



## Wayfinder's Hatlen Center

**A residential independence program In Sacramento for adults who are blind or visually impaired**

### **WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE**

#### Personalized Instruction

Students benefit from individualized instruction in vital life skills, including assistive technology, Braille, orientation and mobility, personal finance, job readiness and daily living skills.

#### Ideal Location

Nestled in a safe, vibrant Sacramento neighborhood, our apartments offer easy access to public transportation, shopping, recreation and resources, ensuring students are integrated into the local community.

#### Flexible Learning

Our unique curriculum allows students to attend school or work part-time, creating a balanced educational experience.

#### Career-Ready Focus

Students develop vital pre-vocational skills and gain hands-on experience for career exploration and soft skill development.

#### Community

Residents are given the opportunity to engage in recreational activities within Sacramento and beyond. From outdoor adventures to cultural events, students will have access to an active, engaging lifestyle.

### **Contact us and we will guide you through the process!**

Jeshua Aveno, Program Manager: 510-602-0063 or [javeno@wayfinderfamily.org](mailto:javeno@wayfinderfamily.org)

Kevin Yanuskavich, Senior Director: 213-803-3497 or [kyanuskavich@wayfinderfamily.org](mailto:kyanuskavich@wayfinderfamily.org)



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## **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

### Customized Learning Experience

We understand that everyone's journey is unique. That's why we offer a flexible, adaptive curriculum designed to meet the individual needs and aspirations of each student. Whether it's preparing for a career, pursuing education, or living independently, we help you achieve your goals.

### Independent Living Skills

In our independent living classes, students learn how to shop for groceries, prepare meals (including their own family recipes!) and maintain their living space. We teach household tasks like cooking, cleaning and laundry, all with the goal of fostering autonomy in everyday life.

### Assistive Technology

In a world that's constantly evolving, our program ensures that students stay ahead of the curve. Our assistive technology training covers everything from low-tech devices to cutting-edge software and apps that enhance students' personal, professional and educational experience.

### Orientation & Mobility

Our orientation and mobility program teaches students to travel with confidence, whether using public transportation, walking with a white cane or using innovative navigation apps. Experience Sacramento and beyond with ease and safety!

### Financial Education

Students will learn to budget, pay bills, manage utilities and plan for their education or career. They will gain confidence and skills for financial self-management, from creating a budget to preparing for job interviews.

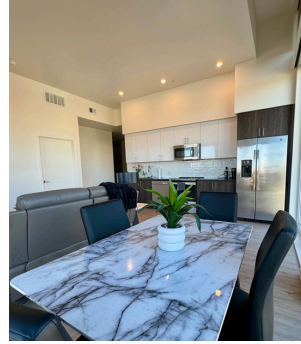
### Braille Training

In our program, we recognize the vital role Braille plays in promoting literacy and independence. Our Braille courses cover everything from basic to advanced reading and writing, empowering students to use Braille for personal, academic, and professional purposes.

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“You gave me the tools to succeed, and I’m now living my dreams.”

– Sergio, Wayfinder Hatlen Center alum

## **ABOUT US**

Wayfinder's Hatlen Center, the only one of its kind in the United States, has set the gold standard for fostering independence in individuals with visual impairment since 1972. The program was pioneered by Dr. Phil Hatlen, a passionate educator and advocate for the blind.

Today, the program continues to stand alone in its unique approach to empowering students. Our philosophy is centered on "real life, real learning." Students live in their own apartments where the majority of lessons take place; whether it's budgeting for groceries, preparing meals, or troubleshooting a maintenance issue. Unlike many dormitory-style programs, there is no cafeteria, nor staff to take out the trash. Instructors provide hands-on support in the students' apartments or in the community, turning ordinary moments into opportunities for growth and skill-building through immersive experiences.

With every challenge, students grow more confident, realizing that independence isn't just about knowing how to do things, it's about believing they can. By the time students graduate, they are ready to take on the ultimate adventure: a self-sufficient, purpose-driven life on their own terms.

## **Our Staff: Full Circle**

“Attending Wayfinder's Hatlen Center transformed my life. Before attending, I struggled with my visual impairment, retinitis pigmentosa, and grappled with denial, fear, and low confidence. While at Wayfinder's Hatlen Center, I developed essential skills in orientation and mobility, technology, cooking, home maintenance and finances, all with the help of a supportive team. Wayfinder's Hatlen Center empowered me to overcome barriers and embrace opportunities for success, and I am proud to help others do the same.” – Jeshua Aveno

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