



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Medical Center
#1 Jefferson Barracks Drive
St. Louis, MO 63125-4199

I would like to introduce you to the **Visual Impairment Service Team (VIST)** Program at the St. Louis VA Medical Center. As the coordinator, it is my responsibility to identify the legally blind and low vision veterans throughout the state of Missouri and Illinois and make referrals to community and VA programs.

VIST programs are part of the Blind Rehabilitation Services (BRS) Program which was initiated by the VA in 1947. The rehabilitation program model designed by BRS is regarded as one of the finest in the world. The St. Louis VA Medical Center VIST program is a community-based service designed to identify legally blind and low vision veterans, provide diagnosis and treatment services, and make referrals to Blind Rehabilitation Centers and the Intermediate Low Vision Clinic for comprehensive training.

Services offered by the VIST program are available to both service connected and non-service connected veterans who have legally blindness or low vision.

Legal blindness is defined as best corrected visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye, or a visual field of 20 degrees or less in the better eye.

Low vision is defined as best corrected distance visual acuity of 20/50 or less, best corrected near acuity of 20/60 or worse or clinically significant visual field loss.

Visual Impairment Service Team is composed of administrative and medical professionals who use a multi disciplinary approach to assist legally blind and low vision veterans in improving their quality of living and restoring normalcy to their lives.

VIST services include annual physical examinations (including lab, x-ray and EKG), ophthalmological and audiological evaluations, and prosthetic and sensory aids review. By far, the biggest challenge ahead is identifying legally blinded and low vision veterans. Nationally it is estimated that there are over 93, 000 legally blinded veterans and even more low vision veterans.

We need your help in identifying and reaching our visually impaired veterans who do not know about our services. If you would like more information, please call:

Kevin Jacques VIST Coordinator
John Cochran VA Medical Center
1-800-228-5459 ext 54121
314-652-4100 ext 54121

Intermediate Low Vision Clinic
Jefferson Barracks VA Medical Center
1-800-228-5459 ext 65005
314-652-4100 ext 65005