World Braille Foundation

Fondation mondiale due braille

Literacy, Independence, Empowerment

To promote Braille as a language equal to print to guarantee literacy to all blind persons throughout the world
The World Braille Foundation endorses the Education For All initiative

The World Braille Foundation was established in 2001 by Dr. Euclid Herie, C.M., president emeritus of The Canadian National Institute for the Blind, vice-president of the Royal National Institute of the Blind (UK) and past-president of the World Blind Union.

This international foundation, incorporated as a Canadian charity, promotes education of blind and visually impaired persons, provides braille materials, braille writing devices and encourages teacher training and promotes inclusive education in the developing world. The Foundation is dedicated to promoting literacy, independence and empowerment to blind persons.

Leadership
The World Braille Foundation is governed by a volunteer board under the leadership of Euclid Herie. Braille literacy authorities, financial experts and legal advisers serve as board members and honourary governors.

Achieving the Foundation’s Goals
The World Braille Foundation documents best practices for Braille literacy and coordinates the donation of resources such as material and equipment from first world agencies of and for the blind.

In addition, The World Braille Foundation deploys volunteers who donate their time and experience to improving the literacy level of blind persons in developing countries. The Foundation’s further mandate is to foster research on braille literacy, promote braille usage and champion World Braille Day every January 4.

Focus on Blind Women and Girls
The World Braille Foundation ensures that priority is given to blind girls and women in rural or remote areas of the developing world.

In 2008 the Board established the Barbara Marjeram Braille Literacy Award presented annually to blind girls and women in these countries.

Partnerships
The World Braille Foundation collaborates with the Canadian International Development Agency, international non-governmental organizations, the World Blind Union, International Council for the Education of the Visually Impaired, United Nations agencies, libraries for the blind and other leading organizations of and for the blind. The Foundation promotes as a priority in-country partnerships, with all projects implemented at the local level.

Funding
The World Braille Foundation welcomes donations from individuals, NGOs, governments, foundations, service clubs and socially responsible corporations.

Administration and fund development costs are kept to a minimum; directors are unpaid. Banking and auditing services were selected to ensure global integrity. The World Braille Foundation’s accounts are subject to an annual audit by a qualified Canadian audit firm. The World Braille Foundation operates in compliance with Canadian law and adheres to standards common to charitable organizations.

“We are committed to spending 90 per cent of the funds we raise to provide materials and services at the local level to blind women, men and children in developing countries, with priority being given to programs involving blind girls and women.”

The World Braille Foundation’s charitable registration number is 85179 3539 RR0001.
THE GIFT OF
BRAILLE LITERACY

Literacy is the key to opportunity, economic security and freedom. Yet in most developing countries blind children receive little or no education. The lack of skilled teachers and limited access to braille materials or equipment means that in many countries that at least 95 per cent of blind children do not attend school.

For adults, braille skills dramatically increase opportunities for employment but basics such as braille paper or instruction are often not available. The World Braille Foundation delivers the gift of braille literacy.

You can help make braille literacy a reality for millions of blind women, men and children.

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