

ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING
SPECIAL SERVICES IN NEW YORK CITY

A stylized line-art graphic of a city skyline, featuring several prominent skyscrapers of varying heights and shapes, positioned to the right of the main text.



BIG APPLE GREETER

The Big Apple Greeter

Since 1992, Big Apple Greeter has connected over 30,000 visitors with its 500 volunteer residents (Greeters) for free 2-4 hour visits to the neighborhoods where New Yorkers live and work. In the process, Big Apple Greeter is putting a human face on NYC, helping visitors obtain the answers to their questions from real New Yorkers. Created in 1993, the Greeter Access Project's aim is to reach out to travelers with disabilities, and let them know that NYC is welcoming, friendly, and accessible to all visitors.

To date, Big Apple Greeter has recruited and trained nearly 50 volunteers with disabilities and trained the majority of their 500 able-bodied volunteers to be aware of access issues and be prepared to integrate people with disabilities into the mainstream Greeter program. This is possible largely because the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's buses are equipped with lifts so that wheelchair users can travel with their able-bodied friends and family anywhere in the city.

Nearly all of New York City's incredible sights and attractions are accessible. A number of organizations not only make it easier for travelers with physical disabilities to enjoy the Big Apple, they also offer special discounts to them.

New York City is full of stories of recent improvements in accessibility. Since the Access Project at Big Apple Greeter was launched, the Empire State Building Observatory has become totally accessible. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority retired the last of its buses without lifts, and many large organizations have implemented citywide plans to improve accessibility for disabled New Yorkers and visitors traveling throughout the city.

Big Apple Greeter
1 Centre Street, 19th floor
New York, NY 10007

General Info: 212.669.2896
Visitor Info: 212.669.8159
Volunteer Info: 212.669.2364
Access Project: 212.669.3602
Fund Raising Info: 212.669.8281
Fax: 212.669.3685

For more information about Big Apple Greeter,
please visit www.bigapplegreeter.org



Hospital Audiences Inc.

Hospital Audiences, Inc. (HAI) is a non-profit organization that provides access to the arts by bringing people isolated from the cultural mainstream to cultural institutions and other visual and performing arts experiences or by presenting the arts directly to them in the institutions. In 30 years, these audiences will have totaled an estimated 10.3 million at over 320,000 cultural events. HAI's work is made possible by city and state agencies as well as foundation, corporate and individual support.

HAI service recipients include people with mental and physical disabilities, mentally retarded/developmentally disabled persons, bed-confined/wheelchair-users, hearing/sight-impaired persons, the homeless, the frail elderly, youth at risk, participants in substance abuse programs, persons with HIV/AIDS and individuals in correctional facilities.

Through the arts, HAI presents life-saving information and decision-making skills regarding critical public health issues, including HIV/AIDS, TB, violence prevention, and homelessness for people in shelters, hospitals, mental health facilities, residences and housing programs for special populations (such as people living with HIV or AIDS), schools, drug treatment programs, and other settings.

Hospital Audiences, Inc.
548 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10012-3950
Phone: 212.575.7676
Fax: 212.575.7669

For more information about HAI,
please visit www.hospitalaudiences.org



Resources for Children with Special Needs

Resources for Children with Special Needs (RCSN) is an independent, not-for-profit organization that provides information and referral; case management and support; and individual and systematic advocacy. RCSN also provides publications to parents and caregivers of children with disabilities and the professionals who work with them.

RCSN's annual Special Camp Fair provides a unique opportunity for parents to find the appropriate summer program to meet their child's needs. RCSN's *Camps 2005*, published annually, covers more than 350 camps and other recreational opportunities. These opportunities include travel programs, visits to museums, parks, and pools in the New York metropolitan area for children with disabilities. RCSN's other publications include: *The Comprehensive Directory*, *After School and More*, *Schools for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders*, and *Transition Matters – From School to Independence*.

Resources for Children with Special Needs, Inc,
116 East 16th Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10003
Phone: 212.677.4650
Fax: 212.254.4070
Email: info@resourcesnyc.org

For more information about Resources for Children with Special Needs, please visit www.resourcesnyc.org



SPROUT

Sprout is a private, non-profit organization based in New York City, which helps individuals with developmental disabilities and mental retardation grow through challenging and safe travel experiences. Sprout's programs are available to adults with MR/DD and the agencies that serve them throughout the U.S.

Sprout's custom-designed trips are for anyone looking for vacation opportunities for a group with special needs. The year-round service allows the traveler to tailor a trip to meet their group's specific needs. Groups determine the length of the trip and the dates that they would like to travel. Sprout organizes all transportation, including pick-up and drop-off points, arranges for lodging, provides group leaders, dispenses medications and ensures a rewarding trip for participants.

Over the years, Sprout has traveled to many places around the world. Sprout is pleased to plan trips to new locations or to old favorites.

Sprout
893 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY 10025
Phone: 212.222.9575
Toll Free: 888.222.9575
Fax: 212.222.9768

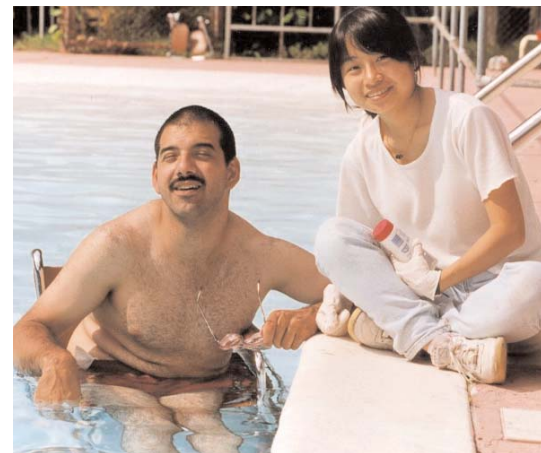


For more information about Sprout,
please visit www.gosprout.org



Visions

Visions provides comprehensive services for residents of New York City who are legally blind or severely visually impaired. Legally blind and visually impaired persons may qualify for vision rehabilitation services, optical aids and adapted equipment offered by Visions in conjunction with the New York State Commission for the Blind & Visually Handicapped. An eye examination by a special ophthalmologist or optometrist, called a low-vision specialist, can be provided as well.



Visions can also arrange for home visits by specialists to help legally blind and visually impaired people learn new ways to perform daily tasks. These specialists may arrange for special lighting or adapt patients' appliances to accommodate them better.

Individual lessons with a specialist, who can teach legally blind and visually impaired persons how to safely walk around their home or neighborhood, can be provided individually or in a group lesson. Staff members are trained to discuss difficulties that people with vision problems may be facing and will work with them to meet their needs.

Visions recruits and trains volunteers who visit people to help with tasks such as reading and shopping. Legally blind and visually impaired people and their families are also encouraged to attend Visions Vacation Camp for the Blind in Spring Valley, New York.



Vacation Camp for the Blind
111 Summit Park Road
Spring Valley, NY 10977
Phone: 212.625.1616

Visions at Selis Manor
135 West 23rd Street
New York, NY 10011
Phone: 646.486.4444

VISIONS Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
500 Greenwich Street, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10013-1354
Phone: 212.625.1616
Fax: 212.219.4078

For more information about the Visions program,
please visit www.visionsvcb.org