

## THE MIRACLE WORKER (1962)

*Film Streams and Nebraska Foundation for Visually Impaired Children (NFVIC) to present a collaborative screening and post-show discussion on educational services related to deaf-blindness*

**Omaha, Nebraska** (Tuesday, July 14, 2009)— On Tuesday, August 25, at 6:30 p.m., Film Streams and the Nebraska Foundation for Visually Impaired Children (NFVIC) will present a special collaborative screening of director Arthur Penn's Oscar-nominated film **THE MIRACLE WORKER**. Following the film will be a post-show panel discussion on education services related to deaf-blindness. Panelists will include NFVIC Executive Director Teresa Gregg and Matthew Pettit, a deaf-blind student.

The screening and discussion will take place at Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater, located at the corner of 14th and Webster within the Saddle Creek Records complex in downtown Omaha. The collaboration is part of Film Streams' Community Development Program, which facilitates partnerships with other nonprofits and community groups on film-related events that speak to their missions and programming.

First released in 1962, **THE MIRACLE WORKER** tells the moving story of Helen Keller—who suffered an illness as a baby that left her deaf and blind—and her devoted teacher Annie Sullivan. The film received five Academy Award nominations and earned Oscars for both Anne Bancroft (as Sullivan) and Patty Duke (as Keller).

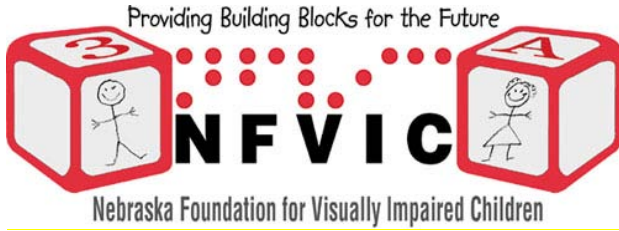
The collaboration between Film Streams and the NFVIC brings together two organizations touched greatly by the legacy of longtime educator Ruth Sokolof, who dedicated much of her life to teaching children with disabilities. Starting out as a nursery school teacher at Beth El Synagogue, Ruth Sokolof was instrumental in establishing a pre-school for visually impaired students—later becoming part of Omaha's J.P. Lord School. Ruth's daughter Karen Sokolof Javitch continued her mother's legacy of working with visually impaired students, including many of the same children Ruth had taught when they were in pre-school. In 2005, the Sokolof Family Foundation made an early and pivotal gift to Film Streams' Start-Up Capital Campaign, naming the Ruth Sokolof Theater in her honor.

The collaborative film event takes place as the NFVIC, a nonprofit whose mission is to enhance the lifestyle and education of children who are blind or visually impaired, approaches its 50th anniversary, and within the 200th anniversary of the birth of Louis Braille, who invented a system enabling blind persons to read and write independently.

Tickets for **THE MIRACLE WORKER** screening and post-show discussion are on sale now at the box office inside Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater (14th and Webster) and online at [www.filmstreams.org](http://www.filmstreams.org). Tickets are \$8 general admission, \$6 for seniors, students and teachers, and \$4 for Film Streams Members.

For more information, please contact Casey Logan by phone at (402) 933-0259 x 11 or email at [casey@filmstreams.org](mailto:casey@filmstreams.org).

**Please see the following page for more information about NFVIC and Film Streams.**



The Nebraska Foundation for Visually Impaired Children (NFVIC) is a charitable 501(C)(3) non-profit corporation. The NFVIC was incorporated May 26, 1960. We have a 42-year history of advocating for children who are blind or visually impaired in the State of Nebraska. The NFVIC helps these children attain the resources they might need to ensure an opportunity for an independent and successful future.

Our mission is to enhance the lifestyle and education of children who are blind or visually impaired by providing funds and advocating for the following:

- Assistive technology, adaptive devices, and related services for the children's' daily use;
- Cultural experiences for the children and their families;
- Training opportunities for educators and parents; and
- Mentoring/Support programs for the children, their families, and their educators.

For more information, please visit [www.nebraskafoundation.org](http://www.nebraskafoundation.org).



Film Streams is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the cultural environment of the Omaha-Council Bluffs area through the presentation and discussion of film as an art form. In July 2007, we opened the Ruth Sokolof Theater, our two-screen cinema located within the Saddle Creek Records complex north of downtown Omaha. For more information, visit us online at [www.filmstreams.org](http://www.filmstreams.org).

