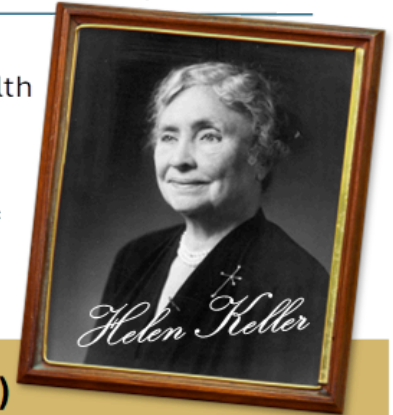




At the Division of Blind Services, we recognize that strong partnerships with community organizations and eye care providers are essential to connecting individuals with the services they need. We are excited to share our latest DBS newsletter, which includes a bit of history on DBS and Florida School for the Deaf and Blind. We value your referrals to us and remain available to anyone in need: [Application Services](#)

Cataract Awareness & Helen Keller Week: June 28 – July 4

June marks Cataract Awareness Month and Helen Keller Week (June 28 – July 4), a time to recognize the importance of eye health and celebrate the legacy of one of the most influential figures in the history of blindness advocacy. As we continue our 85th anniversary year at DBS, this month reminds us of the impact of our programs, services and staff in supporting Floridians with visual impairments to live full, independent lives.



Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (FSDB)

During Cataract Awareness Month and Helen Keller Week, DBS recognizes the organizations and partners across Florida that help support individuals who are blind or visually impaired. One of those long-standing partners is Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, founded in St. Augustine in 1885 to provide educational opportunities for students who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind or visually impaired. The school's mission reflects the broader legacy of advocacy advanced by Helen Keller, whose work helped expand access to education and independence for individuals with disabilities.

One of FSDB's most well-known alumni, Ray Charles, attended the school from 1937 to 1945, where he learned Braille and developed many of the musical skills that would later define his legendary career.



This Month in Our 85-Year History **June 2, 1961**

The Florida Council for the Blind was removed from under the Department of Welfare and placed under the direct supervision of the Governor, marking a shift in the state's administrative oversight of blindness services.