



## The Florida Association of Agencies Serving the Blind

FAASB is a statewide nonprofit organization that provides direct support services to visually impaired and blind Floridians through its local nonprofit member agencies throughout Florida.

### PRESS RELEASE

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[www.FAASB.org](http://www.FAASB.org)

#### FAASB Member Agencies

**Center for the Visually Impaired**  
[www.CVICentralFlorida.org](http://www.CVICentralFlorida.org)

**Florida Center for the Blind**  
[www.FLBlind.org](http://www.FLBlind.org)

**Florida Lions' Conklin Centers  
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**Independence for the Blind**  
[www.IBWest.org](http://www.IBWest.org)

**Independent Living  
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**Lighthouse Central Florida**  
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**Miami Lighthouse for the Blind  
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**New Vision for Independence**  
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**Visually Impaired Persons of  
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[www.VIPCenter.org](http://www.VIPCenter.org)

### **Eighth Annual Florida Vision Summit Scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2014 At the State Capitol**

(Tallahassee) State Representative Dennis Baxley (R-Ocala) and Ms. Ronee Silverman, president of the nonprofit Florida Association of Agencies Serving the Blind (FAASB), announced today that the annual Florida Vision Summit will return to the State Capitol for an eighth consecutive year on Thursday, February 13, 2014.

The statewide Florida Vision Summit is organized and co-hosted by two organizations: the Florida Legislature's Vision Caucus, which is a bicameral, bipartisan Caucus of over 50 Senators and Representatives; and FAASB, which is a statewide association of local nonprofit agencies that provide direct support services to blind and visually impaired Floridians, from blind babies and visually impaired school-aged children to low vision workers and seniors with age-related vision loss.

Representative Baxley founded the Florida Legislature's Vision Caucus in 2005. Ms. Silverman is the FAASB president and Executive Director of the Center for the Visually Impaired and Blind.

More



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FAASB President Ronee Silverman said, "Florida has a rapidly growing population of vision impaired residents, from babies to seniors. The 2014 Florida Vision Summit will focus on collaboration between state officials, consumer groups, service providers and industry professionals to promote awareness of the critical issues of care and funding for services to visually impaired Floridians of all ages."

Representative Baxley has championed the issue of vision impairment through his involvement in the Vision Caucus, and his efforts to raise public and legislative awareness via the annual Florida Vision Summit. "Investing in services to enhance the lives of Florida's visually impaired residents is a smart and sound choice. Skills learned early on through blind babies programs, experiences to ready our youth for the job force, and daily living techniques improving the quality of life and extending the independence of our seniors are beyond valuable. These services dramatically improve the well-being of visually impaired Floridians, and result in expanding their productivity and independence, which is a positive for our state," Representative Baxley said.

"I have learned first-hand how empowering these skills can be as I watch my son Jeffrey, who became blind as an infant, excel to a place of success and independence. I am a believer in the importance of awareness and communication of the services available, and firmly believe in supporting the funding of blind services in Florida."

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The Eighth Annual Florida Vision Summit will begin at 8:00 AM, February 13 with a Legislative Meet and Greet on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the State Capitol. Beginning at 9:00 AM, a three-hour General Session will also be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor. In addition, a Vision Summit Exhibit Area for Patrons and Friends will be available, as will a technology display in the Plaza Level Rotunda from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. All Florida Vision Summit events are free and open to the public.

Previous Florida Vision Summit participants have included the Governor of Florida, the Senate President, the House Speaker, legislators, Executive Agency heads, Florida School for the Deaf and for the Blind, and higher education leaders.

From the private sector, participants have included the leaders of vision-related professional associations, including the Florida Optometric Association, the Florida Society of Ophthalmology and the Professional Opticians of Florida, the leaders of nonprofit organizations, including the FAASB agencies, Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities, Blinded Veterans' Association of Florida, Chatlos Foundation, Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, Florida Council of the Blind, Florida Deaf/Blind Association, Florida Families of Children with Visual Impairment, Hope for Vision, National Association for Parents of Children With Visual Impairments, National Federation of the Blind of Florida, Prevent Blindness America, Southeastern Guide Dogs, VisionServe Alliance, and the public.

End