

WISCONSIN

Blind/Visual Impairment Resources



Wisconsin Blind/Visual Impairment Resources

Crestwood's Communication Aids, Inc.

P.O. Box 090107

Milwaukee, WI 53209-0107

Phone: (414) 352-5678

Fax: (414) 352-5679

E-mail: crestcomm@aol.com

Website: <http://www.communicationaids.com/index.htm>

Organization Type: General, Assistive Technology, Private Sector Companies

Disabilities Served: General / Non-disability Specific, Communication and Speech, Deaf / Blind, Visual Impairment / Blind

Crestwood's Communication Aids, Inc. provides Assistive Technology Devices which aid in communication. All of Crestwood's products are based on need, starting with what the person can do. There is a wide variety of practical products to meet individual needs. Their goal is to help people open the doors of communication so that they can control their own environment and gain independence. Their products include, but are not limited to: Talking Aids, Non-Talking Aids, Mounting Kits, Amplifiers/Pagers, Adapted Toys, Picture Card Kits, Communication Boards, Switches, Object Kits, Early Education/Pre-School, Reading Readiness, Sound-Activated Aids, and Language Hearing/Visual.

Great Lakes InterTribal Council

2932 Highway 47 N

Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538

Phone: (715) 588-3324

Fax: (715) 588-7900

E-mail: glitc@glitc.org

Website: <http://www.glitc.org/>

Organization Type: State and Local Organizations

Disabilities Served: General / Non-disability Specific

Great Lakes Intertribal Council is a consortium of federally recognized Indian tribes in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Started in 1963 as a Community Action agency under the auspices of the federal Office for Economic Opportunity, it was a vehicle for delivery of services and programs to its member reservations and the rural Indian communities of Wisconsin. With the development of local tribal government capacity and the ever increasing push for self-determination, the member tribes have assumed the responsibility of more administration of services to their own communities. The role of GLITC has therefore changed from one of delivering services directly to the reservation community residents to one of assisting the member tribes in a delivery system of services and programs to back up and supplement the tribes' own service capacity.

The Low Vision Store

2200 University Avenue West, Suite 200

Saint Paul, MN 55114

800-871-8780 (Toll free)

651-203-2200

651-203-2203 (Fax)

www.thelowvisioncenter.com E-mail: lowvisionstore@yahoo.com

The Low Vision Store carries a full line of daily living products and reading machines for people who are blind or have low vision. They cover the five-state area of North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa and will do free in-house demonstrations for all reading machines.

Native American Family Empowerment Center: Great Lakes Intertribal Council

2932 Highway 47N, P.O. Box 9

Lac Du Flambeau, WI 54538

Phone: (715) 588-3324, (800) 472-7207 (in-state only)

Fax: (715) 588-7900

E-mail: drosin@glitc.org

Contact Name: Don Rosin

Organization Type: State and Local Organizations

Disabilities Served: General / Non-disability Specific

Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative (WATI)

CESA 2 448 E. High St.

Milton, WI 53563

Phone: 608-758-6232 (x340) (800) 991-5576

Fax: 608-868-6740

E-mail: info@wati.org

Website: <http://www.wati.org/>

Contact Name: Dr. Elizabeth Lahm, Director

Organization Type: Assistive Technology, Information Centers, State and Local Agencies

Disabilities Served: General / Non-disability Specific

The Mission of the Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative is to ensure that every child in Wisconsin who needs assistive technology (AT) will have equal and timely access to an appropriate evaluation and the provision and implementation of any needed AT devices and services. A primary goal is to improve the outcomes and results for children and youth with disabilities through the use of assistive technology to access school programs and curriculum.

The Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

1700 West State Street; Janesville, WI 53546

Phone: (608) 758 - 6100

FAX: (608) 758 - 6169

WCBVI Toll Free (800) 832 - 9784

Outreach Toll Free (866) 284 - 1107

The Statewide Outreach Services Team provides evaluations, consultations, and material supports to students with visual disabilities on a statewide basis, regardless of their educational placement. Evaluation and consultation services are provided at no cost to the local school district. When possible, materials are loaned to students. Every effort is made to ensure the lowest cost for resources that must be purchased. A production department and a Library Services Assistant Senior facilitate the provision of textbooks and equipment loans. Each year, the Materials and Production Services Team enlarges hundreds of books in addition to coordinating the production of Braille books.

Most of the evaluations and consultations offered by the Outreach Team are conducted by its staff alone, but other WCBVI staff members are called upon as needed. Although Outreach professionals often travel to a student's home and/or school, services may be provided on site. The Outreach Team includes consultants and/or specialists in the areas of assistive technology, birth-to-six, low vision, orientation and mobility, parent support, professional development, school-age children, students who are deaf/blind, students with multiple disabilities, and transition.

The Outreach Team conducts many statewide programs including Early Childhood Transition Clinic, 5-10 Low Vision Clinics annually, Statewide Track Meet, Braille Olympics, Music Festival, and Residential Summer Programs. Consultants provide in-services upon request.

Questions regarding Outreach services may be directed to the Outreach Services Director [Stacy Grandt](#) at 608-758-6145 or Program Assistant Audrey Schulenburg at 608-758-6148

Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired

754 Williamson Street

Madison, WI 53703

Phone: 608-255-1166 1-800-783-5213

Fax: 608-255-3301

E-mail: info@wcblind.org

Website: <http://www.wcblind.org/>

Contact Name: Karen V. Majkrzak, Executive Director

Organization Type: Advocacy and Law, Information Centers, State and Local Agencies

Disabilities Served: Visual Impairment / Blind

The Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired is a private, non-profit agency whose mission is to promote the dignity and independence of individuals in Wisconsin who are blind and visually impaired. They do this by providing services, advocating legislation and educating the general public.

Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Division of Long Term Care

Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources

Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired

P.O. Box 7851

Madison, WI 53707-7851

Phone: 608-266-3109

Toll Free: 888-879-0017

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired, is the government agency designated to provide assessment, training and information to adults with vision loss, their families and interested professionals. These services exist to enhance independent living skills and quality of life for persons with vision loss.

Wisconsin Lions Camp

3834 County Road A

Rosholt, WI 54473

Phone: (715) 677-4969

Fax: (715) 677-3297

E-mail: info@wisconsinlionscamp.com

Website: <http://www.wisconsinlionscamp.com/>

Organization Type: General, Independent and Community Living

Disabilities Served: Hearing Impairments / Deaf, Mental Health Impairments, Visual Impairment / Blind

Sponsored and operated by Lions Club International, the camp, free to all who qualify, serves Wisconsin children with mild cognitive disabilities and diabetes and those who are deaf and hard of hearing or blind or visually impaired. Each summer camp week features nature hikes, campfires, games and skill building activities. Other activities include swimming, canoeing, sailing, paddle boating, inner tubing, kayaking, rowing, fishing, archery, crafts, nature programs, overnight camping and cookouts, hiking trips and challenge courses. Each Wisconsin Lions Camp attendee must be a resident of the state or be attending school in Wisconsin. All campers must independent in self-care skills. Campers must also be able to be socially and behaviorally managed by a 1:6 staff-to-camper ratio.

WisTech: Wisconsin Assistive Technology Program

1 W. Wilson Street, Room 450; PO Box 1151

Madison, WI 53707

Phone: (608) 266-0421 (608) 267-9880 (TTY)

Fax: (608) 267-3203

E-mail: lauxhm@dhfs.state.wi.us

Website: <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/wistech/>

Contact Name: Ralph Pelkey, AT Specialist

Organization Type: Assistive Technology, State and Local Agencies

Disabilities Served: General / Non-disability Specific

WisTech provides information on selecting, funding, installing and using assistive technology. WisTech coordinators provide assessments of individual needs. They also maintain a loan closet of assistive technology items that people can try out for themselves. Most services are provided free of charge.

Wisconsin Loan Program

The program is open to Wisconsin residents of all ages who have a disability. There are no income requirements, and individuals are not required to exhaust personal or public funding. Under the program, banks provide loans to qualified borrowers. Loan amounts depend on the item purchased and the ability to repay the loan.

www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/wistech/wisloan.htm

Sources of Custom-Produced Books

Madison

Braille Ready, Inc.
6913 Colony Drive
Madison, WI 53717
(608) 833-2876
President: Karen Perzentka

Braille : literary only; spiral binding; computer-produced

Other Information: nonprofit, fee for service

Computers to Help People, Inc.
825 East Johnson Street
Madison, WI 53703
(608) 257-5917
(608) 257-3480 fax
76025.1265@compuserve.com
Executive director: John Boyer

Braille: literary, textbooks, reference; tactile drawings; spiral binding; computer-produced; software (MegaDots) embosser (VersaPoint)

Recording: general, textbooks; cassette masters; duplicate

Large print: general, textbooks; computer-produced

Other Information: nonprofit, fee for service; catalog available

Volunteer Braillists and Tapisists Inc.
517 North Segoe Road, Suite 200

*Madison, WI 53705-3172
(608) 233-0222
President: Helen Hay
39 Bagley Court
Madison, WI 53705
(608) 233-0953
Office coordinator: Gail Yu
Braille assignments: Lindy B. Walton*

Braille: literary, math, textbooks; computer-produced; software (Ed-It, MicroBraille, Pokadot, MegaDots, Tabicat); embosser (VersaPoint, Juliet)

Recording: general, textbooks

Other Information: sponsors transcribing classes, maintains book-master and cassette-master collections, provides title lists for children's lending library, adult braille library, cassette library

Milwaukee

*Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (Headquarters)
2929 North Mayfair Road
Milwaukee, WI 53222
(414) 256-3888*

*Mission for the Visually Impaired
559 Humboldt Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55107
(651) 291-1536
(651) 291-1324 fax
Chairperson: Ron Freiling
1905 63rd Street Southeast
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077
(651) 451-3714
General manager: Rita Kruschwitz*

*Workshop for the Visually Impaired
559 Humboldt Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55107
(651) 291-1536
Assistant manager:
Cathie M. Humann*

Braille: religious materials (Lutheran); thermoforming; spiral binding

Braille chairperson: Mrs. Beverly Collyard

2133 East Country Road
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
(651) 777-4240

Recording: religious materials (Lutheran); cassette masters

Recording chairperson: Mrs. Gen Baumeister
4420 Holm Oak
Oakdale, MN 55128
(651) 777-4200

Large print: religious materials (Lutheran); spiral binding; by large-print typewriter

Large-print chairperson: Rita Kruschwitz

Other Information: maintains book-master collection, provides title list

Volunteer Services for the Visually Handicapped, Inc.
803 West Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1436
(414) 286-3039
(414) 286-5450 fax
Executive director: Carol Chew
(414) 286-3026

Braille: general, math, music, textbooks, computer notation, foreign languages; tactile illustrations; thermoforming; plastic comb binding; computer-produced; software (Ed-It, BEX, TranscriBex, Pokadot); embosser (MBOSS-1, Thiel, Braille Express 150)

Braille services coordinator: Sandra Rowley

Computer-assisted transcription chairperson: Patricia Lidicker

Recording: general, math, textbooks, magazines, children's books, computer science, business articles, government documents, technical/training manuals; cassette masters; 2-track and 4-track cassette duplication

Recording chairperson: Eleanor Hoehn

Large print: by photoenlarging; plastic comb binding

Other Information: maintains book-master collection, sponsors braille transcription and taping classes