



*** *For Immediate Release* ***

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League's 60th anniversary & Blues & Soul Food Bash

On February 20th, the Arts United Center will be transformed into a classic south side Chicago Blues club common in Post War Chicago to benefit the League for the Blind and Disabled. This sold out event will kickoff the League's 60th anniversary.

The League began when the Allen County Committee for the Blind brought **Helen Keller** to Fort Wayne **in 1949** to challenge the community to address the needs of the blind, and to assist the Committee with its first fund raising effort. The *Allen County League for the Blind, Inc. (ACLB)* was established as a corporation one year later to provide educational, employment and rehabilitation services for people who were blind.

In 1981, the agency received a federal Centers for Independent Living grant and **became the first Center for Independent Living in Indiana. In 1994, the organization's name was changed to the League for the Blind & Disabled, Inc.** to better reflect the Center's service to all people with severe disabilities and to reflect service availability to people with disabilities in 11 Northeast Indiana counties.

League programs currently include adaptive equipment, advocacy, agrability, Braille production services, community support services, DeafLink, independent living skills training, information & referral services, in-home care services, orientation & mobility training, senior services, support groups, volunteer services and youth services. In addition, the agency advocates to eliminate systemic barriers that people with disabilities encounter as they seek to be included in community life.

Today, the League for the Blind & Disabled, Inc. continues its tradition as a direct service provider and advocate through commitment to its **mission to provide and promote opportunities that empower people with disabilities to achieve their potential.** The agency also requires that a majority of its *Board and staff members be qualified people with disabilities* in order to stay highly responsive to those served by the organization.

For more information, visit one of the following websites:

www.the-league.org

www.fortwaynebluesbash.com

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