

## **Interested in Practicing your Braille or Making a New Friend?**

The Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER), International Services & Global Issues Division has begun a “Braille Pals” initiative. This is where any level of braille learner or user can develop friendships with other braille learners and users around the world. Although the main idea is to encourage braille as well as develop friendships in places where it is more difficult to access relationships, braille does not have to be the only format as individuals with low vision and non-braille users are welcome to participate.

Therefore, communication can happen through email or mail. In fact, we initially connect Braille Pals through email, and then it is up to the pals to exchange addresses to begin writing in braille or continue communicating through email.

We are inviting both children and adults to participate. We currently have a classroom of students from the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired communicating with other students in India. We would love to have more classrooms or individual students communicating and practicing their braille with other similarly-aged students around the world.

Additionally, we have a list of fifteen (15) adults from many countries who are learning or using Unified English Braille (UEB) and would like a Braille Pal to communicate and practice with. These interested parties come from countries such as Algeria, Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Macedonia, and Poland. They often speak English as their second language but want to grow, communicate and open themselves up to meeting someone to practice braille with. We hope you are interested in joining in this initiative that can turn into something really special for you as an individual and or as a member of this larger initiative of connection.

If you would like a Braille Pal to practice your braille and meet someone new please contact Lisa Johnson at [lmjohnson1025@gmail.com](mailto:lmjohnson1025@gmail.com). In the email please send your name, location (state, country), age, gender, the languages you speak, your level of braille in English (you may include other languages that you braille), and other information that may help us connect you with an appropriate Braille Pal. You can also see what else we are doing by visiting our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/aerglobalissues/>.