

State of New Jersey
Department of Human Services
New Jersey Commission for the
Blind and Visually Impaired
State Rehabilitation Council
2010 Annual Report



“The Past, The Present and The Future”



New Jersey Department of Human Services Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Mission Statement

The mission of the *New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired* is to promote and provide services in the areas of education, employment, independence, and eye health through informed choice and partnership with persons who are blind or visually impaired, their families, and the community.

The Commission recognizes three major thrusts in carrying out this mission, which are:

- (1) Providing specialized services to persons with vision problems,
- (2) Educating and working in the community to reduce the incidence of vision loss, and
- (3) Working to improve attitudes concerning people with vision loss.

To learn more about our services visit our website at: www.cbvi.nj.gov

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact **John Walsh** at **973-648-3549** or via e-mail at john.walsh@dhs.state.nj.us

INDEPENDENCE Believe & Achieve

On the cover:

Top: CBVI's official 100th Anniversary Banner

Bottom: Left photo (circa. 1940) unknown female using a Perkins Braille; Center photo (circa. 2010) CBVI employee, Kathy Lomax using a print magnification device; Right photo (circa. 2010) CBVI student, Mihir Doshi, using a Perkins Braille.

Table of Contents

State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) - 2010 Annual Report

	Page
SRC Purpose and Members List	1
SRC Chairperson's Letter to Governor Christie	3
CBVI Executive Director's Report	4
Major Service Programs Provided by CBVI	5
Statewide Impact of CBVI Services	6
2010: A Centennial Year	7
CBVI's First Director: Lydia Hayes	8
2010 Satisfaction Survey	9
Vocational Rehabilitation Services	10
Employment Achieved in FFY 2010	11
SRC Working Principles and Responsibilities	12
SRC Activities and Accomplishments	13
Project Prevention	14
RSA Standards and Indicators	15
Business Enterprise Program	17
Spotlight on Success: Frank Bentivegna	18
Disability Mentoring Day	19
Joseph Kohn Training Center	20
Spotlight on Success: Alice Sheinman	22
Technological Support Services	23
High School Transition Services	24
Summer College Experience Program	24
Works Skills Prep Program	25
Spotlight on Success: Mary Fernandez	26
Deaf-Blind Services	27
Spotlight on Success: Jon Gabry	28
SRC Goals for FFY 2011	30
SRC Meeting Dates 2011	30
CBVI Offices and Facilities	31

Statewide Rehabilitation Council (SRC)

PURPOSE

The Statewide Rehabilitation Council (SRC), working on behalf of New Jersey residents who are blind or visually impaired, will review, analyze and advise the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI) regarding the performance of its responsibilities in providing quality services to the people it is their mission to serve.

INTENT

We will be a catalyst for the emergence of the Commission as a leader in the development and implementation of effective service programs and advocacy for persons who are blind or visually impaired throughout our state, to ensure that they have access to full equality of opportunity.

Priority #1

That all individuals who are blind or visually impaired have access to opportunities that will enable them to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency through employment.

State Rehabilitation Council Members

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CBVI Staff Liaison to the SRC (Ex-Officio)

** Denotes a person who is blind or visually impaired*

CHAIRPERSON'S LETTER

Dear Governor Christie



Kathleen Wood
Chairperson

As the new chairperson, it is a pleasure to present to you the Federal Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Report of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) of the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI).

In FFY 2010, the SRC continued to work at seeking opportunities to broaden the influence of the council in expanding employment opportunities and to strengthen its partnership with CBVI. One of our primary goals was to increase awareness of CBVI's services and programs that are provided with the goal of increasing the number of successfully employed blind and visually impaired residents of New Jersey.

This has been a productive year for the SRC highlighted by members having the opportunity to discuss employment, life skills and other topics with the high school students who attended CBVI's Summer College Preparatory Program. These students were able to earn up to five college credits from nearby Raritan Valley Community College -- a first for Commission clients.

We are especially proud of the successful launch of this innovative program, which we believe will be a model for other blindness agencies across the country.

Our other activities included taking part in the presentation of two public forums held in Newark and New Brunswick. Our efforts to solicit useful feedback included, for the first time, the opportunity for consumers and other stakeholders to participate via dial-in to a toll-free phone number.

Our work in the coming year will be centered by our commitment to working on behalf of New Jerseyans who are blind and visually impaired and our intention to provide input that will contribute to CBVI's ability to meet the unique needs of each consumer. This initiative is a critical element in assisting individuals who are blind or visually impaired to employment.

The leadership of the SRC will continue to maintain the personal goals of effectively communicating the needs of consumers, promoting the removal of barriers to employment, and working to advance the availability of meaningful training and employment opportunities.

In this report, you will meet some individuals, who, like myself and several other SRC members, are living with total blindness or seriously impaired vision. The professional services provided by CBVI's skilled staff and the adaptive technology available today, has made it possible for us to achieve our goals and dreams.

I believe that you will find this publication to be both informative and enjoyable. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Wood, *Chairperson*
State Rehabilitation Council

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Vito J. DeSantis
Executive Director

The New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) are proud to submit the Annual Report for Federal Fiscal Year 2010 as required under Section 105 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1998. This report documents the ongoing teamwork and collaborative efforts of CBVI and the SRC and our continual efforts to improve the quality and scope of employment outcomes for individuals who are blind and visually impaired.

This year marked the 100th Anniversary of the Commission. The celebration of this historic event was kicked off by hosting a Blindness Awareness Night with the Trenton Thunder baseball team at Waterfront Park on July 29th. This was followed by a reception held at the New Jersey Performance Arts Center on September 16th when the Commission was recognized for its many years of dedication to improving the quality of life

for residents of New Jersey who are blind and visually impaired. Then, on October 27th, approximately 300 guests attended "A Celebration of Partnership and Progress Resource Fair and Awards Luncheon" at the Woodbridge Hilton. During this event, the Commission's Board of Trustees and the Fund for the NJ Blind, Inc. acknowledged the work of our community partners and honored several outstanding members of the blind and visually impaired community. They also recognized the fine work of our dedicated staff that has maintained the Commission's standing as a national leader in providing quality services to individuals who are blind, deaf-blind, or visually impaired.

The impact of the nationwide economic recession continues to be felt in New Jersey, especially in terms of the reduction of employment opportunities. However, these challenges did not deter the Commission from having a very productive year, as we saw an increase in the number of individuals who were successfully employed as compared to last year. Additionally, the agency successfully achieved all the Standards and Indicators set by our Federal funding source, the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

The SRC assisted the Commission administrative staff in the development and review of the 2010 State Plan goals. Feedback from the SRC membership on a long standing pre-college summer program initiated a change of direction. With the implementation of the College Prep Experience Program, for the first time, the high school aged participants were able to earn actual college credits. The program proved to be highly successful and will be held again this year in collaboration with Raritan Valley Community College.

This Annual Report highlights the programs, achievements, and accomplishments of the CBVI and the SRC in providing quality services to New Jerseyans with vision loss. Federal fiscal year 2011 promises to be another exciting year for both the Commission and the SRC. Our continuing goal for fiscal 2011 is to keep the SRC involved in all aspects of Commission's service delivery system.

I must take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to all SRC members. Your dedication and commitment to improving the lives of New Jerseyans who are blind and visually impaired is, indeed, commendable. I look forward to another year working in partnership as we build relationships that will provide meaningful employment outcomes for CBVI consumers

Sincerely,

Vito J. DeSantis
Executive Director
Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Major Service Programs Provided By CBVI



Educational Services

Educational services are designed to allow students who are blind or visually impaired to participate equally with other students in regular classroom activities. Once a child is found eligible for services, CBVI works closely not only with the child but also with family members and local school personnel. These services are provided to eligible children (from birth through high school years) and their families.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Vocational rehabilitation provides a full range of services to assist persons who are blind or visually impaired in the development, acquisition or updating of skills, which will enable individuals to secure and maintain employment. This may include working in the labor force or operating one's own business. This program is a federal-state partnership funded by the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Independent Living Services

Independent living training services are designed to help people of any age who are blind or visually impaired gain the skills of daily living, which will be needed to lead a full and productive life. CBVI provides five general types of assistance/instruction with the program: daily living skills, communication skills, orientation and mobility, Braille, and eye health.

Prevention Services

The Prevention of Blindness Program works to save sight and restore vision whenever it is medically possible. CBVI conducts, and sponsors, a variety of educational programs and eye health screenings throughout the state to help detect vision problems and to assist residents of New Jersey with restorative treatment. Annually, Project Prevention screens more than 40,000 New Jerseyans.



Statewide Impact of CBVI Services

Numbers indicate total served by Commission services and/or programs:

Atlantic	385
Bergen	516
Burlington	456
Camden	689
Cape May	108
Cumberland	253
Essex	811
Gloucester	265
Hudson	438
Hunterdon	61
Mercer	378
Middlesex	808
Monmouth	587
Morris	323
Ocean	654
Passaic	568
Salem	69
Somerset	199
Sussex	100
Union	499
Warren	65

2010: A Centennial Year

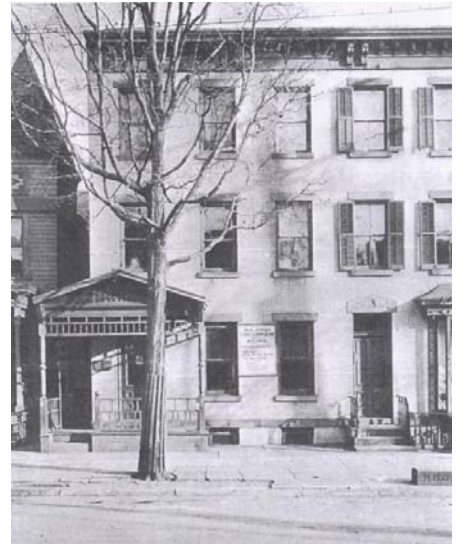
In April of 1909, Governor Franklin Fort and the New Jersey State Legislature mandated that an agency be established for the direct purpose "to provide any and all means which shall be deemed feasible for ameliorating the condition of the blind."

The formation of a single agency to administer to the needs of New Jersey's blind population was the culmination of a wave of social conscience that swept the country in the late 1800s and early 1900s. This was in no small part inspired by the advocacy of then, media figure, Helen Keller. As a result, significant strides were made toward equalizing opportunities for people who were blind.

The New Jersey Commission for the Blind was established in 1910 under the leadership of Lydia Young Hayes, a teacher of the blind who'd lost her vision due to an injury at the age of nine. The agency's first assignment was to compile a registry of the state's blind residents. By the end of the year 750 people living as far north as Bergen County and as far south as Cape May were registered by Commission staff.

Also during that first year, Miss Hayes and another teacher, Janet Paterson, established the state's first integrated classes for blind and sighted students within the Newark school system. These classes were based on a very innovative philosophy that integrated classes provided blind students with the educational tools and exposure necessary for a smooth assimilation into society.

Since 1910, New Jersey has worked diligently to prevent blindness as well as provide services that will assist people with vision loss in reaching their highest personal level of independence and economic self sufficiency.



Headquarters of the
NJ Commission for the Blind
14 James St., Newark, NJ
(Circa 1910)



CBVI's First Director



Lydia Young Hayes, the first Director of the NJ Commission for the Blind, was born on September 11, 1871, in Hutchinson, Minnesota. When Lydia was nine years old, while playing in a field on her parent's farm, she was thrown by a bull. This serious accident resulted in several injuries, including the loss of her eyesight.

Her parents were determined that Lydia should continue to learn and grow, despite her blindness. Her parents sent her to live with her uncle to enable her to attend the Massachusetts School for the Blind, better known as the Perkins Institute, where Anne Sullivan, Helen Keller's teacher was taught.

After graduating from the Perkins Institute, Lydia studied at the Kindergarten Normal School of Boston University. She opened a private nursery for sighted children but she spent much of her time volunteering as a home teacher for blind adults.

In 1904 Massachusetts officially recognized the importance of providing "home education" for blind adults. Lydia Hayes was the first person asked to be one of the program's two official teachers, by Helen Keller and the other members of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind.

It was Keller who personally visited New Jersey and appeared before the state legislature giving testimony on the need for (in her words) "a state Commission for the Blind". In 1909, Governor Franklin Fort, followed up on Keller's recommendation to invite Lydia Hayes to accept the responsibility to establish New Jersey's state agency for the blind.

Throughout her career, Lydia Hayes fought vigorously for people who are blind and remained firm in her assertion that their right to a productive and fulfilling life was not something she would ever consider negotiable.

"Education concerning the blind should be two-fold: the education of the individual regarding his responsibility to the community and the education of the community to promote understanding of the capabilities of the individual."

- Lydia Young Hayes



**CBVI operated with a budget of
\$33,560,000 for State Fiscal Year 2010.**

CBVI Satisfaction Survey Summary – 2010

CBVI, enlisted the Monmouth University Polling Institute to administer a Consumer Satisfaction Assessment Survey for consumers of vocational rehabilitation services. Large print survey questionnaires were sent to 1,714 CBVI consumers to assess their overall experience with CBVI service delivery. A sample of 802 consumers participated, for a response rate of 55% with a margin of error of +2.5%. A comparison of the current survey to the 2004 and 1997 surveys indicate CBVI satisfaction levels increased from survey to survey for all major facets of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services.



Fifty three percent (53%) of consumers surveyed currently have open cases with CBVI, 5% in post-employment status, and 43% were closed in fiscal years (2008 and 2009). The survey demographics include racial demarcation of 53% white and 47% minorities. Fifty-four percent (54%) of the respondents were men and 46% were women. Levels of visual impairment varied from corrected visual acuity of 20/50 to totally blind with no light perception. Forty one percent (41%) of consumers surveyed include other disabilities in addition to visual impairment. Students represent between 14% and 18% of the sample.

Consumers continue to rate their experiences with CBVI as favorable. Positive ratings on most questions increased a few points from the 2004 levels when the numbers improved several points over the 1997 results.

The survey results indicate that 72% of consumers rate their overall experience with CBVI's vocational rehabilitation services as excellent. These numbers are the same as 1997 and 2004 ratings.

Sixty nine percent (69%) of consumers rate the length of time they began receiving services and the guidance provided by their vocational counselor as excellent. Sixty-two percent (62%) rate the quality of information they received as excellent. This is identical to the 2004 findings and up 6 points from 1997.

Despite the overall challenging job market since 2008, opinions of CBVI Vocational Services to obtain or retain employment have improved over previous years. Ratings of "excellent and good" are up by 4 percentage points from the 2004 survey and 13 points from the 1997 survey.

A majority of all consumers strongly agreed that:

- they benefited from CBVI services;
- were clear about their rights and responsibilities;
- received materials from CBVI in accessible format;
- were empowered to make their own choices regarding vocational planning;
- would recommend CBVI services to other consumers.

Overall, CBVI continues to get very good evaluations from its consumers and keeps improving service delivery. Since 1997, CBVI satisfaction levels are consistent across all areas measured in the survey and lead to a very encouraging upward trend. CBVI remains committed to understanding the relations between accountability and quality of service, consumer satisfaction and making recommendations for enhancing service delivery.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Vocational rehabilitation services are provided by CBVI to help people who are blind or visually impaired achieve their employment goals.

The SRC is pleased to acknowledge the contributions of the Commission's staff. Professionals such as Vocational Counselors, Rehabilitation Teachers, Job Developers, Assistive Technology Specialists, and Orientation and mobility Instructors provide these services which are designed to assist consumers to retain, obtain, or maintain successful employment outcomes consistent with their strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, interests, and informed choice.

Scope of Vocational Rehabilitation Services includes:

- Assessment for determining eligibility and VR needs by qualified personnel;
- VR counseling and guidance, including information and support services to assist an individual in exercising informed choice, including referral and services from other agencies;
- Physical and mental restoration services;
- Vocational and other training services;
- Maintenance and transportation related to the rendering of any VR services;
- Vocational rehabilitation services to family members;
- Interpreter services, including sign language and oral interpreter services, for individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, and tactile interpreting services for individuals who are deaf-blind;
- Independent living skills instruction including personal and home management;
- Orientation and mobility services to instruct in methods of safe community travel;
- Services to assist students to transition from school to work;
- Job-related services, including job search and placement assistance, job retention services, follow-up services, and follow-along services;



- Supported employment services;
- Personal assistance services, including reader services;
- Occupational licenses, tools, equipment, initial stocks, and supplies;
- Technical assistance to individuals who are pursuing self employment;
- Rehabilitation technology services and devices; and
- Post-employment services

**Vocational Rehabilitation Program Participants Achieved Employment
In The Following Job Categories In FFY 2010**

3.0%	Management
2.0%	Business and Financial
1.0%	Computer and Mathematical
0.35%	Architecture and Engineering
0.69%	Life, Physical, and Social Sciences
4.0%	Community and Social Services
0.35%	Legal
9.0%	Education, Training, and Library
3.0%	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media
1.0%	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical
4.0%	Healthcare Support
2.0%	Protective Service
5.0%	Food Preparation and Serving
5.0%	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance
7.0%	Personal Care and Service
9.0%	Sales
20.0%	Office and Administrative Support
0.35%	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry
1.0%	Construction and Extraction
2.0%	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair
4.0%	Production
7.0%	Transportation and Material Moving
5.0%	Homemaker
1.0%	Vending Facility Clerk (Business Enterprise Program)
2.0%	Vending Facility Operator (Business Enterprise Program)

SRC Working Principles and Responsibilities

The State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) is established in Section 105 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and 34 CFR 361.16 & 361.17 of its implementing regulations. The SRC gives advice to, and works in partnership with, the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agency. Pursuant to Section 105 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended 1998 (P.L. 105-220), the Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired has established a State Rehabilitation Council (SRC).

The functions of the SRC are:

- Review, analyze, and advise the Designated State Unit regarding performance of the responsibilities of the unit under Title I of the Rehabilitation Act;
- In partnership with the Designated State Unit, develop, agree to and review State goals and priorities, and evaluate the effectiveness of the vocational rehabilitation program;
- Advise the Designated State Unit and assist in the preparation of the State Plan and amendments to the plan, applications, reports, needs assessments, and evaluations required under the Rehabilitation Act amendments of 1998;
- To the extent feasible, conduct a review and analysis of the effectiveness of, and consumer satisfaction with vocational rehabilitation services;
- Prepare and submit an annual report to the Governor and the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) on the status of vocational rehabilitation programs operated within the State and make the report available to the public;
- Coordinate with other councils within the State, including the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC);
- Provide for coordination and the establishment of working relationships between the Designated State Unit and the Statewide Independent Living Council and centers for independent living within the State; and
- Perform other functions, consistent with the purpose of this title, as the SRC determines to be appropriate, that are comparable to the other functions performed by the Council.

The members of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) are appointed by the Governor. The composition and terms of office of the State Rehabilitation Council are outlined in Section 105 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended.

The SRC convenes at least four meetings a year in such places as it determines to be necessary to conduct Council business. The meetings, hearings, and forums shall be publicly announced and are open and accessible to the general public. The meetings are held in compliance with the N.J. Open Public Meeting Act, NJSA 10:4-6.

Highlights of SRC Activities and Accomplishments

- The SRC met five times in FFY 2010 to build a more effective working relationship among members; assist with any challenges facing the Commission; advise on new programs being developed; and Recommend strategies to increase competitive employment opportunities
- Recruited new members for the purpose of broadening the scope and diversity of the Council.
- Assisted the Commission during the monitoring process performed by the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration in FFY 2010.
- Assisted in the preparation of the VR Annual Report and State Plan;
- Conducted two regional public forums in April, 2010 to solicit the comments and hear the concerns of CBVI consumers. As a result of an enhanced communication strategy implemented by the SRC, interested parties from around the state were, for the first time, able to participate in the forums by conference call phone line.
- The SRC Chair assisted CBVI staff to organize a Disability Mentoring Day program at Bank of America's headquarters in New York City on October 15th. Four college students attended along with four Commission staff and the Executive Director of the Commission. Participants attended plenary presentations as well as small-group discussions about specific aspects of working as a person with a disability at Bank of America. Sessions were also held on how to fine-tune their resumes, gain additional job-hunting skills and practice first-hand for a securing a job interview.
- Provided recommendations that led to development of a new summer program called the College Prep Experience, in which 22 high school-aged students were able to earn up to five college credits at Raritan Valley Community College while experiencing dorm life at the Joseph Kohn Training Center in New Brunswick.
- Provided information to the State of New Jersey legislative staff and other community leaders on the unique needs of our consumers and the impact that budgetary cuts would have on critical services.
- Provided valuable feedback to Commission administration on the development of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects, to assist the agency in creating consumer-driven projects and programs.

Project Prevention

The Project Prevention Unit has been operational since 1996. Targeted populations continue to be in areas where medical care is lacking or insufficient.

Statistics show that 50 percent of all incidences of blindness could have been prevented with proper medical eye care. The goal of the Project Prevention program is to save sight and restore vision for New Jersey residents whenever it is medically possible. CBVI conducts and sponsors a variety of educational programs and eye health screenings throughout the state to detect vision problems. The Commission provides vision and diabetes screenings predominantly to traditionally underserved populations, and connects these individuals to essential CBVI services, including Vocational Rehabilitation.



2010 Highlights (Number of people served)

Adult Vision Screening (7,191)

Pre-School Vision Screening (26,273)

Mobile and Migrant Screening (6,330)

Diabetic Eye Screening (1,746)

Total Individuals Screened (41,540)

Total Number of Screenings (821)

Referred for further Evaluation (6,412)

Referred to CBVI (1,065)

Referred to Monthly Screening Sites (143)

Additional Services:

Referred to Community Services (1,895)

Prescriptions for Eye Glasses (2,502)

Vouchers for Eye Glasses (74)

Referred to NJ Family Care (122)

Project Prevention Goals for 2011

- Restore the number of people screened to previous levels and ultimately increase to 50,000 people
- Continue to pursue grants to expand the program
- Continue to serve as a front-line referral source to CBVI VR services
- Continue to increase the number referrals of eligible constituents to NJ Family Care

Any business or organization in New Jersey can request a vision screening by contacting the Commission's Project Prevention Unit at (973) 648-7400.

RSA Standards and Indicators

The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) has established evaluation standards and performance indicators for all state Vocational Rehabilitation programs, which include outcome and related measures of program performance. RSA mandates that state Vocational Rehabilitation programs submit performance data on an annual basis. The state-specific and national data is compiled and analyzed for tracking performance success or need for improving performance levels.

The Evaluation Standards assess Vocational Rehabilitation program impact on employment using Performance Indicators. These indicators measure employment outcomes not just in terms of numbers, but also in terms of their impact on meaningful, quality of life issues, such as salaries and placements within regular competitive work settings.

The New Jersey Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired utilizes the Standards and Indicator to benchmark the quality of services that are provided to consumers. The Quality Assurance Unit compiles the data on a quarterly basis and distributes the report to administrators, managers, and vocational rehabilitation supervisors. Plans and goals to increase the effectiveness of the VR program are developed based on these reports. This year, the Commission's performance surpassed expectations for every standard the RSA set.

Below are the RSA standards and the Commission's performance for the Federal fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010.

Total number of individuals employed:

RSA expects to see a matching or a yearly increase.

CBVI exceeded RSA goals for this standard.

FFY 2008 – 292

FFY 2009 – 279

FFY 2010 – 288

Percent of individuals who are earning at least minimum wage:

CBVI exceeded RSA goals for this standard.

RSA Standard – 35.40%

FFY 2008 – 98.6%

FFY 2009 – 92.8%

FFY 2010 – 95.0%

Percent of individuals who achieve an employment outcome after the development of an employment plan:

CBVI exceeded RSA goals for this standard.

RSA Standard – 68.90%

FFY 2008 – 70.4%

FFY 2009 – 67.9%

FFY 2010 – 70.1%

Percent of individuals employed who have a significant disability:

CBVI exceeded RSA goals for this standard.

RSA Standard – 89.00%

FFY 2008 – 98.9%

FFY 2009 – 100.0%

FFY 2010 – 100.0%

Ratio of the hourly wage of individuals employed compared to the state average hourly wage:

CBVI exceeded RSA goals for this standard.

RSA Standard – 0.59

FFY 2008 – 0.71

FFY 2009 – 0.65

FFY 2010 – 0.60

Change in the percent of individuals employed whose current earnings is their primary source of economic support:

CBVI exceeded RSA goals for this standard.

RSA Standard – 30.40%

FFY 2008 – 46.30%

FFY 2009 – 34.4%

FFY 2010 – 40.1%

Ratio of the service rate minority individuals compared to the non-minority rate:

CBVI exceeded RSA goals for this standard.

RSA Standard – 0.8

FFY 2008 – 0.93

FFY 2009 – 0.92

FFY 2010 – 0.82



**CBVI Executive Directors past and present
celebrating agency's 100th Anniversary**

(Left to Right) Norma F. Krajczar; Vito J. DeSantis; and Jamie C. Hilton.

Business Enterprise Program

The New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired is the State Licensing Agency (SLA) for the Randolph-Sheppard program. The Business Enterprise Program (BEP) provides employment opportunities for legally blind individuals to work as managers of food service and vending facilities.



In addition to being legally blind, individuals who wish to enter the BEP program are required to have a high school diploma (or GED) and be a United States citizen. The BEP staff is comprised of a Manager, six Field Representatives, one part-time VR Counselor, and one Senior Therapist Program Assistant.

BEP currently oversees the operation of sixty-one (61) locations in New Jersey. The types of operations include a single person operation (dry stand), snack bar, café, cafeteria, three military dining facilities and vending machine only operations.

To become a BEP licensee, each program participant must first successfully complete the twenty weeks training course offered at the Joseph Kohn Training Center. During this time trainees receive instruction in various subjects related to the food service industry such as sanitation, safety, customer service, math, menu selection and food preparation.

After completing the course at the JKTC, each trainee must then complete on-the-job training with an established BEP location manager.

Once licensed, the individual is eligible to apply and compete for BEP location opportunities. When awarded a facility, the new manager is provided with on-going support from the Business Enterprise Program staff.

2010 Highlights

Total gross sales: \$26,676,275.

Operator average net income: \$ 58,817

Total number of operators served: 61

Total number of consumers evaluated: 9

Total number of consumers trained: 4

Total number of consumers receiving placements: 3

- Work is in progress to open the Dunkin Donuts within the Hughes Justice Complex in Trenton, New Jersey
- Awarded the full food service contract at TRACEN, (Cape May Coast Guard Training Center)

2011 Initiatives

- Plans to renovate the Hudson County Administration Building, Jersey City New Jersey



Spotlight on Success

Frank Bentivegna

It was the end of 2007 and Frank Bentivegna was feeling like his life was just about over. Visually impaired for most of his 47 years from glaucoma and myopic degeneration, he had recently experienced a loss of vision that made it impossible to perform his duties as a quality control manager of a printing business in New York. He and his family had moved from Westfield to Manahawkin and he discovered that mass transit was almost non-existent.

"I sat on the couch for two years and my wife went to work at Lowe's." He recalled, noting he had traditionally been the family breadwinner. Depressed and with no idea of what next step to take, Frank and his wife Leonora went for a walk on the beach and stopped at the nearby IHOP for breakfast. It was a meal that would change their lives for the better.

Left behind on the table where they were about to sit was, face up, a newspaper featuring an article about the Business Enterprise Program sponsored by the NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. "I received large print textbooks through Catholic Charities when I was a kid in Brooklyn but in New Jersey, no doctor, no hospital no one ever told me there was an agency that could help me," he recalled. The newspaper article "was like a sign from above," he added.

His wife called the number listed in the article and spoke with Vito DeSantis, Executive Director of the CBVI. But it took Frank six months to gather up his courage and register himself with the Commission. Joette Dodds, a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor from the Toms River office came to visit and let him know what services were available. "She was like an angel," he said.

As an owner of small businesses in the past, Frank opted for participation in the Business Enterprise Program "because that's what I knew". Frank participated sixteen weeks of training at the Joseph Kohn Training Center in New Brunswick learning to be a competent person with low vision.



BEP class learning vending machines.

Almost a year to the date of discovering the newspaper article, Frank was running his first cafeteria in Toms River. And in August, 2009, Frank moved to his current location, a much bigger cafeteria in the State House in Trenton. The place required a major cleaning and overhaul and lots of goodwill to bring back customers. It's now the Café NJ operated by Manna Café, the name Frank and Leonora chose to reflect the spiritual food that nourished ancient Israelites while they found their way from exile.

Governor Chris Christie has visited at least a half dozen times and is especially fond of the homemade chicken salad Frank's daughter, Christie Bentivegna created from a recipe of his mother-in-law's, Helen Corcoran. And the regular lunch crowd includes many other political figures as well as civil servants.

Frank says his confidence and zest for life started to return during his time at the Joseph Kohn Training Center. "I was surprised to find how many people out there were like me and an agency already set up to handle everything. The wheel didn't have to be reinvented," he recalled. "Everyone I came across was either inspiring or helpful or an experience."

Disability Mentoring Day

The Bank of America hosted its annual Disability Mentoring Day event on October 13, 2009, at their corporate headquarters in New York City (NYC). The participants included several organizations around the city that work with people with disabilities, including the NYC Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities and the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI). Four college students in their sophomore or junior year were among the participants from the Commission.

The morning session consisted of employees with disabilities discussing their successes at Bank of America, and the challenges they overcame to reach it. The mentees then accompanied their mentors to learn, first-hand, the day-to-day operations of their chosen field of interest. During the latter part of the day, the mentees were given a crash course in effective resume writing and interviewing by the Human Resource staff. Special presentations were made by the Executive Director of the CBVI, Vito DeSantis as well as Ted Kennedy, Jr. At the end of the day, Bank of America staff was presented with a certificate of appreciation for making the day a success, and for increasing opportunities for the blind and visually impaired population. The students left the event equipped with a contact, in their field of interest, of a recruiter for follow-up as employment and internship opportunities become available.

Joseph Kohn Training Center

The mission of the Joseph Kohn Training Center (JKTC) is to help individuals who are blind or visually impaired live full and productive lives by learning to do old tasks in new ways; whether developing a vocational goal or working toward an independent lifestyle, each participant creates a personal plan of action to accommodate their unique circumstances. By working with JKTC staff, as well as helping one another, participants evaluate their abilities, harness their strengths, and explore options that are appropriate to their wants and needs.



The JKTC, located in New Brunswick, is a comprehensive residential facility with accommodations for up to twenty-four consumers. The program curriculum of the center is primarily designed to meet the needs of blind and visually impaired consumers living in New Jersey. There is no fee for participating in the program for New Jersey residents.

The JKTC Curriculum recognizes that the most fundamental adjustment to the loss of vision is to learn how to use sensory cues from hearing, touch, taste, and smell more effectively for day-to-day functioning and living. Each student, regardless of their remaining vision, is required to participate in all areas of training using sleep shades, which is an instructional tool that fosters sensory development and the mastery of blindness skills.

Curriculum instruction is provided in the following areas:

Adjustment to Vision Loss includes both a group and individual process. The center's philosophy and environment is equally as important, as having a curriculum that fosters a positive attitude towards vision loss, to effectively assist an individual's adjustment process. A group class, facilitated by the JKTC consulting psychologist and other center staff, is a valuable component of the program. The group process includes discussions, lectures, guest speakers and the use of audio-video presentations.

Braille includes instruction on incorporating Braille into day-to-day activities including, labeling kitchen items, personal folders, grocery lists, telephone numbers, etc. The reading and writing of Braille is introduced to all students regardless of their degree of remaining vision.

Career Assessment and Vocational Counseling includes administering tests to assist individuals with gaining a better awareness of their strengths as well as any areas that may need improvement. A basic skills assessment is also completed when a student's goals relate to academic training. Vocational counseling assists

in the evaluation of interests and abilities, and in deciding upon the appropriate vocational directions to pursue. Students also gain useful information through career exploration and job shadowing experience.

College Prep Experience summer program is a new and innovative offering for up to twenty-four high school students utilizing the extensive services of the JKTC facility and staff while combining their expertise with college classes offered for credit through Raritan Valley Community College.

Communication Skills includes training for literacy and personal communication such as handwriting, use of the telephone, tape-recorder, and electronic equipment for storage and retrieval of information.

Nursing Services include nursing staff members collaborating with the students, their personal physicians and a dietitian to attend to their health care needs. Students are provided with information about their dietary requirements, eye condition, overall eye health and receive instruction in adaptive techniques to administer medications safely and independently.

Orientation and Mobility Skills include skill training for orientation to the environment, utilization of non-visual cues, and safe cane techniques for travel. The center's environment allows for intensive practice to enable consumers to internalize skills and concepts while progressing towards becoming a safe and confident independent traveler.

Psychological Services include psychological assessments to assist individuals in developing appropriate vocational goals, and identifying specific strengths and needs for job training or placement. As needed, mental health issues are addressed by administering clinically oriented instruments.

Rehabilitation Teaching in Activities of Daily Living include teaching adaptive skills necessary to effectively perform everyday responsibilities such as personal grooming, laundering, sewing, budgeting, grocery shopping and maintaining household cleanliness. In addition, training is provided in both basic and adaptive techniques for safe and independent functioning in the kitchen.

Social Work Services include assessment of each student's social and community supports while utilizing available community resources as needed.

Technology Skills includes training in the use of assistive technology to access the computer. Individuals learn to use appropriate adaptive software as well as basic computer skills such as keyboarding, use of the Internet for information retrieval, and learn to send and receive E-mail. In addition, common production software (such as Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access) is introduced to consumers.



Spotlight on Success

Alice Sheinman

Sometimes, one's next great job opportunity happens while you are making other plans. That's exactly how River Edge resident Alice Sheinman, 45, landed the retail sales job she loves – totally by accident.

A classical musician by training (she has played saxophone with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood), Alice has had low vision all her life from retinopathy of prematurity. She began receiving assistance from the NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired eleven years ago. The services included computer and bookkeeping training to run her own small business, Mandy's Candies, which sold all-natural made-from-scratch chocolates and other sweets to a number of NYC and northern NJ retail outlets.

Eight years ago, Alice and her husband Ira had their son, Zach, and she made parenthood her full-time career. But as Zach spent more time at school, Alice realized she needed a part-time job to keep her intellect engaged and active.

What seemed to be the perfect opportunity -- office manager at a small private ambulance company – came up. "I realized I needed to get some new clothes for the interview and for the office as I had only 'mommy' clothes like jeans and hoodies," she recalls.

A longtime fan of Coldwater Creek, Alice stopped in to browse for some appropriate workplace outfits when the store manager asked her to consider working there. With the office manager job prospect looming, Alice politely declined.

As luck would have it, the job interview never took place and a short time later, Alice realized she should return the new clothes as she wouldn't need them. The same manager at Coldwater Creek again suggested that she consider working at the store. Warm and outgoing, there's no doubt Alice would be successful in retail sales.

And this time, Alice took her seriously. So far, she said she "absolutely loves it." She admits she was reluctant to at first reveal her visual impairment to the store manager but, since it didn't seem to hamper her ability to serve customers, it's not an issue.

"Sometimes, I have a little trouble telling black from navy blue but I really enjoy helping customers pick out clothing that makes them look good," says Alice. She credits the training and assistive technology received from the NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired with building her confidence to work at a retail store.

"Where do I go from here? I have a gut feeling that I can really make something of this," she added.

Technological Support Services

CBVI offers New Jersey residents assistance in acquiring assistive technology that is necessary to gain or retain employment. Assistive technology is defined as any item, piece of equipment, or system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is commonly used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

CBVI's Technological Support Services assist consumers in developing useable methods to access computer equipment and other information technology. The goal of the services is to minimize barriers to task performance by taking into account the consumers specific needs, as an individual who is blind or visually impaired. The agency's Technological Services Specialists (TSS) are responsible for maintaining and staffing four comprehensive and up-to-date Regional Technology Assistance Centers (RTAC) located throughout New Jersey.



Each RTAC is stocked with a variety of assistive technology devices and open to the public by individual or group appointments. Three of these labs are located in each of the CBVI Regional Offices (Newark, Toms River and Cherry Hill) and the fourth is operated in partnership with the NJ State Library Talking Book and Braille Center and is located at their main facility in Trenton, NJ.

In addition, the TSS staff performs technology assessments and skills evaluations for consumers who are seeking employment and require equipment adaptations to assist in their work and/or educational environment. The specialists make recommendations suitable for each consumer's unique situation, such that it would enable the consumer to efficiently address his/her professional or academic responsibilities. They also install, setup, and configure recommended equipment for consumers on-site and instruct consumers on proper usage.

The TSS work with outside agencies, businesses and institutions to evaluate work environments with respect to accessibility for visually impaired employees. The specialists also suggest appropriate solutions to outside agencies that would make these workplaces and the software applications they use more compatible with assistive technology.



Closed Circuit Reading Device (Circa. 1977)

High School Transition Services

CBVI offers transitional services to prepare students with visual impairments to move from school to work, vocational training or advanced academic training. These services are available to youth as young as 14 and all services are based upon the students' interests, abilities and needs.

Summer College Experience Program

For twenty-two blind and visually impaired high school students, the familiar topic of "How I Spent My Summer Vacation" this year included "attending college". These students from around New Jersey participated in an innovative project sponsored by the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired called the College Prep Experience (CPE).

The program took place from July 11th, 2010 through August 21st, 2010 and replaced the annual summer event held at Drew University in Madison. Major changes in this new program consisted of the inclusion of actual college courses for credit, and a residential component that was moved to a Commission facility, the Joseph Kohn Rehabilitation Center, both of which represented a considerable cost and resource savings during trying economic times.

Partnering with the Commission was Raritan Valley Community College in Somerset County. The school, which grants two-year associates' degrees and several professional certifications, welcomed the CPE students into an array of elective subjects. All of the students were also required to take a course in college study skills which was collaboratively taught by a Raritan Valley faculty member and a Commission teacher of blind and visually impaired students.

Most of the students found college-level work to be challenging in the volume and difficulty of assignments. The students were able to earn up to five college credits, which can be transferred to their college placement.

On Friday mornings, the students participated in presentations and discussions on a variety of topics, such as learning about becoming an entrepreneur, how to obtain textbooks and other materials in formats other than print (a crucial skill for students who are blind or visually impaired) and a down-to-earth dialogue by a guest from the State Rehabilitation Council who has a disability and shared her own life story.

Family members and friends of the participants were invited to a celebratory breakfast on August 21st to commemorate the students' accomplishment. All students received certificates of completion and a blue and gold T-shirt with the CPE logo and dates as a remembrance of their participation. The CPE participants were invited to submit a brief essay about how the program had affected their



lives. Two of the students' essays were selected by Commission staff to be read at graduation by their authors.

Due to the outstanding success of the inaugural year of this program, the second annual CPE is scheduled for summer, 2011.

Work Skills Prep Program

The summer of 2010 marked the fifth anniversary of CBVI's partnership with the School of Education at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) to run the innovative Work Skills Prep summer program. This program is for high school students with visual impairments ages sixteen to twenty-one. These students were identified as having additional challenges in gaining employment upon graduation, such as limited work experience or additional disabilities. The goal of the program is to give students the opportunity to learn and/or enhance their skills to become competitive in the job market.



Twenty high school students participated in the June 27th through July 24th, 2010 program. Each student attended one of the two consecutive two-week sessions. Students lived in dorms and attended classes on TCNJ campus. Students also worked at various jobs such as The Talking Book and Braille Center, NJ Manufactures Insurance Company, Borders Books and Music, and Sodexo food service facilities on the TCNJ campus.

The students' class work focused on functional academics stressing Braille/print literacy, use of assistive technology, and person-centered planning. Instruction was provided on such activities as developing a resume, improving communication skills, dressing for success, and learning about team work. Each student worked at least a half day during weekdays to sample the various job sites and to explore their career interests.

Students learned alternative methods for performing activities of daily living by gaining skills in using assistive technology devices and refining skills to accommodate for low or no vision. All students were required to create a PowerPoint presentation which detailed their goals for the future and the support they will need to achieve those goals. Students were expected to make a formal presentation to their peers, instructional staff, and guests on the final day of classes. Each session had a graduation ceremony that was held on the last Saturday of the session to celebrate students' talents and accomplishments.

Even with a very busy schedule, there was some time for extra curricular activities. In the evenings, students attended an audio-described movie, went bowling, out for ice cream, made use of the many facilities of the TCNJ campus, or developed their own evening events. Students presented a talent show, prepared and cooked a family style Sunday Brunch, and participated in various arts and crafts projects. Students also went to the Quakerbridge Mall and T.G.I. Fridays.

A key component of the Work Skills Prep Program included an assessment of each student's computer skills with adaptive software, vocational skills and interests, and functional academic skills.

In addition, each student was interviewed by a staff member on their goals for the future. Assessment reports were shared with the each of the students and his or her family/guardian, the Local School District case manager, and CBVI Education and Transition Caseworkers. Many parents have communicated their appreciation to the Commission for the services and information this program provided about their children.

CBVI and TCNJ plan to offer this program again in the summer of 2011, offering two, two-week long sessions which has been a successful model.

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Spotlight on Success

Mary Fernandez

Twenty-year-old Mary Fernandez of Woodbridge lifted her clear lyric soprano voice and sang "O Holy Night" followed by "Deep River," and "Silent Night." Members of her audience, some in wheelchairs and others, of advanced age, remained seemed spellbound as the music seemed to float around them, filling the room secured by heavy locked steel doors and armed guards.

It was no matter that Mary was singing before an assembly of offenders at the maximum-security Georgia Men's Penitentiary' "they were just people to me," she recalled. It was Mary's fearless sense of adventure and discovery as well as gift for connecting and networking with people that landed her the somewhat unusual gig in the first place.

Blind from congenital glaucoma, Mary is a junior at Emory University in Atlanta. She's is a double major in music and psychology. She belongs to an affinity group in Georgia called "Just for Us Blind Girls." Mary and the warden, who holds doctorates in religion and philosophy, became fast friends and the invitation to sing at the prison soon followed.

Mary, whose family emigrated from Colombia to New Jersey when she was seven, says she was required to perform household chores and do well in school from an early age. "My mom would never let me use blindness as an excuse not to do something well," she says. The academic rigor won her a four-year scholarship to Emory.

The NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired provided Mary with Braille instruction and Braille books and the opportunity to participate in the teen mentoring program called Project LEAD. It was the latter that Mary credits with changing her life forever: "I learned from adult blind role models that I could be a successful blind adult, too," she recalled. The LEAD relationships also introduced to the National Federation of the Blind and that, too, was life changing.

"I learned about how to advocate for myself and about laws covering the rights of blind people," she added. Last summer, Mary won one of the top NFB scholarships, \$10,000.

She also learned how to launch a rocket through a summer NFB project co-sponsored by NASA and last summer, spent five weeks in Paris on a study abroad program through Emory.

"I am an opera singer and need to know several languages," she explained. "The weirdest thing is that France is the birthplace of Louis Braille and there is no Braille there, no Braille signage like there is in the US. You would think Braille would be everywhere, but it's not."

She calls her experience in France "the easiest eight credits ever – I found it lots of fun and not intimidating at all." Already bilingual in Spanish and English, Mary is adding Italian this year to her language toolkit which is required of all students who major in operatic voice. She reads all four languages in Braille, as well.

This year, she was one of only 27 Emory students selected from 300 applicants for a special community-based nonprofit experience. She was assigned to the Atlanta Harm Reduction Center which provides an array of social and medical services to people who have HIV-AIDS.

When she graduates in 2012, Mary plans to pursue a PhD in clinical psychology with a specialization in eating disorders in adults.

Her high-energy descriptions of a steady stream of school projects, volunteering and activities within the blindness community are almost dizzying. "I'm not afraid just to grab my white cane and go!" she added.

Deaf-Blind Services

The Deaf-Blind Unit is part of Statewide VR Services, providing transition and vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with dual sensory impairments, i.e., the combination of hearing and vision loss. The agency employs two Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors (Deaf-Blind Specialists), one located in the Newark office serving the northern part of the state and the other serving the southern half of the state from the Cherry Hill office. Special attention is given to the unique communication needs of individuals who are deaf-blind. Interpreter services and special equipment may also be provided to assist individuals to achieve their employment goals. The Deaf-Blind Unit staff can provide a full range of services to assist individuals who are deaf-blind to prepare for, obtain, or retain employment.



The Deaf-Blind Unit recently inaugurated the new Support Service Providers (SSP) program in collaboration with The College of New Jersey (TCNJ). The program is called Support Service Providers –New Jersey or SSP-NJ. SSP's relay visual and environmental information, act as sighted guides and facilitate communication for adults who are deaf-blind. Individuals who are eligible to receive vocational rehabilitation services from the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired may be eligible to receive up to sixteen hours per month of SSP services. By promoting and supporting employment for adults who are deaf-blind, SSP-NJ encourages community integration through the development and implementation of a statewide network of Support Service Providers.



Spotlight on Success

Jon Gabry

Twenty-one-year-old Jon Gabry of Kearny dreams of becoming an architect specializing in the design of homes accessible to people with disabilities. He's on the right track, excelling in math courses and taking an art class at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

"Jon started drawing floor plans of our house at age three, and that's also when he started rearranging the furniture," says his mom, Kathy Gabry.

Legally blind from Leber's Congenital Amaurosis and profoundly deaf, Jon relies heavily on assistive technology and Support Service Providers (SSPs) provided by the NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired for his education and his artwork.

Jon uses software called Supernova that produces output in Braille and in enlarged print. And he says his favorite means of communication, in addition to American Sign Language (ASL) used in hand over hand method so he can feel the signs, is his new Deaf-Blind Communicator device that permits him to text message friends and family via a cell phone.

SSPs facilitate communication between Jon and the public. He noted that an SSP accompanied him to a recent craft show and assisted with sales of his fine art prints and note cards. Jon has copyrighted two of his designs, both of which involve pencil-drawn ASL signs for "I Love You."

The Metropolitan Museum of Art offers art classes for people who have disabilities and Jon is enrolled in a drawing class. "I feel relaxed and happy when I see colors come together," he said.

For a recent art contest, Jon wanted to draw a human hand. According to Kathy, who served as the hand model, using his left hand, Jon felt her hand and, with his nose almost pressed to the drawing paper on the table, he sketched with his right hand.

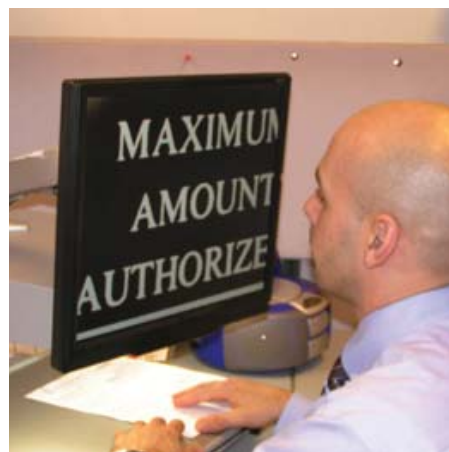
"I was sitting there reading the newspaper and when I looked up and saw the quality of what he had drawn," she recalled, "it just blew me away!"

Before enrolling in Bergen Community College, (which is a regional center for deaf students) Jon graduated Mountain Lakes High School which operates a magnet program for deaf students from throughout Northern New Jersey. A member of the National Honor Society, Jon also participated actively in the rock climbing club, becoming certified to belay, a climbing team member who is responsible for safely holding the ropes of other team members as they ascend and descend.

After high school graduation, the NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired sent Jon to the Helen Keller National Center, a vocational training center for the deaf-blind, in Sands Point, NY, where he honed his skills in activities of daily living such as cooking and cleaning as well as communication, technology, and independent use of para-transit. He used the latter to take classes at Nassau Community College and was the only student at HKNC with college graduation as his vocational goal. After completing his associate's degree at Bergen, Jon says he'd like to enroll in the architecture program at Cooper Union in New York City or at Penn State University.

In the meantime, Jon has had surgery for a severely detached retina and is wearing dark glasses while his eye heals. He always carries a notepad and felt-tipped pen so he can communicate with hearing people. "When the world is a hearing world and you are not, the world isn't going to change for you," says Kathy. "You're the one who has to be prepared." She learned sign language through a correspondence course after discovering her son, at age two, was deaf. She also has learned Braille and works and volunteers as an SSP.

Jon has made a successful small business from sales of his fine art and note cards at galleries around the New Jersey-New York area, especially Arts Unbound in Orange and Maplewood. With his consistent zest for life and his art, Jon credits his family and the Commission for providing the resources and support that are making it possible for him to chart his own course in life and do it successfully.



SRC Goals for FFY 2011

- The SRC Chair will work collaboratively with agency administration, the SRC Chair for the New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, and the Technical Assistance and Continuing Education (TACE) to develop training on role and responsibilities of new Council members for Councils of both agencies.
- The SRC will sponsor public forums in various regions of the State to obtain public comments on Commission services that will be used to improve our ability to convey the consumers' perspective and for the development of the agency's State Plan goals
- The SRC members with visual impairments will participate in Commission sponsored programs and activities to share their knowledge base and expertise with consumers and to serve as mentors and role models.
- The SRC will review all projects that CBVI developed from funding derived from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and provide recommendations on creating sustainable programs that are in compliance with applicable State and Federal regulations.
- The SRC will continue to meet at least five times in FFY 2011 to build a more effective working relationship among members and provide training opportunities.
- The SRC's Policies and Procedures Sub-Committee will continue to review agency's Policies and Guidance Pieces and make necessary recommendations for improvements to the agency's administration.
- The SRC will assist in the expansion of CBVI community education and outreach activities, including seeking opportunities to address individual and groups of potential employers

2011 SRC Meeting Dates

The public is invited to all meetings which will start at 9:30 a.m. at:

**Joseph Kohn Training Center
130 Livingston Ave.
New Brunswick, N.J. 08901
(732) 937-6363**

• **FEBRUARY 4** • **APRIL 1** • **JUNE 3** • **OCTOBER 7** • **DECEMBER 2**

SRC meetings are held in compliance with Section 105 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act, as amended and are also in compliance with the NJ Open Public Meeting Act, N.J.S.A. 10: 4-6

CBVI Offices and Facilities

New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Toll Free Number: 877-685-8878

Web Site: www.cbvi.nj.gov

Statewide Offices and Locations

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Phone: 973-648-3333 / Fax: 973-648-2043

Address: 153 Halsey St., 6th Floor, P.O. Box 47017, Newark, NJ 07101

NORTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE:

Phone: 973 - 648-2111

Address: 153 Halsey St., 5th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102.

Counties Served: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren

CENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE:

Phone: 732 - 255-0723

Address: 1510 Hooper Ave., Suite 240, Toms River, NJ 08753

Counties Served: Monmouth, Ocean, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Somerset, and Union

SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE:

Phone: 856 - 482-3700

Address: 2201 Rt. 38 East, Suite 600, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

Counties Served: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Salem, and Gloucester

HAMMONTON OFFICE:

Phone: 609 - 704-6000

Address: 40 N White Horse Pike, Hammonton, NJ 08037-1894

Counties Served: Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, and Salem

Joseph Kohn Training Center:

Phone: 732 - 937-6363

Address: 130 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick, NJ 08901

GEORGE F. MEYER INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCE CENTER:

Phone: 973 - 648-2547

Address: 375 McCarter Hwy., Newark, NJ 07114

BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM:

Phone: 609 - 584-4905

Address: Quakerbridge Plaza, Bldg. 10, Rm. 102; P.O. Box 721, Trenton, NJ 08625