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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vermont White Cane Safety Awareness Day Celebrations – October 2017

On October 6, 1964, Congress passed a joint resolution to grant the President of the United States the power to proclaim October 15th of each year as White Cane Safety Awareness Day. President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed the first White Cane Safety Awareness Day within hours of the passage of the resolution. Since its inception, White Cane Safety Awareness Day has both celebrated the white cane and brought awareness to those who are not familiar with what it is like to travel under the guidance of the white cane.

The white cane is a symbol of strength and independence for blind and visually impaired people. According to the American Council of the Blind, the white cane was first introduced in the United States in 1931 by a member of Lions Club International after he saw an individual crossing a busy street with a black cane that was extremely difficult for motorists to notice.

Events and celebrations throughout the state noted below are sponsored by the State of Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI) and the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI):

October 3rd, 2017, St. Albans – A Walk-a-Thon at the Collins-Perley Sports and Fitness Center with proceeds benefiting the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired. 10:30 AM -12:00 PM.

October 11, 2017, Burlington – A community walk along Church Street with accessible GPS devices for the visually impaired. Assemble at 11:30 AM at the Church Street side of Burlington City Hall. Walk to conclude at the Overlook Café for light refreshments.

October 13, 2017, Montpelier – Meet at the State House on the lawn at 1:00 PM. State and local officials will be in attendance. All will walk to the Savoy Theater. A video presentation highlighting the accomplishments of a St. Albans high school senior who is visually impaired followed by a Q&A session. Light refreshments will be served.

October 13, 2017, Castleton – An experiential walk through the campus and town followed by light refreshments. Meet at 11:30 at Castleton University, Campus Center, 1787 Room, 47 College Drive, Castleton VT

October 14, 2017, Brattleboro – A Bowling in the Dark event. Proceeds from the event benefit services at the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired. 1:00 to 4:00 PM at the Brattleboro Lanes.

October 14, 2017, St. Johnsbury – Information table and mall walk at the Green Mountain Mall from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

For more information about this year's White Cane Day celebrations throughout the state contact: Heather Allen, Vermont Division for the Blind & Visually Impaired, 802-241-0328 / heather.allen@vermont.gov or Dan Norris, Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 1-877-350-8838, ext.101 / dnorris@vabvi.org.

About the Department of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living (DAIL):

Our mission is to make Vermont the best state in which to grow old or to live with a disability - with dignity, respect and independence.

<http://dail.vermont.gov/>

<https://www.facebook.com/DAILVT>

About the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI):

Our mission is to enable Vermonters with vision problems, whether blindness or impairment, to achieve and maintain independence.

<http://www.vabvi.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/vabvi.org/>



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