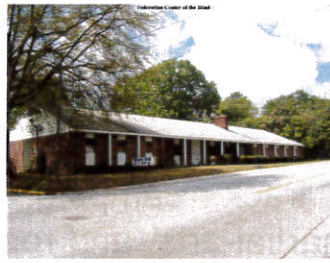


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**Federation Center of the Blind**  
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### ***BLIND PERSONS LIVING THE LIFE THEY WANT***

Since October 15, 1961 the blind had erected the **Federation Center of the Blind**, expanded it twice, staffed the facility to service the needs of blind South Carolinians and changed what it means to be blind. Fifty-five years later, blind people have come a long way in competitive employment (overcoming the 70% unemployment rate among the employable blind), equal access in all aspects of life (with 44 pieces of legislation affecting all blind South Carolinians including establishing the SC Commission for the Blind 50 years ago), and training in braille literacy (even for the deaf-blind) and computer software using adaptive technologies of all kinds.

### ***EMPLOYMENT***

Living the life you want as a blind person means employment - in areas of public and private agency heads and administrative staffing, health care services, telecommunications, insurance, secretarial services, counseling, resident managers in camping facilities, horticulture, food service operations (including military), technology services including (adaptive, networking and programming), pastoral services, musicians, public information directors, governmental affairs directors, attorneys, and much more – all of which the blind are doing today! **The Federation Center of the Blind** endorses employment opportunities that open new avenues of career development and placement.

### ***TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT***

To be a productive blind person it is essential that instruction comes from qualified blind persons, not just to instruct but to also act as a role model for those being taught. This reinforces a “can-do” attitude. This training is being performed by the blind for the blind in areas of white cane travel techniques, use of adaptive technologies, computer technologies, i-phones, GPS devices, working as camp counselors for blind children and for blind seniors, operating self-help fundraisers, etc. **The Federation Center of the Blind** utilizes instructors who are blind to approach training from the same point of view as the blind trainee.



## **RECREATION**

Blind people today “participate” in many recreational activities, not content with just being “spectators.” These things include, swimming, hiking, mountain climbing, bowling, wrestling, track, camping, fishing, cross-country running, basketball, kickball, jogging, martial-arts, and ropes courses to name a few. **The Federation Center of the Blind** encourages recreational opportunities for the blind and works toward recreational participation in many activities.

## **LEADERSHIP**

In order to make a difference in future generations of blind people, it is important for blind leaders to develop other blind leaders. If you can't perpetuate leadership, advances made over the years will unravel over time. **The Federation Center of the Blind** works with the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina and is owned, operated and led by the blind and encourages leadership development for the next generation of blind persons. Its staff and Board of Trustees are all blind.

## **VOLUNTEERISM**

Blind volunteer opportunities bring about an independent attitude, a sense of accomplishment and the knowledge and satisfaction that you are helping others. Sighted volunteer opportunities offer changed attitudes about the capabilities of blind people, a team effort in accomplishing a goal and develops a giving spirit of time, energy and resources. **The Federation Center of the Blind** develops volunteerism to encourage service to others and reinforce confidence in one's own abilities.

## **YOU ARE THE FOUNDATION OF OUR PROGRESS**

We as blind people dedicated to serving the blind of our community depend upon your tax deductible support in order to maintain our high standard in assisting the blind to “live the life they want.”

As a 501(c)(3), tax exempt organization, our budget, while small compared to most agencies, requires \$5,000 in monthly funding or about \$60,000 in annual support. We are capable of this because most all of our programs are implemented by volunteers, both blind and sighted. **The Federation Center of the Blind** could not service the needs of blind people for 55 years without sacrificial giving by a caring community. Please consider what you can do to help. We appreciate your favorable response in caring for the needs of blind people as serviced by their fellow blind.



Cordially,  
*David Houck*  
David Houck  
Executive Director

