

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Nebraska Business Enterprises (NBE) grew out of federal legislation, known as the Randolph-Sheppard Act of 1936 and gives priority to licensed blind vendors in federal cafeterias, lunchrooms and break areas for vending machines. In Nebraska, this priority was expanded to state owned buildings or properties and is giving blind entrepreneurs the opportunity to run their successful business, becoming contributing members of society.

NBE entrepreneurs rely on hard work, daily service and meticulous attention to customer needs to capture the competitive edge lost to private vendors with their high-volume operations. The NBE provides the training for qualified blind persons to become licensed vending facility managers. In addition to ongoing support services, the NBE establishes new vending facilities and monitors the business practices at current facilities to insure that all managers are providing the best service possible at the most competitive prices.

The NBE is administered by the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.



ncbvi.nebraska.gov
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(877) 809-2419



ANTONIO
Business Owner

KELSEY
Cashier



PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the NBE is to assist blind persons in securing meaningful employment. This can only be achieved when the blind entrepreneur consistently provides the best service available.

In 1996, NBE setup its first vending route at an interstate rest area. Currently there are 19 rest areas being operated by blind entrepreneurs. The blind vending facility manager's income and reputation are earned daily through hard work, attention to detail and personalized service to the customer. Vending facility managers take great pride in keeping the facility area spotless and the machines clean and well stocked. All NBE trainees must demonstrate their abilities as competent business managers before becoming licensed vendors.

NBE entrepreneurs receive all proceeds from the facility operation, maintain these funds and are accountable for paying taxes, rent, a set-aside fee and other business expenses. The set-aside fee is a percentage assessed against the net proceeds to pay for maintenance, replacement of equipment and management services.

GOALS

- Provide employment opportunities to qualified blind persons desiring to become managers in the food service industry
- Provide public education by demonstrating the abilities of blind persons
- Provide blind persons experience in business management
- Provide the best possible customer service for lunch break time needs
- Provide the best possible service to travelers across Nebraska through vending facilities at interstate rest areas



VICTOR
Vending Distribution Owner

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