



**A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
BAINBRIDGE SUBREGIONAL LIBRARY
FOR THE BLIND & PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED OF
SOUTHWEST GEORGIA**



The Subregional Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped of Southwest Georgia is a part of your public library and the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, serving Baker, Brooks, Calhoun, Clay, Colquitt, Decatur, Early, Grady, Miller, Mitchell, Quitman, Randolph, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas and Webster counties.

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(229) 248-2680, 1-800-795-2680, or lbph@swgri.org

Staff: Susan Whittle, Director and Subregional Librarian, Kathy Hutchins, Supervisor,
Arlene Freeman, Tammy Lindsey

August 2010

**Project Independence:
Georgia Vision Program for Seniors**

Are you or is someone you know at least 55 years of age and experiencing vision loss or a combined vision and hearing loss?

Project Independence could help.

This vision program for seniors is administered by the Georgia Department of Labor/Vocational Rehabilitation Program and provides services that can help you remain independent, including:

- Low vision exams by qualified professionals to assess your needs
- Skills training in your home community by certified rehabilitation specialists
- Mobility training by certified instructors
- Support groups that offer opportunities to learn from and interact with peers
- Assistive devices such as talking watches, big button phones and magnifiers

**Georgia Department of Labor/Vocational Rehabilitation contracts with these
Project Independence
Service Providers:**

Center for the Visually Impaired
739 West Peachtree Street NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
404-875-9011
1-800-558-5451 (for infolink only)
www.cviga.org
Serves Northeast and Central Georgia
Mons International
6595 Roswell Road #224
Atlanta, Georgia 30328
770-551-8455
1-800-541-7903
www.magnifiers.com
Serves Southwest Georgia

Savannah Association for the Blind
214 Drayton Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401
912-236-4473
www.sabinc.org
Serves Southeast Georgia

Vision Rehabilitation Services of
Georgia
3830 South Cobb Drive SE
Smyrna, Georgia 30080
770-432-7280
www.vrsga.org
Serves Northwest Georgia

Visually Impaired Specialized Training
and Advocacy Services
VISTAS
337 S. Milledge Avenue, Suite 114
Athens, Georgia 30605-5662
706-995-2216
706-583-8001
Serves Northeast Georgia

www.vistascenter.com

Walton Options for Independent Living
948 Walton Way
Augusta, Georgia 30903-0519
706-724-6262
1-877-821-8400
www.waltonoptions.org
Serves East Georgia

Kay McGill
Project Independence Program
Manager
Georgia Department of Labor/Vocational
Rehabilitation Program
755 Commerce Drive, Suite 615
Decatur, Georgia 30030-2627
Phone: 404-638-5208
Toll Free: 1-866-489-0001/TTY 1-866-
373-7778
FAX: 404-638-5201
kay.mcgill@dol.state.ga.us
Paul Raymond

Director of Blindness Services
Georgia Department of Labor/Vocational
Rehabilitation Program
2720 Riverside Drive, Suite 132
P.O. Box 7566
Macon, Georgia 31209-7566
Phone: 478-751-6234
FAX: 478-314-6814
paul.raymond@dol.state.ga.us

The Georgia Department of Labor/Rehabilitation Services Program is fortunate to have received funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), also known

as “stimulus funds,” to supplement its federal grant for the Older Individuals Who Are Blind (OIB) program. Through meeting and consulting with a variety of consumers, community partners and providers of OIB services, we developed a plan to use stimulus funds to improve and expand Georgia’s services to the senior blind population: individuals at least 55 years of age who are experiencing vision loss or a combined vision and hearing loss. We will continue to solicit feedback and ideas for the program.

Based on community input, we changed the name of our program to “Project Independence: Georgia Vision Program for Seniors.”

Project Independence stimulus funds will be used for:

- Outreach services to seniors through peer support and/or local community organizations. These services will be provided by the following contractors:
 - Center for the Visually Impaired
 - Georgia Council of the Blind
 - Mons International
 - National Federation of the Blind of Georgia
 - Savannah Association for the Blind
 - Vision Rehabilitation Services
 - Visually Impaired Specialized Training and Advocacy Services (VISTAS)
 - Walton Options for Independent Living
- Funds for seniors to attend and participate in the Camp for the Blind, Camp for the Deaf-Blind, Helen Keller National Center, Confident Living Program, and the Albany Center for the Blind.
- High- and low-tech visual and hearing devices for seniors, e.g., adaptive hardware, software, CCTVs, FM/pocket talkers and other adaptive devices.
- Services to seniors, e.g., low vision exams, vision rehabilitation therapy, orientation and mobility training.
- Training for groups and/or individuals on living with vision loss and topics such as handwriting, laundry, recreation, labeling, Braille and computer training.
- CDs, tapes, brochures and banners for exhibits and presentations.
- Training for support service providers who will assist seniors attending the Camp for the Deaf-Blind.
- New temporary, part-time service providers such as a deaf-blind consultant.

Although the stimulus funding period for Project Independence ends September 30, 2011, Project Independence: Georgia Vision Program for Seniors will have achieved enhancements in services, information and referral, and other systems that can be maintained through the regular OIB program. Send any comments or questions you may have to Kay McGill, Manager, Project Independence: Georgia Vision Program for Seniors, 404-638-5208 or kay.mcgill@dol.state.ga.us.

Bainbridge Subregional Library
F/T Blind & Handicapped
Southwest Georgia Regional Library
301 South Monroe Street
Bainbridge, GA 39819

Free Reading Matter
F/T Blind & Handicapped
U. S. Mail
Do Not Cancel

Hours:
Monday 9am to 8pm
Tuesday 9am to 6pm
Wednesday 9am to 6pm
Thursday 9am to 7 pm
Friday 9am to 6 pm
Saturday 9am to 4 pm

Phone: (229) 248-2680
1-800-795-2680
Email: lbph@swgrl.org
Fax: 229-248-2670

Take a virtual tour of our libraries
and Subregional Library
for the Blind and Physically
Handicapped by clicking on
www.swgrl.org/handicap.php

Information presented in this newsletter will be provided in alternative formats upon request.

Online Catalog for ordering library books: www.klas.com/glass
Call the library for your log-in and password.

NOTE: Please submit information or news that you would like to share to Kathy Hutchins.

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