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VOICE OF THE BLUE RIDGE
3435 Melrose Avenue,
Roanoke, Virginia 24017

**Providing services
to those with vision
and print
impairments**

www.vobr.org

Voice Of The Blue Ridge

Our Services

Voice of the Blue Ridge

is a non-profit organization chartered in 1981 to help people who cannot read newspapers or magazines because of physical impairments such as partial vision loss, blindness or stroke. We provide our services throughout Virginia and the United States.

Through the work of a volunteer board and a small staff, Voice of the Blue Ridge has helped translate printed material into audio form for thousands of people over the years in a number of creative ways.

Mission Statement

It is the Mission of the Voice of the Blue Ridge to provide various services to meet the needs of the blind, visually impaired, and others with print handicaps, especially in Central and Southwest Virginia, with programs centered on accessibility to the printed word, audio aids, and technical communication aspects, to enhance communication and life opportunities for those who might not otherwise have this enrichment.



Dial-In News Services

People read newspapers whenever and wherever they can find time to do so. They may scan headlines early in the morning before work, glance at cartoons during breaks and read lengthy features late in the evening. People with print-impairments, however, rarely have those choices.

Dial-In News, now gives these people their daily paper in an automated format available to them on their personal schedules twenty-four hours every day.

Through a special blend of electronics, volunteerism and genuine need, newspapers are now available to a growing audience with widely varied schedules and interests.

This service is accessible by a toll free number also.



Radio Reading Services

The radio reading service is, a network of radio stations that broadcast printed materials through closed circuit radio stations throughout the United States. In the Roanoke area, including southwest and central Virginia, Voice of the Blue Ridge has helped produce WVTF Public Radio's reading service since 1981.

We provide eligible clients with free radios tuned to the station's reading service frequency. The Broadcast schedule currently includes such things as The Roanoke Times, the Danville Register and Bee, the Lynchburg News and Advance, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and many other newspapers, along with magazines such as the Smithsonian, The New Yorker, Rolling Stone, Vogue, Parents, Good Housekeeping and others which appeal to almost every reading taste.

Adaptive Technology Center

Our Adaptive Technology Center is currently equipped with 5 workstations. It is available for use to all who are visually/print impaired. Using special adaptive technologies, people with vision and print impairments can gain or regain access to the benefits offered by computer.

We also offer training in a group classroom setting by a licensed trainer for those wanting to learn how to use these technologies.



Audio Description Services

The audio description system is available for select Mill Mountain Theatre Plays as well as Opera Roanoke. A narrator backstage uses the system to describe stage sets, costumes and the all-important action that occurs between and among dialogue and music. The narrator acts as the eyes of the audience to bring the complete magic of the theater to those people who can no longer see.

Large-Print Calendars

The Large Print Calendars are 17 inches wide, by 11 inches deep. The numbers in the calendar are 3/4-inch high. The calendars are easy to see and to write in for appointments. We ship these calendars all over Virginia and the United States.