



“I have a brighter future ahead of me, and I’m going to accomplish a lot. I have all of this because of World Services for the Blind.”
—Justin, WSB Graduate

Happy Holidays!

Throughout my career, I’ve seen countless success stories that reaffirm the need for the work that we do at World Services for the Blind. One of those stories is Justin.

Justin was born blind. He learned independent living skills in primary and secondary school at the Arkansas School for the Blind. Those skills included how to read and write Braille, how to use a cane and how to use the upper arm technique with a sighted guide. After his graduation, he returned home to south Arkansas. Soon after, his father passed away and he was appointed a legal guardian who didn’t encourage furthering his development.

Sadly, Justin lost many of the skills he learned in school. However, he was court ordered to come to WSB to undergo a 30-day evaluation. During that time, it was recommended that Justin remain with us at WSB to take part in our intensive life skills training.

Over the course of about seven months, Justin made a remarkable transformation. He relearned many of those skills he lost. Justin also began to come out of his shell, thanks to counseling and interaction with others. He thrived in learning keyboarding, home management and techniques of daily living. “Before WSB, I was always timid. I was told I was too incapable to speak. I wouldn’t even stand up for myself until I got there,” he says.

Today, Justin is putting the life skills training he received at WSB to work four 10-hour days every week. He lives independently, takes the bus to work every day and has even been named Employee of the Month at his job.

Justin is just one of many whose lives have been changed by the services offered at WSB. The once withdrawn and timid young man now comes back to visit quite often, and he knows he’ll always be a part of the WSB family. “I want to say ‘thank you’ from the bottom of my heart for what you all have done for me,” he says.

Our work with clients like Justin is why I am asking you to look at the enclosed gift catalog and see the many ways you can help the clients at World Services for the Blind. All gifts are meaningful to each

client—\$15 will provide breakfast, lunch and dinner for one day; \$45 will provide one day of room and board; and \$75 will provide one day of career training. Most clients live on campus for an average of six months.

I am also excited to be able to tell you that thanks to a matching gift of \$100,000 from Bob and Ginny Shell, as well as another matching grant from an Arkansas family foundation, your donation will go twice as far. For example, there are so many things \$150 will provide, including a vocational evaluation, a psychological evaluation or an hour of job development/placement. And because of these generous matching gifts, a donation of \$150 will double and help twice as many clients.

We're committed to our mission to help blind or visually impaired adults achieve sustainable independence. I'm asking you to join us in carrying out that mission with a financial gift. Large or small, your donation will make the maximum impact on the lives of our clients. You can make your gift in memory of or in honor of someone special in your life. What a wonderful way to recognize a loved one—a gift that promotes sustainable independence.

On behalf of the staff and clients of World Services for the Blind, thank you, and best wishes for a happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Dickerson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Larry Dickerson, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer, World Services for the Blind