

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Craig Lowe
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Alachua County Council of the Blind, Inc. and the Gainesville Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind are membership organizations for people who are blind and visually impaired; and

WHEREAS, Braille, the system of tactile dots used by the blind and visually impaired to read and write, is a truly effective and versatile medium to communication; and

WHEREAS, Braille affords blind and visually impaired persons the opportunity to achieve literacy so that they can succeed in education, compete in employment and live independently; and

WHEREAS, technology, such as recording devices, the Optacon and other reading machines, and computer screen access programs have enabled blind individuals to gain access to a wide variety of printed material; however, they cannot be a replacement for Braille, which is a medium that allows an individual to read and write independently; and

WHEREAS, despite Braille's efficiency, versatility and universal acceptance by the blind and visually impaired, the rate of Braille literacy has declined to the point where only 10 percent of blind and visually impaired children are learning to read and write Braille, Braille is the key to independence and success for blind and visually impaired individuals as evidenced by the fact while only 30 percent of blind adults gain full time employment, 90 percent of those who are employed are Braille readers; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Alachua County Council of the Blind and the Gainesville Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind, that school-age students and adults who are blind and visually impaired are taught Braille as it is the most appropriate medium to provide literacy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Craig Lowe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim January, 2011 as

Braille Literacy Month

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me and further heighten public awareness of the importance of Braille Literacy among children and adults who are blind and to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 28th day of December, A.D., 2010.



Craig Lowe
Craig Lowe
Mayor