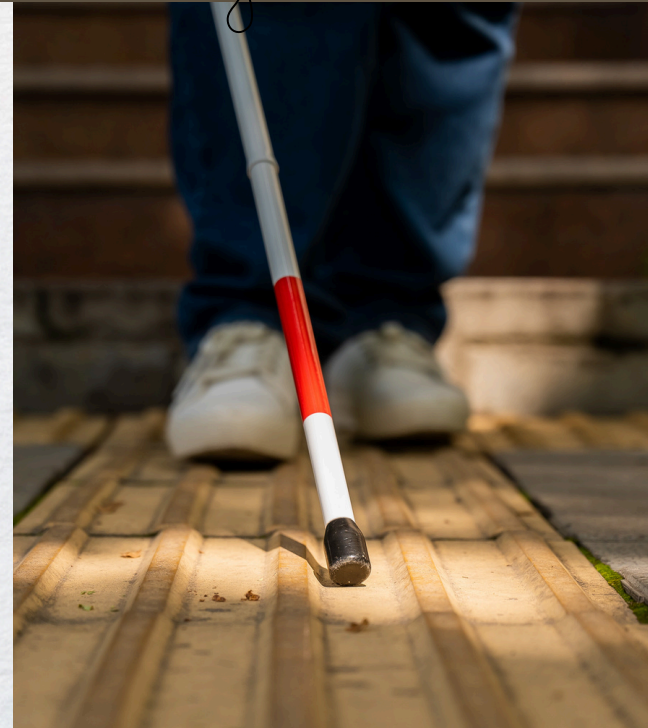


White Cane Awareness

White Cane Awareness Day, observed annually on October 15, celebrates the achievements of individuals who are blind or visually impaired and promotes awareness of the white cane as a symbol of independence. The white cane is an essential tool that aids in mobility, allowing those with vision impairments to navigate the world safely.

The day was first proclaimed in 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson, following advocacy by the National Federation of the Blind (NFB), which had long promoted the white cane as a symbol of autonomy and equal rights.



The white cane's use had evolved in the early 20th century, gaining widespread recognition in the 1930s as a tool that not only helped mobility but also alerted the public to a person's visual impairment.

White Cane Awareness Day aims to raise public understanding of the rights of those with vision loss and to encourage respect and support for their independence. Through events and educational efforts, it highlights the significance of the white cane in promoting accessibility and equality for the blind and visually impaired community.