



July 2009



Empowering Independent Living for the Visually Impaired

## Upcoming Events

### **Ensign Open House & Product Demonstration**

**Wednesday, July 29 – 10am until 3pm**

**Ensign Skills Center - Denver**

Come to Ensign Skills Center on Wednesday, July 29, and see the latest equipment technology designed for visually-impaired individuals. Ken & Linda Conklin with AGA Low Vision will be in the Denver Ensign office to personally give hands-on demonstrations and show the latest line of portable and hand-held video magnification equipment. Whether you are a caregiver or experiencing low vision yourself, come and join us for refreshments and see the latest in high-tech, low-vision products!

### **"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 Get A Job If You Are Blind Or Visually Impaired

Finding a job these days is quite difficult due to the economy. Taking into account a visual impairment, the task can almost seem impossible. But finding a job IS possible, if you follow these tips and tricks:



- Focus on your strengths. By turning the attention away from the fact that you are visually impaired, you will gain (or re-gain) the confidence you need for a successful job search.
- Network with people who are in the type of business that interests you. Let them know you are looking for a job and what skills you possess. Do this by:
  1. Speaking with your friends, family, and acquaintances. They may not be working in the type of job you're looking for, but they could possibly know someone who does.
  2. Phoning local businesses (of the type you're interested in) and asking to meet with someone in charge. Note: at this stage, you're not looking for interviews, just contacts.
  3. Create a business card and resume to pass around. Use braille and standard text on the business card, just so you know what it is.
- Ask for the assistance of a supportive sighted pal to help you browse through classifieds and the internet (this is assuming you don't get a braille newspaper and don't have any special accommodations to assist you in reading what's on the internet).
- Always have a sighted friend, family member, or professional resume writer look at your resume before you send it off. While certain things may not seem notable without sight, a seeing manager may throw out the resume just because of missing steps.
- Don't look down at entry level jobs. They could be just what you need to get your foot in the door.

- If at all possible, don't let a potential employer know you are blind until you are at an interview. Best to let them see your skills before they pre-judge you because of your visual impairment.
- On the other hand, you may decide that your years of teaching experience (for example) coupled with a recent blindness may place you in that perfect position to teach other vision impaired people how to cope. Use your own discretion depending on the job you are searching for.
- Dress to impress. Always dress a little better than what you would wear on the job. As you are on your way to the job interview, stop by to visit a trusted friend just to make sure your appearance is up to code.
- Always bring an extra resume with you to all interviews to avoid a lost resume.
- A job interviewer is looking for an employee who is confident in what they do and who they are. Speak in a clear voice, and never be embarrassed of your sight impairment.
- Be ready for the employer to question you on how you can do your job with your disabilities. If the interviewer has not been around the sight impaired, they may not be knowledgeable on the extent a sighted person relies on vision unnecessarily. If they ask you to show them how you do something, do it without hesitations and with a smile. Most of the time, employers are not trying to discriminate; they are just worried about safety.
- If there are some safety concerns that an interviewer shows during an interview, go ahead and tell them how you usually address such circumstances.
- If you are participating in a government grant program that gives tax incentives to employers who hire you, give them a program brochure at the end of the interview. Unless you hand deliver the resume and they know of your visual impairment, do not attach it to your resume.
- If you use special technology to do your job that you already own, bring the equipment with you if it fits into a small bag. If not, you may just need to bring a description of it and any information on compatible software needed to sync with office programs.
- Get that job!

## Enightful People

### Andrea Bocelli



With one of the most unique, distinctive voices on the planet, and a phenomenal career marked by the same far-reaching measure of uniqueness and distinction, Andrea Bocelli has ambled effortlessly in the realms of both classical and popular music. Along the way, he has rewritten music history by amassing worldwide sales of more than 60 million albums, topping charts internationally with his critically acclaimed albums and singles, and earning an impressive array of prestigious

awards, including a Golden Globe for Best Song, plus Grammy and Academy Award nominations. Audiences in virtually every corner of the globe are enthralled by the commanding passion of Andrea's formidable voice, and at the same time touched by the tender intimacy and humble generosity with which he offers his special gift. In spite of the accolades bestowed upon him, Andrea remains refreshingly aware of how he arrived at such dizzying heights.

Bocelli grew up on a farm in a rural village in Tuscany. Beginning piano lessons at the age of six, he later added flute and saxophone to his list of musical abilities. The young Bocelli also suffered from poor eyesight, having been born with congenital glaucoma. He became totally blind at the age of 12 after hitting his head during a soccer game with friends-- Bocelli suffered a brain hemorrhage which resulted in blindness a few days later.

Undaunted by his visual impairment, Bocelli later enrolled at the University of Pisa, where he earned a law doctorate. Briefly working as a lawyer allowed him to pay for his singing lessons, and performing in piano bars also helped balance the budget.

Bocelli's first break came as a duet with Luciano Pavarotti, with whom he became close friends. He rose to superstar status as he embraced more elements of pop music. His collaborations with Sarah Brightman on the international hit "Time to Say Goodbye", and Celine Dion on "The Prayer", led to a Golden Globe Award and a Grammy nomination as Best New Artist.

When asked about his visual impairment, Bocelli once told the New York Times, "I know what colors look like and I have an idea of the world.... I believe we all have a destiny that we can perceive. Mine was singing". Bocelli feels too many people focus on his blindness; he doesn't consider it tragic, and he skis, enjoys horseback riding, and reaches for his own coffee. As his zest and passion for life has shown, Andrea Bocelli is not a man to avoid a challenge, although his goals it seems are quite simple. "What I crave most, what I hope to achieve", he says, "is to communicate with the listener; to touch them in the same way that I was touched as a child by my favorite singers, who made me cry and made me dream. And now, I have no more dreams. Reality has overtaken my dreams."

## Client Comments

June 6, 2009 -

Hi Everyone -

I'm so grateful for all your

help.

What an amazing group of young  
women with such knowledge and  
willing to share it.

My thanks to all

Marion McConnell

(Hi Everyone,  
I'm so grateful for all your help. What an amazing group of young women  
with such knowledge and willing to share it. My thanks to all -  
Marion McConnell)

## Products

## Olympia Portable Reader

This powerful portable magnifier gives you the power of a desktop video magnifier with the freedom of a portable product. Olympia provides maximum flexibility and control--including a wide range of magnification settings, adjustable brightness, and a tilted screen to reduce glare. Enjoy hours of reading for work, school or pleasure on the built-in 7" display. You'll want to keep the versatile Olympia with you at home or when traveling. Experience even greater magnification levels by connecting Olympia to any compatible TV monitor. Use the writing stand to fill out forms, complete your homework, pay bills, and sign holiday & birthday cards. Choose color, positive or negative text, or yellow on blue viewing mode and adjust brightness to meet your visual needs. There's no assembly or set up required. With the carrying case, battery pack, and optional car charger, you can take it anywhere! **Available through Enight Skills Center.**



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 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!***

Enight Skills Center • 6000 E. Evans, Bldg. 3, Ste. 012 • Denver, CO 80222  
Phone 303-757-4500 • Fax 303-757-4600