

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND YEAR IN REVIEW

WHAT WE BELIEVE

The National Federation of the Blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people, because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams. You can live the life you want; blindness is not what holds you back.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MARK A. RICCOBONO

Our organization is a very large family comprised of blind people, our families, and our friends. The relationships we have with each other help us accomplish our goals as an organization and support each other's dreams. Thank you to everyone who has made personal contributions to our movement through volunteering, financial support, and sharing our message of love, hope, and determination.

BRaille PROGRAMS

Braille literacy is an essential pillar of success for all blind Americans, yet only about 10 percent of students who need Braille learn it in school. Our various Braille programs, including our Santa Letter Program, send a powerful message to children that learning Braille can be fun. In 2018, we sent more than 500 letters through the Santa Letter Program. Learn more at nfb.org/braille.

"Louise absolutely loved getting the letter and trying out her developing Braille reading skills to read as much as she could of the letter. Nothing promotes reading like a letter from Santa! Last year's letter inspired Louise to Braille her own letter to Santa to leave with milk and cookies, since, as she put it, 'Santa must be able to read Braille if he can write it!' Thank you!"

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND SUPPORTS BLIND VETERANS

"The National Federation of the Blind believed in me more than I believed in myself. Being around other blind veterans who traveled the same road provided me with numerous mentors and taught me that it is respectable to be blind. I have lost my eyesight, but I never lost my vision to succeed as a husband or father, to be employed, own a home, pay taxes, and enjoy my life." – Joe, NFB Member

NFB EQ

Far too often, blind youth are denied the opportunity to explore science, technology, engineering, and math subjects because it is assumed that sight is required to succeed in these disciplines.

For over a decade, the National Federation of the Blind has pioneered programs to increase the participation of blind youth in STEM fields. Our latest program,



We gave 6,508
people the gift of
independence in 2018
through the NFB Free
White Cane Program.
nfb.org/canes



NFB EQ (“Engineering Quotient”), is a week-long summer engineering program for blind and low-vision teens. Thirty blind students learned that STEM is within reach in our 2018 NFB EQ program.

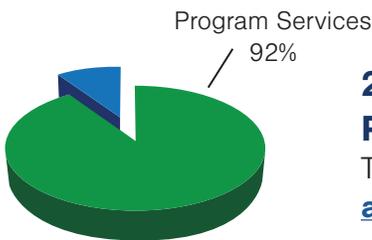
“I’ve been taking engineering classes at school and now that I know there are tools that are easy for me to use, [such as] accessible drafting boards, I’m going to ask for [them] next year. This program has made me more confident in what I can do.” – Yang, Florida

STRATEGIC PLAN

Our three-year strategic plan consists of four major pillars: education, rehabilitation, and employment; membership and community building; advocacy; and development. Each pillar outlines objectives and strategies to drive engagement and growth. The plan invites active participation from all of our stakeholders as we continue raising expectations and advancing our march for independence. Learn more by reading the [February 2019 issue of the Braille Monitor](#).

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The National Federation of the Blind meets the rigorous Standards for Charity Accountability set forth by the BBB Wise Giving Alliance.



2018 PROGRAM SERVICES AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL EXPENSE

To read our 2018 annual report, visit nfb.org/annual-report.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We could not do this critical work without our many generous supporters. Here are some ways that you can help us continue to help blind people live the lives they want.

DONATE ONLINE

A credit card donation can be made online at nfb.org/donate.

DONATE BY MAIL

Checks should be made out to the “National Federation of the Blind” and mailed to the National Federation of the Blind, attention Outreach, at 200 East Wells Street at Jernigan Place, Baltimore, Maryland 21230.

PLANNED GIVING

Including the National Federation of the Blind in your future plans is a thoughtful way to transform dreams into reality by ensuring the next generation excels above the previous. It’s easier than you think. Learn more at nfb.org/planned-giving.



NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF THE BLIND

Live the life you want.