



Mission Statement

Associated Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired (ASB), a private, non-profit organization, promotes self-esteem, independence, and self determination in people who are blind or visually impaired. ASB accomplishes this by providing support through education, training and resources, as well as through community action and public education, serving as a voice and advocate for the rights of all people who are blind and visually impaired.

History

ASB provides a full spectrum of rehabilitation and life skills education from computer training to hands-on gardening, Latino outreach, and support groups. ASB also operates a 24-hour a day/7 day a week radio reading service, provides monthly recordings of over two dozen popular magazines, and produces approximately nine million pages of braille per year. With roots dating back to 1874, ASB is the largest non-profit organization in Southeastern Pennsylvania serving people who are blind or visually impaired. Visit us online at www.asb.org.

Rehabilitative Training and Education

ASB's Human Services Department provides critical training and services to blind and visually impaired individuals, through our Rehabilitative and Specialized Services programs. Students learn everything from how to safely travel in the city using tools such as a white cane or optical scope, to communicating effectively without the benefit of sight. Another important service which ASB has developed is our Latino Outreach program, in which our bilingual staff person, works with the growing number of local Spanish-speaking people who have lost their vision to diabetes, glaucoma and other diseases effecting sight.

Computer Technology Center

ASB's Computer Technology Center is on pace with the rapidly developing advances in technology geared specifically toward persons with vision loss. Using up-to-date equipment, center staff teach how to use computers along with appropriate assistive technology such as screen readers or screen magnification software. Source information can be spreadsheets, word processors, e-mail packages or Web browsers. Center courses are adapted to the needs of novices to experts.

Braille Production

ASB's Braille Division has been providing quality braille since 1929. Today, we are one of the five largest producers of braille in the nation. With the use of modern Braille presses, trained staff, and dedicated volunteers, ASB's Braille Division brailles and proofreads over 82,000 master braille pages, and presses, collates and binds over 9,000,000 braille pages of library books, magazines, textbooks, brochures, manuals, newsletters, insurance forms, job-related materials, and statements for banks and utilities each year. ASB also produces braille on a per-customer, on-demand basis for entities such as school districts so students throughout the nation, in elementary school through college, can be guaranteed a high-quality education in mainstream learning settings.

Recorded Periodicals

ASB's Recording Department produces audiotapes of books and magazines (which are offered by subscription) to translate printed information into a usable format for people who are blind or visually impaired. ASB has been providing audio recordings for people who are blind or visually impaired since the 1940's. Today, subscribers hear such periodicals as Harvard Men's Health Watch, Popular Mechanics, Smithsonian Magazine and Forbes.

Radio Information Center for the Blind (RICB)

In ASB's Radio Information Center (RICB), local daily and weekly newspapers are read by volunteers to thousands of people who are blind, visually impaired, or unable to read print throughout the Delaware Valley. In addition to newspapers, listeners also hear general interest programming tailored to their needs around topics as diverse as healthy living, gardening and fashion. The station airs these programs seven days a week, 24 hours each day.