

The New Hampshire Association for the Blind was first organized in 1912 and legally incorporated as a private, non-profit, charitable organization on November 7, 1933.

Its purpose, as stated in the second article of its By-Laws, is: "to promote the general welfare of the blind people of New Hampshire; to participate in the prevention of blindness; and to improve public understanding of the blind and their problems".

The past 53 years have witnessed the development of this agency to the point where it now is recognized nationally as one of the leaders among private agencies in the field of blindness. The Association has also been accredited and awarded the Seal of Good Practice by the American Association of Workers for the Blind since 1955.

Its professionally oriented service program is composed of numerous disciplines offering Social Casework, Peripatology, Home Crafts, Recreation, Public Education, and Prevention services.

A full-time staff of 22 employees in conjunction with a corps of over 100 volunteers have, this past service year, provided services to approximately one-third of the more than 1600 blind and visually handicapped persons in the State residing in over 100 different towns and cities.

The Board of Directors, composed of 5 officers and 20 members, as well as the staff are gratefully appreciative to the citizenry of the State for their financial contributions and bequests which enable this Association to continue to provide and expand its services to meet the needs of the blind.

No compilation of facts about the New Hampshire Association for the Blind would be complete without recognition of Mr. William McGreal, late of Peterborough, N. H. For it was he, blinded at middle age, who, as the first Executive Director (1947-1955) built a solid foundation and laid a true course for the Association, and as its first vice-president (1956-1963) contributed unsparingly of himself during a period of transition and great expansion.

"We have the honor and opportunity to be the voice for blind persons: we also can be the conscience of society in action. May we measure up".

Respectfully submitted,

*(Mr) Gale J. Stickler, ACSW*  
Executive Director

August 16, 1965