

A WORD FROM LOFOB'S PRESIDENT

PICTURE OF MR JACOBS

Dear Members,

Our country has experienced two major events in the year under review which has impacted on the world, our country and our organization. These being:

1. The Global recession and
2. The FIFA 2010 World Cup.

The impact of the recession has affected LOFOB in particular through a slow-down in donations from the corporate sector and individual donors. While this is understandable, the needs of the visually impaired community remain high as our client base of historically disadvantaged persons have always been existing very close to the Poverty Datum Line (PDL) and historically the organizations serving these people have never benefitted from equality in assistance from the Public Sector. The management of LOFOB have carefully managed the costs of the organization to be highly cost effective and efficient in the services that they render. However, with an ever increasing client base and continuing to add to the independence services that we offer, our reliance on external funding remains critical to the success of the organization. The function of fundraising therefore will remain an important element of LOFOB.

We have however, continued with the expansion of our services to the visually impaired community and we remain extremely grateful for the personal sacrifice and financial support from our members, donors and the business community. We would encourage all of you to spread the word on how you, our valued supporters are enabling us at LOFOB to continue our work in a sustainable manner , living the dictum “Changing what it means to be Blind”.

PEOPLE

It is with much sadness that we record the death of a former President and Exco member Victor Adonis. Victor was associated with LOFOB for many, many years and has added tremendous value to the growth of the organization. We shall miss him immensely. Our management team has been restructured to reflect a very focused approach to their different portfolios. This will ensure that we continue to grow our bouquet of services in a cost effective manner.

AN OVERVIEW OF LOFOB SERVICES

Their skills are recognized way beyond the borders of this country and we continue to provide consultation and services to all who request it.

THE WORLD CUP

The FIFA 2010 World Cup has had an important unifying effect on our country, probably greater than any other event in our history. We have seen all South Africans united in their support for the beautiful game irrespective of any divisions. Everyone has experienced the feeling “it is here”. Long may it continue. Recognition has been given to the ability of disabled persons to participate in this unifying game and at LOFOB the game of FUTSAL using audible soccer balls has become an integral part of our Sports and Recreational activities. We have seen that the finalists in the World Cup have reached their objective by firmly adhering to the following principles:

STRUCTURE, ORGANIZATION, DISCIPLINE, STRENGTHS

We, at LOFOB have certainly refined our skills in all of these elements and it shows in the success that we are achieving in all areas of our operations where we are worthy winners. May we as supporters, donors and members therefore continue to support the match winning efforts of our organization. The divisions which currently exist between organizations serving the needs of our visually impaired people particularly in the Western Cape should be removed and we should embark on proposals to merge our efforts because “Unity is Strength” and the significant cost savings achieved would be beneficial to the recipients of our activities as would be the sharing of intellectual capital.

APPRECIATION

On behalf of the entire Executive Committee, I wish to extend my thanks to our Executive Director, Philip Bam for his strong leadership and ability to adapt to the changes necessitated as our world has changed, the Management team, for their dedication and creative methods of strategic planning for the future, all staff members for their hard work and dedication, our Executive and Finance and General Purposes Committees for their loyalty and diligence, our Members and visually impaired clients for their support and co-operation, our Auditors for their excellent service, our Donors and the National Lottery for their continued support and generosity and National, Regional, Local Government for their support.

We enter our new year filled with hope and ambition to continue to be world class players in the area of **“CHANGING WHAT IT MEANS TO BE BLIND “**.

LIONEL JACOBS

This page included a variety of pictures of children and also the GEES picture

It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness

WELLNESS, SPORTS AND RECREATION

“The master in the art of living makes little distinction between his work and his play, his labor and his leisure, his mind and his body, his information and his recreation, his love and his religion. He hardly knows which is which. He simply pursues his vision of excellence at whatever he does, leaving others to decide whether he is working or playing. To him he's always doing both.”
James A. Michener (U.S. novelist and short-story writer, 1907?-1997).

Since 2006 it has been the vision of the Wellness, Sport and Recreation Programme to create a programme whereby our clients would not be able to distinguish whether it was “work or play”. This approach recognizes the fundamental value of creating environments that are conducive to learning in alternative ways. LOFOB’s Independence Development Programme recognizes that it is more than just a skills training programme and that the Wellness, Sport and Recreation activities also plays an active role in facilitating the client’s journey of self discovery.

South to South Exchange- GAB-LOFOB

With the Ghana Association of the Blind officially inaugurating their sports wing in February 2009 the next exchange programme was embarked upon. Since 2007 two GAB parties have come to Cape Town to participate in a sport and recreation workshop hosted by LOFOB. It is from the initial exchange that GAB honed its vision and in part shaped its current operations on that of LOFOB’s Wellness, Sport and Recreation Programme. July 2010 will see the first exchange from the South to the North where the Manager and 2 blind persons will present further coaching and management workshops as well as participate in experiential workshops sharing ideas. The participants to accompany Armand Bam are Bonile Dokolwane and Nomboniso Desemela. Bonile has been actively involved with assisting through various programmes within the wellness programme. Nomboniso has been an active member of the wellness programme

facilitating the translations for many of the participants. They will both embark on their first international flights and represent LOFOB through facilitating workshops as well as in information exchange sessions.

Drama

The drama has truly evolved into a platform for our clients to express themselves further. **“Vitality Beat”** as it is now known provides our clients with another opportunity to be engaged with various life skills activities to further empower themselves within their communities.

Choir A PICTURE OF THE CHOIR

Since its start in 2006 the Choir has grown to 35 people with an average attendance of 25 persons per practice session. The Choir has moved towards the inclusion of the smaller groupings with a male and female Quartet. Through 2009 the choir continued with its community outreach programme and performed to audiences at the following places:

In 2010 the choir bid farewell to Benita Petersen who had led the group since 2007 and in her place Wellington Mxunyelwa has taken charge of the choir. Spirit Sunday, a SABC television show that is broadcast nationally also filmed the LOFOB choir in action at the Lotus River Metropolitan Evangelical Church interviewing Philip Crouse, who recounted his story of how he came to be blind as well as Benita Petersen, the choir master and Armand Bam as the manager

Event	Audience
Retreat Old Aged Home and Bonteheuwel Home	100
SA Police Services Training Institute in Philippi on Casual Day	+/- 1500
Hillview Primary School’s Diversity Day,	200
Song Evening at LOFOB Hall.	100
Blind Buddy Day service Bergvliet	200
Metropolitan Evangelical Church in Grassy Park	100
Metropolitan Evangelical Church in Lotus River.	200

of the wellness programme. The programme was aired in December 2009.

Gym

The gym group training days have shifted to Thursday and Fridays and are an integral part of further health and wellness training that our clients receive. The gym still remains accessible to individuals who would like to use it throughout the week. The gym will also be used by members of the Western Province Blind Cricket Team in preparation for the 2010 National Blind Cricket Tournament.

Sports

Goal Ball

LOFOB goal ball team started a league which ran between two clubs within the Western Cape. Furthermore practice sessions continue at the Lotus River Sport and Recreation Centre every Saturday. The goal ball training sessions has grown to have consistently 15 players each Saturday in training. No major tournaments were participated in this past year but plans are in place to start an outreach programme within the other 5 sports and recreation districts of the City of Cape Town.

Futsal

LOFOB's has embarked on a training workshop with the University of Cape Town Disability Unit which would culminate in a Sports Day on the 1 May 2010 where approximately 120 participants and spectators took part in the event playing against the local LOFOB players. The event is meant to highlight blind futsal as a sport and to try and draw students to assist with coaching. The popularity of the sport continues to grow and more of our clients are being involved in the training as well as awareness events. A total of 15 participants are regularly involved in futsal training as well as our awareness events.

Blind Cricket

The second T/20 National Tournament was held this year in Pretoria hosted by Northerns Blind Cricket in conjunction with Northerns Cricket Union. After realising third place at the 2008 tournament, Western Province won the tournament in 2010. Nine of LOFOB's players represented the senior team. Jermain Collins (Captain) and Joshua Doman (Vice-Captain) were named the player of the tournament and batsman of the tournament respectively. Both players along with John van Schalkwyk and Marlin Colbee are from LOFOB and have also been selected to be part of a provisional national training squad to prepare for upcoming international duties. Jermain Collins will also be receiving an award from Cricket South Africa in July 2010, to be named the CSA Blind Cricketer of the year.

ADULT INDEPENDENCE DEVELOPMENT

The League of Friends of the Blind (LOFOB) continued to offer independence development services to blind and partially sighted adults . The programme includes the following :

- Skills of daily Living
- Orientation and Mobility Skills
- Braille Literacy
- Typing Instruction
- Craft Skills
- Social Work intervention

Monthly average attendance for the above:

It is when you give of yourself that you truly give...
-Khalil Gibran

Daily Living Skills	42 (centre and home-based)
Craft skills training	19 (centre based)
Typing instruction	3 (centre based)
Braille literacy	20 (14 English; 1 Afrikaans)
Orientation & Mobility instruction	58 (centre and home-based)

Braille

Braille is one of the most important communication media for visually impaired persons; in work, study and leisure pursuits. Braille literacy skills therefore continues to be one of LOFOB's main objectives in empowering the persons that we serve.

Many of the visually impaired people referred to LOFOB come from disadvantaged backgrounds and have previously not been able to access blindness organisations and other further learning and/or further skills development opportunities, because of only having achieved basic levels of education. Some have not completed their primary levels of education. This reality has moved LOFOB to focus on Braille literacy and numeracy skills.

There has been a huge demand for Braille literacy especially among recently blinded young adults. Continuous monitoring and evaluating, has been necessary to ensure that our programmes remain relevant and appropriate to meet the ever-changing needs of LOFOB's clients.

A PICTURE OF BRPERKINS BRAILLER WITH HANDS TYPING

Education

LOFOB assisted 10 young adult clients to register to complete Grade 12. Three (3) are registered at a special school for visually impaired learners, while the rest are all registered at various Adult Learning Centres across the Cape Flats. Within this programme the support services offered by LOFOB to these learners have included:

- Ongoing guidance, support sessions with clients regarding assistive devices, communication tools, adaptations within the classroom, alternative tests and examinations, recommendations and/or support regarding the transcribing of textbooks/ worksheets.
- Socio-emotional support.
- Support with registration.
- Consultation with centre managers, educators etc.
- Awareness about visual impairment at schools
- Access to volunteers.
- Access to tutors whenever necessary

Basic Adult Education therefore remains a priority objective for LOFOB, as persons with lower levels of education will always be part of the client base. Access to information is often the greatest challenge experienced by visually impaired persons. We are encouraged by the fact that more young visually impaired adults are realising the importance of furthering their education.

Social Work Intervention

The socio-emotional and psychological support, growth and wellbeing of our clients as well as their families, are considered to be vital elements in the service offered to our clients and families.

Our Social Work service has been continuing with individual counselling sessions. Any client requiring independence development training as well as any visually impaired client within the community can access this counselling service. Individual counselling takes place mostly at the Centre, however at times this is done within client homes as well.

The difference between the animals of the wild and humans is that in the wild they live off each other and humans live for each other. - Philip Bam

Support to visually impaired persons and their families include family members needing to adjust to the onset of blindness within an individual, marital problems, substance abuse within families, psycho-emotional difficulties, abuse within families and financial difficulties. Support in terms of disability grant and other social grant applications, reviews, follow-up, is an ongoing service facilitated by our social worker. Support in terms of applications for Identity Documents and Birth Certificates.

There continues to be a demand in visually impaired persons seeking permanent accommodation. The Social Worker explores all options when looking into securing alternative accommodation e.g. intervention within families first; temporary accommodation at our hostel facility in cases of emergencies, crisis intervention e.g.: cases of abuse, severe neglect, lack of supportive environment and onward referral of the client and/or their families to relevant community resources.

Family Education Sessions:

Family education continues to take place with the families of our adult clients who are receiving independence development training. These family members get to observe the client in training and are engaged in an education, information, awareness; supportive session with the entire independence development team. On average we engage with 4 families per month in this regard.

The team is currently going through a phase of re-evaluating how family education has taken place over the past years and are looking at ways of making this a more dynamic, effective support service. Family education, support and training is very important, however we acknowledge that thus far we have only been touching the surface of how we should be interacting with families of our clients. What has been considered thus far as being possible recommendations to enhance the family support service, include ideas like: initiating family support groups, actively involving family members in independence development training sessions and family days, amongst others.

They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel... - Carl W Buchner

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Effective early childhood intervention programmes set the all important foundation for the visually impaired and multi-disabled visually impaired child. LOFOB continued to provide specialist services to blind and partially sighted children aged between 0 and 6 years and their families. Sixty-one (61) children were served in the ECD programme.

CATEGORIES	TOTALS
Total preschool children (3-6yrs)	18 children with 5 being VIMD
Total children receiving home-based support (0-6yrs)	43 children
Total blind children	33 children
Total partially sighted, children with low vision	28 children
Total VIMD children	32 children
Total no. of children in programme	61 children

LOFOB's ECD programme encompasses 3 comprehensive service areas.

Home-based support:

This service involves mainly children under the age of 3 yrs. Forty-three (43) children received services via home-based intervention programmes. Children older than 3 yrs of age who have additional disabilities, are placed at special care facilities. These children are followed up once a month by the ECD staff. Parents are also provided with the necessary education, information, training and support to ensure the optimal development of the child. This is indeed one of the most crucial aspects of our work with visually impaired children and their families.

You can never do a kindness too soon because you never know how soon it will be too late — Ralph Waldo Emerson

Daily Pre-school programme:

Eighteen(18) children attended the pre-school on a daily basis. Children between the ages of 3 and 6 yrs attend LOFOB's preschool facility in Grassy Park on a daily basis. Preschoolers are offered:

- Gross motor skills development

- Fine motor skills development

- Sensory skills development

- Cognitive-perceptual skills development

- Communication skills including early literacy and pre-Braille skills

- Daily living skills development

- Orientation and Mobility skills development

Visually Impaired Multi disabled child

Five (5) visually impaired multi-disabled children received services in the pre-school programme. All assessments and intervention programmes with the children are administered by the Occupational Therapist. The children are actively involved in all learning activities. The programme is based on the philosophy that they learn best through real life experiences utilizing a model that integrates the teaching of communication, developmental and sensory skills through natural routines. Experiential learning is of vital importance as in this way the child learns through experiences that are meaningful. There is a need to extend this service to provide more effectively for more children with multi-disabilities. Our interaction with our partners, Perkins School for the Blind in the USA included the placement at LOFOB of Kirsten Carlson, a teacher at Perkins and attendance of Benita Petersen, (who from April 2010 will manage the ECD programme), at a course at Perkins in the USA.

HERE APPEARS A PICTURE OF PRE-SCJHOOOL KIDS

Family Support

Parents are supported, with individual counselling, family counselling, crisis intervention, social grant applications and queries. Some of the issues include family members needing to adjust to and accept the visual impairment status of the child. Support in terms of care-dependency grant and other social grant applications, reviews, follow-up, is an ongoing service facilitated by our social worker.

Parent support, education and training is done on an ongoing basis by means of parent consultations, home-visits, telephonic discussions, and re-assessment sessions at the centre as well as at homes. Support Groups continue to take place once every second month here at the Centre. The average amount of parents attending these groups ranges between 15 and 20 parents.

Rural outreach

Visually impaired children and their families living further afield are followed up during rural outreach activities which take place twice during each year. Areas visited during our rural outreach include towns in the South Western Cape, West Coast and Winelands Districts. It must be noted, however, that any follow up to a child in any one particular area is limited by capacity to undertake these outreach programmes and clearly visits once or twice yearly to these children are not sufficient. Telephone contact with these parents are maintained throughout the year. Also, we try and connect these children to some or other community preschool or special care centre; in this way at least we are able to offer some kind of support, however minimal to these children by working with the staff at the relevant preschools, community structures, organisations etc within their local areas.

Visits to children living on the outskirts of Cape Town e.g.: Malmesbury, Atlantis, Rawsonville, Stellenbosch, continue to take place as often as possible.

Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can read.

— Mark Twain

VICTOR ADONIS—A MAN OF EXCEPTIONAL WORTH

- A tribute by LOFOB's Executive Director, Philip Bam

Victor Adonis, a past president of LOFOB passed away on 20th March 2010.

Victor was an outstanding person in the true sense of the word. His gentle character, his respectful manner of addressing people, his loyalty and his commitment to the organisations he served all stood out as beacons of a great person of exceptional worth.

The following message from the President of LOFOB, Mr Lionel Jacobs, was read at his funeral:

“Victor Adonis has been a loyal member of LOFOB for many, many years, participating in all of its activities and culminating in the Presidency of the organization and representation at the National Council. He was a key member and a founder member of The Beacon Club. My late father always had a very special affinity for Victor and mentored him in many respects and I was always impressed that through his natural, gentle soft-spoken ways, Victor was always firm and uncompromising in his ideals and principles. As we sadly mourn his passing, we celebrate his contribution to life and independence of the visually impaired”.

Victor served on LOFOB's Executive Committee until his death and was one of LOFOB's delegates at the 2009 Biennial Conference of the South African National Council for the Blind in Mafikeng. He is fondly remembered by his colleagues on the LOFOB Executive. One of them is Mrs Nina V D Velde, whose husband is a past Mayor of Cape Town, Alderman Frank V D Velde. Victor worked for the City of Cape Town and was respected by all in that big organisation. Frank v d Velde often spoke about Victor and, as Mayor, he had the highest regard for Victor.

Victor was a man who commanded the respect of people of all walks of life. He was an icon in his own right and many people shaped their views and opinions of blind people based on what they learnt from Victor. He was a leader of blind people. His opinion was always sought whether it be on the quality of Braille or just about the things that matter to blind people.

He was a veritable library on blindness and blind people. He was also a living telephone book. If you wanted somebody's telephone number you could just ask Victor. He would rattle it off. Never mind the telephone book, he was an excellent road map. If you got lost in the Peninsula you could ask Victor and he will direct you safely to where you wanted to be.

We at LOFOB will sorely miss him.

His contribution to the discussions in LOFOB meetings were always done with much empathy and well chosen thoughts. We looked to him to give guidance where we were struggling with issues around blind people. A remarkable feature of his committee work was that he would point out an error in the minutes which all the fully sighted members had not noticed. Such was his commitment and attention to his work. He never gave up and always fought for the interests of all blind people. He was a true champion of the cause of blind people. He led the Beacon Club for many years, bringing joy and fun to many blind people. Everybody was his friend. He played a very keen role in the blind navigator's rallies.

When LOFOB started its first tandem cycling venture for blind people, Victor was one of those who dared to get on a bike and even if he could only go a few metres down Klip Road he did not give up in encouraging those who were younger to be active in sport and recreation.

Victor Adonis will be remembered not only as a blind person but for the kind of person he was. A gentle soul – an endearing spirit – a contributor to life and one who added value to others.

Victor is fondly remembered for three values which made him an outstanding person – (1) respect for others, - (2) gratefulness (he knew to say thank you), - (3) loyalty (he stayed the course and worked for the cause and left no back doors open).

The words of Matt 25 v 21 is indeed appropriate as we contemplate the life of this man of excellent worth: "Well done, faithful servant, go and share the joy of your master."

May Almighty God bless the memory of Victor Adonis.

**Nominate LOFOB for
Woolworths MySchool Programme**

**Visit www.myschool.co.za
and follow the instructions.**

YOUR LAST CHANCE TO HELP

Times are tough and disposable income limited and we therefore understand that for many people it is not possible to support LOFOB financially at this time. Please don't fret about it.

We appreciate your interest in the work we do with blind people. You might wish to consider providing a gift for LOFOB in your Last Will and Testament.

Should you require any assistance with this, please feel free to contact our Executive Director, Philip Bam confidentially at (027) 021 7053753 or by e-mail at info@lofob.org.za.

SHARE THE GIFT OF SIGHT

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME AS A DRIVER

**COST OF INDEPENDENCE TRAINING
FOR ONE PERSON = R38000,00**

This report was compiled with inputs from the directors, managers and other staff, which we acknowledge with appreciation.

OUR HEARTFELT THANKS AND APPRECIATION..

The economic down turn in 2009 impacted on many of our donors making it difficult for them to contribute to LOFOB and we therefore appreciate so much more the contribution by our friends and partners.

We extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the principals, educators and learners of schools who support LOFOB regularly. We are developing excellent partnerships with certain churches and express our appreciation for the support given by churches.

We acknowledge the various anonymous and in-kind donations received. We receive bread regularly, tinned food and vouchers from The Hebrew Congregation of Wynberg and amongst many others clothing from the Clothing Guild. Many people also bring cooked food to the hostels. All such donations are carefully recorded. Our main funding partner is the Western Cape Department of Social Development and we record not only our thanks to the government but also to the officials in the department who interact with us in a professional manner.

Please note that donations received after 31st March 2010 would be reflected in next year's report.

DONATIONS IN KIND

Claremont/ Wynberg Hebrew congregation

Tasneem

VGK Die Slot

Wentzel Isaacs

Moegamat Cassiem Karriem

Michelle Smith

Ottery Toyota

Liezl Bam

Zaid Adams

Pastor Roland

Glynis Jansen

Biblioneef SA

Ishraaq Educare (Mrs Bougaardt)

Adiel Stadhouders

Waterfront Rotary Club

Table Mountain Cableway

Eleanor Fulker

DONATIONS INDIVIDUALS

Mr Ganief Saban
Mr M T Arendze
Rohhiethlal Maharaj
M J Josias
Mr Mohammed
M H Allie
A L Rich
Wardah Enos
Mrs B Enos
Mr Sharief Jaffer
DGH Hannah
Mr Sasman
Mr A M Small
Mr J H De Gouveia
Ms Bridget Benjamin
Ms Gadija Jaffer
Mrs F Isaacs
Mrs Debbie Fransman
D Wheeler
Remona Young
Ingrid De Klerk
Prof A Dixon
Mr & Mrs Blake
Odelia B Timotheus
Rev A Smith
Mr D R Giles
Mrs M Sassman
Jerome Jacobs
Mr B Lewis
Mr E James & Family
V W Dreyer
James Mc Gregor
Mrs F Dreyer
V Green
L I Jacobs
In memory of Late S M Steyn
A Willenberg
Numerous participants in Blind
Buddy Day project
Sheila Valentini
Riba
R Kaufmann

COMPANIES/ORGANISATIONS

Lions Club of Hout Bay
Jive big Walk
Market Toyota, Athlone
Graham Ward Mailing
City of Cape Town
VLV Brackenfell
Pick'n Pay
Van Kalker (Pty) Ltd
Rib Cage, Plumstead
Tabit Solutions
Indigo Cosmetics
Leliebloem Hulp Doodgenootskap
Klip Senior Citizens
Isidore Choritz Trust
Rawbone Trust
Nedbank Foundation
Lodge De Goede Verwachting
Herdbuoys Ekapa
C & E Harding Trust
Monkeytown
HCI Foundation

CHURCHES

Church of the Nazarene Matroosfontein
Metropolitan Evangelistic Church Lotus river
Wynberg Congregational Church
AME Church Lansdowne
VGK Lotus River
St Augustine of Hippo Lotus river
Calvyn Protestant Church Retreat
St Faith's Church Plumstead
Westridge Baptist
St Martin's Bergvliet
All Saint's D'ville

SCHOOLS

Iqra Academy
International School of Hout Bay
Windsor Preparatory School
Fairview Primary School
Liesbeeck Primary School

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

The ever rising cost of resources makes it impossible for organisations such as LOFOB to function without volunteers. Volunteers assisted with driving for sports events and many other functions including ensuring our choir could perform and bring joy into the lives of many people.

Our Blind Buddy day depended on volunteers to boost the limited human resource available. An interesting support service by volunteers is the service of facilitator for blind people who write exams. Volunteers did hairdressing, took our boarders to the shops and supported our PRO, who is blind, with driving.

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE FINANCIALS

The full audited financial statements are available at our offices. Our auditors are DCA CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, (SA), 42 Broad Road, Wynberg .

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 March 2010

<u>ASSETS</u>	R
Property, plant and equipment	4 112 420
Current Assets	1 625 097
Total Assets	<u>5 737 517</u>
 <u>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</u>	
Accumulated Funds	5 609 253
Non Current liabilities	68 534
Current Liabilities	59 730
Total equity and liabilities	<u>5 737 517</u>

INCOME STATEMENT

Income from all sources	4 929 208
Expenditure	(4 778 529)
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>150 678</u>

Speech given by,
Ndileka Ngxambuza, mother of Mbali, one of the LOFOB Pre-Schoolers,
at the 2009 ECD graduation held on 04 December 2009.

LOFOB

“The League of Friends of the Blind where everyone is willing to help. They empower the parents with knowledge, teaching them their ability and potential, giving them the freedom of independence, making sure that they achieve their dreams.

When your child becomes blind you feel numb, your dreams are shattered, you lose hope and you feel sad, you become weak and hopeless, you don't see the meaning of life, you regret being a mother.

When we came here you changed all that. You gave us hope to believe, you have taken away our sadness, you gave us back our strength to survive, you gave life a new meaning, you have mended our broken heart, we were in darkness but you showed us light.

Thank you for everything you have done for our babies, thank you for all your time you have given them, thank you for your hand of love and friendship, “each day God sends his angels to guide us, we expect to see them with wings, instead they come disguised and we call them friends.”

GOD BLESS YOU

**HERE APPEARS A PICTURE OF THE PARENTS AT
THE END OF YEAR FUNCTION**