



September 2009



Empowering Independent Living  
for the Visually Impaired

## Upcoming Events

### VIP Fairs 2009

September 27 - St. Joseph Hospital, Denver

October 10 - Glenwood Springs Community Center, Glenwood Springs

The American Council of the Blind of Colorado is hosting the Annual Visually Impaired People's Fair (VIP Fair). Various agencies and organizations will have booths providing information and education for blind and visually impaired individuals, their families, and friends. There will be food, entertainment, and a panel discussion by those who've lost their vision and how they have led successful, productive lives. If you are interested in being a vendor at the fair, please call George Beard or Sue Fenniman at 303-831-0117, or check out the ACBCO website at [www.acbco.org](http://www.acbco.org)

### "Keeping Eyes on The Future" Breakfast Fundraiser

Wednesday, November 4 - 7:15am to 8:30am

The Denver Athletic Club

Mark your calendars for November 4<sup>th</sup> for the first **Ensign Breakfast Fundraiser** in Denver! This unique breakfast event is designed to raise awareness and funds for Ensign Skills Center, which in turn helps the low-vision population. Imagine not being able to read a book, look at family photos, or even prepare a meal because your vision is so limited. This is a reality for millions of people, and Ensign Skills Center has designed a comprehensive program that gives independence back to those dealing with vision loss. The breakfast event is free, and though it is a fundraiser, there is no maximum or minimum gift required to attend. We do need Table Captains to help fill tables with people who might be interested in supporting Ensign. If you'd like to volunteer to be a Table Captain, please call Liana Camacho at 303-757-4500.

## Enightful Tips

# How to Identify Visual Problems in Children

Children with uncorrected vision conditions or eye health problems can have many obstacles in life, academically, socially and physically. Vision doesn't immediately occur with infants; a child's brain learns how to use eyes to see, just like it learns how to use legs to walk or a mouth to form words. The longer a vision problem goes undiagnosed and untreated, the more a child's brain learns to adjust to the vision problem. Without early intervention, usually before the age of five, a child with an untreated eye problem may suffer from serious vision loss, or even blindness.



### Signs and Symptoms of Vision Problems in Infants/Children

- Eyes shake or wander randomly
- Eyelids droop over one or both eyes or do not cover eyes when closed
- Eyes water constantly, are reddened, or encrusted
- Eyes are not able to follow parent's face
- Pupils of the eyes are excessively large or small
- Pupils of the eyes are not black; they appear cloudy
- Eyes don't appear to be evenly lined up; they may cross or turn outward

### Behavior of Children with Vision Problems

- Rubs eyes frequently or complains of tired eyes
- Can't focus with central vision
- Tilts or turns head when looking at objects
- Closes one eye to look at an object
- Holds objects very close or very far to see them
- Reaches beyond or in front of an object to touch
- Trouble seeing at night
- Frequent squinting
- Sits too close to television
- May appear clumsy; difficulty running, walking, or bumps into things
- Poor handwriting
- Has headaches, upset stomach, nausea, dizziness

If you suspect that your child has a vision or eye problem, then your child should have his or her eyes examined by an eye specialist, pediatrician or family physician. Every child should have at least one eye examination appropriate for their age and ability to cooperate, before the age of five.

## Enightful People

# Anne Sullivan



More famously known as "The Miracle Worker", Anne Sullivan was the lifelong teacher and companion to Helen Keller. Anne was born the daughter of Irish immigrant farmers Thomas Sullivan and Alice Cloesy; she had one brother, Jimmie, who was crippled from tuberculosis. Growing up in Massachusetts, Anne was subject to poverty and physical abuse by her alcoholic father and at the age of five, trachoma struck Anne, leaving her almost blind. Two years later, her mother died and her father abandoned his children to an orphanage in Tewksbury, Massachusetts, where her brother died shortly thereafter.

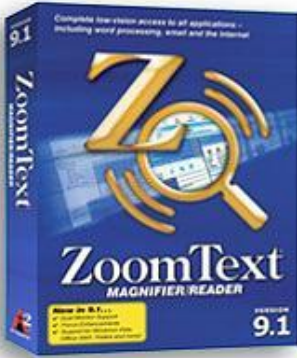
Despite being left in an orphanage with no formal educational facilities, Anne Sullivan prospered. When the state board of charities chairman, Frank Sanborn visited the Tewksbury orphanage, Anne literally threw herself in front of him crying, "Mr. Sanborn, I want to go to school!"

After regaining her eyesight from a series of operations and graduating as class valedictorian in 1886 from the Perkins Institute for the Blind, she began teaching Helen Keller. When Miss Sullivan first arrived, Helen was seven years old and highly undisciplined. Miss Sullivan had to begin her teaching with lessons in obedience, followed by teachings of the manual and Braille alphabets. Sullivan attended classes with Keller and tutored her through the Perkins Institute, The Cambridge School for Young Ladies and Radcliffe College. All who came in contact with them were amazed at the ability of Miss Sullivan to reach Miss Keller and Miss Keller's heightened ability to grasp concepts unheard of by deaf and blind students before her. Alexander Graham Bell, Andrew Carnegie, Henry H. Rogers and John Spaulding were only a few of those who met them and supported them.

After Miss Keller's formal education, Anne Sullivan continued to assist Miss Keller by accompanying her on her travels and to various lecture tours. Sullivan and Keller were constantly in demand to give lectures and to raise money for the American Foundation for the Blind. However, they often were too charitable, and as a result, had to supplement their income. Eventually, Miss Sullivan's own eyesight failed her, but toward the end of her life, she received recognition from Temple University, The Educational Institute of Scotland, and the Roosevelt Memorial Foundation for her tireless teaching and commitment to Helen Keller.

## Products

## ZoomText Magnifier/Reader



ZoomText Magnifier/Reader is a fully integrated magnification and screen reading program that enlarges, enhances and reads aloud everything on the computer screen. ZoomText automatically speaks all program controls, including menus, dialogs, list views, and messages. The AppReader automatically reads documents, web pages, and email within the parent application. Navigation keys make it easy to read while creating and editing documents. With simple commands, you can read by character, word, line, sentence, and paragraph. Each key or word that you type is automatically spoken; you can choose to have all keys spoken or only selected groups of keys. “Mouse Echo” automatically reads text that you point to; single words or complete lines of text are spoken instantly or after hovering briefly. With ZoomText Magnifier/Reader, your computer is easier to see, hear, and use! **Available through Enight Skills Center.**

## Support Groups

For a list of local support groups, please call:

American Council of the Blind of Colorado  
Sue Fenniman or George Beard  
303-831-0117

Center for People With Disabilities  
Steve Johnson  
303-442-8662



The mission of Enight Skills Center is to provide low-vision clients with the opportunity to enhance their life skills, increase their levels of confidence and independence, and enrich their lives through adaptive training and technology.

Enight Skills Center is a non-profit organization that relies on funding from grants, fundraising, and donations. These funds allow us to keep our doors open and provide the best possible care to our patients.

***Please consider helping!***

If you would like to make a donation, please call us at 303-757-4500.

We are an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and all donations are tax deductible.

**Thank you for your support!**

***Please let us know if you would like to share a personal Enight Skills Center experience; we'd love to publish it in the newsletter!***

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