PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

In the National Federation of the Blind, we know that blindness is not the characteristic that defines us or our future. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people because low expectations create the true barriers that prevent blind people from achieving our dreams and living the lives we want.

A persistent obstacle faced by blind people is finding and retaining gainful employment. Government statistics reflect that the unemployment rate among blind people stubbornly remains at between sixty and seventy percent. This is not because blind people cannot or do not wish to work. Rather, it reflects widely held but false beliefs about our capacity to work. Since our founding, the National Federation of the Blind has rejected this thinking. We are constantly seeking and developing ways to increase the number of blind people who are gainfully employed and knock down the barriers to employment.

Because blind people are members of society, many of us initially absorb negative attitudes about blindness. For that reason, our efforts focus not only on convincing employers that we are a good investment, but also on convincing blind people that they can succeed in any career they choose. In 2022, we established the National Federation of the Blind Center of Employment Opportunity to serve as a resource for blind people to compete in the workplace on terms of equality and to provide tools for employers to recruit, hire, and promote competent blind employees. We began a recurring “Where the Blind Work” webinar series to connect blind people with interest in various careers with blind people who are already successfully working in those fields. We have expanded the number of in-person and virtual career fairs that we hold each year to increase opportunities for blind job-seekers to connect with employers. Because we know that there is a strong correlation between employment and knowing how to read and write Braille, we continued our NFB BELL® Academy program, which reached blind children and youth.
across the nation. All of these efforts are designed to prepare
blind people for and connect them with the world of work, which,
in turn, will give them the means to live the lives they want.

We could not engage in these efforts without your assistance.
Your generous support is helping to build the capacity and self-respect of blind people who will ultimately support them-
selves and their families. Your generosity will be repaid not only
with our gratitude, but with our contributions to better work-
places, better communities, and a better society.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Riccobono, President
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND
“Your support is helping to build the capacity and self-respect of blind people who will ultimately support themselves and their families. Your generosity will be repaid not only with our gratitude, but with our contributions to better workplaces, better communities, and a better society.”

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

YEAR IN REVIEW

ENRICHING EDUCATION

207 NFB BELL Academy Participants – 117 blind and low-vision students attended in-person across eleven states, 90 blind and low-vision students participated in the in-home edition from twenty-nine states.

“I will never forget the feeling of joy that rushed in me when I began to learn Braille. Before being exposed, my self-confidence was low. I believe the value of Braille goes beyond education and employment. It truly opens the door of independence and productivity. Braille is the key to knowledge.” – John, NFB member from Texas

22 teachers of blind students in Teachers of Tomorrow

571 children and families in Braille Reading Pals

371 winter celebration and Santa letters sent to young blind children

16 teens and 7 mentors explored STEM careers

FOSTERING INCLUSION AND INDEPENDENCE

NFB-NEWSLINE® – a free audio service for people with disabilities

128,818 subscribers served by telephone, mobile apps, and web, who accessed news and other information for a total of 27,289,236 minutes

Free White Cane Program 3,228 people received free white canes

“I access NFB-NEWSLINE daily. I love listening to Readers Digest, WebMD Magazine, the Braille Monitor, and my local newspaper. I have found great recipes as well as at-home exercises and ways to stay healthy. NFB-NEWSLINE offers so much information about anything that I ever want to know about. I find it rewarding to be able to share NFB-NEWSLINE with people because I know how much it adds to a person’s life.” – Dorothy, NFB member from Georgia
PLANNING AHEAD

You can discover more about the programs highlighted here and our other initiatives by calling 410-659-9314 or visiting our homepage at https://nfb.org. We are a membership driven organization innovating all the time so that blind and low-vision people can live the lives they want.

ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

The National Federation of the Blind meets the most rigorous standards for charity accountability and transparency.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

2022 Program Services, Fundraising, and Management and General Expense as a percent of Total Expenses. To read our 2022 annual report, visit https://nfb.org/annual-report.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We could not do this critical work without our many generous supporters. Here are some ways that you can help us continue to help blind people live the lives they want.

GIVE ONLINE OR BY PHONE

Make a credit card contribution at https://nfb.org/donate or call 410-659-9314, extension 2430.

CONTRIBUTE BY MAIL

Checks should be made out to the “National Federation of the Blind” and mailed to the National Federation of the Blind, attention Outreach, at 200 East Wells Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21230.

PLANNED GIVING

Including the National Federation of the Blind in your future plans is a thoughtful way to transform dreams into reality and ensure the next generation accelerates beyond the previous. It’s easier than you think. Learn more at https://nfb.org/planned-giving or call 410-659-9314, extension 2422.

RAISING EXPECTATIONS

4,000 registered participants had the transformative experience of attending the National Convention in New Orleans, LA

NFB Center of Employment Opportunity – a resource for blind people to compete in the workplace on terms of equality, and tools for employers to recruit, hire, and promote competent blind employees.

4 Where the Blind Work webinars

477 job-seekers and 82 employers attended national career fairs

“The NFB’s Where the Blind Work series is designed to demonstrate the breadth and variety of jobs and careers performed by individuals who are blind or have low vision.”

– Maurice, NFB Employment Committee member
WHO WE ARE

The National Federation of the Blind, headquartered in Baltimore, defends the rights of blind people of all ages and provides information and support to families with blind children, older Americans who are losing vision, and more. Founded in 1940, the NFB is the transformative membership and advocacy organization of blind Americans—with affiliates, chapters, and divisions in the fifty states, the district of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. We believe in the hopes and dreams of blind people and work together to transform them into reality.

Leadership

We believe in blind people because we are blind people—from our democratically elected leaders to our diverse nationwide membership. Members of the board of directors of the National Federation of the Blind are a diverse group of leaders who are elected at our national convention and dedicate their time, professional expertise, and strategic vision to advancing our mission.

Officers

• Mark A. Riccobono, President—Maryland
• Pam Allen, First Vice President and Board Chair—Louisiana
• Ron Brown, Second Vice President—Indiana
• Everette Bacon, Secretary—Utah
• Norma Crosby, Treasurer—Texas
Board Members

• Denise Avant—Illinois
• Shawn Callaway—District of Columbia
• Marci Carpenter—Washington
• Ever Lee Hairston—California
• Barbara Manuel—Alabama
• Carla McQuillan—Oregon
• Grace Pires—Rhode Island
• Donald Porterfield—Arizona
• Tracy Soforeno—Virginia
• Terri Rupp—Nevada
• Adelmo Vigil—New Mexico
• Sheila Wright—Missouri

OUR MISSION

We work tirelessly to improve the lives of blind people by fostering personal empowerment, coordinating nationwide advocacy, and building a network of collective achievement.
## REVENUE AND GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT

Public Support
- Contributions: $16,771,855
- Donated Services: 6,438,558
- Government Grants and Contracted Services: 1,881,748

Total Public Support: $25,092,161

Revenue
- Sales - Independence Products and Publications: 306,440
- Net Investment Income (loss): (4,565,522)

Total Revenue: (4,259,082)

**Total Revenue and Gains and Other Support**: $20,833,079

## EXPENSES

Program Services
- Blindness Integration: $10,863,150
- Civil Rights, Advocacy, and Self-Organization: 5,493,395
- Nonvisual Access Technology, Methods and Systems: 5,435,878

Total Program Services: 21,792,423

Supporting Services
- Management and General: 724,460
- Fundraising: 1,282,378

Total Supporting Services: 2,006,838

**Total Expenses**: $23,799,261

Changes in Net Assets: $(2,966,182)
Net Assets - Beginning of Year: $34,164,329
Net Assets - End of Year: $31,198,147