



What is NEIRRS?

For many, it's the area's most important radio station, and yet you can't hear it on your home or car stereo. In fact, unless you have some form of visual or reading impairment, you've probably never heard it at all. It's called NEIRRS (pronounced "nears"); an acronym for Northeast Indiana Radio Reading Service.

Every day NEIRRS broadcasts the reading of local news and features from the Journal Gazette and News-Sentinel, selections from over a dozen outlying area newspapers, grocery flyers, magazines, short stories and much more. Our signal travels a 50-mile radius and is carried over a sub-channel frequency provided at cost by WBCL FM, which is picked up by special SCA radios loaned to our listeners at no charge. NEIRRS is a source of in-depth news, community connection, and the voice of an old friend for thousands of listeners. And those voices are provided by over 150 volunteer readers.

NEIRRS has improved its service by upgrading to digital equipment. We've also expanded our audience by actively seeking out the print-impaired throughout the region. We're developing additional ways to access our readings on the web and at special facilities. We broadcast 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

NEIRRS is not-for-profit organized through the Allen County Public Library Foundation. We receive major non-financial support from the Allen County Public Library, which provides building space, staff support, utilities, and other operational resources. However, to maintain our service, we need help from the community. You can help in three ways: **1) Make a donation to ACPLF / NEIRRS** and send to 7615 DiSalle Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46825. Contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations, and charitable organizations are gratefully accepted and are tax deductible. **2) Become a volunteer.** We need good readers with clear voices to read live with a partner or to be recorded. If you love reading and always dreamed of being on the radio this is a fun way to contribute to your community. **3) Tell someone about NEIRRS.** Many blind or print-impaired people, especially those who become so later in life due to aging or illness (macular degeneration, diabetes, Parkinson's, etc.), may be reluctant to admit they are having difficulty, and may not even know our service exists. You can help by telling them about NEIRRS. A simple phone call to our office and we can mail a radio receiver application the same day. You can also request one by mail or print one from our web site.

NEIRRS has been serving those with reading challenges for over 27 years, quietly providing the community with one of its most important radio voices. Lend your voice and help spread the word about this well-kept secret.

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