

## We Strive for

- Lobbying Forum for parents – Deafblind South Africa would like to provide parents with the opportunity to come together and to lobby together with adult Deafblind people for better education for their children.
- Role Models for children - We believe that adult Deafblind people can serve as role models for Deafblind children in order to show them what Deafblind people can achieve.
- To conduct public education and awareness in line with the UNCRPD
- Strategic Partnerships – Form partnerships with other organisations.

- Correct Diagnosis - It is vitally important that a correct diagnosis be made as early as possible in order to assure the correct provision of services for deafblind children.
- Early Intervention - If early intervention services are not available, it may lead to the Deafblind child not developing properly.
- More capable Education units – Urgent attention should be given to the establishment of units for the education of Deafblind children in all the provinces of South Africa.
- Identification of Deafblind people – identifying Deafblind children and in ensuring that Deafblind children receive adequate education.
- Referential service– It is vital to refer clients to the correct service provider for specific needs of each individual.



## **ORGANIZATION OF THE DEAFBLIND FOR THE DEAFBLIND**

**NPO 011-981**

## ABOUT US

On 26 July 1996, a group of Deaf-blind people, professionals and other interested persons came together at the Cape Town International Airport to establish Deaf-blind South Africa, the first ever organisation in South Africa which would cater exclusively for Deaf-blind people.

### Our objective

The main objective of Deafblind South Africa is to break the isolation that surrounds Deafblind people. Because deafblindness can be considered a communication disability, many Deafblind people live in isolation and they are very often unable to utilize services that might be available to other people.

Deafblind South Africa sees its role as a lobbying organisation to promote better services for Deaf-blind people and also to be the mouthpiece of Deafblind people in South Africa.

## COMUNICATION METHODS

### **Tactile Sign Language**

Hand over hand signs : feeling the hand movements of the person signing.

Short-cut signs : tactile fingerspelling supplemented by some signs which are made in the palm of the hand.

Co-active signs : making the signs with the person.

This is the natural sign language of the Deaf community which can be read by people who are deafblind, using the hand over hand method.

Tracking: holding the signer's wrist(s) to feel the movement or to keep the signs within visual range.

Visual Frame or Close Vision Sign : signs are made within a small area in front of the upper chest and within close visual range of the person.

### **Tactile fingerspelling**

Fingerspelling received on the palm.

### **Braille**

This is a written form of communication based on an oral language. A system of embossed dots are read with the fingertips. A braille system can also be used on the hands, using 3 fingers on each hand to represent the six dots of braille.

### **Tadoma**

This is a tactile method of reading speech by placing the thumb on the speaker's lips and the other fingers on the speaker's neck.

### **Technical devices**

Such as hearing aids, cochlear implants, FM –systems, vibrator systems, large print and braille output computers, Telebrailers.

### **Other:**

Object-symbols: use of real objects to represent activities, e.g. a spoon could represent lunch.

Physical cues and gestures: e.g. shoulder shrug, pointing, thumbs up.

Communication boards or books : pointing to pictures, symbols, words or objects to communicate.

Please donate in order to help us with projects and activities to benefit Deafblind people of South Africa.

- Make a direct deposit
- Make an electronic deposit
- Arrange a fundraising venue
- Get involved make the difference

### Banking Details

Bank : ABSA Worcester  
Branch No: 632005  
Account name: Deafblind South Africa  
Account No: 9217737954

### Contact Details

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