Day by Day

We face challenges every day. Some great. Some small. Some we take on by choice—while others find us through no choice of our own. And yet, it’s precisely how we face the biggest challenges of our lives that truly shapes our character and defines who we are. Confronting vision loss is one of the most daunting challenges of all.

It means learning to believe in yourself and your ability to prevail. It’s somehow getting through the hard days and celebrating even the smallest successes. It’s learning to accept help, which itself can be a challenge, and learning to live again. It’s seeing it through.

The faces you see here are not only a celebration of the courage found in all our students and their families, but a reflection of us all and our search for meaning and purpose. At Braille Institute, we are grateful for the chance to be a part of that.
My sisters, Elizabeth and Katy, and I are triplets. We live in Carlsbad with our mommy and daddy. We don’t see like everyone else but that’s OK. I know how to read and write braille and Katy and Elizabeth can read, too—as long as the print is really big. I have a special teacher who comes to my house and teaches me braille. I already know more than 60 contractions and I love to write my own poems. I really like reading stories to Elizabeth and Katy from my own braille books.

Next year, we’re going to be in kindergarten. I have a special teacher at school, too. She’s from Braille Institute and she makes sure that I keep up with everyone else in my class. When I was little, Sharyn from Braille Institute came to visit us all the time. She brought us toys and books and helped us learn how to do things all by ourselves.

I love school and I love to play. Katy, Elizabeth and I ride bikes on our street. We also have fun playing in our backyard. I like the swings the best, Katy likes to draw big chalk paintings on the ground and Elizabeth likes the seesaw. And when it’s hot, we can swim in our pool.

Mommy and daddy were afraid that I’d have trouble in school. But I’ll be OK because Braille Institute helped me since I was a baby.
When I opened my apartment door I could feel the cool morning air on my face. I took a deep breath and headed down the street toward the bus stop. One of the best things about being independent is living in your own apartment. There’s nothing better than having your own space!

My street is really busy, especially during the week. The walk from my house to the bus stop isn’t a very long one, but it would have been difficult for me if I hadn’t learned how to use a white cane.

I’m one of only a handful of blind customer service reps who work for the Marriott Reservation Center. When I first found out that they were hiring, I was really excited but a little nervous, too. I know how hard it can be for blind people to find good jobs. But Braille Institute set up my first interview and even made sure I had the equipment I needed to handle the job. They made the process so easy.

Working for Marriott has been great. During the day I answer calls and make reservations for people all over the country. The callers never know that I can’t see the screen in front of me. With one ear I listen to the customer, and with the other I listen to a talking computer. It’s a fast-paced job, but I love a challenge. Now I’m one of the top reps at the Marriott, and the things I’ve learned at the Orange Country Center really helped.
Every morning I wake up and realize how lucky I am to have a wonderful wife, a fine house, a life that is full of good friends and interesting experiences. When I start out each day I know I can depend on my good friend the white cane to get me where I need to go.

Cooking is a special passion of mine, and I’m delighted to be able to share what I know as a volunteer teacher at Braille Institute’s Desert Center. I teach my students how to prepare and serve all kinds of food without chopping off a finger or burning themselves. Some of my students have told me that they never thought they would be able to cook again after losing their sight. I’ve been able to give them back a life, and that makes me very proud.

These skills that I pass on are all things I originally learned at Braille Institute. Like my students, I was afraid I’d never be able to adapt to sight loss and continue to do the things I love. But I’ve learned how to get around safely and how to do things around the house, even though I have very little remaining sight, due to macular degeneration.

Golf is another passion, and I love the feel of the club smacking the ball. I don’t take my life for granted out here; I appreciate every bit of it, every day. Even though I’ve lost most of my sight, I’ve gained vision through imagination.
In May we reached another important milestone with the opening and formal dedication of our beautiful new Santa Barbara center. We began construction during a recession and with the guidance of our Board of Directors and the support of our donors through “A Vision for the Future” capital campaign, we now have a model for a new service delivery system. As the smallest of our regional centers, Santa Barbara will be a central location for numerous outreach activities that will extend 300 miles from Ventura County to San Luis Obispo County.

Our National Braille Challenge Invitational™ continues to reinvent itself and gather more participants and momentum. This year, nearly 400 children took the preliminary exam, and the 60 contestants who traveled to Los Angeles for the final represented 28 states and two Canadian provinces. The event received extensive coverage in newspapers all across the country, we were able to increase our major sponsors and the value of the awards more than doubled.

Our Braille Press has been renamed Universal Media Services to reflect a broader range of accessible formats used by visually impaired individuals and to emphasize that our publishing services include readers who use formats other than standard braille text.

We’ve also transitioned our youth services program away from its focus on social/recreational activities to a higher education orientation to better prepare young adults for a career and lifetime of employment.

Finally, with the completion of a brand new design for our Web site, we are able to answer the needs of many more individuals very efficiently and cost-effectively.

Like so many of our students who are seeing it through to a brighter life, our organization has turned the corner financially. We have been able to continue providing services of the highest caliber and to develop new initiatives for even greater effectiveness, thanks to the unfailing support of our loyal donors and the caring hearts of our dedicated volunteers. On behalf of all those who turn to Braille Institute, we owe them our deepest gratitude.

Thomas W. Burton, Chairman, Board of Directors
Leslie E. Stocker, President

Tom & Les
We end this year buoyed by a sense of optimism and a renewed faith in our ability to weather the challenges we face, both economically and in continuing to deliver the very best in human services. The quality and steadfastness of our volunteers remains constant, the commitment of our staff endures and our donor support continues to build a strong foundation for all we do.

AT A GLANCE:

- People Assisted: 66,217
- Staff: 325
- Volunteers: 5,279
- Volunteer/Staff Ratio: 16 to 1
- Facilities Managed: 426,000 sq. ft.
- Administrative Costs: 2.7%
- Fundraising Costs: 7.9%

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THOMAS W. BURTON, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leslie E. Stocker, President
Programs & Services

Programs for Adults
More than 200 free classes in adaptation to sight loss, orientation and mobility and independent living are offered at all five regional centers, as well as counseling and support services. Many recreational and creative classes are provided also. Low Vision Rehabilitation specialists recommend devices to maximize remaining vision. Many of these services are offered at more than 180 Community Outreach locations, and Mobile Solutions vehicles bring some services to outlying areas.

Child Development Services
In-home early intervention services for parents of blind infants and toddlers ages 0 to 5 emphasize developmental skills and early independence to prepare children for inclusion in community preschools. Parent education is emphasized, especially in utilizing medical and community resources.

Youth/Career Services
Newly reconfigured programs emphasize independent living skills and employment preparation skills, offering internships, job counseling and referrals. Activities such as surfing, beep-ball, choral singing and rock climbing help build confidence and self-esteem. An Assistive Technology equipment loan program is offered to support study skills and academic performance.

Library Services
Braille Institute’s Library Services provides brailled and talking books by mail, offering patrons access to thousands of titles via phone or the Internet. Our Telephone Reader Program provides news and current events, and we sponsor a popular Summer Reading Program for blind children.

Universal Media Services
Our Braille Publishing division has been expanded and renamed to include recording and electronic text services, enabling us to convert standard-text books. Partners in Literacy enables professionals to receive multiple books for a set annual fee. To encourage braille literacy, the Braille Special Collection offers free books for blind children, and “Dots for Tots” lets preschoolers experience multisensory storybooks.

Volunteer Services
A dedicated corps of volunteers supports nearly all our programs by donating generously of their time and talents. They record books, teach classes, answer the 1-800-BRAILLE helpline, assist in brailling, take our students on day trips, serve on our Speakers Bureau and assist in countless other ways, enabling us to maintain the quality of our services.

Online Services
A completely redesigned Web site allows visitors to access many different types of information quickly. Users can download educational materials, order brailled books, apply for talking-book library services, make a donation through a secure server and receive planned giving information, all at the click of a mouse.
## Adult Education and Counseling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Students Enrolled</th>
<th>Contact Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>954</td>
<td>72,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange County</td>
<td>815</td>
<td>55,577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>37,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Barbara</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>15,506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>34,719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,795</strong></td>
<td><strong>215,602</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Low Vision Rehabilitation Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Consultations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>1,484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange County</td>
<td>1,552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert</td>
<td>919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Barbara</td>
<td>1,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>1,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,363</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Library Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Readers Registered</td>
<td>33,537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Titles</td>
<td>81,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books Available</td>
<td>365,501</td>
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<tr>
<td>Books Circulated</td>
<td>1,581,021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Machines Supplied</td>
<td>45,631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machines Repaired</td>
<td>6,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cassettes Produced</td>
<td>52,592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposits Deposited</td>
<td>1,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>52,270</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Community Outreach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Volunteers</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>1,112</td>
<td>72,987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Outreach</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>3,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth/_special Events</td>
<td>1,149</td>
<td>3,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Term</td>
<td>811</td>
<td>10,106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange County</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>90,473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Outreach</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth/ Special Events</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>1,254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Term</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>15,062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Outreach</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth/ Special Events</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>11,363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Outreach</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth/ Special Events</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>518</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Barbara</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>15,981</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Outreach</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>6,723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth/ Special Events</td>
<td>577</td>
<td>3,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,270</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## TeleService Department

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TeleService Calls Received</td>
<td>7,018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referrals Made</td>
<td>6,862</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Universal Media Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publishing</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Clients of Publishing Services</td>
<td>522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Subscriptions to Braille Press Publications</td>
<td>10,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Including Expectations, Brailleways, Partners in Literacy, To Recall More, Braille Special Collection, Calendar and Rose Parade Program)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braille Publication Readers Registered</td>
<td>8,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braille Special Collection Books Distributed</td>
<td>5,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Braille Pages Produced</td>
<td>5,700,858</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Mobile Solutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low Vision Rehabilitation Consultations</td>
<td>1,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Visitors</td>
<td>4,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Applications Returned</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vistas Inst Sold</td>
<td>$ 45,019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Web Sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Web Site Visitors</td>
<td>128,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals Assisted</td>
<td>3,442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requests for Information Fulfilled</td>
<td>1,758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referrals Given</td>
<td>1,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Residents</td>
<td>5,349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Countries</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Public Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speaking Engagements</td>
<td>1,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Tours</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Films and Television Consultations</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional/National Media Coverage</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern California Media Coverage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Announcements</td>
<td>626</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Vistas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>32,908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange County</td>
<td>23,944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert</td>
<td>10,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Barbara</td>
<td>4,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>6,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>78,748</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Service Announcements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange County</td>
<td>1,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert</td>
<td>4,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Barbara</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>76,748</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Other Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low Vision Rehabilitation Services</td>
<td>2,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Outreach</td>
<td>6,363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Services</td>
<td>52,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TeleService Department</td>
<td>7,018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universal Media Services</td>
<td>10,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Solutions</td>
<td>1,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web Sites</td>
<td>128,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Education</td>
<td>1,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vistas</td>
<td>76,748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Services</td>
<td>1,255</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Who We Serve  
BRAILLE INSTITUTE SERVICES JULY 1, 2003, TO JUNE 30, 2004  
From a total enrollment of 6,774, there were 2,668 adults, youths and infants enrolled for the first time this year.

Gender  
- Male: 53%  
- Female: 48%

Primary Causes of Blindness  
- Macular Degeneration: 46%  
- Glaucoma: 9%  
- Diabetic Retinopathy: 8%  
- Retinitis Pigmentosa: 3%

Age  
- Up to 19: 31%  
- Up to 64: 27%  
- More than 64: 75%

Duration of Blindness  
- Up to 1 Year: 18%  
- Up to 5 Years: 71%  
- Up to 10 Years: 2%  
- Up to 20 Years: 4%  
- More than 20 Years: 1%

Education  
- Grade/Some High School: 5%  
- High School Graduate: 40%  
- Some College: 30%  
- College Degree: 5%

Nature of Blindness  
- Congenital (blind since birth): 8%  
- Adventitious (formerly sighted): 92%

Child Development: Infants Through 5 Years of Age  
- PRIMARY SERVICES (Includes all long-terms consultations of six months or more)  
- Early Intervention (Birth to 3 Years)  
- In-Home Services  
- Number of Infants/Families: 54  
- Hours of Service: 2,430  
- Children in Preschool  
- (Includes 8 Children with a Preschool Assistant)  
- Hours of Service: 4,660  
- Children in Kindergarten Transition and Education Support  
- CONSIDERATIONS  
- Short Term: 152  
- (Number of Families Served for Up to Six Months)  
- Long Term: 219  
- TOTAL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED

Youth Services: 6 to 18 Years of Age  
- Young Adult Program: 19 to 30 Years of Age  
- Total Enrollment (all centers): 229  
- Career Services  
- Employees Contacted: 106  
- Employment  
- Full Time: 23  
- Part Time: 58  
- Paid Internships: 14  
- Assistive Technology  
- Youth Equipment Loan Recipients: 75  
- SUBSIDY TOTAL: $13,600  
- 152 youths have received Assistive Technology since the program was created in 1998, valued at $135,370.

Young Adult Program: 19 to 30 Years of Age  
- Total Enrollment (all centers): 229  
- Career Services  
- Employees Contacted: 106  
- Employment  
- Full Time: 23  
- Part Time: 58  
- Paid Internships: 14  
- Assistive Technology  
- Youth Equipment Loan Recipients: 75  
- SUBSIDY TOTAL: $13,600  
- 152 youths have received Assistive Technology since the program was created in 1998, valued at $135,370.

Educational Seminar Participants  
- Los Angeles: 740  
- Desert: 150  
- Santa Barbara: 880  
- San Diego: 830  
- TOTAL: 2,800

Collaborative Relationships  
- Los Angeles: 103  
- Child Development: 157  
- Orange County: 262  
- Desert: 224  
- Santa Barbara: 101  
- San Diego: 73  
- TOTAL: 1,102

Our Outcomes

In our field, usual outcome measures are used to see if a student or client has mastered the adaptive skills that are taught. For example, staff will observe how well an individual performs such daily living skills as brushing teeth, meal preparation, home management tasks and more.

At Braille Institute, we have developed our outcome assessment to determine how well our adult students have adjusted to their sight loss and if they are actually using the skills that they have learned. This is done through the use of a pre-enrollment and post-enrollment survey in which our students self-report their responses to 17 statements, which include both skills and expressions of self-confidence. We believe this gives us a way to measure a student’s growth in abilities, confidence and mastery of aspects of their lives as a result of taking classes at Braille Institute.

The following highlights responses from 298 first-time adult students from all of our centers, or 37 percent of new students. For a complete outcome assessment report, please contact the Office of Programs and Services at (323) 663-1111, Extension 3136, or by e-mail at shjameson@brailleinstitute.org.

I feel dependent on others  
- Usually: 50%  
- Sometimes: 49%  
- Rarely: 1%  
- Never: 5%

I participate in the life of my family, friends or community  
- Usually: 62%  
- Sometimes: 30%  
- Rarely: 5%  
- Never: 2%

I feel in control of making decisions that are important in my life  
- Usually: 65%  
- Sometimes: 25%  
- Rarely: 7%  
- Never: 2%

I have set new goals since I lost my vision  
- Usually: 42%  
- Sometimes: 30%  
- Rarely: 24%  
- Never: 4%

How do you feel about your ability to live with vision loss?  
- Positive: 23%  
- Somewhat Positive: 38%  
- Too Early to Tell: 23%  
- Some Difficulty: 23%  
- Very Difficult: 10%
Annuity that, in addition to supporting our cause, provides the donor with guaranteed lifetime income. And corporations and foundations give grants large and small. Many individuals make a contribution in honor of a loved one’s memory or to commemorate a milestone occasion in a special person’s life.

Among our most cherished gifts are bequests by will or trust. Over the years bequests by individuals have

Howard O. Wilson, Chairman, Development Committee

The bright little faces you see in Olivia’s story wouldn’t be smiling without you.

The Institute receives.

Hugo wouldn’t have developed the skills to get a job without your support.

The bright little faces you see in Olivia’s story wouldn’t be smiling without you.

Why we need you to help us see it through

Ever since that day in 1919 when philanthropists Mary and John Longyear funded Braille Institute’s begin-

Some send a check in the mail in response to our annual appeals, and others give through their jobs.

For your present support and for looking forward with us to the future.

for others to contribute both funds and service on an ongoing basis. And corporations and foundations give grants large and small.

Some people donate real estate. Others sponsor a program or other special project and provide a name in perpetuity. 

Many individuals make a contribution in honor of a loved one’s memory or to commemorate a milestone occasion in a special person’s life.

Service clubs, such as Rotary and the Lions, may “financially adopt” a particular program offered by the Institute. Auxiliaries are especially important to us as they contribute both funds and service on an ongoing basis.

Annuity that, in addition to supporting our cause, provides the donor with guaranteed lifetime income. And corporations and foundations give grants large and small.

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Some send a check in the mail in response to our annual appeals, and others give through their jobs.

For your present support and for looking forward with us to the future.

A Message from Howard O. Wilson, Chairman, Development Committee

Institute receives.

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Mr. & Mrs. William S. Stout
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Storer
Mr. & Mrs. William F. Stout
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Storer
Mr. & Mrs. Arent H. Sussman
Mr. & Mrs. William F. Stout
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Bequests from wills are the single most important source of support for all of Braille Institute’s many programs and services. As you consider ways you might contribute and still ensure the financial security of your family, please examine the advantages of a planned bequest. Such a bequest could enable you to be more generous than you ever thought possible.

Please contact Christine Levine, Director of Annual Giving and Donor Relations, at 1-800-BRAILLE (272-4553), Extension 1256, or e-mail clevine@brailleinstitute.org Ext. 3108, or e-mail clevine@brailleinstitute.org for more information. We gratefully acknowledge your generosity and thank you for your support.

If we have inadvertently omitted or incorrectly listed your name or not included it in the proper category, please accept our apology. If we have inadvertently recognized donors who designate contributions of $1,000 or more to the Building Fund in 2003, please contact our Development Office (ext. 3108) or e-mail clevine@brailleinstitute.org for more information.

Note that only donors who have given cumulative gifts totaling $1,000 and more have been recognized in the “Annual Donors” section. Thank you for Braille Challenge Los Angeles.

Please see the enclosed list of all donors who designate contributions of $1,000 or more to the Building Fund in 2003. We gratefully acknowledge your generosity and thank you for your support.

If we have inadvertently omitted or incorrectly listed your name or not included it in the proper category, please accept our apology. If we have inadvertently recognized donors who designate contributions of $1,000 or more to the Building Fund in 2003, please contact our Development Office (ext. 3108) or e-mail clevine@brailleinstitute.org for more information.

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If someone were to ask me to describe myself, I’d jokingly tell them I was a Jack-of-all-trades and a master of none. I’ve been many places and seen many things during my lifetime, but I’ve never been as comfortable as I am when I walk into the Desert Center. From the moment I drove past the construction site 15 years ago, I knew it was going to be a special place. I walked right in once the center opened and asked if they needed any volunteers, and the rest, as they say, is history.

I had never worked with blind people before, so I didn’t know what to expect. My first official assignment was to help set up a greenhouse and teach a horticulture class. I never considered myself a master gardener, but the enthusiasm of the students just blew me away. One of my fondest memories was seeing that garden in full bloom and realizing we made it happen. After seven years of perfecting my green thumb, I decided to try my hand at something different. When I heard they were looking for a volunteer to teach a cooking class, I jumped at the opportunity. But true to my nature, I eventually moved on to something else. Traveling has always been one of my greatest loves, so I figured what could be better than teaching a class dedicated to travel? The students couldn’t believe that I had taken nearly 40 cruises!

It takes an army of dedicated and caring people to run an organization like Braille Institute. And I enjoy being a part of the team. These days I spend my time giving tours of the center, driving students here and there and helping out wherever they need an able body. I was recently honored with a public service award for my volunteer work, but seeing the smiles on the students’ faces is reward enough for me. They continue to inspire me every day.

If you would like more information about how you can volunteer at Braille Institute, contact the regional center nearest you:

Los Angeles Sight Center
(323) 663-1111, Ext. 1262
lamserves@brailleinstitute.org

Braille Institute Orange County
(714) 642-0500, Ext. 2113
ocsvolserve@brailleinstitute.org

Braille Institute Desert Center
(760) 321-1111, Ext. 6108
dc@brailleinstitute.org

Braille Institute Santa Barbara
(805) 682-6222, Ext. 8310
sbvolserve@brailleinstitute.org

Braille Institute San Diego
(858) 452-1111, Ext. 5009
sd@brailleinstitute.org

Seeing Is Believing
A NEW VISION FOR SANTA BARBARA

A dream four years in the making became a reality in May, when the new Braille Institute in Santa Barbara was dedicated. This is our vision for the future, symbolized so beautifully by the enduring design and spirit of this new building.

It will serve as a centralized service location for the growing number of blind and visually impaired persons throughout San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties (Tri-County region). Specialized classrooms are designed for daily living skills development, rehabilitation programs and youth activities. There are offices for counseling and support services as well as an area for Low Vision Rehabilitation consultations. A computer lab offers the latest in assistive technology, and a fully functioning kitchen provides facilities for teaching home living skills.

Thousands of popular titles in braille and on cassette are available and can be found in the talking-book library, and Vistas, a retail store, offers assistive technology demonstrations and adaptive items such as talking watches, white canes and large-print books. The new center also boasts an auditorium seating 250 for large community groups and plenty of space for outreach services and volunteer activities.

Capping our dedication ceremony was the release of 24 white doves, symbolizing not only the 24 years Braille Institute has served Santa Barbara, but the realization that through these doors, hope walks. It is given flight by an unshakable belief that each person who comes here has the ability to transcend physical limitations and live a full and independent life.

Seeing is more than what meets the eye. It is a vision for the future come true.

If you would like more information about how you can volunteer at Braille Institute, contact the regional center nearest you.
Financial Highlights*  JULY 1, 2003, TO JUNE 30, 2004

**Including Depreciation of $0.911

A Bequests from Wills
B Trusts
C Contributions and Foundation Gifts
D Support Groups and Other Sources
E Royalties
F State Library Appropriation
G Investment Income
H Allocation from Reserves

A Program Services
B Supplemental Services
C Development
D Public Education
E Administration

Income ($000)

Public Support
- Bequests from Wills 9,553
- Trusts 973
- Contributions and Foundation Gifts 5,048
- Support Group Contributions 199
- TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT 15,773

Other Revenue
- Royalties 1,591
- State Library Appropriation 374
- Net Investment Income 1,057
- Allocation from Reserves 4,426
- TOTAL OTHER REVENUE 8,248

TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED 24,021

Expenditures ($000)

- Los Angeles Center 5,809
- Child Development 835
- Desert Center 1,488
- Orange County Center 2,570
- San Diego Center 1,089
- Santa Barbara Center 1,701
- Braille Publishing 1,149
- Library Services 2,797
- Volunteer Services 549

TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES 16,587

- Administration 611
- Development 1,832
- Public Education 928
- Supplemental Services 1,522
- Total Operating Expenditures Before Depreciation 21,480
- Capital Expenditures 2,541

TOTAL EXPENDITURES 24,021

* For complete financial data, refer to the report of Audited Consolidated Financial Statements for Braille Institute.

July 1, 2003, to June 30, 2004
Our Leadership