



Dear Families,

We are excited to announce the return of **Social Society** for the 2025-2026 school year, a drop-off afterschool program for students with visual impairments. This program is facilitated by Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVIs) and is designed to help students develop skills in the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) while building independence, social connections, and confidence in a fun, supportive setting.

Program Schedule

Social Society meets every Wednesday from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM, September 2025 through May 2026. On the last Wednesday of each month, we will be offering a Bonus Hour from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM, extending that day's program to 6:00 PM. The Bonus Hour features special activities, workshops, and extension projects facilitated by Brandon, our Youth Enrichment Intern. Brandon is blind and a recent graduate of California State University, Fullerton, and brings valuable perspective and lived experience to his work with our students.

Why does Social Society matter?

Students with visual impairments often do not have enough time during the regular school day to receive direct instruction in ECC skills. These skills are essential for preparing them for independent, fulfilling lives, yet they are not always part of the standard academic curriculum. Social Society was created to provide dedicated time for this critical instruction in a setting where students can learn, practice, and apply these skills alongside their peers.

What is the Expanded Core Curriculum?

The ECC is a set of nine skill areas that are vital for students with visual impairments:

1. **Compensatory Skills** – Learning alternative ways to access the core curriculum, such as braille, large print, tactile graphics, or auditory learning strategies.
2. **Orientation and Mobility** – Navigating environments safely and independently using canes, environmental cues, or technology.
3. **Social Interaction Skills** – Learning social cues, conversational skills, and strategies for building friendships.
4. **Independent Living Skills** – Managing personal care, household tasks, and organizational skills for everyday life.

5. **Recreation and Leisure Skills** – Exploring hobbies, sports, and activities for enjoyment and physical health.
6. **Career Education** – Gaining early work-related skills, exploring job interests, and understanding workplace expectations.
7. **Use of Assistive Technology** – Learning to use tools such as screen readers, braille displays, magnification devices, and accessibility apps.
8. **Sensory Efficiency Skills** – Using all senses effectively, including maximizing any functional vision and incorporating hearing, touch, smell, and movement.
9. **Self-Determination** – Building confidence, setting goals, making decisions, and advocating for personal needs.

Each Social Society session incorporates one or more ECC areas into engaging activities, games, and group projects, giving students hands-on experiences they can carry into daily life.

Support and participation requirements:

While our staff is experienced in working with students who have a variety of abilities, we do not have enough staffing to provide one-on-one support for each participant. If your child typically requires a dedicated 1:1 aide, we kindly ask that you contact us before the program begins so we can discuss whether Social Society is the right fit and explore possible accommodations together. Additionally, because of our limited time and staffing, we are unable to assist with diaper changes or toileting during the program. Students should be able to use the restroom independently.

Please note that Social Society does periodically take field trips as part of our programming. If your child uses a wheelchair, we may request that families meet us at the field trip location or provide transportation support, as ADA seating is limited.

Our goal is for every student to have a safe, positive, and enriching experience in Social Society. Your partnership in understanding these expectations helps us ensure that the program is a great fit for your child. If you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's individual needs, please feel free to reach out.

We look forward to another wonderful season of learning, friendship, and fun!

Warmly,
(949) 431-2946
Jacob Garcia, M.A., TVI

Jacob.garcia@beyondblindness.org