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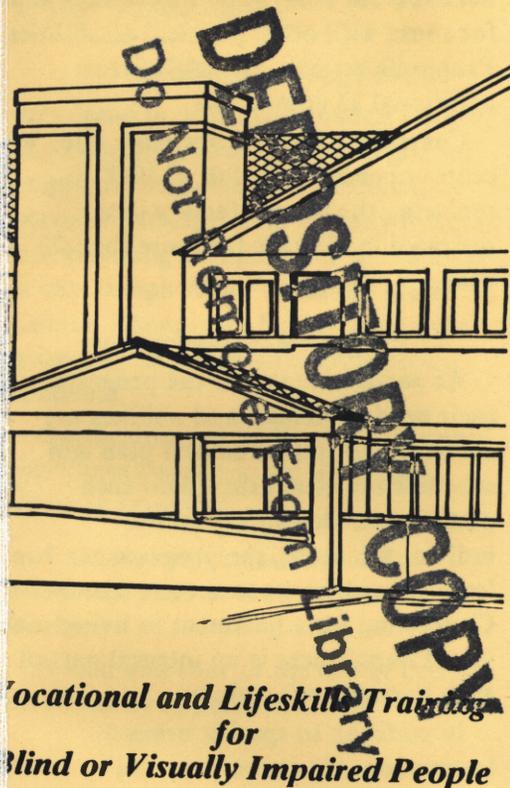
The Joseph Kohn Rehabilitation Center

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Success is our Vision



*Vocational and Lifeskill Training
for
Blind or Visually Impaired People*

N.J. Department of Human Services
Commission for the Blind and
Visually Impaired

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Blueprint for Success

The Joseph Kohn Rehabilitation Center offers blind and visually impaired people an opportunity to learn skills that will help them become more independent. Participants gain the skills to enter college, to learn to become independent homemakers or to enter into employment.

The center features living quarters for 25 participants. Accommodations are available for deaf/blind individuals and for those with other physical disabilities. Programs are also available for an additional 25 commuters.

Centrally located in the state, the center opened in the fall of 1988, replacing the former facility that operated in Newark for more than 20 years.

Programs of Instruction

As participants enter the program their needs, interests and abilities are assessed. An individualized plan and schedule are established with each participant. Depending on the individual's needs, the program can run from several weeks to several months. Counseling for adjustment to living with visual impairment is an integral part of each participant's training.

In addition to specific areas of instruction, the center provides vocational exploration and job seeking skills. Center staff will also help in obtaining adaptive aids and equipment where needed. Bi-lingual instruction is available for all programs.

Participants take part in the following courses of instruction as determined by their vocational or lifestyle interests and abilities.

- *Vocational Evaluation*

This course of study involves assessing interests and abilities, setting goals and determining strategies to pursue a desired vocation.

- *Orientation and Mobility*

This program prepares individuals to move about the home, community and workplace with independence and confidence. Instruction may include the use of the long cane, as well as other adaptive equipment.

Training begins indoors and may move outside to residential, business and city areas. Sessions also deal with using public transportation.

- *Home and Personal Management*

This course of study develops the skills necessary to perform everyday responsibilities, such as personal grooming, hygiene, and homemaking activities.

Instruction is provided under actual living conditions at the center's kitchen, laundry and residential facilities.

- *Communication Skills*

Instruction in this area is provided in the use of various tools that are used for communication. This includes: typing, braille, and cursive writing. Success in this area may suggest potential for clerical or computer training.

A participant may also pursue further training in the basic skills program. Here instruction is provided in practical math, spelling, reading and English. This can lead to preparation for a high school equivalency (GED) diploma.

- *Industrial Arts*

This program stresses hand skills and teaches safe use of basic tools to perform home maintenance tasks.

Instruction takes place in the center's up to date industrial arts training area. A participant who demonstrates proficiency in this subject may acquire sufficient training to become employed as a woodworker.

- *Arts and Crafts*

This course includes weaving, painting, and sculpting. Projects are designed to develop or improve hand dexterity and coordination.

The skills learned in this area could become a useful leisure activity or a possible source of income.

- *Clerical and Secretarial Skills*

The main objective of this program is to evaluate and prepare an individual for entry into the work force as either a transcription typist or a word processing technician.

State-of-the-art computer equipment is used for training. Participants should have a prior mastery of typewriter or computer keyboard techniques.

- *Vending Program*

This program will train qualified men and women to operate vending stands under the Randolph-Sheppard vending facilities program. These stands are located in government and other building throughout the state.

Graduates will be licensed by the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. They will then operate the business under the continuing supervision of the commission.

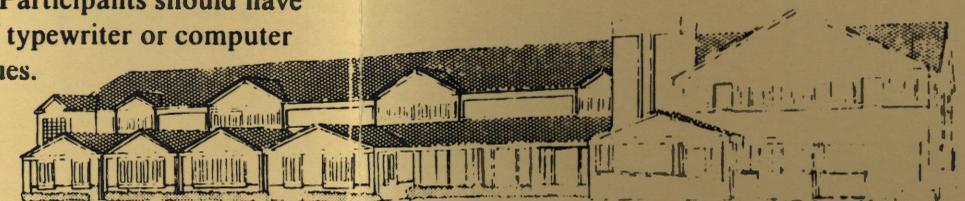
Eligibility and Admission

Any blind or visually impaired person, 16 years and older, who has a goal of employment, career advancement or becoming independent in daily living or homemaking is eligible for the program at the Joseph Kohn Rehabilitation Center. There is no fee for any of the programs or services for New Jersey residents.

Applications must be made through the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

For more information, call 1-800-962-1233 or consult your case worker.

A visit and tour of the center can be arranged by appointment.



Housing

The Joseph Kohn Rehabilitation Center features housing accommodations for 25 students in the Irving J. Kruger Residence. The residential facilities, which are available Monday through Friday, consist of 12 rooms that are shared by two participants. On-site meals are provided for residents and commuters in the center's Richard R. Friend dining room.

There also is a transitional apartment that provides living conditions identical to those found in the community. This apartment offers a period of "real life" experience to individuals who are completing the center's intensive independent living program.

The center's programs are offered daily, Monday through Friday. The center is closed weekends and holidays.

Residential accommodations are assigned on the basis of need and availability. Arrangements can be made for special transportation where needed.

Our Vision of Success

At the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, we believe that blindness or severe visual impairment doesn't mean the end of life. The mission of the Joseph Kohn Rehabilitation Center is to help visually impaired people live full and productive lives by learning to do old tasks in new ways. Whether developing a vocational goal or working toward an independent lifestyle, each participant, young adult through senior, creates a personal plan of action to accommodate the unique circumstances associated with visual impairment.

The center's informal setting encourages growth by stressing the joys and successes of meeting the challenges encountered in day-to-day living with limited vision. By working with staff, as well as helping one another, participants evaluate their abilities, harness their strengths, and explore options that are appropriate to their wants and needs.

Jamie Casabianca Hilton
Executive Director

State of New Jersey
Department of Human Services
Commission F/T Blind and
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