The NEAT Center
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Eleanor A. Brooks
Blindness Support Center

OakHillCT.org/NEAT-Center
For over a century, Oak Hill has been at the forefront of providing services to people with blindness and low vision in Connecticut. Our program, the Eleanor A. Brooks Blindness Support Center, specializes in working with individuals who seek assistive technology (AT) solutions. These services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Assess needs and identify appropriate AT for students of all ages.
- Professional development for educators and staff.
- AT consultations and evaluations.
- Experiential workshops to promote community awareness.
- Train individuals in the use of software and tools such as screen reading, screen magnification as well as scanning and reading programs for Windows, Mac, iOS, Android and Chrome-based devices.
- Presentations on the use of AT and independence at local facilities and national events.
- Connect individuals, friends and families to available resources in their community.
- Assessments and training for people who are deaf/blind.

We collaborate with various programs and agencies including the Veterans’ Administration, Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind, Department of Rehabilitation Services, the CT Tech Act Project and many others.

This Center is led by Steve Famiglietti, Blind Services Vocational Manager. Steve has been legally blind since birth, he travels the country with his guide dog, and has spent over 20 years working with AT. He has experienced first-hand how AT can play a major role in allowing people with low vision or total blindness to have the same opportunities as their sighted peers. His unique experiences allow him to shed light on how technology can benefit people in their daily lives, increase independence and facilitate productive working environments.

Steve is passionate about the services he provides and the lifechanging impacts they can have for people.

“If someone told me a year ago that my daughter would within a year’s time be on social media, texting and emailing via her iPhone, managing her time using electronic technology, doing online learning and syncing a laptop, iPhone and braille display and two separate key boards and know what she was doing I would never have believed it. And as a result my daughter is empowered and feeling so much more competent and willing to take on more challenges. And she did all this with the added challenge of having cerebral palsy, making it hard for her to type well. Anyone who is visually impaired needs to know about Oak Hill and the services they offer.”

—Bo Page