

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Cane and Able Day

Please join us on October 13 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM for “Cane and Able Day” to help celebrate the White “Cane” and the many things the Visually Impaired are “Able” to do.

Independence for the Blind enthusiastically invites our community to Cane and Able Day, a Blind Awareness celebration, 10 AM, Thursday, October 13 at Independence for the Blind at 3107 North Davis Highway. The purpose is to celebrate the abilities of persons who are blind or visually impaired and to emphasize the importance of the White Cane Law which requires that vehicles must stop when someone with a white cane or a service dog is crossing or attempting to cross the street.

Displays such as, Blinded Veterans Association, Pensacola Lion’s club, and Center for Independent Living/Disability Resource Center, begin at 10:00 AM, White Cane Day Ceremony at 11:00 and Cane and Able Walk will start 11:45. The walk is an opportunity for the Blind to demonstrate their navigation ability and for the sighted (who are willing) to be blind folded and experience what it is like to walk on the street without sight.

To RSVP, please email [sally.mcconnell@ibwest.org](mailto:sally.mcconnell@ibwest.org) or call 850-477-2663.

The white cane is the universal symbol for blindness or visual impairment. It is a common misconception that the white cane is only used by those who are totally blind. It also, is used by individuals who may have a small amount of vision remaining. White canes help persons who are visually impaired find obstacles that may be in their way or warn them when they are approaching a curb. White canes also serve as a signal to others that the cane user is visually impaired.

While many visually impaired individuals use white canes, many others use guide dogs. These are dogs that are specially trained to lead blind or visually impaired travelers around obstacles and assist with street crossings. Visually impaired individuals who use guide dogs for mobility are called “handlers”. Handlers have received extensive training on how to direct the dog to get them from one place to another.

Each state has laws that pertain to pedestrians with white canes or dog guides. In Florida, the law states that drivers must come to a full stop when there is a pedestrian using a white cane or a guide dog while crossing, or attempting to cross a public street or highway.

### **About Independence for the Blind Programs**

Our Mission is to teach independent living skills, computer and adaptive technology and to provide vocational training and employment-related services to people who are blind or visually impaired so they can achieve maximum independence. We are partially funded by the Florida department of Education and the Division of the Blind Services. We rely on donations to meet the need for service.

### **Please contact the Independence for the Blind of West Florida**

3107 North Davis Highway, Pensacola, Florida 32503, Phone 850.477.2663 [www.ibwest.org](http://www.ibwest.org)

**Note: The Walk is a wonderful Photo and Video OP.**