



*Empowering visually impaired  
people to live fulfilling lives*

# About Braille Institute

## LOS ANGELES SIGHT CENTER

741 North Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90029  
(323) 663-1111

## RANCHO MIRAGE CENTER

70-251 Ramon Road  
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270  
(760) 321-1111

## ORANGE COUNTY CENTER

527 North Dale Avenue  
Anaheim, CA 92801  
(714) 821-5000

## SAN DIEGO CENTER

4555 Executive Drive  
San Diego, CA 92121  
(858) 452-1111

## SANTA BARBARA CENTER

2031 De La Vina Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105  
(805) 682-6222

Braille Institute also offers Community Outreach programs at more than 350 locations throughout Southern California. Call the nearest regional center for locations.

Since 1919, Braille Institute has empowered visually impaired people to live fulfilling lives. Offering hope, encouragement and practical skills for daily living, Braille Institute helps to instill confidence and build self-esteem.

Nearly all of the organization's operating expenses are funded through private individual donations and supporting foundations. Thanks to these generous donors and the dedicated efforts of more than 4,000 volunteers and staff members, Braille Institute is able to serve some 75,000 people annually around the world who are blind or visually impaired — absolutely free of charge.

Braille Institute's regional centers are located throughout Southern California in Los Angeles, Orange County (Anaheim), Rancho Mirage, Santa Barbara and San Diego. In addition, more than 350 Community Outreach locations serve the needs of individuals and families who have been affected by blindness and visual impairment. Services include:

**Adult Education:** Each year more than 2,500 adults benefit from a wide variety of teaching and skill-building programs that are available free of charge. Core focus areas include independent living skills, orientation and mobility, sensory awareness, adaptive cooking, home management, braille reading and writing, and enrichment courses that provide each participant with meaningful social and recreational opportunities. And Braille Institute's Community Outreach efforts assist more than 3,200 people each year.

**Support Services:** Trained counselors help students adjust to impaired eyesight, also working with each family to help build an effective support network. Upon admission, adult clients receive counseling and assistance in selecting classes that will be of greatest benefit to them.

**Child Development Services:** More than 250 Southern California children who are blind receive individual guidance to prepare them for school and mainstream activities with sighted children. These services are available for infants through kindergarten age.

## About Braille Institute (continued)

**Youth & Career Services:** Programs are available for children between the ages of 6 and 18, as well as young adults ages 19 to 30, that help emphasize independent living skills and employment preparation through internships, job counseling and referrals. An assistive technology equipment loan program supports study skills and academic performance.

**Library Services:** Serving more than 33,000 patrons annually in 10 Southern California counties, Braille Institute's library collection features 1.2 million books and nearly 100,000 individual titles covering an extensive range of topics. Reading materials are provided in braille and on cassette.

**Low Vision Rehabilitation Services and Access Technology:** Braille Institute provides more than 5,000 personal consultations each year to demonstrate a wide variety of available equipment and adaptive devices to help maximize remaining vision. These devices range from magnifiers and desk lamps to closed-circuit televisions (CCTVs) and talking computers.

**Braille Publishing:** Braille Institute has grown into the largest braille publisher on the West coast, brailleing more than 2 million pages each year. Professionals can receive multiple books for a set annual fee through the Partners in Literacy program. The Braille Special Collection offers free books for blind children in order to encourage braille literacy, and the "Dots for Tots" program allows preschoolers to experience multisensory storybooks.

**The Braille Challenge®:** Our innovative, nationwide academic competition promotes braille literacy by rewarding high achievement and stressing the importance of braille reading and writing skills among visually impaired youths.

Braille Institute is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to eliminate barriers to a fulfilling life caused by blindness and severe sight loss.



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