

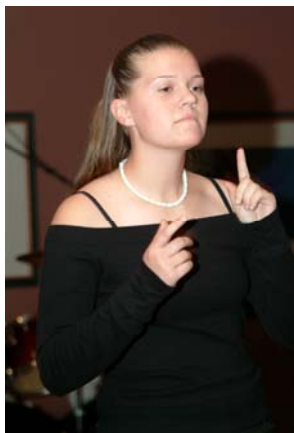


Success for Life: for Blind, Deaf Youth, It's One Step at a Time

That some achieve great success, is proof to all that others can achieve it as well.
-Abraham Lincoln

At Arizona Blind and Deaf Children's Foundation, we believe that every child—whether deaf, blind, deaf-blind, or multiply disabled—has the capacity to achieve, and to live a successful, fulfilled life. Yet, we also recognize that because of a variety of factors, blind and deaf youth and their families require extra attention, experience, and training in order to become fully functional, successful, and fulfilled adults.

That's why the programs the Foundation has created and supported range from those which help parents of blind and deaf children, to those which foster independence and success skills for teens transitioning into the world of young adulthood. A sampling of our Success for Life program cadre includes:



- **Steppin' Out** is an independent living program for blind and low vision young adults making the transition from high school to work or college. Steppin' Out participants begin with a 4-week orientation program to adapt to their environment in an apartment outfitted for use by a blind resident. An on-site Life Coach provides Steppin Out residents with daily assistance and training in important life skills like cooking, budgeting, street safety, shopping, networking, academic enrollment and tutoring and individualized life skill training. Created by the Foundation in 2005, Steppin' Out is now a program of Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired.
- **Pima County Youth Employment Program**, an outgrowth of the Steppin' Out program, gives young blind and low-vision youth summer employment opportunities to introduce them to the world of work, and to provide important training and skill building to ensure success as young adults.
- **Project WINGS**, is about developing a Working Internal Navigation Guidance System for young adults who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. A partnership between Arizona Schools for the Deaf, Community Outreach Program for the Deaf (COPD), and the Foundation, Project WINGS is a week-long residential summer program which focuses on the transition from school to the economic mainstream by using career education, hands-on experience, and career/personal counseling to build independent living skills for deaf youth.
- **Guide by Your Side**—Recognizing that success skills are developed from early childhood, Arizona Blind and Deaf Children's Foundation was instrumental in supporting the development and launch of Arizona Hands and Voices' Guide by Your Side program. Trained parent guides—parents who have themselves experienced the anxiety of having their child diagnosed with deafness—serve as mentors to parents with newly diagnosed deaf children, helping them to make sense of all the available options and decisions in a non-judgmental, supportive way. By being available to parents early on, GBYS guides help ensure parents and children alike have the best possible chances for success in a world geared toward the hearing.

For more information, or to contribute to Success for Life programming, contact Arizona Blind and Deaf Children's Foundation, 520.577.3700, or log on to www.azblinddeafchildren.org.

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