Greetings,

I am a member of the National Federation of the Blind of Utah (NFBU); an organization comprised of blind and sighted members from around the state who are working to better the opportunities for blind and low vision people in our communities. We do this through advocacy, education, mentoring, and hosting programs that encourage independence and self-confidence. We would like to let you know about an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of blind people by contributing an in-kind donation or gift certificate to be used during our upcoming annual convention. The event will be held March 26 through 28, 2020 at the Salt Lake City Sheraton hotel, 150 West 500 South. Items donated will be used at an auction taking place at noon on Saturday, March 28.

We are raising funds during this auction to assist in several programs that will benefit blind and low vision people around the state. One of my passions for our work lies in our commitment to improving educational opportunities for blind students. Blind role advocates from our organization often meet with parents and school districts to help provide them with guidance on how to provide equal and meaningful education in the mainstream school system for a blind child. There is a high corollary between Braille readers and employment, as 90 percent of all employed blind people are Braille readers. NFBU runs a summer program for elementary students called Braille Enrichment in Literacy and Learning (BELL) Academy. This academy provides two weeks of hands on educational and social activities that use Braille skills and is run by blind adults. We also have a scholarship program which sponsors up to $10,000 in scholarships to blind college students in Utah. It is the largest of its kind in the state and we will award these scholarships at our banquet during the convention on the evening of Saturday, March 28.

Can you help sponsor an auction item with an in kind product, event ticket, or gift certificate from your company? All donations are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible. Any donation you make would be genuinely valued. The NFB of Utah is a charitable organization as defined by section 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code; our Federal Tax I.D. is 94-2579118. This makes your donation a tax-deductible contribution. We can arrange to pick it up from you by March 19, or it can be mailed to me directly, whatever is most convenient.

I would be happy to answer any questions about the National Federation of the Blind of Utah or about how else your gift will increase opportunities in your community. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Enthusiastically,

Everette Bacon, President NFBU

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