

# NORTH CAROLINA

Blind/Visual Impairment

Resources



# North Carolina Blind/Visual Impairment Resources

## Generations-Tadpole - Assistive Technology Lending Library

205-G West E Street

Butner, NC 27509-1933

**Phone:** (919) 575-3093

**Fax:** (919) 575-3095

**E-mail:** [write@tadpole.org](mailto:write@tadpole.org)

**Website:** <http://www.tadpole.org/>

**Contact Name:** Michelle Ross, AT Coordinator

**Organization Type:** General

**Disabilities Served:** Developmental Disabilities

The Tadpole Lending Library was established by Rehab Therapy, Inc., a private rehabilitation agency that serves the therapeutic needs of individuals with disabilities and children with special needs. The Lending Library has since expanded and is now known as Generations Tadpole. They serve individuals of all ages with developmental disabilities. Generations Tadpole lends and delivers low-tech assistive technology devices and toys free to families and professionals all across North Carolina.

## THE GOVERNOR MOREHEAD SCHOOL

303 Ashe Avenue

Raleigh, NC 27606

Phone: 919-733-6192

### Governor Morehead School Instructional Services

The instructional program at the Governor Morehead School serves students from 5 to 21 years of age. Our curriculum comes from the North Carolina state standards and eligible students earn either a diploma or certificate at graduation. Our program focuses on both academics and functional instruction in order to meet the educational needs of students with varying cognitive abilities.

The diploma pathways, or standard course of study path, focus on either college or vocational preparation for students; while the certificate pathway, or life skills program, emphasis is on functional skills and community based instruction.

Students at GMS receive instruction from certified teachers of the visually impaired who are knowledgeable about the unique learning experiences specific to students with visual loss. Students have access to current materials and text, ample community experiences, and the most recent technologies in order to assist them with having greater access to the world.

### Governor Morehead School Outreach Program

The Governor Morehead School Outreach Program assists North Carolina's Local Education Agencies (LEAs) by serving visually impaired students enrolled in local schools. The Outreach Program is the result of a collaborative effort between the North Carolina State Department of

Public Instruction (NCS DPI) and the Governor Morehead School (GMS) to provide appropriate educational opportunities to each student with a visual impairment and support to services provides. The Outreach Program provides a flexible service delivery model designed to meet the needs of the student's school system and family members. Outreach staff travel to the school to provide services, assessments and staff training.

Additionally, the Outreach Program offers Expanded Core Curriculum Short-Term sessions. These sessions are one week in length, held monthly on the campus of GMS, and serve academic students throughout NC who can benefit from a short period of intensive instruction in some area of the expanded core curriculum for students with visual impairments. Short-term teachers instruct students in disability-specific skills to facilitate success in the regular classroom and provide individualized instruction to meet specific learning needs of academic students. Referrals to short-term may come through the outreach teacher or through the local teacher of the visually impaired.

### **North Carolina Assistive Technology Project**

1110 Navaho Drive, Suite 101

Raleigh, NC 27609

**Phone:** (919) 850-2787

**Fax:** (919) 850-2792

**E-mail:** [jmedlicott@ncatp.org](mailto:jmedlicott@ncatp.org)

**Website:** <http://www.ncatp.org/>

**Contact Name:** Ja Medlicott, AT Consultant

**Organization Type:** Assistive Technology, State and Local Organizations

**Disabilities Served:** General / Non-disability Specific

The North Carolina Assistive Technology Program (NCATP) is a state and federally funded program that provides statewide assistive technology services to people of all ages and abilities. NCATP strives to promote the awareness of various types of assistive technology; To educate and empower people regarding their rights to assistive technology accommodations; To share assistive technology resources with professionals, consumers, agencies, businesses, families and friends; and To help People understand how assistive technology can improve an individual's quality of life.

### **North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NCLBPH)**

Department of Cultural Resources

State Library of North Carolina

Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

1841 Capital Boulevard

Raleigh, North Carolina 27635

VOICE: (919) 733-4376 (Raleigh area residents)

Toll-Free: 1-888-388-2460 (Nationwide)

TDD: (919) 733-1462

FAX: (919) 733-6910

E-MAIL: [nclbph@ncdcr.gov](mailto:nclbph@ncdcr.gov)

The North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NCLBPH) is a special public library that circulates books and magazines especially made for persons who cannot use regular printed material because of a visual or physical disability. The library is located in Raleigh, but mails materials throughout the state. The NCLBPH is a state agency operated by the **State Library of North Carolina** as a part of the **Department of Cultural Resources**. It is also a part of the network of regional libraries operated by the **Library of Congress National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped** (NLS).

The NCLBPH offers a wide range of books and **magazines**. The same book and magazine titles found most other public libraries are available for loan. Materials are in large print, braille, or audio formats. The audio materials are either cassette tapes or digital cartridges. Patrons may read one or more formats of their choice. The cassette tapes are recorded at slower speed than commercially available tapes. Thus, the library also loans specially designed cassette players to patrons who request tape service. Special accessories for the cassette players, such as remote controls, breathe switches, and extension levers, are available to those who need them to use the players. Amplifiers are also available; however, require a separate application signed by a doctor that goes to the National Library Service to be filled. The NCLBPH repairs, at no cost, the tape and digital machines loaned to patrons. A toll-free telephone line for use throughout North Carolina is also offered for book requests, quick service and to answer any questions you might have about the service (1-888-388-2460). The Friends of the NCLBPH's library newsletter, **Tar Heel Talk**, is provided quarterly to patrons and is available in all formats.

A **Descriptive Video Service (DVS)** is available to active patrons for a fee as an added feature of our service. DVS presents a descriptive audio track that describes the spoken detail of movies. Currently this is available in VHS tape with a plan to convert to DVD.

## **North Carolina Division of Services for the Blind**

309 ASHE AVENUE – FISHER BUILDING  
Mail: 2601 MAIL SERVICE CENTER  
RALEIGH NC 27699-2601

Telephone: (919) 733-9822  
1-866-222-1546  
FAX: (919) 733-9769

The mission of the North Carolina Division of Services for the Blind has been to enable people who are blind or visually impaired to reach their goals of independence and employment.

### **Adjustment to Vision Loss Training**

- When vision decreases, adjustments will be needed at home and at work. Our training in areas such as cooking and other activities, use of adaptive aids, safe travel instruction, communication skills, and technology can help you and your family in making this adjustment. Please contact a Social Worker for the Blind in your area.

### **Rehabilitation Center for the Blind**

- After a substantial visual loss, many people will need a comprehensive adjustment program to develop personal and vocational skills to live and work independently.

- The Rehabilitation Center for the Blind, located on the campus of The Governor Morehead School in Raleigh, North Carolina, provides such a program. If these services are required, you will want to know what to expect from such a program. The Rehabilitation Center provides a residential program for its participants. Students live in dormitories on campus with meals provided by the campus cafeteria. Around the clock staffing is provided to work with participants and handle any special needs. Each student will work on personal and work goals developed jointly by the student and the rehabilitation staff. Classes are small with students receiving a considerable amount of individual attention.

### **Safe Travel Training (Orientation and Mobility)**

- We provide instruction in all aspects of safe travel through our Orientation and Mobility Instructors. Skills can be taught in the use of a sighted guide, white cane, public transportation, and environmental cues and directions.
  - We do not train dog guides nor do we train people to use dogs. However, we can assist with orientation to routes if a dog guide has been obtained.

### **Assistive Technology Training**

- In addition to basic keyboarding and computer training, we provide training in the use of various types of assistive technology that can enable you to have access to print information.
  - Examples of assistive technology include speech output software, large print software, Braille display devices, scanners, and Braille printers.

### **College/University Training**

- If you need college or university training in order to get or keep a job, one of our Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors may be able to assist you. Training may be provided if necessary to meet your work goal.

### **Vocational Training**

- If you need training through a community college, technical school, business or trade school to get or keep a job, one of our Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors may be able to assist you.

### **On the Job Training**

- We can assist you with training on a job (OJT) while you learn skills and gain the knowledge necessary to fully and adequately perform the required duties.

### **Supported Employment / Job Coaching**

- Sometimes a job can be learned best by having a one-on-one instructor or job coach. Through our Supported Employment Service we can provide short-term job coaching and ongoing follow-up.

### **Food Service/Vending Training**

- We provide training to legally blind people who are interested in working in food service or vending through our Business Enterprises Program. After successfully completing training provided by the Division, an individual may compete to operate one of the food

or vending facilities under contract with the Division. Facilities are located across the State on federal, state, county, and private property.

## **OCUTECH Inc.**

109 Conner Drive, #2105  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
800-326-6460 (Toll free)  
919-967-6460  
919-967-8146 (Fax)  
[www.ocutech.com](http://www.ocutech.com) [  
E-mail: [info@ocutech.com](mailto:info@ocutech.com)

Ocutech is the developer and manufacturer of VES® low vision telescopic aids, including the VES® AutoFocus, which focuses automatically and provides natural, hands-free magnification.

Ocutech devices were developed and tested with grants from the National Institutes of Health and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB). Ocutech's VES Systems are used by people with macular degeneration (AMD), diabetic retinopathy, albinism, high myopia, nystagmus, coloboma, optic atrophy, achromatopsia and similar eye diseases where ability to see detail is lost.

## **Partnerships in Assistive Technology**

1110 Navaho Drive; Suite 100  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
**Phone:** (919) 872-2298  
**Fax:** (919) 872-2294  
**E-mail:** [assist@pat.org](mailto:assist@pat.org)  
**Website:** <http://www.pat.org/>  
**Organization Type:** Assistive Technology, State and Local Organizations  
**Disabilities Served:** General / Non-disability Specific

The Partnerships in Assistive Technology's (PAT) mission is to increase knowledge about the access to assistive technology and information technology for North Carolinians with disabilities. Their AT Exchange Post is available online and allows North Carolinians to either list AT devices for sale or post AT devices they may need. PAT also holds an annual AT Expo that allows people to see various AT devices.

## **Sources of Custom-Produced Books**

Asheville

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*Blue Ridge Brailers*  
*Attention: Carolyn Shorkey*  
*Buncombe County Schools*  
*175 Bingham Road*  
*Asheville, NC 28806-3800*  
*(828) 255-5989*

*Chairperson: Mrs. Helen Hickling*  
87 Westview Court  
Fletcher, NC 28732  
(828) 684-5263

*Braille:* literary, textbooks; tactile drawings and maps; thermoforming; spiral binding; computer-produced; software (Duxbury, Pokadot); embosser (Romeo RB40)

*Other Information:* maintains book-master collection on disks

## Charlotte

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*Metrolina Association for the Blind*  
704 Louise Avenue  
Charlotte, NC 28204  
(704) 372-3870  
(800) 926-5466  
(704) 372-3872 fax  
*Chairperson: Mary Klattenhoff*

*Braille:* general, math, textbooks, computer notation, French, Latin, Spanish; tactile drawings and maps; thermoforming; spiral binding; computer-produced; software (Hot Dots); embosser (Thiel, Beta 3X)

*Large print:* general, math, textbooks, foreign languages; thermo binding; by photoenlarging; computer-generated

*Other Information:* sponsors transcribing classes, maintains book-master collection, provides title list

## Fairview

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*S.A. Mooney*  
30 Fox Run Drive  
Fairview, NC 28730  
(828) 628-4434  
*Director: Susan Mooney*

*Braille:* literary, textbooks, tests/exams for statewide use, and natural childbirth and breast-feeding information; spiral binding; computer-produced

*Other Information:* commercial, fee for service and material exchange

## Raleigh

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North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically  
Handicapped  
1811 Capital Boulevard  
Raleigh, NC 27635  
(919) 733-4376  
Special projects librarian: Gary Ray

*Braille:* literary; tactile drawings; thermoforming  
*Braille chairperson:* Debbie Barnes

*Recording:* general; open-reel masters; 4-track cassette duplication  
*Recording chairperson:* Wanda Winstead

## Smyrna

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*Alice H. Price*  
*P.O. Box 7*  
*Smyrna, NC 28579*  
*(252) 729-9411*

*Braille:* literary, math, textbooks, computer notation