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**Independence for the Blind of  
West Florida is funded in part  
by the Florida Department of  
Education, Division of Blind  
Services.**

Our mission is to teach independent living skills, computer and adaptive technology, and to provide vocational assessments, training, and employment related services to individuals who are blind or visually impaired so they can achieve maximum independence. We offer training at no cost to individuals throughout ten northwest Florida counties: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Washington, Gulf, Bay, Jackson and Calhoun. Our programs are designed to meet the emotional and practical needs of individuals who live with vision loss.

## 2009 – 2010 Annual Report



Shortly after Fiscal Year 2010 concluded Independence for the Blind had a change in Executive Director. As the new Executive Director it is my responsibility and privilege to publish this report. Independence for the Blind had a great year in 2010. We provided the highest quality service and training to our clients, we took care of our staff and we accomplished everything within our fiscal constraints. Everyone involved, staff, associate staff, directors, volunteers, Division of Blind Services staff, and our clients themselves should all be proud of what we achieved in improving the quality of our clients lives, because that is what we are about.

In the coming year, and the year to follow, we have real challenges set before us. During 2011 we will see the end of the Federal Stimulus funding that was a crucial bridge in our funding in 2010 and 2011. As we transition into 2012 we are going to have to learn to operate with approximately \$150,000 less per year in state contract funding. We are working on acquiring funding from a variety of new sources, such as non-state contracts, new grants, new sponsors and a clinical study project, all in an effort to make up the differential, and hopefully more. Our primary goal of course is to keep both the quantity and quality of our client services high, while remaining within our budget limitations. As the new Executive Director I am confident we can accomplish all of these goals, and I look forward to the years ahead.

Walter "Bruce" Watson, Jr.  
Executive Director

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# Independence for the Blind 2009 – 2010 Annual Report

Financial Statement is for Fiscal Year 2010 from 1 October 2009 to 30 September 2010

Statement of Financial Position	
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and equivalents	\$127,827
Investment account	\$200,000
Certificates of deposit	\$55,042
Accounts receivable	\$105,968
Prepaid expense	\$7,445
Prepaid loan costs, net of \$1,961 accumulated amortization	\$6,223
Property and equipment, net of \$104,316 accumulated depreciation	\$1,363,761
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$1,866,266</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	
Liabilities	
Accounts payable	\$8,870
Accrued payroll	\$7,646
Accrued vacation and sick leave	\$17,552
Mortgage payable	\$1,018,858
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$1,052,926</b>
Net Assets	
Unrestricted - designated	\$250,000
Unrestricted - undesignated	\$563,340
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>\$813,340</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$1,866,266</b>

Note: Financial information verified through independent audit by Carlson & Company, Chartered (CPA) 7100 Plantation Rd., Bldg. 21, Pensacola, FL 32504

Statement of Activities	
<b>Change in unrestricted net assets:</b>	
<b>Revenue and Support:</b>	
Contributions	\$27,314
Contributions in-kind revenue	\$62,245
Fundraising events, net of \$18,892 direct expenses	\$28,430
Division of Blind Services Revenue:	
Vocational rehabilitation	\$235,611
Independent living	\$284,507
Transition program	\$175,083
Early intervention	\$18,837
Public awareness	\$17,324
Job readiness	\$25,964
United Way revenue	\$434
Interest revenue	\$7,405
Warehouse rent revenue (net of expenses)	\$9,971
Reclassification of net assets:	
Net assets release from restriction:	
Donations for Project Braille released	\$5,055
<b>Total unrestricted revenue &amp; support</b>	<b>\$898,180</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Administrative expenses	\$118,941
Program expenses	\$768,925
Fundraising expenses	\$12,135
In-kind expenses	\$62,245
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$962,246</b>
<b>Change in unrestricted net assets</b>	<b>(\$64,066)</b>
<b>Change in temporarily restricted net assets:</b>	
Net assets released from restrictions this year	
Project Braille contributions released	(\$5,055)
Change in temporarily restricted net assets	(\$5,055)
<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>(\$69,121)</b>

Independence for the Blind 2009 – 2010 Annual Report

**Staff**

- Russell M. Rieder – Exec Director**
- Hulrick Baptist – Orientation & Mobility Specialist**
- Lance Bonner – Independent Living Instructor**
- Allison Clark – Public Relations Specialist**
- LaBrentha Coles – Independent Living Instructor**
- Mary Colston, CVRT\* - Independent Living Program Director**
- Lynda Edens – Computer Instructor**
- Jason Grills – Computer Program Supervisor**
- Alicia Hefty – Transition Instructor**
- Leigh Hoskins – Transition Specialist/Asst. Public Relations**
- Kristen Kirkpatrick – Computer Instructor**
- John O'Dillon, CVRT\* - Vocational Rehabilitation Program Director**
- Annelly Rose, CVRT\* - Independent Living Instructor**
- Shonda Walker - Case Manager**
- Micki Weidbrauk – Marketing Coord**



Counties	Clients
Bay	43
Calhoun	3
Escambia	103
Gulf	8
Holmes	6
Jackson	11
Okaloosa	28
Santa Rosa	30
Walton	5
Washington	1
	238

Programs	Clients
Independent Living/Adult Program	149
Vocational Rehabilitation	55
Transition Program	19
Children's Program/Early Intervention	15

Types of Training Provided
Assistive Technology
Communications Skills
Daily Living Skills
Orientation & Mobility
Low Vision Aids

The Board of Directors and Staff of Independence for the Blind of West Florida would like to thank our volunteers who during this period of 2009-2010 donated over 200 hours of their time, saving us thousands of dollars. **THANK YOU!!**



Staff and Transition students celebrate a birthday!



Our Board of Directors in March 2010.

## Independence for the Blind 2009 – 2010 Annual Report

The Board of Directors and Staff would like to thank our generous donors for assisting us to continue our mission and bring hope to the blind and visually impaired community in Northwest Florida. THANK YOU!!

Alicia Hefty	Gannett Foundation	Nguyen Watson
Anita Hoskins	Gayle Crume	Optimist Club of Pensacola Beach
Baptist Health Care	George McKnight	Panhandle Charitable Open, Inc.
Barbara Ford	Glenn Barbee	Performance Machining Services, Inc.
Beach Community Bank	Hazel Shackley	Pen Air Federal Credit Union
Betty Petersen	Hoskins, Leigh G.	Pensacola Lions Club
Betty Roberts	Howard Rein	Pensacola News Journal
Beverly Varner	Hulrick Baptist	Pensacola Seville Sertoma Inc
Bigtop Bingo	International Boutique & Gift Shop, Inc.	Peter Moore
Bill Dagnal	J. H. Baroco Foundation Inc.	Priscilla Lambre
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Dr. Dower Rastall	Laurance Wollard	Studer Group LLC
Edith Griffith	Leigh G. Hoskins	Susan Campbell Jewelry
Elaine Cox	Levin & Papantonio	Tony Peacock
Emerald Coast Vision Aids	Lisa Bew	Ullman Eye Consultants
Escambia County Sherriff's Office	Margaret Araujo	United Way of Escambia County
Escarosa Combined Federal Campaign#0194	Marie Young	Varner, Nix, & Kirkland
Eye Care Physicians DBA	Marilyn Powitzky	Wachovia Bank
Eye Care Physicians of Perdido	Martin Calhoun	Walter Limbach
Florida Assc o/Agencies Serving t/Blind	Mary E. Colston	Walter Smith Jr.
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