SUGGESTIONS REGARDING MEETING A BLIND PERSON

1. CONVERSATION TOPICS - which are of interest to you will be interesting to him. Feel free to discuss current news events, sports, hobbies, or politics. It is not necessary to avoid the subject of blindness. Use the words “see” and “blindness” as you would in any conversation.

2. “MAY I HELP YOU?” - This is the proper approach to any blind person to whom you wish to offer assistance. Speak directly to him, never through his companion, using normal conversational tones.

3. WHEN DIRECTING HIM - explain as clearly as possible. Left or right, according to the way he is facing.

4. WHEN GUIDING HIM - offer your arm; never take his. The movements of your arm will let him know what to expect.

5. WHEN A BLIND PERSON IS USING A GUIDE DOG - remember that the dog is a working animal. His attention should not be diverted; his master's life depends on his alertness. Petting the dog or offering him food would divert his attention.

6. WHEN ENTERING A ROOM - where there is a blind person, speak and identify yourself, if necessary. Don't play “guess who” games. When you leave his presence, be sure to tell him, so that he will not be embarrassed.

7. WHEN SHOWING A BLIND PERSON TO A CHAIR - simply place his hand on the back of it. He will not need your help to seat himself.

8. KEEP DOORS FULLY OPENED OR COMPLETELY CLOSED - if you live or work with a blind person. Keep corridors clear and tell him when furniture has been moved.