Greetings Members and Friends:

The California Council of the Blind (CCB) increases the independence and equality for all Californians who are blind or low vision. The year 2019 marks our 85th anniversary of providing grassroots non-profit advocacy and service delivery on behalf of individuals who are blind and low vision in California. We are very proud to reach this historic milestone and have achieved many accomplishments together.

However, as we enter 2019, our beloved organization faces serious financial challenges which have necessitated a reduction in staffing, cutbacks in distribution of our signature magazine The Blind Californian and other severe cost-saving measures. We will most likely be able to maintain a presence in the community, but with your help we can do so much more! Over the last year, we have worked diligently together in creating a "brave new path" that will meet the multiple needs expressed by our membership.

To realize this vision, we need your help today. If you have ever considered donating to the CCB, now is the time. If you have ever wondered if your contribution would make a difference, I can assure you it will.

With your support, we can continue our current programs and conventions while implementing the following four "Believe and Achieve" initiatives identified and adopted by the CCB membership earlier this year.

- Senior Solutions assesses and addresses the unique needs of the blind and low vision aging population which makes up approximately 70% of blind citizens.
- Achieving Access tackles the needs that blind and low vision people face to navigate the 21st century world at home and in their communities through transportation and technology.
- Equality Without Compromise Advocacy is dedicated to making long-term sustainable positive changes in the lives of people who are blind and low vision in California. We will be working for better library services for persons with vision loss, increased services for students and protection for those using guide dogs.
- New Beginnings reaches out to people who have recently become blind and enables them to overcome challenges and thrive in their new reality.

We have been successful in taking the first step on this path by securing a grant from Energy Upgrade California to provide community outreach and education to the blind-low-vision, senior and low-income populations about upcoming changes in utility rates, encouraging energy use during nonpeak times.

The theme for our upcoming anniversary is "Survive and thrive at 85." Only with your support will we be able to move forward. Please join me in making an unrestricted gift to the California Council of the Blind during this holiday season. Every gift at any level helps and is greatly appreciated. The impact of your gifts will be acknowledged on the CCB website ccbnet.org.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly. I can be reached at president@ccbnet.org or 510-388-5079. I look forward to speaking with you personally! Gifts can be made by following this link: http://ccbnet.org/drupal7/node/19, by credit card or check payable to CCB. Call Operations Manager Nicole Pacheco at the CCB office at 916-441-2100 or 800-221-6359 for assistance.

With Every Good Wish,

Judy Wilkinson,
President, California Council of the Blind