



Tim Elder, President

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To Whom It May Concern,

Blindness affects people of all ages, races, and socio-economic backgrounds. Over 1.3 million Americans are legally blind, and over 10 million are dealing with some form of severe visual impairment.

Few can conceive that blind people are capable of fully participating in their communities — raising families independently, being competitively employed and participating in the same activities that fully sighted individuals enjoy.

In 1940, a group of seven individuals that believed strongly in the abilities of blind people created the National Federation of the Blind. This small but vibrant organization exploded into what is now an organization of 50 thousand blind and low vision people. They advocate daily for the independence of blind people across the United States and believe adamantly that it is respectable to be blind.

79 years after its creation, the National Federation of the Blind consists of 52 state affiliates — including Puerto Rico and Washington D.C — and a myriad of divisions and interest groups. The National Federation of the blind of California, one of the largest affiliates in the nation, operates mainly through contributions from individuals and companies like you. From the day it was founded, the National Federation of the Blind of California has fostered confidence and independence among blind and low vision people — helping them learn essential skills that carry over into their everyday, active lives.



For Lisamaria, the National Federation of the Blind of California opened doors of opportunity, hope, freedom and independence. As a 7-year-old girl, Lisamaria’s parents had high expectations for their blind child. Not knowing how to best teach her blindness skills, they turned to the NFB for help and guidance.

Through her local chapter, Lisamaria began to meet successful blind people who went to college, were gainfully employed, and led active and fulfilling lives. Mentorship and community gave Lisamaria the springboard needed to be a confident blind

woman. She has graduated from UC Berkeley with a B.A., Louisiana Tech with an M.A., had a successful 15+ year career in the nonprofit sector, and now runs her own life coaching

business. She is happily married and has three amazing children. Together, Lisamaria and her family lead active lives, where blindness does not hold them back.

Help support our fundraising efforts to keep the National Federation of the Blind of California, an organization that achieves equality and independence for all blind and low vision people, a thriving and successful organization. You can become a valued sponsor or donate an in-kind gift today to help give blind people the opportunity to work, play, and succeed alongside their sighted counterparts.

From the bottom of our hearts we thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Elder". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Timothy Elder, President
National Federation of the Blind of California

P.S. Are you motivated to give more? You can become a sponsor of our annual state convention this November. Sponsors help bring to light some of our life-changing activities at convention and help our scholarship program thrive.

You can fill out the sponsorship form online at nfbcal.org/convention to help change what it means to be a blind Californian.

Thank you for becoming a sponsor of the 2019 National Federation of the Blind of California State Convention.