

Our Pointes Program

As a member of the Alpha Foundation you'll have an opportunity to earn points for your volunteer efforts redeemable for premium items. It's our way of saying Thank You for your time contributions.

Outreach Programs (10 pts. each)

- 1) Home Services
 - In home visits
 - Read mail, errands, safety checks
 - Appointment transportation
 - Grocery shopping
- 2) Adaptive Services
 - Read & record books
 - Computer training
- 3) Creative Arts Services
 - Lead art projects
 - Display or art show
 - Transportation to art events

Get the Word Out (5 pts. each)

- 1) Public Relations/Administrative
 - Speaking engagements
 - Conduct Alphapointe tours
 - Assist with mailings
 - File, copy, data input, etc.
 - Staff the gift store
 - Promote low vision aids
- 2) Fund Raising & Special Events
 - Event Planning & Coordination
 - Committee member role
 - Solicitation of donations
 - Phone-A-Thon participation

Pointes & Recognition

"I'm an Alpha" Braille Button and Braille Card	10 points
"I'm an Alpha" T-shirt	15 points
Alphapointe Pen	20 points
Alphapointe Coasters	30 points
Walnut Boxed Set of Alphapointe Pens	40 points

Beginning Pointes

In 1911, Catherine Hale, whose brother was blind, brought together a group of blind men and women for recreation near her home in northeast Kansas City. Five years later, in 1916, the group incorporated as the Kansas City Association for the Blind. The Association started a workshop in 1918 and in that same year opened a home for blind women.

Over the years various services were added. In the 1950's a Braille library was opened. In the mid-1980's a Senior Adult Services program was started. Daily basic job training and employment for severely multiple disabled blind people were started in the mid-1980's.

In 1993 the Kansas City Association for the Blind changed its name to Alphapointe Association for the Blind, meaning "First Point in Quality and Services." In the year 2000 Alphapointe added the Center for Blindness and Low Vision, to provide even more of those first-rate services.

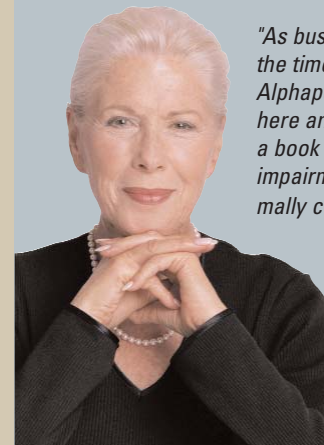
Historical photo here

Our Volunteers' Pointe of View



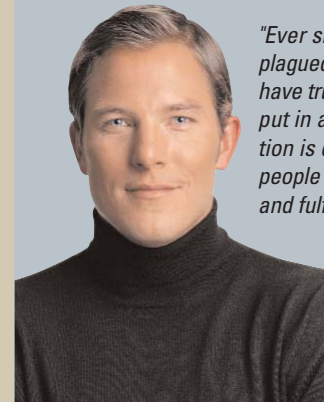
"I am so glad I chose Alphapointe as the organization to help me earn my school's community service credits. I love to help my new friends complete art projects, and see the pride in their eyes when they finish one."

Carol Hampton, 18,
Central High student



"As busy as my week is, I really value the time I spend volunteering at Alphapointe. Just putting in an hour here and there recording my voice on a book means someone with a vision impairment can enjoy a book he normally could not. It's very rewarding."

Jean Blackman,
Administrator
Lowell Medical Plaza



"Ever since my mother has been plagued with macular degeneration, I have truly valued my volunteer hours put in at Alphapointe. This organization is doing amazing things to help people like my mother live independent and fulfilling lives."

Michael Carrington,
Architect
BMI Architects

Membership & Accreditations

- National Industries for the Blind (affiliated)
- National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped
- National Association for Employment of People Who are Blind
- Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER)
- GKC Chamber of Commerce
- IRS Certification as a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization
- Missouri Neighborhood Assistance Program (Nap) tax credit approval
- Heart of America United Way (member agency)

Executive Staff

- Thomas E. Healy, *President*
 Jim Van Winkle, *Chief Financial Officer*
 Victoria Brust, *Director of Rehabilitation*
 Phyllis A. Meiners, *Director of Development*
 Robert Terry, *Director of Business Operations*



7501 Prospect
 Kansas City, MO 64132
 Main: 816-421-5848
 Fax: 816.237.2019
www.alphapointe.org

Wouldn't You Like to Be an Alpha Too?

Become an Alpha and Pointe the Way for Others

Be an Alpha

Anyone can be an Alpha! Become part of an energetic volunteer service group united in helping persons with visual impairments. By joining *the Alpha Foundation*, you'll have dozens of opportunities to make a difference in peoples lives by volunteering your time and talents.

The Foundation was created to organize, recruit and train volunteers for the purpose of providing the human resource needs of *Alphapointe Association for the Blind*. The following information will show you how *Alphapointe Association for the Blind* is assisting persons with visual impairments, it's history, the opportunities available for individuals to volunteer and how you can become an Alpha.

Life Skills:

Alphapointe Association for the Blind provides services to persons with low vision, those who have recently lost their sight, and those without sight since birth. Our trained staff assists people of all ages with life skills... enabling them to live as independently and actively as possible.

- **Orientation & Mobility Training** teaches individuals to travel safely and independently. It includes self-protective indoor and outdoor techniques.
- **Health and Wellness/Diabetes Management** educates clients about good nutrition, physical fitness, and mental health, plus how to use adaptive equipment to accurately draw insulin and monitor and maintain glucose levels.
- **Elderly Low Vision Services (ELVS)** specialists provide clients with at-home low-vision educational services and equipment, train on their usage, and regularly visit to assist in daily activities.

- **Transcription Services** utilize volunteers to convert printed textbooks, work manuals and literature onto high-quality audio cassettes and CD's.
- **Alpha Arts** provides hands-on instruction in multimedia art, dance, and theatrical performances, as well as group outings to museums, concerts and theatres.

Job Training:

Employment skills are vital in order for visually impaired persons to enter and excel in the workplace. Our trained staff assists youth and adults in the necessary steps to gaining meaningful and lasting employment.

- **Work Adjustment Center** provides individualized rehabilitation and training designed to improve the client's work skills and behavior.
- **Vocational Preparation and Job Placement** provides individualized vocational training and counseling; training on the use of adaptive technology, low-vision devices, and Braille; and resumé writing, interview skills, and job placement assistance.
- **Adaptive Technology Services** offer clients training in basic computer skills and advanced computer applications, utilizing print enlargement and screen reading software and note takers equipped with standard and Braille keyboards.

Employment:

Over 70 percent of people who are legally blind currently have no jobs or are underemployed. One of Alphapointe's primary objectives is to provide employment to the visually impaired and to continue fostering a well-trained workforce.

- **Writing Instruments:** The writing instruments division employs approximately 100 blind persons, some with multiple disabilities. Pen assembly is a testament to the success of Alphapointe's job training program.
- **Service Contracts:** Alphapointe clients are placed in competitive jobs through service contracts with government agencies and private businesses. Typical contracts include clerical staffing and staffing telephone switchboards.
- **Retail Stores:** Alphapointe's stores provide jobs for clients and market the organization's products. Stores carry general office supplies, hand tools, and industrial paints.
- **Gift Shop:** Alphapointe's on-site gift shop is open to the public, and is one of only two retail outlets in the Kansas City metro devoted to blindness and low-vision products.

What's The Pointe for Me?

As a member of the Alpha Foundation, you'll have dozens of choices for volunteering your time. Choose from the following categories to find your area of interest...or call an Alphapointe consultant to schedule an interview and we'll help match your skill set with the right volunteer opportunity.



Business Community

- Record audio versions of textbooks and manuals
- Help train visually impaired persons to use computers with voice synthesizers
- Participate in Alphapointe's Speakers Bureau, giving presentations to schools, service clubs, churches and synagogues, and businesses.
- Assist with marketing, public relations, and administration
- Plan and execute special events and fund raising efforts

Seniors

- Conduct home visits, read mail, check for safety issues
- Help with grocery shopping, errands, and transportation
- Staff our gift shop
- Assist with marketing, public relations, and administration
- Assist with special events and fund raising efforts

Youth

- Lead tours at Alphapointe, showcasing our facility and rich heritage
- Assist with art classes and display art created by class members
- Get involved in fund raising events
- Assist with marketing, public relations, and administration
- Assist with special events and fund raising efforts



How to be an Alpha

YES! I want to be an Alpha and become a member of the Alpha Foundation

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

E-mail _____

Areas Where I Can Help:

I'm unable to volunteer my time but would still like to become a member of the Alpha Foundation and make a difference through my contributions.

- ___\$15 STUDENT, SENIOR OR DISABLED
Receives a subscription to Friends of Alphapointe Newsletter, listing in membership roster, and a Braille card
- ___\$35 INDIVIDUAL
Includes all of the above
- ___\$60 FAMILY
Includes all of the above
- ___\$100 ASSOCIATE
Includes all of the above plus a pocket magnifier
- ___\$250 PATRON
Includes all of the above plus two Alphapointe coasters
- ___\$1500 LIFETIME MEMBER
Includes all of the above plus a walnut boxed set of Alphapointe pens

Charge to your credit card

Visa MasterCard American Express

Card number _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Send your application and/or check to:

The Alpha Foundation
7501 Prospect
Kansas City, MO 64132

