

Adapting to Vision Loss

Denise Jess, Executive Director



**Wisconsin Council of the
Blind & Visually Impaired**

Mission & Values

The Council promotes the **dignity and empowerment** of the people of Wisconsin who live with vision loss through advocacy, vision services and education.

Values are inclusivity, integrity, & uncompromising respect.

About Us

- Founded in **1952**
- Governed **for & by** people who are BVI
- Nearly half of staff members are BVI

What We Do

- Advocacy
- Education
- Vision Services

The Big Picture

109,000 Wisconsinites are BVI

- 4.2% of Wisconsinites over age 65 experience blindness or significant vision loss

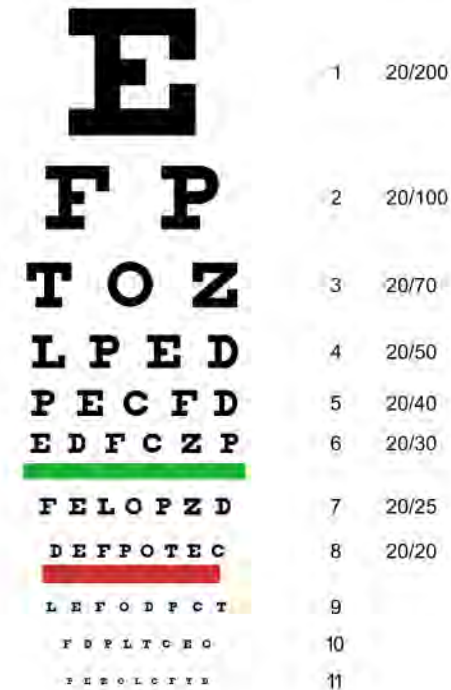
Potential to become disabled increases as we age:

- 65 to 74: 22% of WI population
- 75+: 42% of WI population

Legally Blind

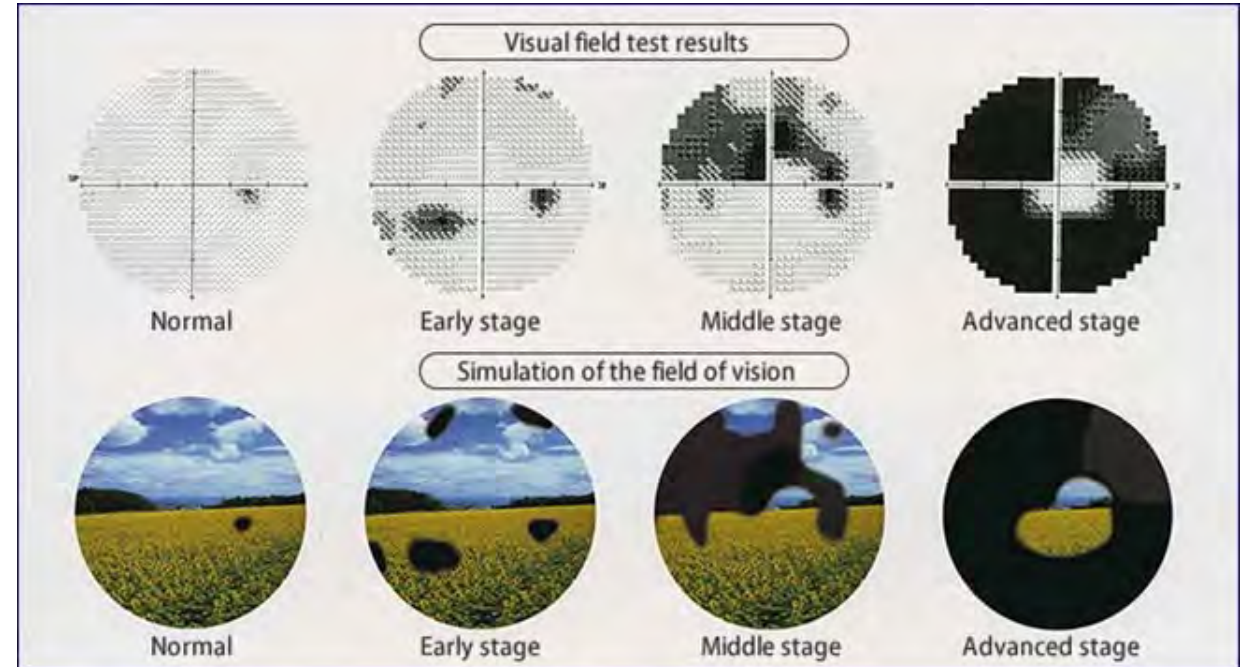
- No better than 20/200 corrected vision in the better eye

OR



Legally Blind

- Visual field not extending beyond 20 degrees in the better eye
- Approximately 70% of people who are legally blind have usable vision



Low Vision

- Significant reduction of visual function that cannot be fully corrected by ordinary glasses, contact lenses, medical treatment and/or surgery

Common Causes of Vision Loss

- Age-related macular degeneration
- Glaucoma
- Diabetic Retinopathy
- Cataracts
- Inherited retinal diseases
- Stroke

Everyone Sees Differently



Age Related Macular Degeneration



Diabetic Retinopathy



Glaucoma

Assistive Technology

- An umbrella term covering the systems and services related to the delivery of assistive products and services.
- Assistive products maintain or improve an individual's functioning and independence, thereby promoting their well-being.

Access Technology

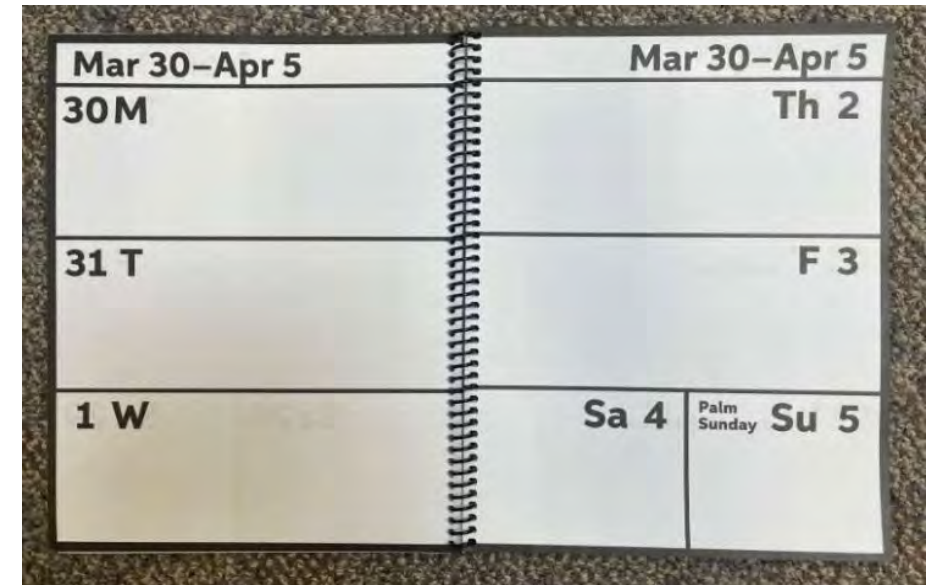
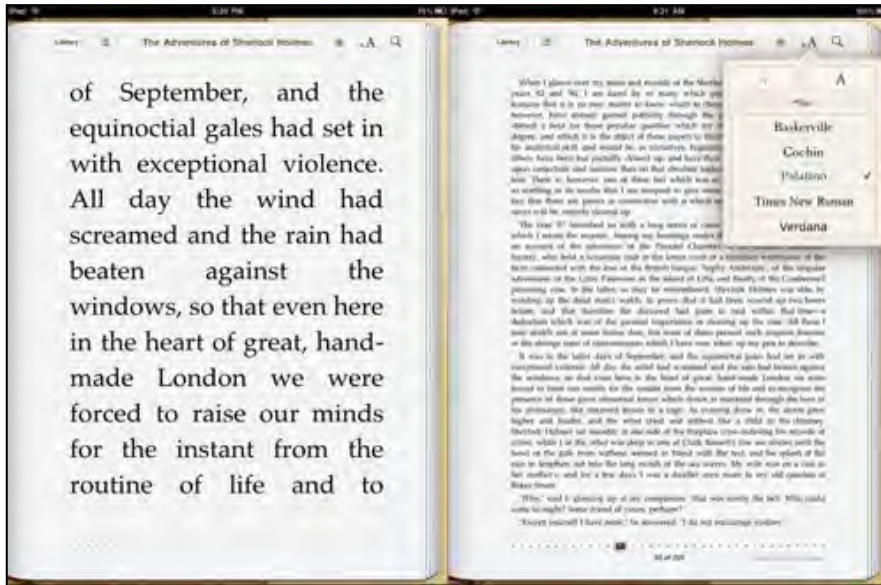
- Preferred term
- Products + Skills = Independence, Dignity, and Empowerment

Improve Task Lighting



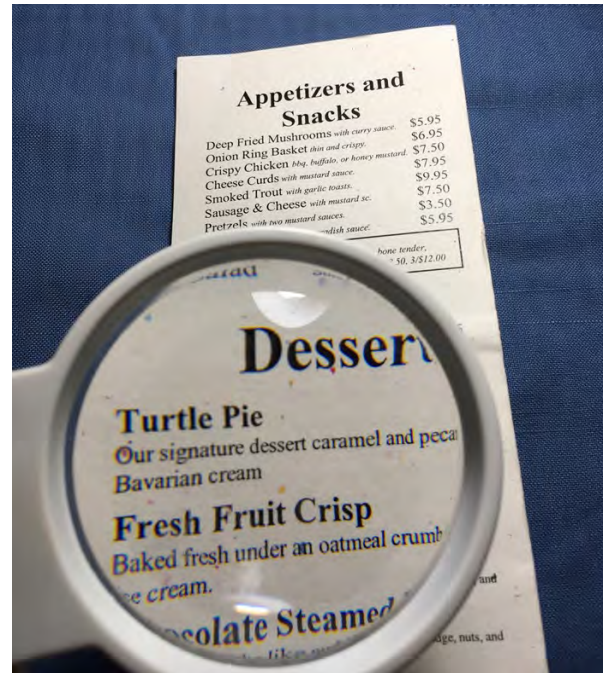
Vision Aware
Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired

Increase Size



Kindle
Sharper Vision Store (WCBlind.org/Store)

Increase Size



Sharper Vision Store (WCBlind.org/Store)
Zoom Text by [Freedom Scientific](http://FreedomScientific)

Add Touch Cues



Sharper Vision Store (WCBlind.org/Store)

Use Contrast



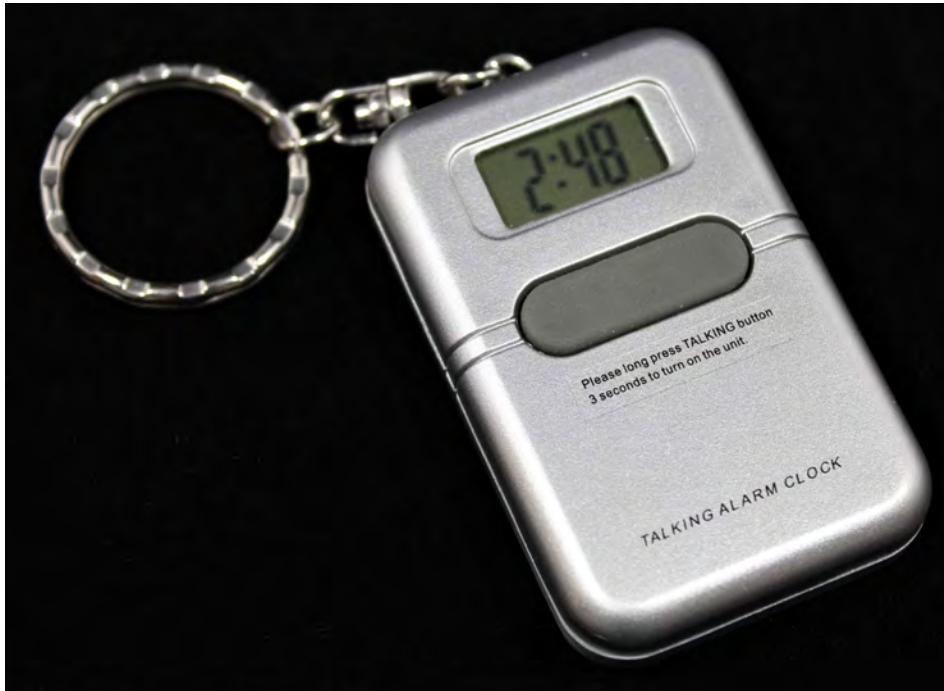
Sharper Vision Store (WCBlind.org/Store)

Use Contrast



Sharper Vision Store (WCBlind.org/Store)
[Australian Human Rights Commission](http://AustralianHumanRightsCommission.org)

Add Sound



Sharper Vision Store (WCBlind.org/Store)
The Lion King (Disney 1994)

Add Sound

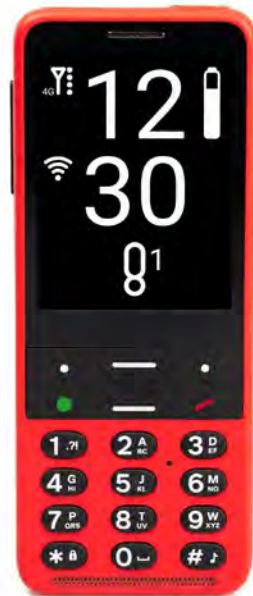


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AND BRAILLE LIBRARY



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- Accessibility Features include: VoiceOver or Talk Back, Voice to Text, Magnification, Increased Contrast



Orientation and Mobility



Comments? Questions?

Contact us at:

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(608) 255-1166

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