

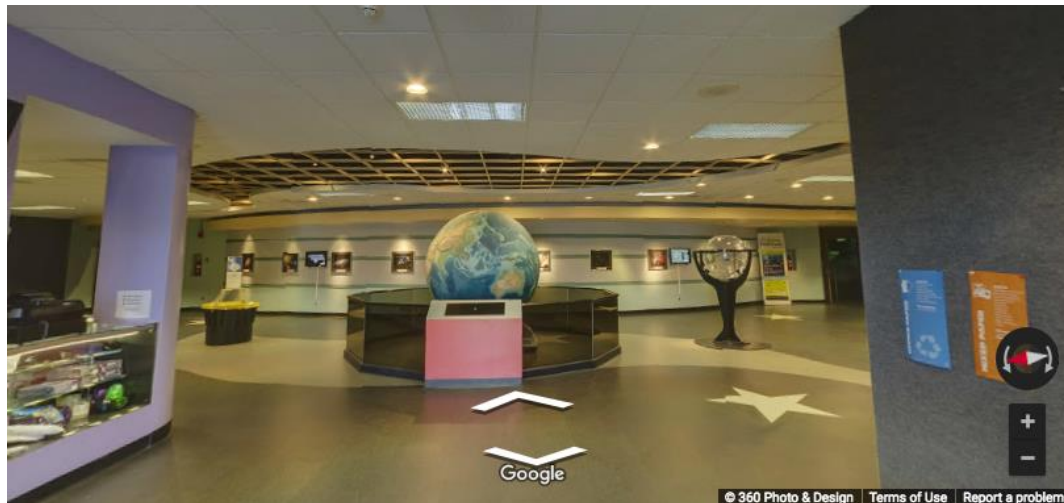


**CHANGE  
AHEAD**

The  
Future  
of  
Accessibility



[www.AbleEyes.org](http://www.AbleEyes.org)



# Meegan Winters

## My Story...



2006–2017:

Special Education Teacher,  
Teacher Consultant

Assistive Technology Coordinator Assistant  
Principal

2017–Current

Co-Founder/CEO of Able Eyes







Technology  
is  
EVERYWHERE!


# What is Able Eyes?



A Virtual Accessibility & Teaching Tool for children and adults with Autism, Anxiety, and many other disabilities. However, ANYONE can use it!

360° Virtual Tours allow people to virtually experience an environment prior to physically visiting. This can be done to assess accessibility and/or decrease anxiety.

Video Modeling provides a teaching tool through a visual means (short videos) to demonstrate daily living skills, school skills, and employment skills.

A black and white photograph of President George H.W. Bush signing the Americans with Disabilities Act. He is seated at a desk, wearing a dark suit and glasses, smiling as he writes. To his left, Vice President Dan Quayle is seated, also smiling. To his right, a man in a suit and a fedora hat is seated. Behind them, two women are standing. The background shows a large crowd of people seated in bleachers outdoors.

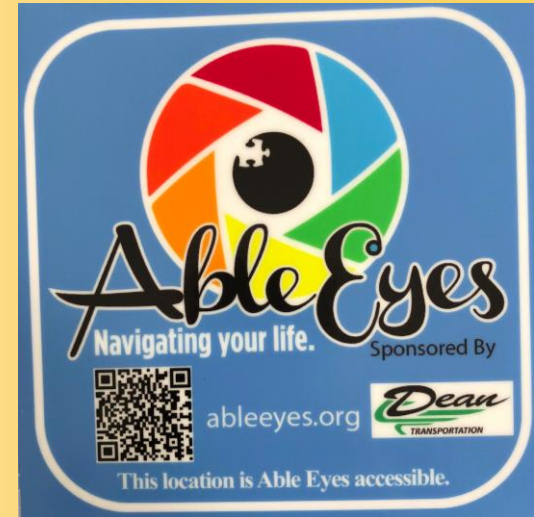
The **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** became law in 1990. The ADA is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation and all public and private places that are open to the general public.

*Are We Doing Enough?*

The possibilities are **ENDLESS!**  
*ALL locations can become Able Eyes Accessible...*

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- ★ Restaurants
- ★ Doctor/Dentist Offices
- ★ Stores/Shopping Centers
- ★ Libraries
- ★ Schools & Colleges
- ★ Parks / Theme Parks / Fairgrounds
- ★ Vacation Destinations/Hotels
- ★ Hospitals & Rehabilitation Centers
- ★ Places of Employment
- ★ Field Trip Locations



**...ANYWHERE!!!**

# Who can use Able Eyes?

- Individuals with Autism (1 out of 59 children)
- People who experience anxiety (15 million)
- People who use a wheelchair (2.2 million)
- Those with hearing impairments (48 million)
- Individuals with limited vision
- People who use crutches or a cane (6.5 million)
- Veterans with PTSD (5.2 million)
- People who experience traumatic Brain Injury (1.7 million/year)
- Victims of Trauma
- Elderly (Alzheimers)
- **ANYONE!!!!!!**







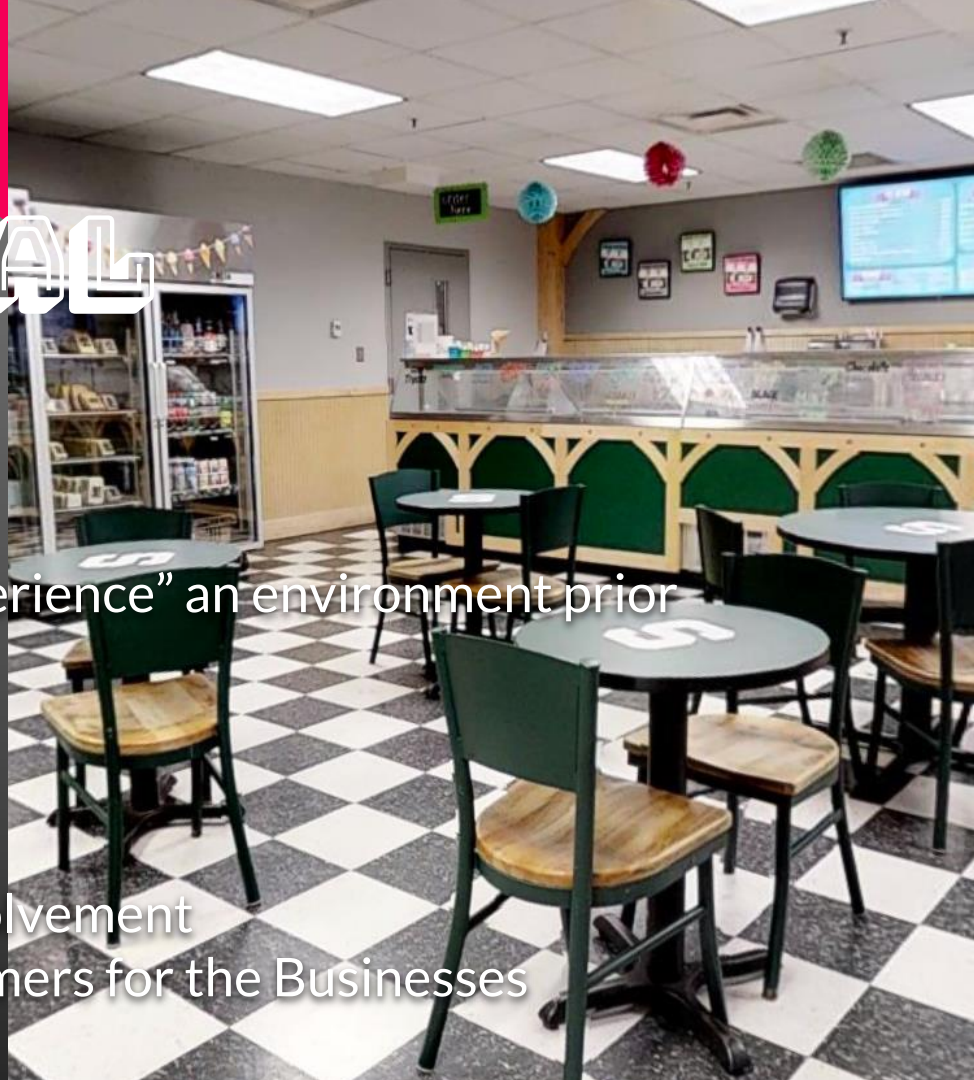


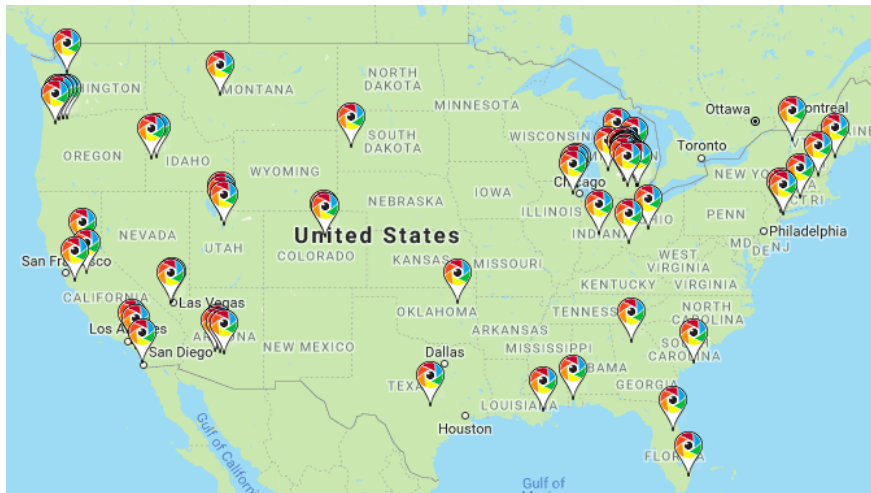
- Are the bathrooms accessible?
- What does the lighting look like?
- Is there space away from an open kitchen or bar? (quiet space)
- Where are the exits?
- Are the tables spaced out?
- Is it safe?

# 360° VIRTUAL TOURS

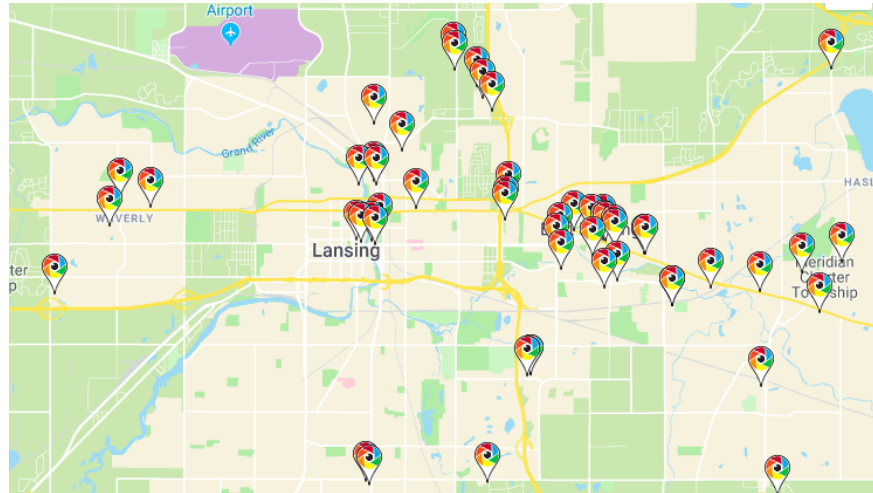
Allows users to “virtually experience” an environment prior to physically visiting:

- Decrease Anxiety
- Assess Accessibility
- Increase Community Involvement
- Increase Potential Customers for the Businesses





Tours in 48 States



Over 100 Tours in Michigan

Able Eyes users in 50 States!!



# An Able Eyes Myth...



Able Eyes will rate your accessibility.



no

Accessibility is different for everyone!  
We provide a tool to ASSIST people in  
making decisions based on their OWN  
accessibility needs.



# Testimonial

**“Able Eyes has helped alleviate my son’s anxiety about going to new places and made outings much more enjoyable!”**

**– Cathy B. (mom to a 14-year old boy with Generalized Anxiety Disorder, ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder and Complex Partial Epilepsy)**





- Are the bathrooms accessible?
- What does the lighting look like?
- What does the work space look like?
- Where are the exits?
- What does the interview room look like?
- What exactly would my job be?

"Confusing job descriptions are a 'major barrier' for young job seekers which are preventing them from entering the workforce, a study from Business in the Community and the City & Guilds Group has found." (2017).



# The study found:

- Two thirds (66%) of the young people who assessed the company vacancies didn't understand the role they would be applying to.
- Over a third of the job descriptions assessed contain unclear jargon, acronyms or technical language which put young people off applying and over half of them did not have a clear job description.
- Jargon also negatively impacts young people's confidence, by making them feel they "don't deserve" a role or are "not good enough" to apply as they feel "intimidated" by the job descriptions or "unsure" of what they'll be facing.

*\*\*\*NOTE: This study was not conducted specifically with regards to individuals with disabilities. This represents ALL employees. Now consider the challenges faced by a person with a disability...*

**Would This Help (ALL potential employees)?  
Universal Design...**



# UNIVERSAL DESIGN



Making design accessible to everyone in society

## 7 PRINCIPLES OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN:



Equitable



Flexibility



Simple &  
intuitive



Perception  
information



Tolerance  
for error



Low physical  
effort



Size &  
space



# Disability Impacts **ALL of US**

COMMUNITIES



HEALTH





ACCESS



61 million adults in the United States live with a disability



 People living with a disability  
 People living with no disability

**26%**  
(1 in 4)

of adults in  
the United States  
have some type  
of disability

The percentage of people  
living with disabilities is  
highest in the South



## Percentage of adults with select functional disability types





# The Statistics Speak...

- 1 in 59 Children will be born with Autism.

15 Million People in the US are suffering from Social Anxiety

1 in 6 people in the US has a disability





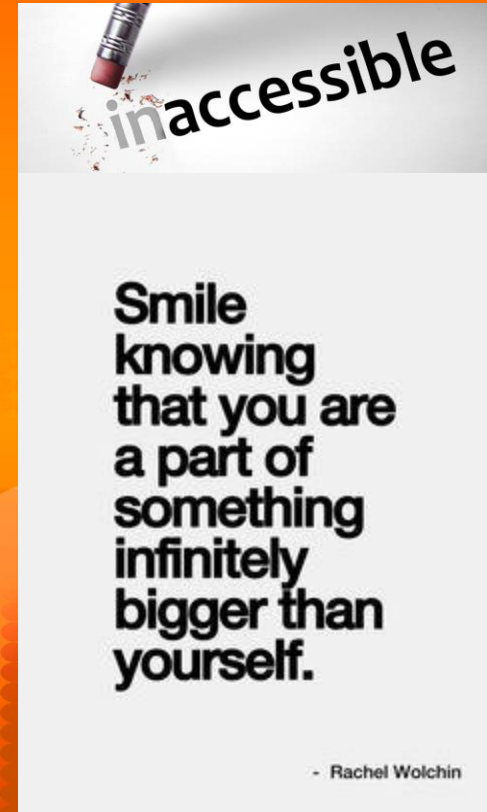
# According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics...

“A large proportion of persons with a disability—about 8 in 10—were not in the labor force in 2017, compared with about 3 in 10 of those with no disability.”

Approximately 80% of persons with a  
disability are not in the workforce

# ***MANY are joining the Able Eyes movement?***

- ❖ Businesses willing and excited to help us create more **inclusive communities**.
- ❖ Providing a tool for children and adults to **feel comfortable** experiencing new locations.
- ❖ Increasing **independence** for children and adults with disabilities.






# Local Partners





A long-exposure photograph of two people standing in the center of a massive, circular shower of sparks or molten metal. The sparks create a dense, golden-brown web of lines that fills the background. In the center of the spark shower, there is a bright, glowing ring of light. The two people are silhouetted against the bright background. The overall scene is dramatic and industrial.

"Accessibility allows us to tap  
into everyone's potential."  
- Debra Ruh



*Take a tour at*

[www.AbleEyes.org](http://www.AbleEyes.org)

[Meegan@AbleEyes.org](mailto:Meegan@AbleEyes.org)



