RESOURCE GUIDE
FOR PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS
IN MISSISSIPPI

2020

Preemie Parent Alliance Network
First Steps EIP MS Parent Training
Teacher of Students Information Center
with Visual MS School for the Blind
Impairments MS Hearing-Vision Project
MS Instructional Radio Reading Service
Resource Center (MIRC) Radio Reading
MS Library Commission’s Service of MS (RRSM)
Talking Book Services National Federation
Orientation and Mobility of the Blind of MS
Specialist Lion’s Club Sea and Sun Camp
Lion’s Club Low Vision Clinic at MS
Vision Clinic at MS School for the Blind
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Radio Reading Service of MS (RRSM)
National Federation of the Blind of MS
Orientation and Mobility Specialist
Space Camp for Interested Visually Impaired Students (SCIVIS)

National Organization of Parents of Blind Children
through National Federation of the Blind
MS Department of Addie McBryde Rehabilitation
Rehabilitation Services Center for the Blind
Independent Living Services DeafBlind Community
for Older Individuals First Steps EIP of MS (DBCM)
who are Blind Never Lose Sight LLC
MS Council of the Blind Family First Braille
MS Association for the Education & Rehabilitation
of the Blind and Visually Impaired National Research
Helen Keller National Center (HKNC)

National Center on Deaf-Blindness (NCDB)
National Family Association
for Deaf-Blind (NFADB)
MS School for the Blind
Family First Braille
Welcome to the first edition of the Resource Guide for People with Visual Impairments in Mississippi!

Our Guide:

• Is designed to help you easily navigate the complex world of resources for those who are visually impaired.
• Contains resources for all age groups and stages of life.
• Identifies resources especially for children birth to 21 years of age.
• Includes 2 pages of web resources.

Please feel free to contact Family First Braille at Brenda Ramsey@FamilyFirstBraille.com with any questions or comments.

We would like to thank all the professionals who contributed to the resources for this guide. Their hard work and generosity is much appreciated!

**PRODUCTION TEAM**

We would like to thank all the professionals who contributed to the resources for this guide. Their hard work and generosity is much appreciated!

- **Laurie Hancock**  |  Orientation and Mobility Instructor
- **Jane Harty**  |  Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments
- **Toni Hollingsworth**  |  MS Hearing-Vision Project, University of Southern Mississippi
- **B.J. LeJeune**  |  National Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision
- **Brenda Ramsey**  |  Publisher and Editor
- **Dorothy P. Wilson**  |  Marketing Strategist
- **Cheryl Fishman**  |  Graphic Designer
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Preemie Parent Alliance Network supports parents of premature infants by providing a platform for them to come together as a collective voice, representing the needs and best interests of NICU families in all facets of healthcare policy, care guidelines, advocacy, education, and family support.

Keira Sorrells, Founder and Executive Director
601.345.1772
connect@nicuparentnetwork.org
First Steps EIP is a program that matches the unique needs of infants and toddlers who have developmental delays, or a birth condition that could cause a developmental delay, with Early Intervention services and resources within the community, through the MS Department of Health.

Chandra Laird, Referral Coordinator
601.576.7427 | 800.451.3903
chandra.laird@msdh.ms.gov or Fax 601.576.7540

http://www.msdh.state.ms.us/msdhsite/index.cfm/41,0,74,html_and_https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/2056.pdf
MS Parent Training Information Center (MSPTI)

If you are the parent or family member of a child with a disability, age birth to 26, MSPTI's job is to provide your family with information, resources, support and training that allows you to help your child meet his or her educational goals. They are also here to help you learn about what your child needs to lead a productive and independent adult life.

Leslie Junkin, Director
601-969-0601
leslie@mspti.org
www.mspti.org
MS School for the Blind:

- MS Assistance Center (MAC): Assessments for anyone from birth to 21 years old,
- Ski*Hi - Early intervention for infants and toddlers who are visually impaired or blind.
- On-campus K-12 education

Pre-school, elementary and secondary educational programs designed to focus on the unique learning needs of children and youth with visual impairment.

Donna Sorensen, Superintendent
601.984.8000
dsorensen@mdek12.org
769.257.3493 (c)
www.msb.k12.ms.us
Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI) provides and coordinates specialized instruction. Caseloads include students ranging in age from birth through 21.

- Provides and coordinates specialized instruction to compensate for vision loss.
- Educates students ranging in age from birth through 21.
- Instructs students in the home, school or community.
- Addresses academic and functional domains.
- Uses The Expanded Core Curriculum as a focus with each individual student for assessment and development of learning goals.
- Recommends accommodations and modifications for access to the general curriculum.

www.tsbvi.edu/pds/496-typical-roles-and-responsibilities-of-vi-professionals
**MS Hearing-Vision Project**

provides assistance and training for families and educational teams serving children and youth with both hearing and vision loss.

**Toni Hollingsworth, Project Director**

228.249.9668

toni.hollingsworth@usm.edu

www.usm.edu/mhvp

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**MS Instructional Resource Center (MIRC)**

provides textbooks and specialized materials for school-aged children with visual impairments.

**Dr. Jeremy Stinson, Director**

601.984.8226

jstinson@mdek12.org

www.msb.k12.ms.us/outreach/ms-instructional-resource-center
**MS Library Commission’s Talking Book Services**

provides talking and downloadable books, large print, and more through the Library of Congress’ Free Library Service.

**Mary Rodgers Beal, Director**

601.432.4151 | 800.446.0892

talkingbooks@mls.lib.ms.us

www.mlc.lib.ms.us/tbs

**Radio Reading Service of MS (RRSM)**

RRSM features on-the-air reading of newspapers, books and magazines.

**Mike Duke, Director**

601.432.6301

Mike.Duke@mpbonline.org
Orientation and Mobility Specialist (O&M) focus on training in environmental awareness and the use of a white cane, electronic travel aids, GPS, dog guide, etc.

Orientation is the process of using sensory information to establish and maintain one’s position in the environment; mobility is the process of moving safely, efficiently, and gracefully within one’s environment. The ultimate goal of O&M instruction is for persons with visual impairment to be able to travel in any environment as independently as possible.
Lions Club Low Vision Clinic at MS School for the Blind provides educational assessment of student’s residual vision, training in low vision aids, and more.

Dr. Glen Stribling, Optometrist
601.984.8222

myjenkins@mdek12.org or gstribling@mdek12.org
www.msb.k12.ms.us/low-vision-clinic
Lions Club Sea and Sun Camp is a summer camp for children ages 5-15 years with visual impairments. Camp occurs one weekend each May at Camp Wilkes, in Biloxi, MS, and offers archery, kayaking, crafts, bicycling, swimming, fishing, and more.

Greg Crapo, Camp Co-Founder
228.760.0239
SeaAndSunCamp@cableone.net
www.seaandsuncamp.com

Space Camp for Interested Visually Impaired Students is a week-long camp for students in grades 4-12 at the US Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Camp occurs the last week of September.

Dan Oates, Coordinator
304.851.5680 (mobile)
scivis.oates@gmail.com
www.scivis.org
MS Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS) is the largest state agency committed solely to helping people with disabilities achieve independence through employment. Services may include youth transition services, vocational evaluation, counseling and guidance, educational assistance, job training, job placement, and assistive technology.

Dorothy Young, Director
601.853.5210
dyoung@mdrs.ms.gov
www.mdrs.ms.gov/VocationalRehabBlind/Pages/default.aspx
Addie McBryde Rehabilitation Center for the Blind

is a comprehensive personal adjustment center for transition age students and adults who are blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind.

Rosie Gibson, Director

601.364.2700 | 800.443.1000

rgibson@mdrs.ms.gov

www.mdrs.ms.gov/VocationalRehabBlind/Pages/Addie_McBryde.aspx
Independent Living Services for Older Individuals who are Blind

is a statewide program through the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services. The coordinator’s office is in Starkville. The OIB program assists older adults to “age in place” by improving their quality of life through instruction in adaptive techniques, resources and supportive services.

Lynda Hall, Director
662.320.6656
lhall@mdrs.ms.gov
www.blind.msstate.edu/research/current-research/oib.php
DeafBlind Community of MS
is a nonprofit organization promoting the social well-being of adults who are deaf, blind, or deaf-blind.

Andre Jarreau, Founder and President
303.520.7004
dbcm@earthlink.net or
Contact: Send message in Facebook Messenger
www.facebook.com/DBCMOfficial

Family First Braille
offers quarterly grants for families and organizations serving people with visual impairments, provides custom Braille transcription, and publishes a free quarterly magazine for people with visual impairments and their families.

Brenda Ramsey, Director
228.224.2920
brendaramsey@familyfirstbraille.com
www.ffbraille.com
Never Lose Sight is a nonprofit organization designed to provide the blind/visually impaired community of South MS the resources they need to increase their quality of life, expand their possibilities and regain independence and confidence. Behind the scenes, Never Lose Sight is working toward obtaining new resources and providing South MS with their very own school.

David Lancaster, Founder
228.864.2104

Dr. Barbara Coatney,
bcoatney_1@msn.com
www.facebook.com/pg/neverlosesightllc
The National Research and Training Center (NRTC) on Blindness and Low Vision’s mission is to enhance the employment and independence of persons who are blind and visually impaired through research, professional training and education.

662.325.2001
NRTC@msstate.edu
www.blind.msstate.edu
www.ntac.blind.msstate.edu and
www.oib-tac.org

MS Association for the Education & Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (MAER) is a professional organization to connect with vision professionals.

Harold L. Miller, Jr., MAER President
601.364.1551
601.879.9077
harold.miller2@va.gov
www.aerbvi.org
MS Council of the Blind is a statewide consumer organization. The Council helps elevate the social, economic, and cultural levels of people who are blind or visually impaired, in cooperation with other programs of private and public agencies and organizations serving the blind and visually impaired. Approximately 165 members in MS with chapters in Tupelo, Jackson, Hazlehurst and Hattiesburg.

Ralph Smitherman, President (2019)
601.672.0973
redbird26@bellsouth.net
www.mscounciloftheblind.org/index.php
National Organization of Parents of Blind Children through National Federation of the Blind is a national membership organization of parents and friends of blind children reaching out to each other to give vital support, encouragement and information.

**Sara West, President of the Mississippi Parents of Blind Children**

662.574.3942  
[nopbc.org](http://nopbc.org)  
sarawest2009@hotmail.com

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National Federation of the Blind of MS is a national membership with a state affiliate which provides assistance and support with high expectations to live the life you want.

**Patrina Pendarvis, President**

601.540.6308  
[president.nfbms@gmail.com](mailto:president.nfbms@gmail.com)  
nfb.org
WEB RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES, PROFESSIONALS AND INDIVIDUALS

**Wonderbaby**
Online community of parents and caregivers who are living the challenges and joys that come with parenting special needs children.

help@wonderbaby.org
www.wonderbaby.org

**Family Connect**
An online, multimedia community created to give parents of visually impaired children a place to support each other, share stories and concerns, and link to local resources.
connectcenter@aph.org
www.familyconnect.org/parentsitehome.aspx

**Hadley School for the Blind**
Hadley offers low-to-no cost distance learning options for individuals with a visual impairment, their family members and professionals.
800.323.4238
info@hadley.edu
www.hadley.edu

**Perkins School for the Blind**
Perkins School for the Blind offers numerous distance learning opportunities through online classes, and webcasts.
617.924.3434
info@perkins.org
www.perkinselearning.org

**Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired**
TSBVI offers well-designed and researched-based resources, materials and online trainings for families of children and youth with visual impairments or deaf-blindness, and their educational professionals.

Training events: www.tsbvi.edu/training-events/4053-2014-15-
Publications: www.tsbvi.edu/tsbvi-publications
Selected Resources Page: www.tsbvi.edu/selected-resource-topics
512.454.8631
info@tsbvi.edu
American Printing House for the Blind
Since 1858, The American Printing House for the Blind has operated in Louisville, Kentucky as the world’s largest nonprofit organization creating accessible learning experiences through educational, workplace, and independent living products and services for people who are blind and visually impaired. These products are funded with a federal grant for school aged children. APH items in Mississippi are obtained through the MS Instructional Resource Center (MIRC) via your Teacher of the Visually Impaired and/or school district.

800.223.1839
cs@aph.org
www.aph.org

National Center on Deaf-Blindness (NCDB)
As a national technical assistance center, NCDB works with families, state deaf-blind projects, and other partners to improve educational results and quality of life for children who are deaf-blind and their families.

www.nationaldb.org

National Family Association for Deaf-Blind (NFADB)
Empowering families with individuals who are deaf-blind.

nfadb.org

Helen Keller National Center (HKNC)
is the only national training center dedicated to providing quality services to promote the quality of life for individuals who are deaf-blind (16 years and older). With 50+ years of specialized employment and rehabilitation services to individuals with combined vision and hearing loss, HKNC is committed to providing individualized training to meet the participant’s needs and preferences to maximize their potential in the community of their choice.

Cory Parker, Regional Representative
Voice: 516.350.1026
Text Only: 516.329.3355
VP: 850.270.6012
cory.parker@hknc.org
www.helenkeller.org/hknc

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For more information about any of these resources listed in this book, please contact Brenda Ramsey at:

BrendaRamsey@FamilyFirstBraille.com

228.224.2920