



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

Live the life you want.



2014 ANNUAL REPORT



What We Believe

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people, because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams. You can live the life you want; blindness is not what holds you back.

Who We Are

The National Federation of the Blind is the largest organization of blind and low-vision people in the United States. Founded in 1940 by sixteen individuals from seven states, the Federation now has tens of thousands of members and consists of affiliates and local chapters in every state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Members gather in chapter meetings each month, and there are state conventions of Federation affiliates every year. All affiliates are represented at an annual national convention, which typically draws between twenty-five hundred and three thousand delegates. We also do our work through special interest divisions and committees. Blind teachers, blind lawyers, blind entrepreneurs, blind students, blind clerics, blind engineers, blind people in the social sciences, parents of blind children, and others provide each other with information and support. By providing public education about blindness, information and referral services, scholarships, literature and materials about blindness, specialized aids and appliances, adaptive equipment, and support for blind people and their families, the members of the National Federation of the Blind strive to spread the word that the blind are normal individuals who can compete on equal terms with their sighted peers. Together, with love, hope, and determination, we transform dreams into reality.

Why the National Federation of the Blind?

As the original and largest nationwide organization of blind people, with seventy-five years of expertise and experience, the National Federation of the Blind is able to speak with authority and legitimacy about what it really means to be blind. While many other organizations purport to speak for the blind, only the National Federation of the Blind can authentically speak for the blind because it is the blind. Other organizations cannot fully represent what it means to be blind in twenty-first century America, how much we are capable of, and the challenges we still face. This is why a strong National Federation of the Blind is important.

President's Message

Dear Friends:

On July 5, 2014, I was honored and humbled to be elected as the new President of the National Federation of the Blind, succeeding my friend and colleague Dr. Marc Maurer in this position. In the months since my brothers and sisters in our movement chose me to lead our efforts to help blind Americans live the lives they want, I have met many of you who support our work and had the chance to thank you personally for that support. But I thank you again in this message, and I extend that thanks to all of you whom I have not yet had the chance to meet in person. The many responsibilities that I assumed in July of 2014 cannot be carried out without the love, the willing hands and hearts, and the contributions that each of you make in order to advance our cause. It is only together, with the love, hope, and determination that we share, that we can and do transform our individual and collective dreams into reality.

In our movement, there is always more work to do, and so there is always a need for more hands, hearts, and minds to do it. We cannot remain a dynamic organization unless we continue to grow. With each new member, we expand our knowledge and capacity. We acquire new dreams and new ideas of how to make them real. Each new member also gains the expertise and support that the National Federation of the Blind has to offer, and, just as important, gains a loving extended family to help him or her live the life he or she wants. Because our Federation family must continue to grow in order to serve more blind Americans, we have decided to focus our seventy-fifth year on building new Federation chapters and divisions across the nation, strengthening existing chapters, and recruiting new members.

The National Federation of the Blind officially came into being on November 16, 1940, when just sixteen blind delegates from seven states held the first national convention in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Thus, we kicked off our seventy-fifth year of service on November 16, 2014, with plans for programs and events to build toward our seventy-fifth anniversary on the same day in 2015. As part of that kick-off, we celebrated the completion of one of our most intensely focused campaigns in our history to build and strengthen Federation chapters across the nation. Our "75 Days of Action" began on September 2, 2014, after several months of preparation. This campaign was conceived during meetings of a committee set up by Immediate Past President Marc Maurer to contemplate ways that the Federation could make its seventy-fifth year meaningful and memorable. Many exciting things are yet to happen in 2015, but we were able to close the 75 Days of Action with the joyous knowledge that thirty states had organized at least one new chapter or division during the campaign, and even more chapter organizing and strengthening events were being planned by others. A few states, such as California, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee, were able to organize more than one new chapter.

This effort was guided by the outstanding leadership of Jeannie Massay, president of our Oklahoma affiliate and member of our national board of directors, and Kevan Worley, a longtime leader in our division for blind merchants and entrepreneurs and in the NFB of Colorado. Jeannie and Kevan led a diverse committee of seventy-five experienced and new Federation leaders whose task was to help our affiliates carry out the effort, and I take this opportunity to thank each of them, as well as the countless affiliate leaders who worked to build and expand chapters, for their exemplary service. In many instances, I had the pleasure and privilege of witnessing the results of their work firsthand. Their efforts not only created an amazingly quick growth spurt in our movement, but generated ideas and experience that will stand us in good stead as we move forward.

As the seventy-fifth year of the National Federation of the Blind progresses, the organization will continue to focus on the development of chapters and divisions, as well as the direct recruiting of new members. We have set a goal of recruiting at least seven hundred fifty new members in 2015, and the effort to reach this goal has already begun. The campaign will reach more blind Americans with our positive message of high expectations and unlimited dreams, as well as expand the network of people who can provide love, support,



and assistance to blind and low-vision individuals across the nation. I cannot imagine a better way for this dynamic and growing organization to celebrate its seventy-fifth year.

The nationwide network of support that we have built and continue to expand is, of course, what drives and supports the innovative solutions that we are able to create to resolve the real problems of blind people. Everyone reading this message is a part of that network of support, allowing us to expand the possibilities for blind people of all ages. Your support has allowed us to work with K-NFB Reading Technology, Inc. and Sensotec, Inc. to bring the first mobile print-reading system for the blind, knfbReader Mobile, to the iPhone and other Apple devices. It allows us to continue to expand NFB-NEWSLINE®, the most comprehensive source of news and information available to blind people. It helps us carry out our innovative programs to bring science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education to blind children and youth. The latest of these programs is STEM2U, which will allow more blind students to participate fully in the programs of great science museums throughout the country. We are able to provide free white canes and free slates and styluses to any blind American who needs them thanks to the support of our members and friends. Our affiliates continue to carry out summer NFB Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning (BELL) programs that bring Braille to more blind children, staffing these programs with volunteers and funding them with support from many of you. In short, nothing that we do is possible without the imagination, hard work, and financial support that come from the thousands of people, blind and sighted, young and old, newly blind or born blind, that make up our great movement. One of the greatest joys and privileges among the many tasks and responsibilities that make up the gratifying job that I have assumed is continuing to meet and work with all of you. Once again, I thank you, both the friends I have made and the ones whom I have not yet met, for all you do to transform the dreams of blind Americans into reality.

Sincerely,
Mark A. Riccobono, President
National Federation of the Blind

Program and Service Accomplishments

DR. JACOB BOLOTIN AWARDS

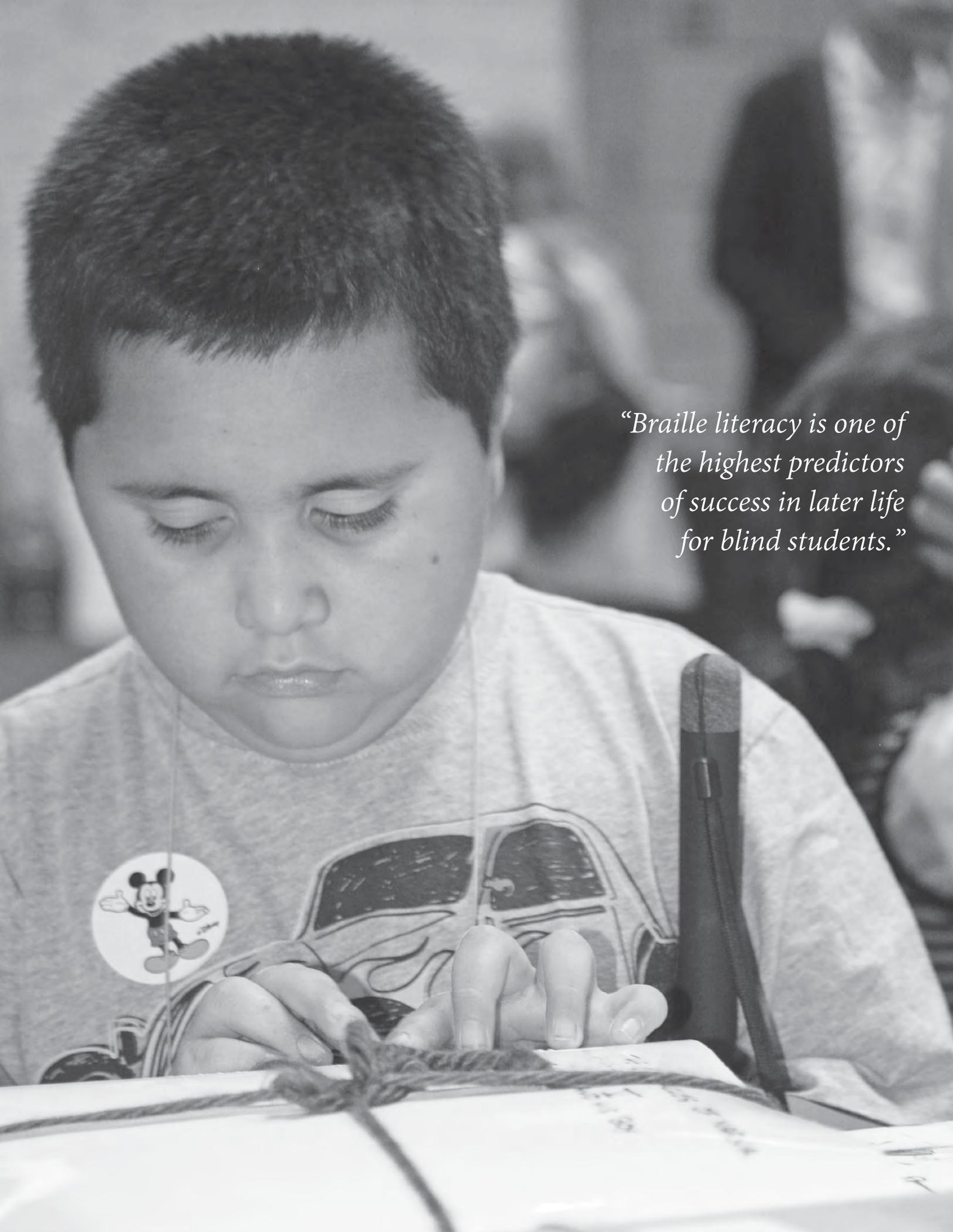
Each year the National Federation of the Blind distributes Dr. Jacob Bolotin cash awards at its annual convention. These awards recognize individuals and organizations working in the field of blindness that have made outstanding contributions toward achieving the full integration of the blind into society on a basis of equality. The Jacob Bolotin Award Program is funded through the generosity of Dr. Bolotin's nephew and niece, Alfred and Rosalind Perlman. The late Mrs. Perlman established the Alfred and Rosalind Perlman Trust to endow the award program. Mrs. Perlman also wrote *The Blind Doctor: The Jacob Bolotin Story*. The book was published by Blue Point Books and is available through the National Federation of the Blind.

Dr. Jacob Bolotin (1888-1924) was a blind physician who lived and practiced in Chicago in the early part of the twentieth century. Dr. Bolotin fought ignorance and prejudice to gain entrance to medical school and the medical profession. He became one of the most respected physicians in Chicago during his career, which spanned the period from 1912 until his death, and was particularly known for his expertise on diseases of the heart and lungs. Dr. Bolotin used his many public speaking engagements to advocate for the employment and full integration of the blind into society. Interested in young people in general and blind youth in particular, Dr. Bolotin established one of the first Boy Scout troops consisting entirely of blind boys and served as its leader.

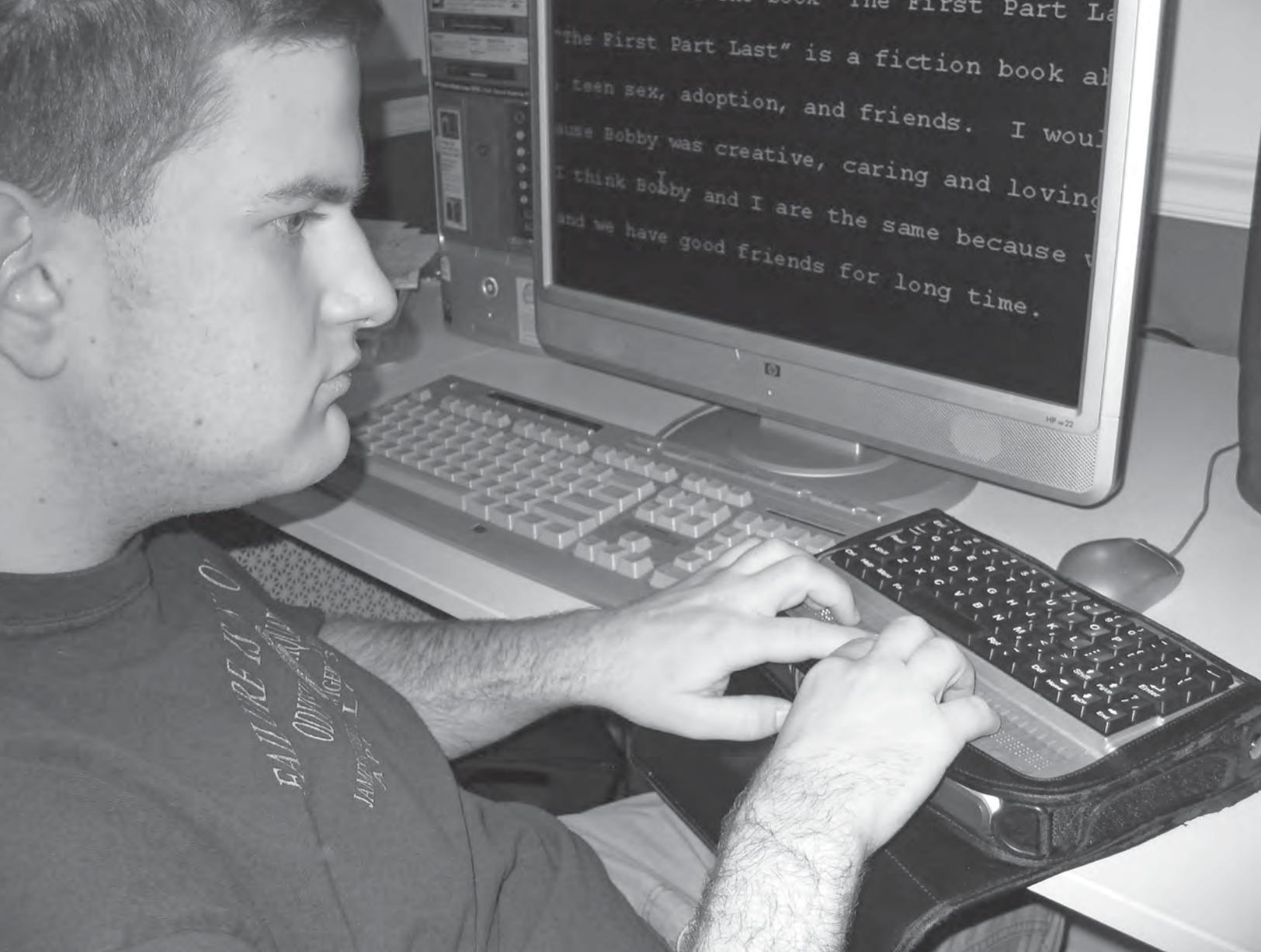
The seventh annual Dr. Jacob Bolotin Awards, with a total cash value of \$50,000, honored four innovators in the blindness field on July 6, 2014, as part of the National Federation of the Blind annual convention in Orlando. Scott LaBarre was awarded \$10,000 for his exceptional work as a lead negotiator for a recently negotiated international treaty to provide worldwide access to books, articles, and other information for people who are blind. The treaty, now being considered for ratification by the United States and other countries, is known as the "Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled." The NFB of Missouri was awarded \$10,000 for its tireless efforts to secure the rights of blind parents in Missouri, through legislative advocacy and the creation of an innovative training video for state social workers to educate them on the techniques blind parents use to care for their children. A \$10,000 award was given to the Parent Leadership Program, a unique two-year training program for parents of blind children that provides parents with important skills that they need to become effective advocates and leaders on behalf of their own blind children, and also emphasizes training and outreach to help other parents as well. A \$20,000 award was given to the National Blindness Professional Certification Board, a volunteer-led organization responsible for setting standards and certifying instructors and other professional staff who serve the blind in agencies and schools throughout the United States.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, the National Federation of the Blind awards thirty scholarships to blind high school seniors and college or graduate school students from the United States and Puerto Rico. The scholarship awards range from \$3,000 to \$12,000, and each year over \$100,000 is awarded to the thirty winners. In addition to the NFB scholarship, this year each of the thirty winners received a \$1,000 check, a Google Nexus tablet



“Braille literacy is one of the highest predictors of success in later life for blind students.”



for access to the Blio ebook reader from K-NFB Reading Technology, Inc., and a \$1,000 cash award from Google.

The scholarships are presented at the banquet of the National Federation of the Blind convention, which in 2014 took place in Orlando, Florida. This year's scholarship class included five tenBroek Fellows—winners receiving a second or subsequent scholarship. The winner of the \$12,000 Dr. Kenneth Jernigan Memorial Scholarship, which is named for the outstanding leader and visionary who served as President of the organization from 1968 to 1986, receives the honor of briefly addressing the banquet. The 2014 winner of this scholarship, Deja Powell, spoke eloquently about her late father and his hope that she would find something or someone to help her become the person she

wanted to be—and how the National Federation of the Blind has filled that role for her.

The members of the 2014 scholarship class were a diverse group studying a broad range of disciplines including engineering, economics, special education, law, and psychiatry. They represent the best and brightest our country has to offer; and just as important, they represent the future leadership of the National Federation of the Blind.

Here is the complete list of 2014 scholarship winners and the awards they received:

\$3,000 NFB Awards: Alex Anderson, Anya Avramenko, James Boehn, Alan Chase, Craig Cooper, Hayden Dahmm, Jonathan Franks, Cathy Gatlen, Stanley Ingram, Amber Kraft, Rebecca Leon, Alana

Leonhardy, Derek Manners, Zhenya Pankova, Amanie Riley, Lucy Sidi, Anna Walsh, Bev Weiler, and Justin Williams

\$3,000 The Oracle Scholarship for Excellence in Computer Science: Cindy Bennett

\$3,000 E.U. and Gene Parker Scholarship: Mark Turley

\$3,000 Charles and Melva T. Owen Scholarship: Isaiah Wilcox

\$5,000 NFB Awards: Meesha Johnson, Shawn Berg, and Emily Pennington

\$5,000 Larry Streeter Memorial Scholarship: Elizabeth Muhammad

\$7,000 NFB Scholarship: Sarah Patnaude

\$7,000 Donald and Betty Capps Leadership and Service Scholarship: Katelyn MacIntyre

\$10,000 Charles and Melva T. Owen Scholarship: Candice Chapman

\$12,000 Kenneth Jernigan Scholarship (funded by the American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults): Deja Powell

NFB-NEWSLINE® ENTERS ITS TWENTIETH YEAR OF SERVICE

Since July of 1995, the National Federation of the Blind has operated NFB-NEWSLINE®, the world's largest newspaper service for the blind and print disabled. NFB-NEWSLINE® is an audio information service that provides access to four hundred publications, including over three hundred local and state newspapers, nine national newspapers, fourteen breaking news sources, fourteen international newspapers, forty-three magazines, five Spanish-language newspapers, and several blindness-specific publications, including the *Braille Monitor* and *Future Reflections*.

In addition to these four hundred periodicals, NFB-NEWSLINE® also provides access to emergency weather alerts, seven-day weather forecasts, television listings, job listings, and advertising circulars.

Subscribers can access NFB-NEWSLINE® services in a number of ways, including using a touch-tone telephone, on the web at www.nfbnewslineonline.org, via MP3 or dedicated book players, or through the NFB-NEWSLINE® Mobile app, which is available free in Apple's iOS App Store. Subscribers can also choose to have newspapers sent to their email addresses, allowing them to read the newspaper on their computer or portable device. NFB-NEWSLINE® is available in forty-six states and the District of Columbia.

In 2014 a total of twenty-four new publications were added to the NFB-NEWSLINE® service. These included seven breaking news feeds, six international newspapers, three magazines, one Spanish newspaper, and local newspapers in seven states.

In 2014 the NFB-NEWSLINE® system received a telephone call from a subscriber every 13.83 seconds, and a subscriber accessed a piece of information every 2.14 seconds using one of the available access methods, including the touch-tone telephone. During 2014, 4,560 new subscribers signed up for NFB-NEWSLINE®, bringing the total number of subscribers to 107,932. A total of 2,281,015 calls were made to NFB-NEWSLINE® over the telephone. NFB-NEWSLINE® provided 37,811,271 minutes of news to subscribers. Over the same period, 2,285,369 newspapers were emailed to subscribers. TV listings were accessed 557,170 times,



and magazines were accessed 264,447 times. The state newspapers were accessed 6,527,496 times during the year. The NFB-NEWSLINE® online service was accessed 1,427,606 times through the use of the web service, the iPhone app, and other download methods.

Subscribers constantly tell us how invaluable they find the service:

Mary Ann from Parsipanny, NJ, said, in response to the inclusion of election information: “Hi, NFB News Team: This is wonderful! Thanks so much for this addition for all of us. I am very happy and will use this to find out all the information about the candidates that I want to know. Thanks again.”

Randy, from Topeka, KS, said: “Congratulations and thank you. Your service is one of the very most important in the history of the blind becoming informed so we can participate as citizens in a diverse and democratic society. I can’t express my appreciation enough.”

James, a student from Indiana, said: “I am currently a graduate student at Purdue University Calumet. I am in the Mental Health and Counseling program. As a student, NFB-NEWSLINE® has given me invaluable information and resources from around the world pertaining to my studies. NFB-NEWSLINE® has provided me with research material critical to our national current events, as well as international. I have especially been impressed at the fact that NFB-NEWSLINE® continually adds new features, which gives the blind community more access to the print media world....I can say that I have become more empowered since discovering NFB-NEWSLINE®.”

Joe, a veteran from Georgia, said: “Oh yeah, I love NFB-NEWSLINE®! I really enjoy reading the Stars and Stripes. I’m an old blind veteran and never grow tired of checking in on Army matters. ...I like to read my newspaper too. I always loved getting the care packages from home when I was overseas and finding my hometown newspaper. I really missed that when I lost my sight, but now thanks to

you guys, I can have it again. I think I’m really going to like this iPhone mobile app.”

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND FREE WHITE CANE PROGRAM

The National Federation of the Blind believes that the long white cane is a means to independence for the blind. The white cane has proved a useful tool to millions of blind people in navigating their environments with confidence and safety. It is a tool that allows blind people to travel where and when they want, and as such promotes independence and self-sufficiency.

We believe that independence and freedom to travel are so critical to the quality of life of blind people that every blind person should have a cane, regardless of ability to pay. That is why the National Federation of the Blind offers free fiberglass canes to blind users through its Free White Cane Program. Any blind individual in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico may request a cane for their personal use. Requests may be made as often as every six months.

In 2014 the National Federation of the Blind gave over six thousand canes to blind people across the United States, helping to ensure that blind Americans live the lives they want.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND FREE SLATE PROGRAM

This year, in addition to giving away free white canes, the National Federation of the Blind started a program to give free slates and styluses to blind people who need them. The slate and stylus have long been and continue to be valuable tools for writing Braille.

The slate and stylus is the only Braille-writing system that has the same portability, flexibility, and affordability as a pen and pencil. From labeling canned goods to jotting down a phone number, the uses and advantages of the slate and stylus to the

blind are as varied as those of the pencil or pen to the sighted.

Any blind individual in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico may request a free slate and stylus. Requests may be made as often as once per year.

In the first year of this program, over five hundred slates and styluses were given free of charge to blind users.

BRaille PROGRAMS

In 2014, the National Federation of the Blind continued its campaign to raise awareness about the critical importance of Braille and to bring it into the lives of blind children and adults who need it.

NFB Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning (BELL)

The NFB Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning (BELL) program, first launched by our Maryland affiliate in 2008, continues to be a leading force in reversing the Braille literacy crisis in America today. NFB BELL is an intensive program that provides two weeks of Braille instruction to blind and low-vision students who can benefit from additional Braille education in the summer months. This unique program brings together successful blind mentors and students, enabling the students to foster a positive attitude about Braille and an understanding that Braille is an invaluable tool for completing a wide variety of tasks. Numerous parents noted that one of the most valuable aspects of the NFB BELL program was the opportunity to interact with blind children and adults—an experience their children rarely have. One parent said, “Being taught by blind adults was a great learning experience. It helped [my daughter] understand that as a blind person she can still be anything she wants to be, including a teacher.”

During the program, students expand their understanding of the uses for Braille in their daily lives by engaging in authentic activities, such as using Braille while cooking to read recipes and identify or label ingredients. Students also learn through games and other cooperative activities. In addition to serving blind students, the program provides parents with training and resources so they can ensure that their blind children grow up to be successful adults. Parent participants stated that they appreciate the opportunity to get to know other parents of blind children and successful blind adults who connected them with a vast number of useful resources.

In the summer of 2014, twenty-one states hosted a total of thirty-two NFB BELL programs, which served two hundred and eighty blind students all over the United States. The students who attend the NFB BELL program leave excited about Braille, eager to learn more, and connected with dozens of blind adults who can answer any question they may have about Braille and blindness.

Braille Letters from Santa

In December the National Federation of the Blind once again offered a special service for children who read Braille. For the eighth year blind children were able to submit Braille letters to Santa in care of the NFB Jernigan Institute, which sent Santa’s replies in Braille and print. This year the replies also included a tactile picture. In 2014 the NFB Jernigan Institute staff sent out nearly four hundred personalized replies from Santa Claus to all the letters received from blind children and their parents. Each reply was in Braille and print so that parents and children could read together. Proficiency and fluency in reading Braille are best achieved by taking every opportunity to read Braille, and the Braille Letters from Santa program is another fun way to implement that goal.



*“The long white
cane is a means to
independence for
the blind.”*



Braille Transcribing and Proofreading Certification Program

In late 2006 the NFB Jernigan Institute was awarded a contract by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Library of Congress (NLS) to conduct that agency's National Braille Transcribing and Proofreading Certification Program. The NFB Jernigan Institute now conducts all administrative functions of the certification program, including the recruitment, training, and evaluation of individuals wishing to become certified Braille transcribers and proofreaders. The implementation of this program by the National Federation of the Blind has significantly increased the number of qualified Braille transcribers and proofreaders, thus making Braille literature, instructional materials, and musical scores more available to the blind of America. As of December 2014 the program has submitted the names of 1,930 individuals to the Library of Congress, indicating that they have successfully completed the certification courses in literary, mathematics, and music transcribing or proofreading.

NFB JERNIGAN INSTITUTE

The following words, spoken by Dr. Marc Maurer at the 1999 National Convention of the National Federation of the Blind, describe our dream of a world-class research and training institute run by blind people that explores innovative products, services, and strategies to benefit all blind people.

“The techniques and systems used to train the blind in the United States need massive overhaul, and we must find a way to establish training programs that will teach the professors who will teach the teachers who will teach the blind, and we must do it so that the blind themselves are a vital part of the teaching process. We must find a way to address the needs of older blind Americans. We must also insist that innovative solutions to the unsolved problems be sought. Much research has been done about the blind, but rarely have the blind themselves formulated the programs, established the research parameters, and directed the study. Who is better positioned to examine the realities of blindness than the organized blind movement? Who is better positioned to take the risks? Who has more to gain (and, for that matter, more to lose) than we? There are those who would tell us that the problems are solved and that we enjoy today all that the blind can ever hope to expect. But we know better, and we are not prepared to accept the status quo. We will conduct our own research, and we will set the standard of excellence. We will do it in the best research and training center ever created to serve the blind.”

The National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute, opened in 2004, is the manifestation of this dream. The following are a few examples of how our Jernigan Institute transforms our dream into reality.

Educational Programs

The educational programs of the National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute lead the way in challenging current systems and professionals to meet the educational needs of blind and low-vision students in exceedingly dynamic and truly effective ways. We work diligently to foster productive relationships with teaching professionals and education systems across the country in order to ensure that blind and low-vision students receive a quality education. Expectations are raised, programs are strengthened, and blind students are empowered when we identify good partners that are willing to take advantage of our knowledge and expertise.

As detailed earlier, we continue to expand the NFB BELL program, which provides two weeks of Braille immersion to encourage students who otherwise may not receive appropriate Braille instruction in the classroom to learn and value the code. Our Early Explorers program continues to help parents and their blind children understand the importance of learning to travel independently using the long white cane. The quarterly activity books offered through these programs complement the writings found in *Future Reflections*, our quarterly publication for parents of blind children. This and other vibrant programming took place throughout the year that empowers blind students to travel their individual paths through life.

NFB STEM2U

In 2013 the National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute was awarded a three-year National Science Foundation (NSF) grant in the amount of \$1.5 million, to be used for advancing informal STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) learning. As a result of this award, the National Federation of the Blind in partnership with six museums and science centers, is facilitating regional STEM programs across the country. NFB STEM2U expands on the exciting and innovative work conducted by the NFB in the area of informal STEM education through previous National Center for Blind Youth in Science programs such as the NFB Youth Slam, NFB Project Innovation, and NFB STEM-X.

In our first year of the grant, we conducted the preliminary research and began the planning for executing our innovative mission to enhance STEM education and museum accessibility. We successfully completed NFB STEM2U Baltimore, our first of six regional programs under the NSF grant, in November 2014 at Port Discovery Children's Museum in Baltimore, Maryland. We served twenty blind elementary school students, referred to as juniors, and ten blind high school students, referred to as apprentices. All students engaged in hands-on inquiry-based STEM learning. Moreover, the students had the opportunity to learn with and

from blind adult role models about how to succeed in the STEM classroom and in everyday life.

An NFB STEM2U student participant said: “[I have a] better perspective on science processes. Science classes at school are visual. Now because I understand the processes my school science will make more sense.”

Apprentices participated in an experience that allowed them to develop and refine their leadership and mentoring skills as they worked with the juniors throughout the program.

An NFB STEM2U parent participant said: “My child was immersed in a setting that was encouraging, supportive, safe, and fun. The program challenged his comfort zone while allowing him to be well taken care of...the perfect balance.”

In addition to providing a unique learning opportunity for thirty blind and low-vision youth, NFB STEM2U Baltimore provided a cohort of ten teachers with hands-on professional development on STEM accessibility, technology, Braille, and how to foster blind students' development of a positive conception of blindness and of themselves.

A teacher who participated in NFB STEM2U said: “STEM2U reinforced that my students who have the interest and intellectual ability can tackle anything they want to in STEM, their only limitation is my own creativity and willingness to problem solve. I am bolstered in my efforts to help my students succeed.”

NFB STEM2U is a research partnership that builds on the life experience and expertise of the blind to meet the educational needs of blind students. NFB STEM2U participants have the opportunity to engage in accessible STEM learning at some of the country's largest museums and science centers. Students also have the opportunity to provide feedback to staff and educators about how the museums can better meet their nonvisual learning needs. In this way, participants act as both learners and teachers. In the NFB STEM2U learning commu-



*“STEM2U
reinforced that my
students can tackle
anything they want
to in STEM.”*

OFF SITE



Braille

I'm a Foot Scooter

[The pages of the open book contain faint, illegible text.]

nity, there is an understanding that no single person has all of the answers, but together we can overcome any barrier that we may encounter.

Jacobus tenBroek Disability Law Symposium

Our seventh annual Jacobus tenBroek Disability Law Symposium, titled “Disability Rights in the 21st Century: Creative Solutions for Achieving the Right to Live in the World,” took place on April 24-25, 2014, at the National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute. The symposium consisted of keynote presentations, plenary sessions, and workshops facilitated by distinguished law professors, practitioners, and advocates.

Keynote speakers Jenny Hatch and Jonathan Martinis gave an enlightening, inspiring presentation about the landmark case in which Ms. Hatch won the right to make her own decisions through “supported decision-making,” rather than being forced into a guardianship where all decisions would have been made for her. A powerful, heartfelt luncheon keynote address was delivered by Catherine Lhamon, assistant secretary for the Office for Civil Rights, United States Department of Education. Other plenary and break-out session topics included: disability discrimination in the criminal and juvenile justice systems, next steps in Olmstead litigation, rights of parents with disabilities, and how to work with the media to share the disability rights message.

Dr. Jacobus tenBroek created the concept that civil rights should apply to disabled Americans, and he published extensively regarding the variables involved in the application of the law to those with disabilities. His seminal article “The Right to Live in the World: The Disabled in the Law of Torts,” published in 1966 in the *California Law Review*, laid the foundation for modern American disability law. The National Federation of the Blind established the Jacobus tenBroek Disability Law Symposium to continue the work of Dr. tenBroek in assuring that all citizens may have the opportunity for full participation in the society in which we live.

The Jacobus tenBroek Library

2014 was a year of transition and growth for the National Federation of the Blind, as well as for our Jacobus tenBroek Library. Our library staff is preparing to capture and store the speeches, papers, and achievements of our newly elected President, Mark Riccobono, as he leads our movement through the next generation. These same professionals assisted in the management and creation of “Reflecting the Flame: Passing the Torch,” the tribute video to Dr. Marc Maurer, our immediate past President, which can be viewed on our YouTube channel <www.youtube.com/nationsblind>. We added to our rich and growing collection of oral histories with the addition of the interviews of Scott LaBarre, Steve Jacobson, and Allen and Joy Harris, all tremendous leaders of our movement.

Also in 2014 we made great strides toward increasing the digitization of our rich history as a civil rights organization, and we dramatically increased the amount of audiovisual literature and materials available on our website. We have almost completed the digitization of the legacy issues of the *Braille Monitor*, our monthly publication that chronicles the challenges and triumphs of the blind, and we continue to digitize audio copies of our Kernel Books, which are small digests of everyday blindness experiences written by our members. In addition to our text and photo restoration projects, we successfully completed a pilot video digitization project involving our 1986 National Convention and the groundbreaking ceremony of our National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute in 2001.

Our professional library staff processed library reference requests involving archival materials, and hosted national and international visiting researchers. We increased our exposure and shared our expertise by participating in professional library conferences and forums, including a panel presentation on the impor-



tance of Braille preservation in archives at the Spring 2014 Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) in Rochester, New York. The National Federation of the Blind Jacobus tenBroek Library is well on the way to becoming recognized as a superior research library on non-medical-related blindness and as the central repository of the history of the nation's blind.

ACCESSING TECHNOLOGY TO LIVE THE LIVES WE WANT

Throughout 2014, the National Federation of the Blind Access Technology Team continued to be recognized as the foremost leaders in the development, evaluation, implementation, and innovation of technologies that provide the blind with greater access to information, employment, education, and entertainment than ever before. When designed properly, today's technologies afford the blind unprecedented opportunities to fully participate in all aspects of life on a basis of equality with our sighted peers. The following summary represents only a fraction of the work that was conducted in 2014 to ensure that the blind can live the lives we want through the use of mainstream and access technologies.

CSUN Presentations

In March 2014, our Access Technology team traveled to San Diego, California, to present at the thirtieth annual International Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference (CSUN). The CSUN conference is where we interact with others in the access technology industry to learn who is doing what in the field. Our team's presentation topics included:

- Race to Accessibility, about educational assessment accessibility;
- Access Technologies for Blind and Low Vision Seniors;
- iWork accessibility in Mac OSX; and
- Wearables for Blind Users.

In addition to providing a forum for our team to share its expertise, CSUN was a terrific opportunity to forge new relationships and build on existing ones.

National Convention

Our Access Technology team contributed to the packed agenda of our annual convention with an Access Technology seminar. Our team covered Android accessibility, with guest speakers from Odin Mobile and Sprint. Attendees learned about Ticketmaster's work on accessibility directly from the company's staff. The team talked about accessible cloud computing on a desktop, since cloud computing makes up an increasingly large portion of the tasks we perform on our computers, tablets, and smartphones. The team from E.A.S.Y. LLC conducted a hands-on demonstration of what their tablet can do to change how we create, modify, and reproduce tactile graphics. The final session shared exploratory work on how to turn digital learning objects into 3D tactile objects.

Center of Excellence in Nonvisual Access to Education, Public Information, and Commerce (CENA)

The field of nonvisual access is alien to many in the educational, business, and government arenas, but is a natural component of the daily workings of the

National Federation of the Blind and its members. With new technologies emerging every day, many academic institutions and businesses are overwhelmed with the nuances and complexities that sometimes accompany adaptive technology and workplace accommodations. The state of Maryland, home of the headquarters of the National Federation of the Blind, has recognized the need to bridge the gap between the technologies blind people should be able to use every day in educational, business, and governmental environments and the knowledge needed to ensure that these technologies are accessible. Therefore, with the financial support of the state of Maryland, and in collaboration with the Maryland Office of Disability, the National Federation of the Blind has established the Center of Excellence in Nonvisual Access to Education, Public Information, and Commerce (CENA) at our headquarters in Baltimore. The CENA will help to raise awareness of nonvisual accessibility, identify current gaps in ADA compliance, provide a vehicle for the discovery of emerging and future needs, and create training programs and resources to fill those needs. We plan to eventually expand the CENA into additional areas, such as the dissemination of accessible academic resources and best practices in infographic design.

Web Accessibility Training Day

On September 9, 2014, the National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute co-hosted another Web Accessibility Training Day in partnership with the Maryland Technology Assistance Program. The event was conducted as part of the training initiative of the newly launched NFB Center of Excellence in Nonvisual Access to Education, Public Information, and Commerce. The National Federation of the Blind Access Technology Team and our partners shared their web accessibility expertise in order to bring about greater accessibility in government, education, and business; to promote best practices nationally; and to build Maryland's status as a leader in the field. The recordings of our 2014 Web Accessibility Training Day sessions are available at <<https://nfb.org/web-accessibility-day>>.



Howard
University

*“Harmonized Processes for Section 508
Baseline Tests for Software & Web Applications”*

OAST

Improvi

*“The NFB Access Technology
Team and partners shared
their web accessibility
expertise at Web Accessibility
Training Day.”*

Train the Trainer Seminar

On October 15-17, 2014, we hosted a Train the Trainer seminar with the goal of training access technology teachers and professionals in the use of tools and strategies that will make them better trainers. Topics of the training sessions we conducted included cloud applications, mobile devices, STEM accessibility, Windows 8.1, Google's Chrome OS, Apple's VoiceOver, and Tactile Graphics. Google volunteered some of its trainers to talk all things Google, a representative from Triumph Technology shared his extensive experience as a Mac trainer, and our affiliated experts presented on the topics of Braille production and STEM.

KNFB Reader App for iOS

Over forty years ago, the National Federation of the Blind partnered with Ray Kurzweil to develop technology that would help blind people to acquire access to the various print materials that we all encounter from day to day. Our first iteration of this revolutionary technology was the Kurzweil Reading Machine, which was the size of a household appliance. In 2014 the National Federation of the Blind, working with K-NFB Reading Technology Inc. and Sensotec Inc. released the KNFB Reader app, a new app for the iPhone and other Apple iOS devices, which uses the phone's camera and state-of-the-art optical character recognition (OCR) technology to give the blind instant access to the contents of print materials. We can now hear our mail or the menu at our favorite restaurant spoken with the iPhone's built-in text-to-speech technology, or read it in Braille with a refreshable Braille display. This app has already fundamentally changed the everyday lives of many blind people around the world, helping us to get the information we need and live the lives we want. The KNFB Reader app is now available in the iTunes App Store.

Also in 2014, our Access Technology Team released the latest version of our Technology Resource List. This resource describes nearly every piece of blindness technology available in the United States. It is a unique compendium of information on blindness technology and unmatched elsewhere in its scope and thoroughness. It is a great place to start for individuals wanting to familiarize themselves with access technology, but it is equally useful in discovering the latest and best in a given area, such as Braille displays or optical character recognition systems. Our access technology blog (<https://nfb.org/at-blog>) and the access technology tips (<https://nfb.org/attips-blog>) are additional resources for anyone who wants to learn more about new access technology products. Both of these resources also provide much needed information for those who are interested in nonvisual access technology in general.





Our Donors

We would like to thank the following donors for their generous contributions given in 2014. It is only because of their generosity that the National Federation of the Blind can continue its work to raise the expectations of blind people and ensure that the blind live the lives they want.

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Jacobus tenBroek Legacy Society

The Jacobus tenBroek Legacy Society honors friends of the National Federation of the Blind who are helping raise the expectations of and for the blind through their commitment of a legacy gift to the organization. Jacobus tenBroek Legacy Society recognition is given to those committed individuals who support the work of the National Federation of the Blind by including us in a will or living trust, a life-income gift, or by making the NFB a beneficiary of a life-insurance policy or retirement plan. Individuals enroll in the Legacy Society by advising the National Federation of the Blind, in writing, that they have included the NFB in their estate plan.

Some donors wish to remain anonymous, and the National Federation of the Blind honors these requests. However, we offer the following recognition of these selfless individuals as an expression of our sincere appreciation, and in an effort to encourage others to make a similar commitment.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended December 31, 2014

REVENUE AND GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT

Public Support:	
Contributions	\$16,417,418
Donated Services	4,649,114
Government Grants and Contract Services	1,558,594
Total Public Support:	22,625,126
Revenue:	
Sales - Independence Products and Publications	366,940
Investment Income	460,488
Royalties	2,615
Total Revenue:	830,043
Total Revenue and Gains and Other Support:	\$23,455,169

EXPENSES

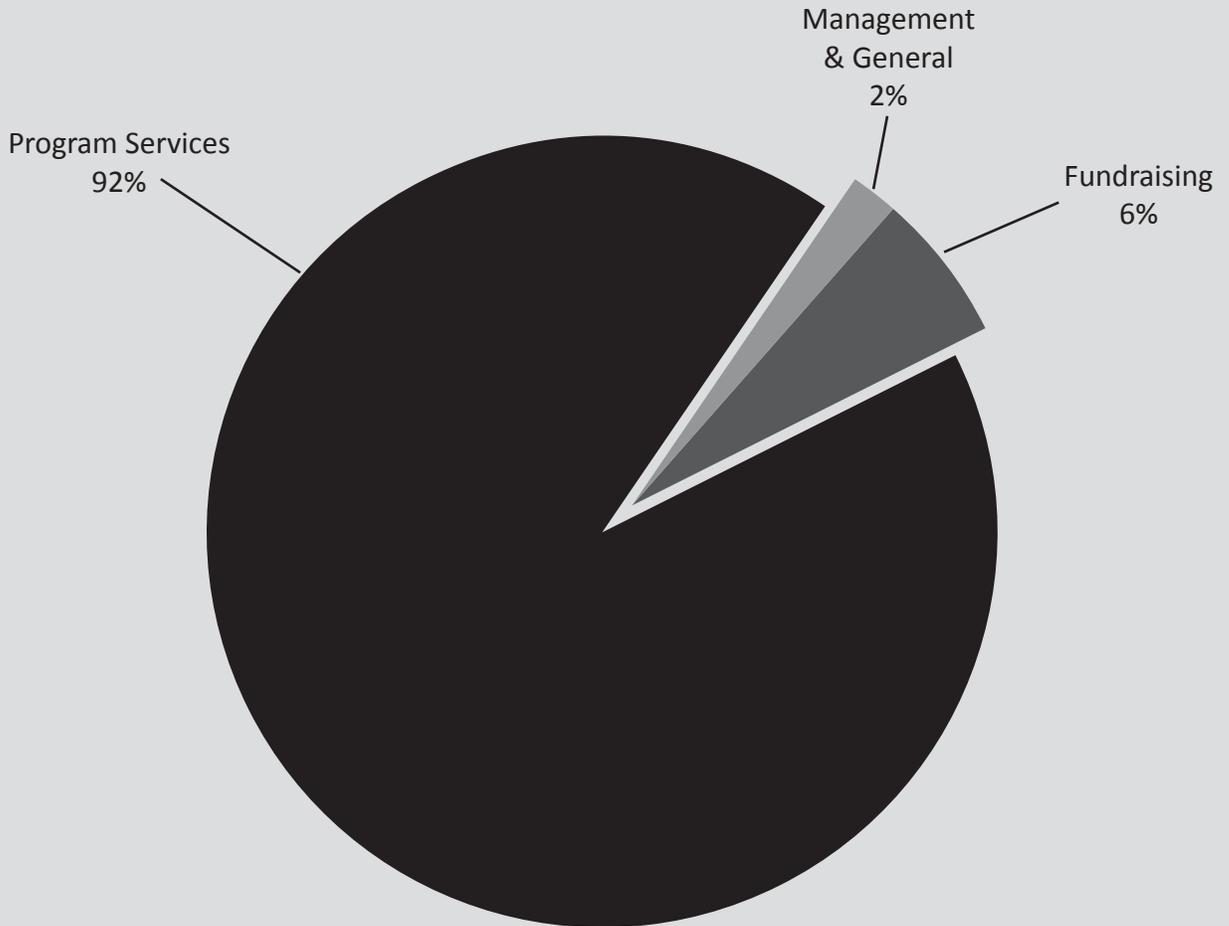
Program Services:	
Blindness Integration	\$8,043,472
Civil rights, Advocacy and Self-organization	6,420,255
Nonvisual Access Technology, Methods and Systems	15,453,534
Total Program Services:	29,917,231
Supporting Services	
Management and General	520,880
Fundraising	1,386,585
Total Supporting Services:	1,907,465
Total Expenses:	\$31,824,696

Changes in Net Assets	\$(8,369,527)
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	\$30,044,610
Net Assets - End of Year	\$21,675,083



The National Federation of the Blind meets the rigorous Standards for Charity Accountability set forth by the BBB Wise Giving Alliance.

PROGRAM SERVICES, MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL, AND FUNDRAISING EXPENSES AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT



Financial statements presented have been audited by Rosen, Sapperstein and Friedlander, Chartered. Complete audited statements with accompanying notes for the National Federation of the Blind can be obtained by contacting the offices of the National Federation of the Blind, 200 East Wells Street at *Jernigan Place*, Baltimore, Maryland 21230, (410) 659-9314.

The National Federation of the Blind, a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, is eligible to receive contributions that are deductible for computing income and estate taxes. Donors should consult their attorney or financial advisor to discuss the tax implications of any donation they make or contemplate making to the National Federation of the Blind.

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How You Can Help

As you have read in the previous pages, the National Federation of the Blind is a dynamic organization with numerous programs that dramatically improve the lives of blind people and people with low vision in the United States. We could not do this critical work without the generous support of others. Here are some ways that you can help us continue to help blind people live the lives they want:

Donate Online – Contributions by credit card may be given at one time or pledged over a period of time. Credit card donations can be made online at www.nfb.org.

Donate by Mail – Checks should be made out to the “National Federation of the Blind” and mailed to the National Federation of the Blind at 200 East Wells Street *at Jernigan Place*, Baltimore, Maryland 21230.

Honorary or Memorial Gifts – Contributions made to honor a special person, to commemorate a special occasion, or to pay tribute to an individual may be made by family members or friends. These gifts may be made online or by mail.

Donate a Vehicle – You can donate a vehicle to the National Federation of the Blind by calling 1-855-659-9314 or by visiting www.nfb.org/vehicledonations.

Donate Clothing – If you live in Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, or Virginia, you can donate clothing and other household items to the National Federation of the Blind. You may take your items to a GreenDrop collection site or call 1-888-610-4632 for home pickup. Learn more by visiting www.nfbpickup.org.

Bequests – You could name the National Federation of the Blind as the recipient of part of your estate in your will or as a designated beneficiary. You could also consider designating the NFB as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement plan, thereby giving a substantial gift for a relatively modest annual outlay of funds.

Appreciated Securities – Gifts of securities can be made by transferring ownership to the NFB. By making a gift of appreciated securities, the donor may claim an income tax charitable deduction based on the full market value of the gift.

Matching Gifts – Matching gifts are made by companies in order to encourage charitable giving by their employees. For more information on this type of program, contact the human resources department at your place of employment.

The following types of gifts are also appreciated, but please contact us first to make sure that your gift will be of use to the National Federation of the Blind:

Real Estate – Gifts of real property may be claimed as an income tax charitable deduction based on the fair market value of the property. Donors may also receive favorable tax treatment and eliminate certain costs associated with the transfer of real estate title.

In-Kind Donations – In-kind contributions of goods and services are welcomed by the National Federation of the Blind.

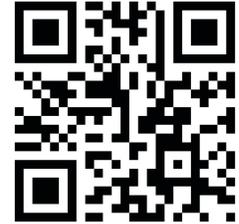
How Else Can I Help?

Become a Volunteer – Americans today devote millions of hours to helping charitable organizations. You too can make a difference by helping the NFB with your skills and talents. The National Federation of the Blind can match those skills and talents with our volunteer opportunities. For more information on our volunteer opportunities, please call Patricia Maurer at (410) 659-9314, extension 2272.

My Kaywa QR-Code

<https://nfb.org/make-gift>

Spread the Word – You can help the National Federation of the Blind by spreading the word that the blind are normal individuals who can compete on equal terms with their sighted peers and by connecting blind persons who need help with our organization.

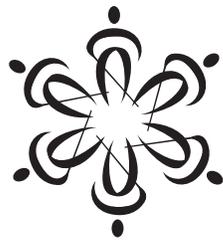


<http://kaywa.me/3WpNr>

For more information on making a donation or gift to the NFB, please contact Outreach Programs at (410) 659-9314.

You can also help by sharing information about the National Federation of the Blind and its programs on social media. Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/nfb_voice or like us on Facebook at facebook.com/NationalFederationoftheBlind.

Download the Kaywa QR Code Reader (App Store & Android Market) and scan your code!



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Thank you for your continued support!



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