



Guiding Paws ICT Get Moving (501c3 47-0999983)

300 W Douglas Avenue, Garvey Center Suite 400
Wichita, KS 67202

Dear Friend,

My name is Andrew Crane, and I am the founder of Guiding Paws ICT. I was born blind and with cerebral palsy. I am on a tireless journey to advocate for others who are blind and low vision (BLV). Guiding Paws' goal is to advocate for all of us who face misconceptions about blindness and who encounter discrimination in society including the workplace. I have worked for many years to educate business leaders, the community, and others, on how they can help remove barriers for everything from access to employment and technology. I also teach others about the importance of guide dogs and how they enable those who are blind or have low vision to enjoy full, active and independent lifestyles.

I spend most of my days educating individuals and through group presentations. Many individuals have taken part with a project we call "Into The Light: New Perspective on Blindness". This program began in Wichita, KS two years ago. Through "Into The Light" people have been able to learn from me and others that blindness is not what defines us. They discover that Blindness is not the problem, but rather it is the lack of education and understanding about blindness that creates the fear and discrimination we face. Through this program we are able to demonstrate how blind people live, work and have fun. Among other things people see is how we use a white cane and/or a guide dog as part of how we travel. The experiences we offer aims to help change people's mindsets about disability and diversity, as well as increase understanding for "otherness".

One project in which we are involved is working nationally to help educate people about blindness and to help other BLV persons work to achieve their maximum potential. Toward this end, I am a member of the National Federation of the Blind, the largest consumer organization of blind persons in the United States. The organization has helped me to become an advocate for myself and others who experience blindness or low vision. Each year, the Federation holds its "Washington Seminar" to educate congress and federal officials about blindness. Also, the NFB conducts each year a National Convention which in 2025 will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana. Finally, we work to attend state conventions of NFB affiliates. Attending these activities allows me to connect with others in the blindness community, meet blind role models who are employed in exciting careers, attend presentations on empowerment and other relevant topics, learn about the latest technology for those who are blind, and network with leaders in the field of blindness. Most of all,

attending the Washington Seminar, the NFB National convention and other activities affords me and Guiding Paws an opportunity for us to gain and bring new knowledge back to Wichita that will assist us in our journey to advocate and educate.

I am looking for sponsorship to attend the National Federation of the Blind seminars:

- Washington Seminar
- NFB National Convention 2025, New Orleans, Louisiana
- NFB State Conventions

Attending these activities allows me to:

- Connect with others in the blindness community
- Meet blind role models who are employed in exciting careers
- Attend presentations on empowerment and other relevant topics
- Learn about the latest technology for those who are blind
- Network with leaders in the field of blindness
- Affords me and Guiding Paws an opportunity for us to gain and bring new knowledge back to Wichita that will assist us in our journey to advocate and educate

I am writing you today to ask for your help and support to continue to attend these activities and to further the work that will help those of us who are blind to overcome the barriers we face. Our fundraising goal to support our travel to and attend the above activities is \$25,000. This would help to cover the cost of airfare, hotels, food, and event registration. I would really appreciate your support in helping Guiding Paws to reach our goal.

For more information about the National Federation of the Blind, please visit www.nfb.org.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request,

Andrew Crane
Founder, Guiding Paws

Yes, I want to be a sponsor!

Please accept my donation of: \$ _____

Business Name: _____

Business Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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