

VERMONT ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

In Vermont today, over 10,500 residents are blind or visually impaired. Vision problems can complicate an individual's ability to perform daily tasks, to stay mobile inside and outside the home, and to enjoy leisure activities. Additionally, Vermont's rural nature makes it less likely for those with visual impairments to encounter others who face similar challenges, and thus creates feelings of isolation and a sense that they are not understood.

During fiscal year 2009, VABVI served 1,397 clients from all 14 counties in Vermont, including two adult clients and one child from the Town of Shaftsbury.

Since 1926, VABVI, a nonprofit organization, has diligently pursued our mission of enabling Vermonters with vision problems, whether blindness or impairment, to achieve and maintain independence. We are the only private agency in Vermont to offer a complete range of services to visually impaired residents – and at no cost to the client.

Services include Rehabilitation (adapting daily living tasks to allow those with low vision to live independently); Orientation and Mobility (providing white cane and guide dog instruction, allowing individuals to navigate through their home and community independently); Assistive Technology (adaptive aids allow clients to successfully perform most activities they desire); Social Networking (improving social skills and providing a support network); and Statewide Transportation (volunteer drivers provide rides to medical appointments, grocery stores and for personal visits).

VABVI has four offices statewide, located in Burlington, Brattleboro, Montpelier and Rutland. For more information about VABVI's services, or to volunteer, please contact us at 1-800-639-5861, e-mail at general@vabvi.org, or visit us on the web at www.vabvi.org.

Please contact Dave Agnew-Blais, Development Coordinator, at dagnewblais@vabvi.org or (800) 639-5861 ext. 217 if you would prefer to receive this information by e-mail. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted

Ayeshah Raftery, Director of Development