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.

We do not endorse any product or service mentioned in this newsletter.

(229) 248-2680, 1-800-795-2680, or lbph@swgrl.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  
www.vistascenter.com  
Serves Northeast Georgia  

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bainbridge Subregional Library</th>
<th>Free Reading Matter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F/T Blind &amp; Handicapped</td>
<td>F/T Blind &amp; Handicapped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Georgia Regional Library</td>
<td>U. S. Mail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>301 South Monroe Street</td>
<td>Do Not Cancel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bainbridge, GA  39819</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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](http://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](http://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.
F:\STAFF\Kathy Hutchins