Michigan Low Vision Support Groups

Support groups are important forums in which individuals suffering with low vision can discuss their experiences, provide support for each other, and find solutions to the problems they face. Groups are organized alphabetically by city.

It is recommended that you contact a group of interest to confirm date and time prior to attending a meeting.

**Ann Arbor**

**Living With Low Vision**  
Kellogg Eye Center, University of Michigan  
1000 Wall St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105  
Contact: Gale Oren  
Phone: (734) 763-9468  
Meetings: 2\textsuperscript{nd} Wednesday, 2:00 – 4:00 pm  
Website: http://www.kellogg.umich.edu

**Turner Senior Resource Center**  
2401 Plymouth Rd. Suite C  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105  
Contact: Mary Rumman, mrumman@umich.edu  
Phone: (734) 764-2556  
Meetings: 4\textsuperscript{th} Wednesday of the month, 1-3 pm  
Website: http://www.med.umich.edu/geriatrics/communityprograms/supportgroups.htm

**Bay City**

**Bay County-Division on Aging**  
Riverside Friendship Center  
800 JF Kennedy Drive  
Bay City, MI 48706
Contact: Sandy
Phone: (989) 893-7070
Website: http://www.baycounty-mi.gov/Aging/Education-Support-Health.aspx
Meetings: usually 3rd Wednesday of the month, 11:00 am

**Birmingham**

**Vision Enrichment Support Group**
Birmingham Area Senior Center (BASCC)
2121 Midvale
Birmingham, MI 48009
Contact: Jeanne Nance
Phone: (248) 203-5270
Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of the month (except July and August), 10-11:30 am
Topics are available at: www.bascc.org

**Brighton**

**Visually Impaired and Blind in Livingston Incorporated**
Lion’s Den
465 Main St.
Brighton, MI 48116
Contact: Andrea Stepien
Phone: (810) 231-1277
Meetings: 1st Saturday of the month, 9:30 am – 12 noon

**Cadillac**

**Cadillac Area Low Vision Support Group**
Cadillac Senior Center
601 Chesnut Street
Cadillac, MI
Contact: Connie Payne
Phone: (231) 779-0149 (personal) or (231) 775-0133 (Council on Aging)
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 10:00-11:15 am

**Canton**

Canton Low Vision Support Group
Canton Senior Center
46000 Summit Parkway
Canton, MI
Meetings: 2nd Thursday of the month, 2:30 – 4:00 pm
Contact: Harriett Beltrondi
Phone: 734-844-7247

**Dearborn**

**Support Group for Visually Impaired**
Oakwood Commons
16351 Rotunda Drive
Dearborn, MI 48120
Contact: Betty Welsh
Phone: (313) 271-7693
Email: bwbluebird@comcast.net
Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 3pm
Volunteers read news Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2pm. (For Dearborn Residents only)

**Detroit**

**Book Club**
Detroit Library, Douglas Branch
Meetings: 4th Tuesday of the month, 5:00 – 6:30 pm
Contact: Ava Johnson
Phone: 313-865-3111

**Bright Lights, A Social Dining Group**
Fridays, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Contact: Windy Northern (for location and date)
Phone: 313-368-8197

**Helping Hands**
Greater Detroit Agency for the Blind
16625 Grand River
Detroit, MI 48277
Phone: (313) 272-3900
Meetings: 4th Tuesday of the month, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Contact: Mary Wilks
Phone: (313) 893-7263
Email: lester@gdabvi.org

**The Junior Organized Blind**
Triumph Hospital
Meetings: 4th Friday of the month, 6:00 – 9:00 pm
Call first before attending
Contact: Ernest R. Eaves
Phone: 313-371-3545

Nifty Knitter’s Club
Detroit Subregional Library for the Blind
3660 Grand River
Detroit, MI
Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of the month, 11:00 – 1:00 pm
Contact: Ava Johnson
Phone: 313-865-3111

Sight Unseen Support Group
Detroit Receiving Hospital, University Health Center
Visually Handicapped Services
4201 St. Antoine
Detroit, MI 48201
Contact: George Greene
Phone: 313-745-4510
Meetings: Every other Friday, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

VIP Gospel Choir
Christian Faith Church
21241 Fenkel
Detroit, MI
Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month, 11:00-1:00 pm
Contact: Ava Johnson
Phone: 313-865-3111

Visually Impaired Outreach Center
Berea Lutheran Church
7047 Tireman
Detroit, MI 48204
Phone: 313-834-5901
Meetings: 4th Thursday of the month, 10:30 – 12:30 pm
Contact: Ollie Lester
Phone: 313-701-0033

Visually Impaired Group
Disability Network
5555 Conner
Detroit, MI
Meetings: 4th Friday of the month, noon – 3:00 pm  
Contact: Leonard Grosse  
Phone: 313-875-3071  

**Farmington Hills**

**Visually Impaired Support Group**  
Costick Senior Center  
28600 11 Mile Road  
Farmington Hills, MI 48336  
Contact: Angela  
Phone: (248) 473-1830  
Meetings: 1st Wednesday of the month, 1-2:30 pm

**Grand Rapids**

**Kent County Support Group**  
Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
456 Cherry Street SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
Phone: 1-800-466-8084  
Contact: John McElheron  
Website: http://www.abvimichigan.org  
Meetings: 1st Monday of the month at 9:45 am

**Veterans Support Group**  
Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
456 Cherry Street SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
Contact: John McElheron  
Phone: 1-800-466-8084  
Website: http://www.abvimichigan.org  
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month in May and November, 2:30 pm

**Grosse Pointe Park**

**Friends of Vision**  
Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology  
15415 East Jefferson Avenue  
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230  
Contact: Nancy Pilorget  
Phone: (313) 824-3937
Website: www.eyeson.org
Meetings: Senior Groups at Grosse Pointe Park
1st & 3rd Monday of the month, 10:00-11:30 am
1st & 3rd Monday of the month, 1:00-2:15 am
1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month, 10:00-11:30 am
Visionary Groups (55 years and younger)
1st Wednesday of the month, 6:00-7:30 pm
Grosse Pointe Park

Kalamazoo

Shiners VIP of Kalamazoo
Coover Center Senior Services
918 Jasper Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
Contact: Elaine TenBrinck
Phone: (269) 553-4960
Meetings: 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, 10:30 am -12 noon

Lansing

Lansing Peer Support Group
Plymouth Congregational Church
2001 E. Grand River Ave
Lansing, MI
Contact: Betty Krashen
(517) 349-4035
or Arlene Moore
(517) 374-8681
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month Sep-Jun, noon
Note: Bring brown bag lunch

Lincoln Park

Downriver Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired Inc
1574 Winchester
Lincoln Park, MI 48146
Contact: Mary Eileen Hogan
Phone: (313) 382-7974
Website: www.livingdownriver.com/groups.asp
Meetings: 2\textsuperscript{nd} Thursday of the month, Noon to 2 p.m at Knights of Columbus
Robert Jones Council No. 3078
25160 W. Outer Drive
Lincoln Park, MI 48146

**Plymouth**

**Plymouth District Library Low Vision Support Group**
223 S. Main St.
Plymouth, MI 48170-1687
Contact: Ellen Stross
Phone: 734-453-0750 ext. 232
Website: www.plymouthlibrary.org
Meetings: 1\textsuperscript{st} Thursday of the month, 1-3 pm

*Participants share advice on coping skills and adaptive technologies in a supportive atmosphere. A qualified facilitator will lead the group and guest speakers provide expertise. Library staff members will be on hand to provide assistance with Library equipment, services and offerings.*

**Pontiac**

**Book Club for Visually Impaired People**
Oakland County Library for the Blind
Pontiac, MI
Meetings: 2\textsuperscript{nd} Tuesday of every other month, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Contact: Ilene Sawyer
Phone: 248-788-0358

**Pontiac VIP’s**
Bowen Senior Center
52 Bagley Pontiac, MI 48341
Meetings: 3\textsuperscript{rd} Thursday of the month, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Contact: Sharon Shannon
Phone: 248-377-3529

**Rochester**

**Visually Impaired Center Club of OPC of Rochester**
650 Letica Drive
Rochester, MI 48307  
Contact: Lisa Murray  
Phone: (248) 608-0249  
Meetings: 4th Friday of the month, 10-11:30 am

Royal Oak

Beaumont Eye Institute Low Vision Support Group  
Medical Office Building  
3535 W. 13 Mile, Suite 555, 5th floor  
Royal Oak, MI 48073  
Phone: (248) 551-2142  
Contact: Linda Powers  
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month Jan-Mar, 6:30-7:30 pm  
1st Tuesday of the month Mar-Dec 6:30-7:30 pm

Saginaw

Visually Impaired Persons of Saginaw County  
First Christian Center  
5545 McCarty Road  
Saginaw, MI 48603  
Contact: Del and Hank Pawlik  
Phone: (989) 793-1154  
Harold Kluck  
Phone: (989) 781-2267  
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month, 1:00-3:00 pm

Sault Ste. Marie

Eastern Upper Peninsula Low Vision Support Group  
Bayliss Library  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI  
Contact: Elgie Dow  
Phone: (906) 643-7487  
Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month

Shelby Township

Support Group for the Visually Impaired  
Shelby Senior Center  
51670 Van Dyke
Shelby Township, MI 48316
Phone: 586-739-7540
Meetings: 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

**Sterling Heights**

**Low Vision Group**
Sterling Heights Senior Center
40200 Utica Road
Sterling Heights, MI
Phone: 586-446-2750
Meetings: 4th Wednesday of the month 10:00 – 11:00 am
Contact: Leonie Sauer
Phone: 586-731-2583

**Troy**

**Visually Impaired Persons Support Group**
Oakland Park Towers
930 John R
Troy, MI 48083
Contact: Marian Arasa
Phone: (248) 585-4875
Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month, 1:00 pm

**Wayne**

**Detroit Northwest Chapter of the Michigan Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired**
Brownies Diner
34250 Michigan Avenue
Wayne, MI 48184
Contact: George Illingworth at (734) 326-4770
or Christine Schumaker (ONLY after 4:30pm) at (313) 562-5720
Meetings: 2nd Saturday of the month Mar-Dec, 12:30-3pm

**West Bloomfield**

**Individual Meetings**
Contact: Ilene Sawyer, social worker
Phone: 248-788-0358
Westland

Low Vision Support Group
City of Westland Friendship Center
1119 N. Newburg
Westland, MI 48185
Phone: (734) 722-7628
Meetings: Fridays, 11:30 am

Visually Impaired Persons
Village of Westland
32001 Cherry Hill road
Westland, MI 48186
Contact: Emily Farber
Phone: 734-762-8810
Email: efarber@pvm.org
Meetings: Contact Emily for dates and times

White Lake

Low Vision Support Group
Dublin Community Senior Center
685 Union Lake Road
White Lake, MI 48386
Contact: Kathy Gordinear
Phone: (248) 698-2394
Website: www.whitelaketwp.com/Dublin/indexnew.htm
Meetings: Call for more information.

Updated 3/12