

INDEPENDENCE



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an investment in people

profile of progress-



ANNUAL REPORT  
S. C. COMMISSION for the BLIND  
1970 / 1971

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

The South Carolina Commission for the Blind is in compliance with the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI and all requirements imposed pursuant thereto to the end that no person shall, on the grounds of sex, race, color or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the provision of any care or service. Any client participant, potential client, or interested person who is of the opinion that Benefits are provided on a discriminatory basis has the right to file a complaint with the State Agency or Federal Agency or both.

**SOUTH CAROLINA  
COMMISSION**

For The

**BLIND**

**1970 - 1971**

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State Budget and Control Board

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APR 18 1972



South Carolina

Commission For The Blind

FRED L. CRAWFORD, PH.D.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1400 MAIN STREET  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201

The Honorable John C. West  
Governor of South Carolina  
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Governor West:

The Board and staff of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind join me in proudly presenting our 1970-71 Annual Report. The progress of the Commission has been remarkable despite its relatively short history. Thousands of blind and visually handicapped South Carolinians who have received services are most grateful to you and to the General Assembly for having made possible the programs which are described in this report, entitled "An Investment In People".

Now, more than ever before, all Americans have come to realize that the best way of life can be achieved if every individual is able to stand on his own feet, assume responsibility for himself and his family, and join the crowd in the mainstream of life. To accomplish this is, indeed, a challenge for a blind person, who must learn how to compete in a sighted world. The Commission programs have been designed to offer bridges and pathways by which visually handicapped people of all ages and backgrounds may attain their goal of maximum independence, self-realization, and social fulfillment.

The continued support of the Executive and Legislative Branches of State Government, as well as encouragement from the general public, will enable the Commission to take even greater strides forward on behalf of our blind and visually handicapped citizens in the years ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred L. Crawford, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Richard F. Neidhardt	Columbia
Michael Holmes, M.D.	Kingstree
Miss Doris S. McKinney	Greenwood
Mrs. James B. Morrison	Columbia
W. Eugene Abrams	Anderson

## ADMINISTRATION

The Commission is governed by a five-member Board appointed by the Governor and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Policies are established by the Board and carried out by the Executive Director with the assistance of a Medical Advisory Committee and a Public Information and Education Committee. In addition to the functions of the Board and Advisory Committee, the Commission in its administrative unit maintains divisions of finance and accounting, public information, personnel, data processing, and a register of all known blind persons in South Carolina. All of these functions are supervised by the Executive Director.

The Division of Finance and Accounting assists in the preparation of budgets and the proper disbursement of State, Federal, and donated funds. Financial statements concerning expenditures are prepared for State and Federal use, as well as for the Commission Board. Statistical reports pertaining to services rendered are also compiled.

The Public Information Division interprets Commission programs and services to both the staff and the general population through internal and external newsletters. The annual report is also prepared and distributed as well as newsletters and special releases which relate to the progress being made by the Agency.

In the Personnel Division the processing of all job applications and the maintenance of employee records are handled by the Business Manager. Purchase of office equipment and supplies as well as maintenance of field office facilities are also the responsibilities of the Business Manager.

The Data Processing Division compiles records relating to all financial expenditures. Case-services data is also processed and distributed to the appropriate workers in their respective areas. Other records, such as those pertaining to the assignment of talking book machines, are kept by means of data processing.

In addition to the central office in Columbia, local offices have been established in virtually every major population center of the state. Each field office is staffed with a counselor and a secretary, the purpose of which is to keep the Commission in close contact with sources of referral and to insure that the counselor is easily accessible to his clientele. Two new offices were opened during the year, the first in Conway and the most recent one in Greenwood.

The other Commission offices are located in Aiken, Anderson, Charleston, Florence, Greenville, Orangeburg, Rock Hill, Spartanburg, the School for the Deaf and the Blind at Cedar Spring, Sumter, and Walterboro.

## *First Things First . . .*

### **PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS**

The Prevention of Blindness Department provides a wide range of services in its efforts to either prevent blindness or restore sight. During the fiscal year 1970-1971, the Department served over 5700 clients.

Of the 625 eye surgeries sponsored by the Prevention Department, 269 were for cataracts, which remains the leading cause of blindness in the state. The availability of Medicaide and Medicare programs was instrumental in decreasing this number from the 1969-70 figure of 297.

Twenty-seven glaucoma operations were authorized due to uncontrollable glaucoma. Enucleations became necessary in fourteen cases. These were necessary due to eye injuries, irreversible pathologies, glaucoma, or other old age injuries. Following surgical removal, patients were fitted with prostheses.

In 1969-70, only thirty-eight children had strabismus operations for the purpose of correcting crossed eyes, whereas in 1970-71 the Commission sponsored 63 operations of this type. In many instances, these cases were referred either by the State Board of Health or by school nurses.

Eye injuries and emergencies continue to take their place in the rapidly rising column of statistics. The Commission sponsored hospital admissions to provide this care. A total of 625 persons received hospitalization and treatment or surgery at a cost of \$146,738.56.

The Prevention of Blindness Department sponsored 2443 eye examinations for clients discovered by the Agency's visual screening program. The Commission purchased 675 pairs of glasses as a direct result of the examinations it sponsored.

A glaucoma register is maintained and there are now 1200 known cases. This disease requires careful treatment and follow-up services by the patients' eye physicians. Re-examinations of patients by the department for glaucoma and other conditions reached 2,439. Medication is being supplied to 20 persons who have no other source of funds for this purpose. Also, 457 persons were provided transportation to secure examinations or treatment.

## *An Investment In People . . .*

### **ADJUSTMENT, TRAINING AND PLACEMENT**

During the fiscal year 1970-71, the Adult Training and Adjustment Center was moved from 1400 Main Street to 2500 Bull Street to be housed in the buildings deeded to the South Carolina Commission for the Blind by the Association of the Blind of South Carolina.

The purpose of the Center is to teach legally blind South Carolinians the basic skills necessary for independent living and future employment. It provides the environment, opportunities, and the instructional assistance necessary to develop these skills.

Clients are referred by the various district office counselors throughout the state and come to the Training Unit for a six-week diagnostic evaluation period. The Center offers courses that assist a blind person to become adjusted to his disabilities with training in such areas as mobility, typing, Braille, arts and crafts, and household management. When a client has completed the basic diagnostic evaluation period, he may then enter the Work Evaluation Section where further evaluation is carried out.

Periodic evaluation reports are sent from the personnel of the Training Center to the district counselor in order that a vocational objective might be planned. The counselor then makes a placement in the type of employment best suited to the needs of the client.

During the year, 100 clients entered the Adult Training and Adjustment Center and 40 were enrolled in the Work Evaluation Section.

Two special groups attended the Training Center during the summer session. One group of high school students received training in communications, typing, Braille and mobility. The other group, consisting of college-bound students who were enrolled in the freshman English course at the University of South Carolina, received training in typing, mobility, and Braille.

## *Training The Mind To See . . .*

### **EDUCATION**

The Commission for the Blind is concerned with educating the blind and visually handicapped pre-school and school-age children. In an effort to insure that all blind children have the opportunity to

have a state-supported education, the Commission conducts an on-going Educational Services program which functions in cooperation with other responsible agencies and individuals concerned with service to the handicapped. Presently, it has identified and registered some 403 blind children. One hundred and sixty-two of these attend the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind, and the remainder are either in the public school system or not in school at all.

A counselor is on staff to assist with the educational needs of students graduating from the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind as well as one to assist those graduating from the public schools. These counselors help the blind student to make the transition from the academic world to the world of work. When a child has been referred to the Education Department, a comprehensive procedure is initiated to insure maximum educational opportunities.

The educational program provides itinerant teaching services, including counseling of parents and school-age children as well as school officials in methods and materials available to aid in teaching the blind child. Itinerant teachers also provide tutorial services in subjects peculiar to blindness. Special teaching aids, such as raised maps and globes and other learning devices, are provided.

The South Carolina Commission for the Blind operates its Educational Services Program within the philosophy that all educable blind students are entitled to an education at the expense of the State, yet at a point of minimum cost to the public treasuries and maximum benefit to the students. This education should be provided at the student's own learning level in a program provided uniformly throughout the state and in an atmosphere as close to normal as possible.

#### *With A Goal In Sight . . .*

### **VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

One hundred and forty-four blind South Carolinians successfully completed a vocational rehabilitation program during the fiscal year 1970-1971. Of these, 29 were placed in farm and other non-salaried positions. The remaining 115 individuals collectively earned a weekly salary of \$7,425.78, or an average of \$64.57 per week.

Examples of the occupations and professions in which blind persons were placed during 1971 included automotive transmission

repair, Social Security representatives, Professor of Journalism, counselor, teacher, medical transcriptionist, x-ray technician, computer programmer and physical therapy aide.

During the year, the Commission's Vision Utilization Department, in conjunction with a consultant in Low-Vision Aids, held three low-vision clinics. Eighty-nine partially sighted persons have been examined and 90% of these have received recommendations for low-vision aids. During these clinics, serious eye conditions have been detected and referred to ophthalmologists for treatment.

In addition to these clinics, this department has screened 53 persons to evaluate the usefulness of hand magnifiers. Since this department has been in operation, 20 low-vision lenses have been loaned for a trial period. Thirty-nine persons have also been tested to detect any hearing loss.

An applicant for Vocational Rehabilitation Services first receives a thorough interview concerning his life history, vocational experiences and interests and plans for the future. Arrangements are made for a complete medical examination and a vision specialist also determines whether or not sight may be restored or total blindness may be prevented in such instances where the applicant is not already totally blind. Psychological tests and other evaluator techniques enable counselors to learn what each applicant's education and employment potential is likely to be, taking all factors into account.

Most applicants spend a number of weeks in an evaluation facility or in the Adult Training and Adjustment Center in Columbia, during which time they have an individualized program geared to their specific needs. After that, the counselor can develop his plan of services which may include vocational training, a college attendance or industrial placement, whichever is most acceptable to the client and is appropriate to his needs.

Ideally, the Commission strives to return adults who have recently lost their sight to the kinds of jobs which they held as sighted persons unless there has been a fundamental change in interest. For young persons who have not yet worked and who must compete in the sighted world, it is the Commission's goal to try to make available employment as nearly related to the type of work the applicant would engage in if he were sighted and had free choice.

This individualized approach allows the Commission to build life-long careers for persons rather than merely offering any available job which may not be suited to the individual and which would result in only a temporary employment period.

#### *A Prime Goal—A Good Job . . . .*

### **CONCESSION STAND PROGRAM**

With the goal of increasing the opportunity for a blind person to achieve economic independence and productive employment, the South Carolina Commission for the Blind supervises 53 concession stands located in Federal, State, county and municipal buildings, hospitals, and in buildings belonging to private industry throughout the state.

Concession stand training, including courses in Small Business Management and Concession Stand Operation, qualifies a client to be considered for possible placement as an operator of a concession stand. The Commission provides the stand location, equipment and supervision, and furnishes the operator with the original stock. The operator then takes charge and becomes a self-employed businessman. One hundred percent of the profits are his.

Gross receipts from blind-operated concession stands in the state reached an all-time high during the fiscal year 1970-1971. Gross income for all stands was \$736,354.33 from which operators collected \$31,144.12 in sales tax for the State Treasury. Average monthly income for operators was \$374.15, an increase per month over last year of \$15.95. As with any other business, there is a wide variance in operators' monthly incomes at stand locations. Nine new concession stands were opened during the year.

#### *The Circulation Of Ideas . . . .*

### **LIBRARY SERVICES**

The Library, located together with the Adult Training and Adjustment Center at 2500 Bull Street, has gained the reputation of being the most significant library for the blind in the Southeast.

During the fiscal year 1970-1971, the collection of books in all media greatly increased due to the donation of 40,000 books on disc

from Recording for the Blind, Inc. in New York, bringing the total to 45,000.

Circulation for this year was 1,885 volumes and 1,208 titles. The most significant increase was the purchase of large print textbooks which could not be found in any part of the state. The large print collection increased from 30 to 100, and 91 volumes were circulated to school children throughout the state who would not be able to get their textbooks in any other way. This purchase of large print books was made possible through the use of contingency funds required to operate the library.

Actually the greatest population served by the library is the 6-18 age group. Last year there were 70 students, this year 120 students. This year there were 13 college students as compared with eight last year. The Talking Book Program has over 2,000 readers who borrowed one-third of the books from the collection of talking books, disc, Braille, large print, and magnetic tape. The majority of students use tapes on free inter-library loan, and Recording for the Blind, Inc. has loaned freely 3,000 reels to students in the Commission program.

The Commission utilized two more groups of volunteers, one group in Columbia and the other on Hilton Head Island. The Volunteer Reader Program reached an all-time high with 40 volunteers spending over 2,500 hours processing books for the blind.

#### *Hands That See . . . .*

### **HOME INDUSTRIES DIVISION**

The Home Industries Division of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind, located at 1738 Main Street in Columbia, continues its services to homebound clients throughout the state. These clients, because of problems in addition to their blindness, are unable to enter the workday world of employment.

Clients are supplied equipment, as well as materials, with which to manufacture the articles. Their specialities include clowns, dolls, monkeys and bunnies, as well as aprons, tote bags, bath mats, artificial flowers, and a variety of crocheted items. Also, leather goods to make belts, billfolds, clutch bags and key cases are supplied to many clients who are confined to their homes and who do a small business with these goods at Christmas and graduation time.

After an item is made, it is then inspected and marketed by the Home Industries Outlet in Columbia. Some items such as dolls, monkeys, and other toys, are shipped in wholesale lots to customers in New York, Florida, Kentucky, Georgia, Illinois, as well as North and South Carolina. Profits from sales are returned to the person making the item.

Sales of home manufactured items totaled \$25,172.92, an increase of more than \$1,800 over the previous year's sales. Of this total, \$4,578.59 resulted from retail sales and \$20,601.33 from wholesale shipment.

#### **When There Is A Need . . .**

#### **DISABILITY DETERMINATION**

Social Security disability benefits are payable to blind individuals who have worked a sufficient number of quarters in covered employment in order to qualify. Disabled widows, children and young adults, under certain circumstances, may also be determined eligible for benefits. The Commission for the Blind has been designated as the Agency which makes these disability determinations in South Carolina under a contract with the Social Security Administration.

Claims for Social Security benefits where blindness is alleged as the primary disability are reviewed and evaluated. Although the Federal Guidelines relating to obtaining evidence of a disability must be adhered to, they are flexible enough to give the claimant maximum consideration provided under the law.

Those individuals who meet the level of severity prescribed by law are generally recommended for an allowance. Regardless of whether or not the applicant is recommended and allowed by the Social Security Administration, all applicants and beneficiaries are referred to a counselor in a district office of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind for possible re-training and employment assistance.

During the fiscal year 1970-1971, 268 cases were received for development and evaluation. Of these, 245 were processed and 23 were pending decisions.

Although each state has provisions for making Social Security Disability Determinations, the South Carolina Commission for the Blind is one of two agencies for the blind in the country which has

its own unit. All costs connected with this program are reimbursed 100% by the Social Security Administration.

#### **Another Way Of Doing Things . . .**

#### **SPECIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

The Special Services Department, created by the South Carolina Commission for the Blind, is centrally located in the Commission's main office in Columbia and, from this point, the entire state is serviced. The Department has two major functions. The first and perhaps the most important is that it houses the various aides and appliances which are immediately available for purchase by legally blind individuals. Also, these items can be and are quite frequently purchased by the Commission's various programs for their own use as well as that of their clients. The second function of the Department is to house supply items for the Commission's Adult Training and Adjustment Center. These items consist of materials for the arts and crafts program, for communications training, and some aides for mobility training.

Items stocked and supplied at cost include Braille watches and alarm clocks, white canes of various lengths and types, self-threading needles, Braille paper and Braille writing devices, portable tape-recorders, magnifying glasses, and an inexpensive radio that receives the audio portion of television stations. These and many other items were previously available from supply houses in New York and elsewhere, which required weeks and sometimes months for each order to be processed and sent through the mails.

The first fiscal year for the Special Services Department ended on June 30, 1971. Although this did not allow for a full year of operation, according to the income statement, average monthly sales amounted to \$2,433.14. A revolving fund is kept for this program and as items are sold, new orders are placed to replenish the supply.

**S. C. STATE LIBRARY**

**SOURCE OF FUNDS**  
**Fiscal Year 1970-71**

**1. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

Receipts (Vocational Rehabilitation, Trust Funds  
 and Disability Determination \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 814,994

**2. STATE GOVERNMENT**

General Appropriation Act \_\_\_\_\_ 869,190

**TOTAL — ALL FUNDS** \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,684,184

**EXPENDITURES**  
**Fiscal Year 1970-71**

1. Administration	_____	\$ 274,578
2. Prevention of Blindness Program	_____	251,948
3. Business Enterprises (Concession Stand and Home Industries)	_____	127,063
4. Vocational Rehabilitation Services—Treatment and Training	_____	686,195
5. Educational Services	_____	36,274
6. Special Services	_____	1,782
7. Obligated and Unexpended Funds	_____	306,344

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES** \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,684,184

**CLIENTS SERVED** \_\_\_\_\_ 10,055

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Fiscal Year 1970-71

1. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

    Reprise (Vocational) Rehabilitation Trust Funds  
    and Disability Determination                           \$ 814,094

2. STATE GOVERNMENT

    General Appropriation Act                           869,196

TOTAL -- ALL FUNDS

\$1,684,184

EXPENDITURES

Fiscal Year 1970-71

1. Administration                                        \$ 124,578

2. Prevention of Blindness Program                   251,948

3. Business Enterprises (Cooperative Store and  
Home Industries)                                       137,963

4. Vocational Rehabilitation Services—Treatment  
and Training   586,195

5. Educational Services                                   186,271

6. Special Services                                        1,782

7. Obligated and Unexpended Funds                   396,344

TOTAL EXPENDITURES                                   \$1,684,184

CLIENTS SERVED   10,863

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