

Independence!

Stories of life-transformation exclusively for friends . . . made possible by supporters.

Hollywood Legend Promises Junior Blind A Legacy of Love

Starring in more than 40 motion pictures, Rhonda Fleming was one of the most glamorous and beautiful actresses of her time. Playing leading ladies, such as Princess Alisande in *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* and a lady gambler in *Gunfight at the OK Corral*, Rhonda stole the screen and audiences with strong roles and her striking good looks. But that's just the tip of the iceberg...

Behind her emerald green eyes, fiery red hair and flawlessly porcelain skin, there is a heart that makes Rhonda more beautiful than any of the heroines we loved to watch her play on the big screen.

For years, Rhonda has been deeply involved in helping

those in need—including the homeless, women battling cancer and of course, our blind and disabled children here at Junior Blind of America.

Just a few months ago, Rhonda came to visit our campus and was overwhelmed by what she saw...toddlers playing, children smiling and lives changing.

"It's one thing to hear about Junior Blind...it's another to go there and see it," says Rhonda.

Ever since she was introduced to Junior Blind by her dear friend, Vera Brown, Rhonda has been committed to helping our children and families through annual gifts and by joining Junior Blind's Legacy Society.



As a valued member of our Legacy Society, Rhonda has made Junior Blind aware of her intentions to continue to support our important work through her will.

When asked why she gives, Rhonda says, "I'm amazed by the work that goes into teaching the precious children and adults how to become independent in every way possible...and I'm just so glad that when I'm gone my money

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Sharing Our Vision



I'm sure I don't have to remind you that this has been an extraordinarily difficult year for Junior Blind, our children, our families and perhaps even you.

My staff and I have been working strategically to reduce expenses and leverage revenues, making every dollar count...down to the very last penny. But, your faithful support has been the true reason for our programs' success during this challenging year.

It's thanks to committed friends like you that children like Josh, whom you will read about in this newsletter, have made such tremendous strides that improve their day-to-day lives... and their futures.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support, especially given the circumstances we're all facing...and will continue to face. I consider it a blessing that caring individuals like you understand not only the needs of

our children and families but the depth of those needs.

In the last few months, we have told you about parents who are struggling with everything from raising their blind and autistic child to putting food on the table and paying rent. And, during this past holiday season, when some of our families were up against the seemingly impossible odds of a crumbling economy and rising unemployment, many of our loyal donors showed the depth of their commitment and continued to give.

As we ring in the New Year, there are many more lives to change and new beginnings to discover. We all know there is another challenging year ahead but we hope we can count on the generosity and commitment of friends like you to see us through.

With your help, I am confident that Junior Blind will continue to provide our infants, children, teens and adults with the education and training that is critical to a life lived with pride, happiness and of course, independence.

Friends like you show our children the true spirit of giving...the true definition of community...and the true benefit of being part of Junior Blind's family.

Miki Jordan
President



Nearly **80%** of families served by Junior Blind are low-income according to the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

It's A Family Affair!

When their son, Josh, was born 11 years ago with Down syndrome, Denise and Dave Crawford weren't sure what to expect. With time, however, it soon became obvious that Josh was severely developmentally delayed.

Milestones that any parent would take delight in slowly slipped away as their son remained unable to talk, eat solid food or sleep through the night. Josh also began to hit himself constantly, eventually striking his left eye with such frequency and severity that he caused it to go blind.

It was a tough time for Denise and Dave, but family and friends quickly stepped in to form the village that would raise this child. However, once Josh became school age, finding a place outside the home that could offer him that same level of care was extremely difficult.

"When it became time for Josh to start school, we couldn't help but worry," recalls Denise. "He was literally still drinking water with a teaspoon and only able to eat puréed foods. He also loved to put everything in his mouth, so choking was a huge concern."

Denise and Dave decided to enroll Josh in their

neighborhood's public special education school, but the intense one-on-one attention their son required became more than the school could provide. Recognizing that there had to be a better solution; a school administrator connected the Crawfords with Junior Blind's Special Education School.

"From the moment we stepped onto their campus we were just so grateful a place like Junior Blind existed," says Denise. "From the classrooms to the teachers, they had everything that a child like Josh needed to grow."

Confident about the progress Josh could make, Junior Blind worked with Denise and Dave to create an education plan personalized to Josh's needs. Communication skills, increasing mobility and learning to eat and chew were high on the list of goals.

Within the first year, Josh was responding extremely well to his daily routine at school—so well that Josh's teachers suggested he might also benefit from the additional consistency a residential program would offer.

While the decision was not easy, the Crawfords wanted to do what was best for their son



and enrolled Josh in Junior Blind's Children's Residential Program.

"From the classrooms to the teachers, they had everything that a child like Josh needed to grow."

In the short time Josh has been at Junior Blind, he has made tremendous progress. He has learned how to communicate his choices using signs and actions, pays more attention to his environment and can get around better as a result. And, after just two weeks in our Children's Residential Program, Josh slept through the night for the very first time in his life. And now, at age 11, Josh is finally able to eat solid foods and use a fork.

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Hollywood Legend Promises Junior Blind A Legacy of Love *(continued from front page)*

will go to a place that I'm so impressed with."

Friends like Rhonda provide Junior Blind with much-needed support and make an amazing difference in the lives of our children. It's because of these friends that we can provide

our life-changing services free of charge to our students and families, year after year.

If you would like to visit Junior Blind or learn more about how you can make a commitment that will make a difference today and for years to come, please see

our Legacy Society insert in this newsletter or call Bonnie Harris, Esq., Junior Blind's Director of Planned Giving at (323) 295-4555, extension 201 or email her at bharris@juniorblind.org.

It's A Family Affair! *(continued from previous page)*

Most importantly for Denise and Dave, they are overjoyed knowing that they have been able to add even more members to Josh's family.

As Dave shares, "The staff here aren't famous. You don't read about them in the paper or hear about them on television. But every last one of them—from the teachers, to the

caregivers, to those who work in the cafeteria—are amazing. They have taken a little boy who would otherwise be invisible and have made him feel very, very special."

The feeling at Junior Blind is mutual. Asked if he has children of his own, Adrian Jenkins (pictured to the left), Josh's caregiver, is quick to respond.

"No, I don't," he says. "But I do have Josh, and he is just like a son to me."



LEGACY SOCIETY—WAYS TO GIVE



Much of our success is due to the generous support of those who have provided for Junior Blind of America in their estate plans. Now, I invite you to join them by making a planned gift to Junior Blind's Legacy Society.

A gift through one's estate truly leaves a legacy of love to generations of children and adults who are blind, visually impaired or multi-disabled. On behalf of the thousands who will benefit from your generosity, thank you for thinking of their future.

Miki Jordan, President

Junior Blind can help you meet all of your philanthropic goals by working with you to create gifts that reduce estate, income and gift taxes, while still taking care of you, your heirs and the thousands of students served by Junior Blind. There are several different types of gifts, such as charitable trusts and charitable gift annuities that can be created to make sure that you or your heirs retain control of your assets, or



JUNIOR BLIND
Legacy Society

receive income for life, while also supporting Junior Blind's mission of helping those who are blind, visually impaired or multi-disabled achieve independence.

Bequests in your will or trust are the most popular type of planned gift received by Junior Blind. They allow you to make significant gifts to Junior Blind while retaining control of the asset during your lifetime. When the gift is made, it can significantly reduce estate taxes.

Gifts of Stock permit you to bypass the capital gains tax. In addition, you are eligible for a charitable income tax deduction for the full appreciated value of the stock.

Donations of **Real Estate** may include a personal residence, vacation home, apartment building, commercial property or land. You may retain a life interest in your personal residence, gifting ownership to Junior Blind after your lifetime.

The ability to make an **IRA Charitable Rollover** has been extended through 2009. Now, a person age 70 ½ or older can directly transfer ("rollover") up to \$100,000 per year from either a traditional IRA or Roth IRA to Junior Blind without paying tax on the transferred gift amount.

There are a variety of ways to use **Life Insurance** to make a donation. You can name Junior Blind as a beneficiary, donate an existing policy or buy a new policy to donate. Any benefits Junior Blind receives from your insurance are excluded from your taxable estate.

With a **Charitable Gift Annuity** (CGA), you can support Junior Blind and receive a fixed lifetime income. A CGA pays a higher rate than a bank CD or money market account, and, once established, the rate never changes. A portion of each payment is tax-free.

Age	Payout Rate
65	5.7%
70	6.1%
75	6.7%
80	7.6%
85	8.9%
90+	10.5%

Sample Gift Annuity Rates as of July 2008. Actual numbers may vary depending on discount rates at the time of the annuity's creation. Rates are subject to change. Rates for a two-person annuity differ. Donors should consult their own attorneys or financial advisors for tax and legal advice when considering any type of planned gift.

LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

We are grateful to the following individuals who have made provisions for Junior Blind in their estate plans. We are pleased to honor them through our Legacy Society.

Jane & Melvin Altfest	Lieselotte Heilman	Sheryl G. Parker
Gladys A. Anthony	Bernetta B. Hicks	Genevieve E. Pearl
Mindy & Bryan Arenson	Arline & Joseph Hoenigsberg	Amorette L. Preston
Lois & Wendell Baham	Harriett E. Hollingshead	Barbara & James Rebolt
Marilyn & John Barnett	Richard F. Hopper	Lela M. Rettig
Kristen Belland	Ning-Ning & Robert Hsieh	Marie & Isaac Richman
Gertrude Z. Boblett	Jess A. Hudec	Fred Robbins
Edith Borge	Shirley A. Jeffries	Dolores W. Rogers
Rhonda Fleming Carlson	Helen A. Kahawaii	Martha Rosales
Sinart Chaijenkit	Carole & Dr. Michael Kamper	Paula & Jason Russell
Rutita Chaisakulchai	Nadia Kaplan	Ong Sak
Meiling Chang	Samorn tip & Khongsak Khosawad	Margaret Sawyer
Peter S. Clark	Adele S. & Eugene A. Klein	Virginia & Samuel Shappiro
Christin & Le Roy Coutts	Bonnie J. Klemptner	Frances Silberman
Felipe N. Cuevas	Doris Knell	Shirley & Stanley Smithtro
Hector Curiel	Emilie & Kenneth Lambert	Sudawan Suesataya
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West C. Delton	Luz E. Lopez	Margot & H. Geoffrey Tyrrash
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Don Fraley	Robert E. Moriarty	Susan & David Wilstein
Adele Freulich	Albert L. Myers in memory of Ruth Esther Myers	Mrs. Jess Witt
Marvin Friedman	Dorothy D. Orwig	And those who wish to remain anonymous
Caroline Glick	Yvonne & Donald Owens	
Thelma & Heinz Hanau		
Doris Harris		

For more information or to join our Legacy Society, please call Bonnie Harris, Esq., Junior Blind's Director of Planned Giving at (323) 295-4555, extension 201 or email her at bharris@juniorblind.org.

You may also indicate your interest on the enclosed reply envelope and mail it to our office. Thank you.

Every effort has been made to ensure that this donor list is correct and complete. If you have questions or comments, please call Bonnie Harris at (323) 295-4555, extension 201.

