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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS TAKE TO THE  
STREETS IN CELEBRATION OF WHITE CANE DAY**

Los Angeles, CA – October 10, 2005

What: When most people see a white cane, they know what it means—the person holding it is blind. But most people don't realize the importance of the white cane to the independence and mobility of people with visual impairments. President Lyndon B. Johnson recognized the very first White Cane Safety Day in 1964, with the hope of raising awareness about the meaning of the white cane and the need for motorists to exercise special care for the blind persons who carry it. In honor of White Cane Day 2005, more than 100 students, staff and volunteers from Braille Institute's Los Angeles Center will be helping to spread the word about the importance of white cane safety during the 2nd Annual White Cane Day Awareness Walk. The students will be handing out white cane keychains to passersby, along with tips for assisting a blind person and being mindful of white cane users on sidewalks and intersections

When: Tuesday, October 11, from 12:30 to 1 p.m.

Where: The walk will begin in front of Braille Institute's Los Angeles Center, located at 741 N. Vermont Avenue, on the corner of Vermont & Melrose, and will head north toward Santa Monica Boulevard and back.

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Photo Ops/Visuals: Blind and visually impaired adults showing off their mobility skills, while helping to educate the public about white cane safety. Students and staff will be available for interviews.

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If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Courtney Goines, Media Relations Manager, please contact her at (323) 663-1111, Ext. 3176, or by email:

Braille Institute is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to eliminate blindness and severe sight loss as a barrier to a fulfilling life. Through educational training, programs and services, Braille Institute helps tens of thousands of people each year regain and maintain their independence. Thanks to generous donations, Braille Institute services are available free of charge. More information can be found at [www.brailleinstitute.org](http://www.brailleinstitute.org).

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