



“The most beautiful things in the world can not be seen or touched. They can only be felt with the heart.”

*Helen Keller*

Helen Keller (1880-1968) was the first deaf/blind person to graduate from college. When Helen was born, she was a happy healthy baby. However, when she was around one and a half years old she became very sick: she had a high fever and a bad headache for several days. Although Helen survived, her parents soon realized that she had lost both her sight and her hearing. Helen tried to communicate with the people around her. She had special motions she would use to indicate that she wanted her mom or her dad. However, she would also get frustrated. She realized that she was different and it was extremely difficult to let others know what she needed. With the help of Helen's teacher, Annie Sullivan, she was able to read, write, and attend school. As Helen got older, she became well-traveled and outspoken. She campaigned for women's suffrage and workers' rights and advocated for people with disabilities. In 1920 she helped found the Civil Liberties Union. Helen spent much of her life working to raise money and awareness for people with disabilities, especially the deaf and the blind.