



BCNV Bulletin

**The Blind Center of Nevada Newsletter
June 2008**

The Giving Spirit Lasts All Year Long, making The 8th Annual “Good Old Fashioned” BBQ a rousing success

May 8, 2008-Preparation began several months before the event date, with our staff requesting donations from local businesses by making calls, sending faxes and writing emails. Then we contacted our dedicated volunteers to help staff the event - a big thank you goes out to **Linda Skinner**, who organized the wonderful crew of over 40 Latter Day Saints church members, our **DJ Kael** who brought his tunes, sass and charm to the auctions, and the wonderful caterers and cooks who decorated the room in true “sport style.” Kudos to **Ms. LJ Pullman** and staff for making a great meal and decorating a gorgeous room! Another big thank you goes out to the incredible team of **Dutch Oven** volunteers- they provided a great basket to be auctioned off, not to mention their peach cobbler and beans were out-of-this-world!

We must also mention and thank the wonderful organizations that donated items to be auctioned off at our event. These local companies, casinos and individuals banded together to provide our event with a wide array of outstanding prizes and we were truly inspired by their kindness in our efforts to make this a memorable night for all, with 100% of the event proceeds going to the Center right here in Las Vegas! Thanks to **Mayor Oscar Goodman, Jeff White Jewelry Designs, Ahern Rentals, Goodsell and Olsen, Venetian Hotel and Casino, Wynn Resort, Southwest Airlines, IGT, Toyshare, UNLV’s Nevada Conservatory Theatre, US Foods, Desert Off-Road Hummer Tours, Outwest Meat Company, King’s Fish House, Lance Burton, House of Blues, Canyon Ranch Spa Club, , Las Vegas Philharmonic, Mimmo Ferraro’s Restaurant, Costco, Allegiant Air, Zappos.com, Bon Breads, Daxid Saxe Productions** and more! Be sure to check out page 2 for the complete list of businesses! We’ll see you all NEXT year!

Let's hear it for Team Blind Center... and you!

Thank You!

We are very grateful to the following companies for choosing to assist the blind and visually impaired in our community by contributing to the Blind Center for our 8th annual Good Old Fashioned BBQ and Auction. This kindness and generosity is a gift beyond measure and such acts of kindness certainly never go unnoticed and are always greatly appreciated.

Ahern Rentals / Allegiant Air
Baskow Entertainment
Bed Bath and Beyond
Best Western Zion's Park Inn
Black Canyon River Adventures
Black Mountain Golf & Country Club
Black Mountain Grill / Blue Man Group
Bon Breads / Boyd Gaming
Canyon Ranch Spa Club at the Venetian
Casa Blanca Resort / Costco
Cheesecake Factory / Detail Fanatix
Desert Fox Off-Road Hummer Tours
Dillstar Productions / Don B's Steakhouse
Eldorado Canyon Mine Tours
English Garden Florist / Ethel M's Chocolates
Family Music Centers / Flamingo Hotel and Casino
Fern Adair Conservatory of the Arts
Ferraro's Restaurant / Gal Pal Purses
Giorgio Caffé / Gold's Gym / Goodsell & Olsen
Go For It USA Gymnastics
Gordie Brown and David Saxe Productions
House of Blues / John & Ivy / Jeff White
King's Fish House / Lake Mead Cruises
Lance Burton / Las Vegas Mini Grand Prix
Las Vegas Motor Speedway
Lawry's The Prime Rib / LV Harley-Davidson
LV Paiute Resort / LV Philharmonic
Mayor Oscar Goodman / McMullan's Irish Pub
Merry Maids / Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe
Mystery Adventure/ Nothing Bundt Cakes
Outback Steakhouse / Outwest Meat Co.
P.F. Chang's China Bistro / Pampas Brazilian Grille

Paymon's Mediterranean Café
Pedipeds Infant Footwear
Phantom of the Opera
Rebel Adventure Tours
REI / IGT
Roy's Cuisine / Sierra Ready Mix
Sam Ash Music / Sweet Tomatoes
Scenic Airlines / Starbucks
See's Candies/ Steve Waters
South Point Hotel and Casino
Southwest Airlines / Toyshare
Ted Wien's Tire and Auto Center
The Melting Pot
UNLV NV Conservatory Theatre
Ted Wien's Tire and Auto Center
US Food Service
Venetian Hotel and Casino
Wynn Resort
Zappos.com

8th Annual Good Old Fashioned BBQ and Auction Fundraiser



The incredible volunteers!



DJ Kael auctioning in action



*Blind Center President/CEO Veronica Wilson
and Clark County Commissioner
Lawrence Weekly*



The silent auction



Volunteers and Blind Center Staff getting in the team spirit!



The Blind Center of NV hosts a three day conference for 20 nationwide blind centers

In April, The Blind Center of Nevada was host to more than 20 individuals representing 20 different Blind organizations throughout the United States, with some coming as far as New York. They were here to learn how the Blind Center turned an electronics recycling venture into a business program where visually impaired people can be put to work and learn a trade, including entering online sales listings. The staff at the Blind Center's Bonanza Road location input hundreds of listings per day on the world-renowned E-bay site, many of the products being electronic items the staff refurbished after receiving a donation from the community. We haul more than 2 million pounds per year to be recycled!

"We were so happy with the turnout of our 3-day E-bay conference," says Veronica Wilson, President and CEO of the Blind Center. "Our goal was to educate the other center's management on the job creation they could take advantage of by incorporating this kind of a system into their organization." Our staff at The Blind Center location on Bonanza do a variety of tasks, all in hopes that not only are we helping the environment, we're providing a much-needed service to an epidemic that is going to be hitting the country in the months to come as computers become more and more obsolete.

Brenda Mee, an attendee from the Business Development department of the New York City Industries for the Blind, commented that "not only was the workshop informative on possibilities, but showing real numbers, real jobs - and yes it does work! Please share with all your staff a big THANK YOU from

NYCIB for your hospitality and thorough presentation! I was inspired by your TEAM in action and seeing what has taken place over such a short period of time - truly remarkable!"



**4000
feedbacks!**

When a consumer makes a purchase on the EBay website, they can leave a comment about the seller on the site. Feedback is a great way for buyers to reward their favorite sellers with the recognition they deserve. In May, the Blind Center team received their 4,000th feedback! That means 4,000 people purchased an item from the Blind Center site and took the time to leave a positive feedback!

Lasting Legacy



**We make a living by what we get, but we make
a life by what we give. –Winston Churchill**

By leaving a part of your estate to The Blind Center, you will certainly be doing a great thing for others. Leave a lasting legacy. Speak to your attorney for more information about how you can include a gift to The Blind Center as part of your legacy or for information regarding our Planned Giving Program; please call Veronica Wilson at 642-6000.

June 2008 Daily Schedule

MONDAY - BAKERY GOODS

9:00 DRAMA IN THE HOUSE

9:30 COMPUTER LAB

10:00 ARTS & CRAFTS

11:15AM-1:15PM BOWLING AT SILVER NUGGET

12:00 CERAMICS

12:00-2:00 E.S.L

TUESDAY- (ORDER TACOS TODAY)

9:30AM SHOPPING TRIP TO 99 CENT STORE

9:30 COMPUTER LAB

10:00 ARTS & CRAFTS -10:30 CHOIR

12:00-2:00PM PIANO CLASS WITH KATHY

11:30 GUEST SPEAKER

**11:30-2:00PM HAIR STYLIST BY APPOINTMENT
(EVERY OTHER TUESDAY)**

12:00 CERAMICS

WEDNESDAY – \$1 TACO DAY

9:30 COMPUTER LAB - 9:30 EXERCISE

10:00 GAMES GALORE

10:00 READING CLUB

10:00 ARTS AND CRAFTS

10:30 PHARMACISTS

12:00 CERAMICS / 12:00-2:00 E.S.L

12:00 DRAMA IN THE HOUSE

3:30 DANCE LESSONS

THURSDAY

9:30 COMPUTER LAB / 9:30 SHOPPING TRIP TO WALMART

1:00 NUTRITION CLASS

3:00 GUITAR LESSONS

FRIDAY

1:00-4:30 PIANO LESSONS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

4:30 PIANO TUNING

MAIL READING BY APPOINTMENT

SIGHTED ASSISTANCE ON ALL TRIPS

***BOWLING PRACTICE NOON-2:00PM TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY
AND THURSDAY (CHECK FRONT DESK TO CONFIRM)**

June 2008

1	2 Friends of talking books meeting at Denny's	3 99 Cent store / Piano with Kathy	4 ESL/ Pharmacists / Arts & Crafts	5 Wal-mart / Nutrition Class	6 Piano lessons by appt./ Piano tuning	7
8	9 ESL / Arts & Crafts/ Bowling	10 99 Cent store / Piano with Kathy	11 ESL/ Pharmacists / Arts & Crafts	12 Wal-mart / Nutrition Class	13 Piano lessons by appt./ Piano tuning	14
15 Father's Day	16 ESL / Arts & Crafts/ Bowling	17 99 Cent store / Piano with Kathy	18 ESL/ Pharmacists / Arts & Crafts	19 Wal-mart / Nutrition Class	20 Piano lessons by appt./ Piano tuning	21
22	23 ESL /Arts & Crafts/ Bowling	24 99 Cent store / Piano with Kathy	25 Member Party	26 Wal-mart / Nutrition Class	27 Piano lessons by appt./	28
29	30 ESL /Arts & Crafts/ Bowling	Don't forget to come to bowling practice at the center on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from Noon-2pm! The lanes are waiting! We have shoes and balls for you too!				

Talking Books Meeting

Nevada Talking Book Services

Our Vision:

Deliver the best possible library services to all eligible clients so

THAT ALL MAY READ



Friends for the Talking Books Library, a support group for our clients, have open meetings the first Monday of each month.

Come discuss what changes

could be made to improve our service at Nevada Talking Book Services.

Talking Books - (702) 486-3736

Next Meeting:

When: Monday, June 2nd at 6:00 PM.

**Where: Denny's 2545 Fremont St.
Las Vegas- 89104.**

Fathers Day is June 15th

Fathers Day is a day to honor all the special men in our lives: Dads, Grandfathers, Uncles, Brothers, and Friends!

*Fathers need not fathers be.
All one needs to do is choose
To love for life, and that embrace,
Held long and hard, bestows the grace
Each craves. For all in time must lose,
Restored alone by memory.
So now it is with you and me.*



The Las Vegas Chapter of the Foundation Fighting Blindness invites you, your family and friends to join us at our upcoming presentation on the **Latest Advances in Retinal Degenerative Disease Research.**

Speakers: Dr. Thomas F. Kelly, M.D.- a local Nevada Ophthalmologist,

Mr. Steven Dezii - Foundation Fighting Blindness Trustee and Member of the FFB Scientific Liaison Committee

Valerie Ormont- FFB California Chapter Board Member and Participant in Neurotech Encapsulated Cell Technology Clinical Trial

Las Vegas Chapter Meeting

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Networking Session 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

The Blind Center of Nevada

1001 North Bruce Street Las Vegas, NV 89101

RSVP by Monday, June 17, 2008 to Tina Coffield at 866-782-7330 or LasVegas@FightBlindness.org.



Each week, the Blind Center serves more than 200 nutritious hot lunches to blind and visually impaired people in need.

Many of the people we serve live at or below the poverty level and find it very difficult, even close to impossible to pay for and prepare healthy, fresh meals.

One of our goals is to provide a freshly prepared meal to our blind and visually impaired clients daily at **no cost** to them.

To keep our daily service going, we need your help!

Donations are accepted
Monday-Friday
8:00am-5:00pm.

***“If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one.”
-Mother Teresa***

Consider this

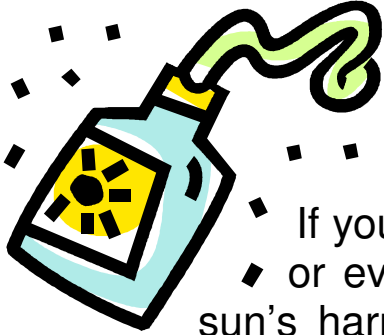
Consider that most people find themselves in need at some point in their lives. So today you may be the person with the ability to help, but tomorrow you may be the recipient of someone else's volunteer effort. Volunteering also includes "self-help." So if you are active in your neighborhood crime watch, your home is protected while you protect your neighbors' homes, too. Adding your effort to the work of others makes everyone's lives better.

Call our Volunteer Coordinator Heather Motogawa at 642-6000 for information on current volunteer opportunities at the center. Shopping guides, bowling helpers, class instructors, and so much more!

Learn how you can make a difference- for someone else, your community and for yourself!

Beauty Corner with Sylvia

Submitted by Blind Center staff member Sylvia Er-Wood



Hi every one; I'm going to touch on sun blocks and sunscreens because the warmer seasons are now here.

This is the time for those who like fun in the sun!

If you are into boating, swimming, hiking or if you are on a bus or even driving in your car you should be protected from the sun's harmful rays. Solution: my friend Moatette who works at a cosmetic counter at a department store first introduced me to some face moisturizers that have sunscreen ingredients in them. You should use an SPF of 40 or higher for the best protection and apply it on 15 to 20 minutes before you do any outside activities because it needs time to absorb into your skin. Even if you have a darker complexion you still need the protection from the harmful UV rays because the sun can cause premature aging of the skin or worse it can cause skin cancer to anyone. Lastly, I recommend having a bottle of sun block handy for your body, in addition to the sunscreen. Remember to stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water, especially during the warmer months!

Did you know?

- Las Vegas can have a UV of 9 or greater and the higher the UV Index, the greater the dose rate of skin damaging (and eye damaging) UV radiation.
- Radiation from the sun is most damaging between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Sun exposure should be avoided during this time whenever possible.
- On an overcast or cloudy day, sunscreen use is still necessary. The clouds filter a small amount of ultraviolet radiation. Most of the UV radiation (60-80%) will not be filtered by the clouds and will be allowed to pass through.
- Surfaces such as sand, snow, concrete, and water can reflect up to 85% of the UV radiation.

Blind bowler rolls perfect game in Iowa

FOXSports.com

May 9, 2008

A perfect game in bowling is rare enough. Turning the trick without even seeing the pins? That's a new one. Dale Davis, a 78-year-old man who lost his vision years ago to macular degeneration, bowled a perfect 300-game Saturday in the Iowa town of Alta, according to a local report.

"It was quite a thrill," Davis told the *Storm Lake Times* in Storm Lake, Iowa. "When I got to the tenth frame, I said 'Lord, let me throw three more good balls.' When I did, people on other teams were yelling and cheering. A few guys were hugging me and almost broke my skinny bones."

The report said Davis, a Navy veteran, got his start in bowling as a pin-setter during his teenage years, making 45 cents a night at a local alley. He went on to succeed in leagues and tournaments, including winning a \$2,500 top prize in a California event shortly after his days in the service.

Davis was living in California in 1996 when he lost sight in his left eye, the report said, and the right eye followed a year

later. He then decided to move back to Iowa, where he was raised, where his sister still lives.

With the help of his sister, Davis soon regained his bowling form and achieved an average of 188, according to the report.

"I can't see the lane or the pins and have a heck of a time finding my ball sometimes," Davis, who still has a small spot of peripheral vision remaining, told the paper. "I can kinda see the dots on the floor to know where I start. After that, I rely on my hearing and other people to tell me what's going on."

Nicknamed "The Hammer" for the surprising force of his shots, Davis relies more on his hearing than his vision to assess the quality of each roll. "The sounds of the alley let me know how I'm doing," Davis told the paper. "There's a loud crack when I get a strike. When I hear that crack, usually it's followed by someone telling me I can sit down.

"Saturday night, all I heard was 12 cracks in a row."

Free Monthly Low Vision Seminars

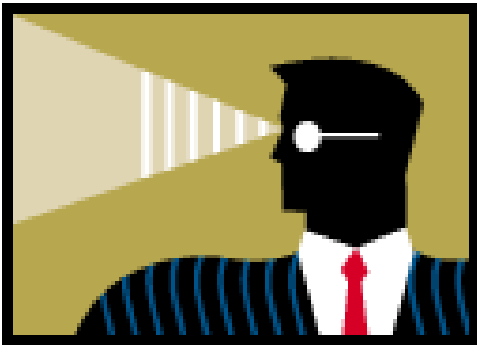
The first Friday of every month!

Attend a FREE hands-on low vision seminar and learn about the latest in adaptive technology, independent living devices and low vision tools. Call 642-6000 to reserve your seat at one of the upcoming low vision seminars.

Member Congratulations!



Love is in the air! Blind Center members Lucy Newman and Jim Ellison wish to announce their engagement. They met at the center in October at the Halloween Party. Jim fell in love with Lucy and the way she looked in her costume; it was love at first sight. All of us here at the Blind Center wish them happiness and a wonderful future together!



June is Vision Research Month

Prevent Blindness America, the nation's leading non-profit eye health and safety organization, has been dedicated to sight-saving research initiatives for close to 100 years and has named June as Vision Research Awareness Month. Part of its mission is to assist in providing researchers with the resources they need to help preserve vision. While millions of Americans benefit from vision research, many eye diseases have no effective treatments or cures. Even those with nearly perfect eyesight throughout their lifetime will most likely encounter a vision problem as they age. More Americans than ever are facing the threat of blindness, due to age-related diseases such as macular degeneration and inherited eye diseases such as retinitis pigmentosa. Ongoing vision research has the potential to preserve sight for millions of Americans.

Writer's Chair

By Blind Center member Diane Fenton

It appears as though I'm doing nothing and going nowhere as I sit in this chair.

The truth, believe me, I'm doing everything and speeding everywhere.

I pet soft, furry cats and dogs.

I chase and catch leaves, bugs and frogs.

I feed squirrels and birds, listening to every sound and song.

I hold someone's hand, on the farm, in the park, on the beach, walking curiously along.

I build a house, plant a garden, dig a pond, and fill it with fish and ducks.

I ride on horses, in slow moving covered wagons and climb on a bull that bucks.

I travel to far away places, riding on llamas, elephants and camels.

I live in a jungle, give bananas to monkeys, love and help people and animals.

I chuckle and laugh, and sometimes silently cry.

I sleep, I wake, I control the rain and control the sun as it rises high.

I'm a baby, a child, a teenager, a young adult and an older person.

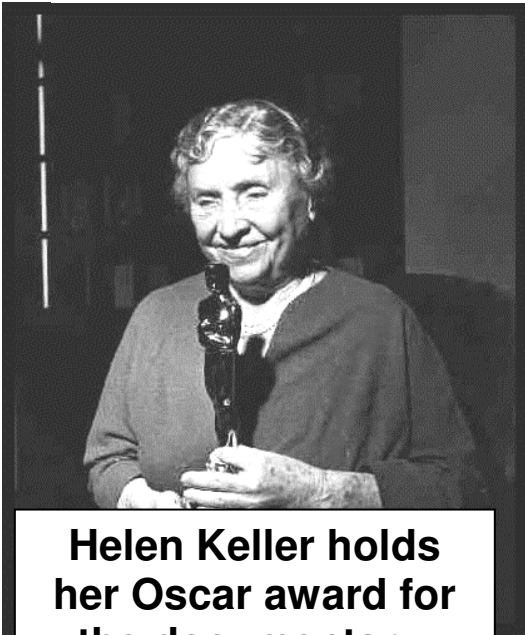
I'm a puppy, a bird, a butterfly, a tree and a flower.

Then I become myself with mystical, magical power.

Does it still appear to you as though I'm doing nothing and going nowhere?

If you haven't realized what I'm doing yet, try dreaming and writing as you sit in a chair.

Remembering Helen Keller (1880-1968)



Helen Keller holds her Oscar award for the documentary, "Helen Keller In Her Story", circa 1954.

On June 27 the world will celebrate the 128th anniversary of Helen Keller's birth. Deaf and blind from infancy, Helen Keller played a leading role in most of the significant political, social, and cultural movements of the 20th century. Throughout her lifetime (1880-1968) she worked unceasingly to improve the lives of people who were blind and deaf. Helen's own approach to life can be summed up by her advice to a five-year-old blind child in 1932:

"Never bend your head. Always hold it high. Look the world straight in the face."

Imagine that you couldn't see these words or hear them spoken. But you could still talk, write, read, and make friends. In fact, you went to college, wrote nearly a dozen books, traveled all over the world, met 12 U.S. presidents, and lived to be 87. Well, there was such a person, and she was born over a hundred years ago!

Meet Helen Keller, a woman from the small farm town of Tuscumbia, Alabama who taught the world to respect people who are blind and deaf. Her mission came from her own life; when she was 1 1/2, she was extremely ill, and she lost both her vision and hearing. It was like entering a different world, with completely new rules, and she got very frustrated. By the time she was 7, her parents knew they needed help, so they hired a tutor named Anne Sullivan.

Anne was strict, but she had a lot of energy. In just a few days, she taught Helen how to spell words with her hands (called the manual alphabet, which is part of the sign language that deaf people use.) The trouble was, Helen didn't understand what the words meant—until one morning at the water pump (like an outdoor water fountain) she got a whole new attitude.

Anne had Helen hold one hand under the water. Then she spelled "W-A-T-E-R" into Helen's other hand. It was electric! The feeling turned into a word. Immediately, Helen bent down and tapped the ground; Anne spelled "earth." Helen's brain flew; that day, she learned 30 words.

From then on, Helen's mind raced ahead. She learned to speak when she was ten by feeling her teacher's mouth when she talked. Often people found it hard to understand her, but she never gave up trying. Meanwhile, she learned to read French, German, Greek, and Latin in Braille! When she was 20, she entered Radcliffe College, the women's branch of Harvard University. Her first book, called **The Story of My Life**, was translated into 50 languages. (She used two typewriters: one regular, one Braille.) She wrote ten more books and a lot more articles! How did she find the time?

Helen also did research, gave speeches, and helped raise money for many organizations, such as the American Foundation for the Blind and the American Foundation for the Overseas Blind, which is now called Helen Keller Worldwide. From 1946 and 1957, she went around the world, speaking about the experiences and rights of people who are blind. She wound up visiting 39 countries on five different continents! Helen also inspired many works of art, including two Oscar-winning movies, and received dozens of awards, such as the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor that an

American civilian can receive. She died in her sleep in 1968. Helen became an exceptional leader, once she saw the potential in her own mind.

Helen's legacy

Today Helen's final resting place is a popular tourist attraction and the bronze plaque erected to commemorate her life has the following inscription written in Braille: "Helen Keller and her beloved companion Anne Sullivan Macy are interred in the columbarium behind this chapel."

So many people have visited the chapel, and touched the Braille dots, that the plaque has already had to be replaced twice.

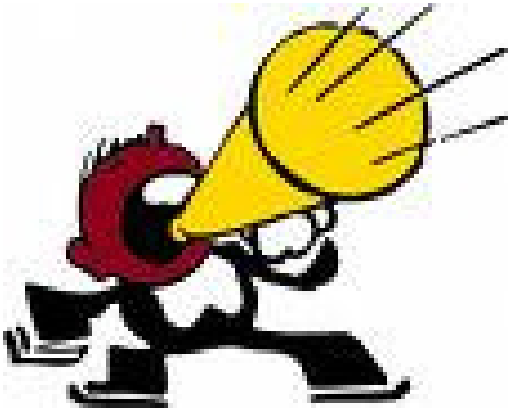
If Helen Keller were born today her life would undoubtedly have been completely different. Her life long dream was to be able to talk, something that she was never really able to master. Today the teaching methods exist that would have helped Helen to realize this dream. What would Helen have made of the technology available today to blind and deaf blind individuals? Technology that enables blind and deaf blind people, like Helen, to communicate directly, and independently, with anybody in the world.

Helen Keller may not have been directly responsible for the development of these technologies and teaching methods. But with the help of Anne Sullivan, through her writings, lectures and the way she lived her life, she has shown millions of people that disability need not be the end of the world.

It is a terrible thing to see and have no vision.
-Helen Keller

Party Update

Submitted by Blind Center Member Debby Callicutt



Calling all sports fans!

**It'll be 1-2-3 strikes
you're out if you miss
the "super sports
spectacular" and**

summer Olympics (Blind Center Style).

Wednesday, June 11th 10am-1:30pm.

**Wear your favorite sports jersey and win
a goodie! Hone up on your sport's
knowledge and trivia! There will be
Food, Games, Prizes, Raffles, Auctions,
Grab-bags, a special performance by
D.I.T.H and FUN, FUN, FUN!**

**Go into "TRAINING" mode
now for B.C Olympics!**

Blind Center of Nevada
E-Waste Program / Computer Recycling
(702) 642-6000 Ask for Ben

We accept: Computers, printers, printer cartridges, speakers, fax machines, cell phones, telephones, servers, networking equipment, mice, and keyboards. Working or not!

Drop-offs accepted Monday-Friday 8am-3pm.

\$40.00 pickup fee for small quantities.

Fee is waived on pickups of 20 systems
(1 monitor + computer).

Blind Center of Nevada
1001 N Bruce St
Las Vegas, NV 89101
(702) 642-6000



**Free Matter for
the Blind or
Handicapped**

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