type: Assistive Technology, Private Sector Companies

Disabilities Served: General / Non-disability Specific

AbleNet offers products and possible solutions for teaching children with disabilities. AbleNet products help empower teachers and students with disabilities so students can develop skills, build literacy, foster independence and encourage participation.

Assistive Technology of Minnesota

1800 Pioneer Creek Center, Box 310

Maple Plain, MN 55359

Phone: (763) 479-8239 (866) 535-8239

E-mail: info@atmn.org

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

Contact Name: Carol Fury

Organization Type: Assistive Technology, State and Local Organizations

Disabilities Served: General / Non-disability Specific

Assistive Technology of Minnesota works to ensure that people with disabilities will have an established voice in the nonprofit community focused on assistive technology devices and services.

Blind, Inc.

100 East 22nd Street

Minneapolis, MN 55404

Phone: (612) 872-0100 1-(800) 597-9558

Fax: (612) 872-9358

E-mail: info@blindinc.org

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

Contact Name: Shawn Mayo, Executive Director

Organization Type: Disability/Disorder Specific, Independent and Community Living

Disabilities Served: Deaf / Blind, Visual Impairment / Blind

BLIND, Incorporated is an adjustment to blindness training center. They teach the skills that blind people need to become independent and employable such as braille, home management, the use of the white cane, and computers with screen reading software, etc. They instill in their students the confidence to put these skills into practice. Blind, Inc. utilizes the positive view of blindness of the National Federation of the Blind. They work from the premise that blindness doesn't have to be a

tragedy. We know that, if given training and opportunity, blind people can live full and productive lives.

Children's Therapy Center, Inc.

2795 Pilot Knob Road, #100

Eagan, MN 55121

Phone: (651) 994-9644 (952) 997-2823

E-mail: sue@childrenstherapyctr.com

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

Organization Type: General

Disabilities Served: Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Communication and Speech, Deaf / Blind, Developmental Disabilities, Hearing Impairments / Deaf, Mental Health Impairments, Mobility Impaired, Spina Bifida, Visual Impairment / Blind

Children's Therapy Center, Inc. serves children with disabilities and their families. They believe that child deserves the opportunity to reach their fullest potential. They provide speech, occupational, and physical therapy services in a special outpatient clinic designed to treat children. Their therapists provide comprehensive therapy using a variety of techniques that are meant to improve the child's success with communication, peer activities, fine/gross motor, and self help skills. The therapy program that the child receives is tailored by the therapists to meet their unique needs. Children's Therapy Center, Inc. offers services to children who demonstrate a need for speech, occupational, and physical therapy. Their clinic specializes in treating children ages birth through eighteen years with a variety of disabilities, including developmental motor or speech delays, sensory defensiveness/sensory processing disorders, Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, ADD, Autism, children with hearing loss, post-cochlear implant rehabilitation, articulation deficits, and others.

Deaf/Blind Services Minnesota

1936 Lyndale Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55403

Phone: (612) 362-8454 (TTY) 612-362-8422

Fax: (612) 362-8437

E-mail: inform@dbsm.org

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

Organization Type: Disability/Disorder Specific, State and Local Organizations

Disabilities Served: Deaf / Blind

DeafBlind Services Minnesota provides services through three main programs: Adult Rehabilitation Services; Children, Youth and Family Services; and Adult Community Services. These programs and services are designed to assist deafblind individuals of all ages and all ability levels to achieve their highest level of independence. Because each deafblind individual has different needs, all services are provided on a one-to-one basis.

Midwest Center for Postsecondary Outreach

235 Marshall Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55102

Phone: (651) 846-1601 (651) 846-1602 (TTY)

Fax: (651) 221-1339

E-mail: koko@mcpo.org

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

Organization Type: Assistive Technology, State and Local Agencies

Disabilities Served: Deaf / Blind, Hearing Impairments / Deaf

The Midwest Center for Postsecondary Outreach (MCPO) promotes increased access and availability of postsecondary education for Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons in the Midwest. MCPO has three objectives: 1. To improve postsecondary access and transition opportunities for individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. 2. To expand the knowledge and skill of postsecondary institutions related to the provision of educational support services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students. 3. To increase the postsecondary enrollment, retention, graduation and employment rates of students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. MCPO also offers technical assistance for those who need it.

Minnesota-based Sight & Hearing Association

674 Transfer Road

St. Paul, MN 55114-1402

Phone: 1-(800) 992-0424 (651) 645-2546

Fax: (651) 645-2742

E-mail: mail@sightandhearing.org

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

Contact Name: Kathy Webb, Executive Director

Organization Type: Information Centers, State and Local Organizations

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

The mission of the Minnesota-based Sight and Hearing Association is to prevent the needless loss of vision and hearing through the development of effective screening, education and research programs. This Association was founded in 1939 as the Minnesota Society for the Prevention of Blindness. They later merged with the Pre-School Medical Survey of Vision and Hearing in order to further their mission.

Minnesota DeafBlind Association

1821 University Avenue West; Suite S-117

St. Paul, MN 55104

Phone: (651) 647-6564

E-mail: mdba@visi.com

Website: <http://www.deafvision.net/mdba/>

Organization Type: Advocacy and Law, Information Centers, Parent/Family Support, State and Local Organizations

Disabilities Served: Deaf / Blind

The Minnesota DeafBlind Association, since its inception in 1979, has been committed to providing information, education, advocacy and other services to persons who are DeafBlind, their family members, parents of deafblind children, allies and professionals. By providing programs and services geared toward increasing self-reliance, MDBA has been key in assisting people who are DeafBlind and their families regaining and maintaining personal independence and healthy interdependence. MDBA also serves a source for information to the public about DeafBlindness and related issues.

Minnesota Deaf/Blind Technical Assistance Project

4001 Stinson Blvd., Suite 210

Minneapolis, MN 55421

Phone: (612) 638-1525 (612) 706-0808 (800) 848-4905

Fax: (612) 706-0811

E-mail: mndb@skypoint.com

Website: <http://www.dbproject.mn.org/>

Contact Name: Eric Kloos, Project Director

Organization Type: General

Disabilities Served: Deaf / Blind

The Minnesota Deaf/Blind Technical Assistance Project provides free technical assistance to families, educational teams and service providers of children birth through the year of their 21st birthday if the children have a combined vision and hearing loss or are highly suspected of having both vision and hearing loss. If qualified to receive the services, they help they may receive could include personalized on-site consultation, in-service trainings, workshops, program development, and family support services. Services may be requested by families of children and youth who are Deaf/Blind, school personnel and agencies providing services to children and youth who are Deaf/Blind.

Minnesota Department of Education: Assistive Technology

1500 Highway 36W

Roseville, MN 55113

Phone: 651-582-1599

E-mail: kursten.dubbels@state.mn.us

Website: <http://cfl.state.mn.us/>

Contact Name: Kursten Dubbels

Organization Type: Assistive Technology, Information Centers, Parent/Family Support, State and Local Agencies

Disabilities Served: General / Non-disability Specific

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) supports a variety of Assistive Technology (AT) initiatives designed to help ensure students with disabilities have access to appropriate assistive technology and receive a free, appropriate public education. Assistive technology can be as simple as a pencil grip or as complex as a voice-activated computer. AT initiatives include promoting professional development, information dissemination and technical assistance. AT resources (links at right) include the assistive technology listserv, an assistive technology manual, monthly articles about new assistive technology, information on the Statewide Assistive Technology Leadership Team and a current research synopsis.

Minnesota Resource Center: Blind/Visually Impaired

615 Olof Hanson Drive

Faribault, MN 55021

Phone: (507) 332-5510

Fax: (507) 332-5494

E-mail: jean.martin@state.mn.us

Website:

http://education.state.mn.us/mde/Learning_Support/Special_Education/Categorical_Disability_Information/Visually_Impaired/index.html

Contact Name: Jean Martin, Director of Blind/Visually Impaired

Organization Type: Disability/Disorder Specific, State and Local Organizations

Disabilities Served: Deaf / Blind, Visual Impairment / Blind

We are a statewide technical assistance resource addressing special education and services for students who are blind or visually impaired.

Minnesota State Academy for the Blind (MSAB)

400 SE 6th Ave
Faribault, MN 55021
Ph:800-657-3634

For over 140 years, the Minnesota State Academy for the Blind (MSAB) has provided educational services to blind/visually impaired students who range in age from newborn to 21. MSAB is a statewide public school with dormitory facilities that provides 24 hour programming to students who come from all regions of the state, and who often have additional disabilities.

Minnesota State Services for the Blind - St. Paul

2200 University Ave, West #240
St. Paul, MN 55114
Phone: (651) 642-0500; 1-888-665-3276 (Toll-free in MN)
Fax: (651) 649-5927
E-mail: Richard.Davis@state.mn.us
Website: <http://www.mnssb.org/index.htm>
Contact Name: Richard Davis
Organization Type: State and Local Agencies
Disabilities Served: Deaf / Blind, Visual Impairment / Blind

State Services for the Blind (SSB) is a branch within the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. It is funded by Federal, State and private dollars. SSB believes that blindness should never stop people from obtaining jobs, participating in training, or in any activities which reflect their potential and interests.

Serotek

Corporate Headquarters
1128 Harmon Place, Suite 310
Minneapolis, MN 55403
866-202-0520
612-659-0760 (Fax)

www.serotek.com

E-mail: info@serotek.com

Serotek's mission is to provide accessibility anywhere for blind and visually impaired people around the globe by developing innovative, affordable, and easy-to-use technology access products and utilizing Universal Design principles. [SeroTalk](#) [3] is a podcast and interactive blog on the accessible digital lifestyle, produced by Serotek.

Product categories include:

- Software Solutions
- Enterprise Solutions
- Hardware Solutions
- Training Solutions

The Low Vision Store

2200 University Avenue West, Suite 200

Saint Paul, MN 55114

800-871-8780 (Toll free)

651-203-2200

651-203-2203 (Fax)

www.thelowvisioncenter.com E-mail: lowvisionstore@yahoo.com

The Low Vision Store carries a full line of daily living products and reading machines for people who are blind or have low vision. They cover the five-state area of North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa and will do free in-house demonstrations for all reading machines.

Vision Loss Resources

1936 Lyndale Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55403

info@vlrw.org

612-871-2222

In partnering with Deaf/Blind Services Minnesota (DBSM), Vision Loss Resources provides assistance to deaf/blind individuals of all ages and all abilities to achieve their highest level of independence and self-sufficiency. Because each deaf/blind individual has unique needs, challenges and abilities, services are primarily provided on a one-to-one basis and customized to that person's needs.

Children, Youth and Family Services provides support, information, referral, training and advocacy to parents of deaf/blind children in Minnesota. The program works closely with parents & families, school systems and other service providers to assist in coordinating necessary services to deaf/blind children (through age 21) and their families.

The Adult Community Services department coordinates community-wide social/recreational events annually for the adult deaf/blind community. Appropriate supports and communication access are provided, as well as transportation when events are outside of the Metro area or lack transportation such as city bus or Metro Mobility.

ACS also coordinates a program. to assist adults with errands (e.g., grocery shopping, banking), activities of daily living (e.g., reading mail, assisting with bill paying activities, household care), access to information and environment, mobility via sighted guide and community integration.

DBSM has a full-time instructor on staff that provides assessment and training to deaf/blind individuals in areas of orientation & mobility, travel/use of transportation resources, independent living skills, adaptive devices/equipment, low vision techniques and Braille.

Volunteer Braille Services

1710 Douglas Drive
Golden Valley MN 55422
763-544-2880
Email: vbsbrl@aol.com

The mission of VBS is to train and support volunteer braille transcribers, improving the accuracy and effectiveness of their braille transcriptions through continuing education, and to provide transcribed materials for braille readers.

Volunteer Braille Services was incorporated in 1968 for the purpose of training sighted volunteers to transcribe print into braille. We are a chartered non-profit 501c3 organization in the state of Minnesota.

- *Looking to get involved?* We are always looking for volunteers to train as certified Braille transcribers.
- *Need materials brailled?* We will Braille textbooks, math, library, and foreign language materials.
- *Looking for something to read?* Check out our Very Bumpy Stories, a print/Braille and bound volume library for visually impaired children and young adults.

Sources of Custom-Produced Books

Duluth

Temple Israel
1602 East Second Street
Duluth, MN 55812
(218) 724-8857

Recording: textbooks; open-reel masters

Other Information: accepts no assignments outside state

New Brighton

Pathways International
1600 Silver Lake Road
New Brighton, MN 55112
(651) 628-0949
Chairperson:
Jim Lipscomb
4245 Beard Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55410

Braille: literary, textbook, religious literature for Reformed Christian Church; small tactile items; spiral binding; computer-produced software (Edgar, Duxbury); embosser (VersaPoint, MBOSS-1)

Robbinsdale

Volunteer Braille Services
4139 Regent Avenue North, #215
Robbinsdale, MN 55422
(763) 971-5231
Coordinator and format advisor:
Jean Zolik
7001 Hill Place
Crystal, MN 55427
(612) 533-7034

Braille: literary, math, textbooks, Finnish; spiral binding; computer-produced; software (MicroBraille); embosser (MBOSS-1, VersaPoint)

Large print: general, textbooks, menus; spiral binding; photocopying

Other Information: sponsors transcribing classes; maintains "Very Bumpy Stories" library; book-master collection

St. Paul

State Services for the Blind
2200 University Avenue West, #240
St. Paul, MN 55114-1840
(651) 642-0500
Director:
David Andrews

Braille: literary, math, music, textbooks, computer notation, French, German, Russian, Spanish; tactile drawings and maps, graphs, charts; thermoforming; spiral binding; computer-produced; software (MicroBraille, MegaDots)

Braille chairperson:

Mary Archer

(651) 642-0852

Recording: general, math, psychological, sciences, biblical literature, foreign languages, music, art, computer science, newsletters, journals; 2-track cassette duplication *Recording chairperson:*

Ellie Sevdý

(651) 642-0849

Other Information: fees required for requests made from outside the state