

Utah Council of the Blind

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To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as an introduction of a member in good standing of the Utah Council of the Blind (UCB), who is requesting your help and support in our behalf. The several hundred members of the UCB provide services to and administer programs to benefit over 20,000 blind residents of the state of Utah. Since the vast majority of the members are blind themselves, they are in a unique position to know and understand exactly what is needed and prioritize programs appropriately. None of these individuals receive any compensation for their efforts, nor does the UCB have any employees.

The Utah Council of the Blind is an IRS 501(c)(3) charitable foundation, so all donations are tax deductible. All donations of every kind are used in a manner to directly benefit blind and visually impaired individuals in the state of Utah. Although we are affiliated with a national organization, the American Council of the Blind, they are self-supporting, and no portion of donations made in the state are passed along to them.

Services and programs of the UCB include two major transportation programs, a subsidized taxi cab coupon program, and a driver/guide mileage reimbursement program; a reader service stipend program; scholarships for blind college students; ceramics classes; a program which allows blind individuals to have materials of their choice transcribed into Braille; an adaptive technology subsidy program; an informational WATS line blind individuals may call for the latest updates on events of particular interest to them; information and referral services; training and help with self-advocacy; educational/social activities; and others.

The UCB is funded entirely through the generous grants and donations of private foundations, businesses, and individuals. We receive no government funding. We would be most grateful to be able to add you to our list of sponsors. Thank you in advance for any help you can give. Should you desire more details concerning the UCB, please do not hesitate to call the number above and speak with Leslie Gertsch, our Executive Director. (As with our other members, Leslie is not paid, but volunteers her time in this capacity.)

Sincerely,

Cindi L. Vega

Cindi L. Vega, President