Hello Everyone,

After my signature is an email I received with a link to a Braille Monitor article. I share for two reasons, the first is because it is a great read!

Secondly, while reading I reflected back to the year I lost my eyesight which was the year the article was written - 1997. In this reflection I remembered this experience.

When I lost my eye sight I was very bored since my local rehabilitation took six months to start. I began teaching myself the basic independent living skills, I guess that is why the local independent living class bored me. I was fortunate for two things and the first is that my retina doctor connected me with the Talking Book Library by providing me an application the same day I became totally blind. Secondly, my Division of Blind Services counselor subscribed me to two ppublications. One of the was the Braille Monitor and the other was the Braille Forum (I think that is the correct name). During those times of boredom or when going to bed and my mind raced wondering what I would do with my life, I read these publications. I soon chose my favorite - The Braille Monitor. I told my mother who was very concerned about me these exact words, "Mom, you would not believe all the things blind people are doing", "You don't have to worry about me if they can do it so can I; I will be okay."

At that point in time I never imagined that I would have done the things I have done i.e. great amounts of travel earn a masters degree, and become a

Licensed Clinical Social Worker. But Wow, I have! One of two seeds of

hope was planted many years ago, 1997, by a magazine that told a newly blind person that there is hope and life, abundant life in my case, after blindness comes!

Just in case you are wondering the second seed of hope was by my employer at IBM that told me I had a job to return to after I did what I needed to do.neither one of us had any idea what that meant but it was hope and I am grateful for his words!

Have a great day everyone and I hope you enjoy the below article!

With love, hope, and determination we can live the lives we want!

Merry C. Schoch,

Proud of my LCSW credentials!

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