



# AFB connects you

American Foundation  
for the Blind



## Our Vision

The American Foundation for the Blind envisions a world where people with vision loss have equal access and opportunities.



**AFB removes barriers, creates solutions, and expands possibilities so people with vision loss can achieve their full potential.**

“AFB changes lives and creates a better world for people with vision loss. By connecting people to resources, information, and peers, we provide help, hope, and opportunity.”

–*Carl R. Augusto, President and CEO,  
American Foundation for the Blind*

## Changing Lives for Nearly a Century

Guided by this mission – and by the legacy of Helen Keller, who worked for AFB for 44 years – the American Foundation for the Blind is committed to building a more equitable world for the more than 20 million Americans living with vision loss.

## Highlights from AFB's History

- Worked with Apple to make the iPhone and iPad usable for people with vision loss
- Advocated for national legislation that established the National Industries for the Blind and expanded employment opportunities for individuals with vision loss
- Led the effort to ensure children with visual impairments receive their textbooks and classroom materials on time
- Fought to ensure that people with vision loss can vote independently and privately



## Highlights from AFB's History



- Championed the passage of landmark disability rights laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Established the first organization for parents of children with visual impairments
- Played a major role in setting up a rehabilitation program for blinded soldiers, culminating in the Blinded Veterans Association
- Pioneered the Talking Book, opening the doors to literacy for people with vision loss around the world

## AFB Connects Individuals and Families to Support

Visit our award-winning family of websites to find valuable information from experts in the field, as well as peers with similar concerns and experiences.

### Easing the Adjustment

**VisionAware™** assists the growing number of adults new to vision loss and those who care for them by providing easy-to-find information on eye conditions, tips for living and working, and an online community to share thoughts and perspectives.

### Creating a Community of Parents

**FamilyConnect®** supports parents of visually impaired children by providing expert advice, a searchable directory of services, and a completely customized social network.

### Preparing Job-Seekers

**CareerConnect®** matches individuals with vision loss to potential careers, employers, and mentors, and offers guidance on every step of the employment process.



#### Did You Know?

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Experts predict that by 2030, the number of individuals with vision loss is expected to double.

### Showcasing Innovation

**AccessWorld®**, AFB's acclaimed online monthly magazine, delivers the latest news and commentary on accessible technology and products.

### Mapping Services

**AFB's Directory of Services** is a quick and easy way to find rehabilitation programs, libraries, and education centers in your community.

## Did You Know?

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AFB Press is the world's leading publisher of books, journals, videos, and electronic materials related to blindness and visual impairment.

## AFB Connects Professionals to Peers and Practices

Whether you're an employer, an educator, a rehabilitation specialist, or an emerging leader in the vision loss field, AFB offers a rich community of practice, as well as the latest in research and education.

### Sharing Knowledge

**AFB Press produces** more college- and university-level texts and books for professionals on the topic of visual impairment than any other publisher in the world. It is a catalyst for developing and encouraging new authors and scholarship.

### Building Skills

**AFB's eLearning Center** delivers convenient online courses and webinars on topics from rehabilitation to aging to literacy. These accessible courses also offer continuing credits.

### Convening the Vision Loss World

**The AFB Leadership Conference** mobilizes leaders, vision loss professionals, educators, innovators, and advocates to address the most critical issues affecting individuals with vision loss.



## A Place for Answers: AFB Center on Vision Loss

A teen with vision loss checks out the latest adaptive technologies.

An architect takes a tour through Esther's Place, a model apartment for people who are visually impaired. At the AFB Center on Vision Loss in Dallas, people with vision loss and those who work with them find the tools they need to ensure independence.

Visit the center in person or online at [afb.org/cvl](http://afb.org/cvl) for a wealth of information on living independently with vision loss.

## AFB Connects Technology, Industry, and Accessibility

Whether life-enhancing or life-saving, the technology we depend on is being made more accessible every day by AFB. Our work with industry leaders—Apple, Google, and Whirlpool, to name a few—has helped to level the playing field for individuals with vision loss.

### Shaping the Future

**AFB Tech** evaluates mainstream and assistive technology products and advises major corporations to ensure the latest innovations meet the needs of people who are blind or visually impaired. The Tech team also provides in-depth product reviews in *AccessWorld*, AFB's popular online technology magazine.

### Guiding Product Development

**AFB Consulting** works directly with companies such as Marriott and Adobe to make their products, websites, workplaces, and services accessible to all.



### Did You Know?

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AFB has developed apps for people with vision loss.

Now available in the App Store<sup>SM</sup>: *AccessNote*<sup>TM</sup>, a powerful and efficient notetaker, and *AccessWorld*, an on-the-go version of AFB's technology magazine.



### Did You Know?

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Helen Keller worked for AFB for more than 40 years. Today, AFB is proud to house the Helen Keller Archives, containing over 80,000 items that include Keller's writings, letters, photographs, artifacts, and other materials.

*Helen Keller (right) with Eleanor Roosevelt (left).*

## Help Keep Our Connections Growing

Today, people with vision loss cast their votes independently and privately. Children with vision loss join their peers in public schools, equipped with braille, large-print, and electronic materials. And consumers benefit from electronics, home health appliances, and prescription drug labels in accessible formats.

With your support, AFB can expand its role as a leader in the field, connecting people across organizations and geographies under a common goal: a more accessible world full of possibilities for people with vision loss.

Learn more at [www.afb.org](http://www.afb.org), the most frequently visited vision loss site in the world.

**“I think the sky is the limit as for what a blind or visually impaired person can do.”**

*–Carl R. Augusto, President and CEO,  
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Expanding possibilities for people with vision loss