

IPVI INSIGHTS

Connecting & Supporting Families Whose Children are Visually Impaired, Including Those with Additional Disabilities

**April
2012**



PLAY FOR ALL

LIGHTHOUSE / IPVI FAMILIES

What: A morning of fun for everyone

Where: Chicago Children's Museum at Navy Pier
700 E. Grand Ave., Suite 127
Chicago, IL 60611

When: Saturday, April 14, 2012

Time: Pre-registered families 9:00 - 1:00
General public 10:00 - 1:00

To register or for more information contact:
Mary Zabelski at 312-997-3675

Pre-registration includes:
Free admission for Chicago Lighthouse and IPVI Families
Free shuttle from the Chicago Lighthouse to Navy Pier
(first 50 people only!!)

OPTIMIZING YOUR VISION

April 12 and April 15

Inside This Issue:

Play for All	1
Optimizing Your Vision	2
Ms. Vic's Volleys	3
Sharing the Vision, Parent to Parent	3
Ask M@	5
Stem Cell Research	5
Pre-School Enrichment Program	6
IPVI's MBJ Scholarship Fund	7
Convention Scholarships Available	8
TCL's Vision Rehabilitation Center	9
Optimizing Your Vision	11
FRCD April 2012 Workshops	12
STARNET 6th Annual Family Conference	12
From 1st Steps to 1st Grade & Beyond 4/13	13
From 1st Steps to 1st Grade & Beyond 4/14	13
VISIONS 2012/ FFB Convention	14
ROPARD Sensory Safari	14
Guild for the Blind	15
Oral Hull Summer Adventure Camp	15
Service Dog Eye Exams	15
Hadley Family Ed Courses on eReaders	15
Hadley Course Gives Voice to Braille Music	16
BLIND, Inc. Summer PREP Program	17
FFB's Research & Upcoming Activities	18
USABA Developmental Rowing Camp	18
FFB's VisionWalk, A Cure is in Sight	20
WDSRA Recreational Programs	20
Sale: Onyx/Portable/Video Magnifier w/Camera	22
APH News	21
ColorTestII / Colorino	21
Periodic Table Reference Chart & Booklet	22
TECH TALK: iPhone Apps	22
The Eye Specialists Center	23
IPVI Board of Directors	23
Join IPVI/Renew Membership	24
IPVI Calendar of Events	25

Hello IPVI folks,

The partnership between IPVI and the Lighthouse has always been strong, with the Lighthouse sponsoring many IPVI events, including fund-raising. It's very important for families to show up for the Glenview Grand Opening festivities. As we are all dedicated to making the lives of our blind and visually impaired children the highest quality possible, it is crucial to show support for the new Glenview location, and to get a sense for what it has to offer, as well to provide input for what families would like to define for programming,

I hope to see you there!

Pam Stern
 Manager of Youth/Senior Program
 222 Waukegan Road
 Glenview, IL 60025

(See Page 11 for more details.)

Program Highlights for IPVI Families:

Thursday, April 12:
 11:00a-3:30p: Adaptive Technology
 2:00p-3:00p: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
 5:30p-7:00p: Meeting the Needs of Your Students: Technology and Transition

Sunday, April 15:
 11:30a-1:00p: Tour the Facility
 3:00p-4:30p: Support for Raising Children
 3:00p-4:30p: Teen Scene: Scholarships and Technology

RSVP Required: 847-510-2055 Free Parking.
 View complete schedule at:
<http://chicagolighthouse.org/Optimizing-Your-Vision>

MS. VIC'S VOLLEYS
Victoria Juskie, IPVI Treasurer

VOLLEY I

Since our last publication, we welcome the following families, individuals, and/or organizations who became members:

No new members have joined during this period.

VOLLEY II

Remember to call Vicki at 815-464-6162 if you need to receive *Insights* via snail mail because you do not have computer access. Even if you called in initially, please call again for quality control purposes.

VOLLEY III

I want to personally thank all the men and women geniuses who have brought us the wonderful tool of the Internet. It is a lifesaver in so many ways. No longer do I have to have a shelf of books to look something up. I don't even think my kids know what a set of encyclopedias looks like. Think of all the trees being saved, too. No longer do I have to read chapter after chapter of the Math books of my younger grammar school children in order to proofread their homework. Besides it seems kids are learning many more things than I ever did or I just don't remember learning some of these formulas. (Okay, I admit, it appears that I'm not smarter than a 5th grader.) Instead I just type in terms like "mean, median and mode" and *voila* I get a quick definition and examples of how to complete such math problems.

When it's midnight and I am sweating over four children's homework, having the ability to type in Matt's Spanish homework into the computer to see if it translates correctly saves so much more time than my manually looking

SHARING THE VISION, PARENT TO PARENT

Let's have a dialogue. Do you have a question? One of us may have an answer or at least a suggestion. Submit questions and responses for the IPVI Newsletter to Pam Stern, NAPVI Region 3 Representative:

pamstern3@gmail.com

Next month's question, asked to V.I. professional at the recent Illinois AER Conference (Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired):

MAY QUESTION

What would you like to say to parents?



Newsletter entries will be published maintaining the anonymity of all unless otherwise approved.



Pam
Stern

up each word in the Spanish/English dictionary. I'll let you in on a little secret I have also learned that's even faster than the Internet. Having an A-student 16-year old is very helpful, especially one who can proofread the younger children's math homework off the top of his head. He looks over their equations and verifies quickly if the answers are right even without a calculator. Wow, what a relief. Plus, he can tutor them on how to complete problems with unclear concepts, but I digress.

Another benefit of the Internet is that it helps families in our little or no vision community. It allows us to decipher the medical mumbo jumbo language we find in the reports and correspondence of the medical and/or vision doctors treating our children. See, when my son was two-months old, we got the news of his diagnosis and prognosis in writing which might as well have been in Latin. I didn't understand it. So I painstakingly looked up each medical term on the Internet. There I found sufficient laymen friendly language to decipher the jargon. If there were words in a definition I didn't understand, I looked those up, too. I took these definitions and created a cover letter to the doctor's correspondence which included the layman's definitions of the terms. A doctor's letter is required for school and other service vendors. This laymen terminology cheat sheet helped so much whenever we changed schools, and each year I'd give copies of it to the new teacher as well.

I also researched causes, prognoses, and found helpful hints to boot. Having this information allowed me to tell family, friends, and school personnel what condition he had and what he needed. It enabled me to be a better advocate when speaking with other medical personnel as well because I became enlightened on this topic. This was in conjunction with the wonderful services we received from the Chicago Lighthouse under Mary Zabelski's supervision. (Thanks so much!)

So my tip of the day is if you're not Internet savvy yet, become so. It's not hard. All I can do on a computer is use it as a fancy typewriter and do research. It makes me sufficiently confident in the ability to decipher and communicate with the numerous professionals that affect our lives now because of low vision. It's not hard or expensive to learn. You can take classes at park districts, junior colleges or libraries. You can use the computers at the library for free. Having an instant collection of nearly everything you could possibly need to know and all made available to the entire world was visionary. I equate it to as noble a concept as the American Constitution that gave freedom to all citizens of our country, and which has served the U.S. well for the past 226 years, making it one of the most coveted forms of democracy.

Remember, too, that knowledge is power. Enlighten yourself about your child's condition. Being an ostrich with your head in the sand won't help your child. If you want your child to be a good advocate, you have to show her/him how. Be confident that you understand what's being talked about. Teach your child to advocate for himself. It's important to know what condition one has and to ask for assistance when needed. Becoming aware of one's needs and having the ability to communicate effectively about them will serve one well. At 14, your child has the right to attend the IEP meetings and have a voice in them. The experts will add their desires to your child's plan but you both will also be able to inform them of your child's desires and particular needs as well. Remember that you are the expert about your child. Be polite and forthright in your meetings with the experts, and you'll be active and crucial member of your child's team helping him/her become the best s/he can be.

If you need help with advocacy, the Chicago Lighthouse holds monthly parent meetings

that can help if you live in the Chicagoland area. You reach them at 312-666-1331.



ASK M@



Hi, everyone. I hope each one of you is doing well. I don't know about you, but the spring weather is just making me springy. So in this issue I would like to talk to you about just simply living life to its full-

est. Now when I say that, I do not mean for you to go spend all your money on things that are not needed as so many people misconstrue, but just find what you love to do and truly make it your passion. If you love working on cars, take classes that teach you more about working on cars. If you just love to make things with wood, then in school take workshop. If you love soccer, get out there and just kick a ball around and practice.

Now these are just examples, obviously, but we all could use a little more fun in our lives sometimes. By spending some free time doing what you love to do, I believe it increases your quality of life. Your first response may be, "Oh, I would love to, but I just don't have any free time." But see, the thing is just that, unless you are literally working and cleaning and doing other things that need to be done from time you wake up until bedtime, then you have some free time. For example, reflect on your past week. How many hours did you sit down, turn on the tube, and just veg? Chances are enough time to sit there and say, "Dang, I could have put that time to better

use!"

The point to this is we all have something we love to do or have always wanted to do. Even though there may be some struggles in there, as I always say, you can do anything you set your mind to.

This time I thought I would change it up and keep it fun. I still have a quote, but it's one that I made up. Who knows, maybe it'll be used someday... Ha! Well, it can't hurt to try. So:

"Life passes by very quickly and as we all know, life is tough. But by spending some of your time doing what you love, it makes it so much easier and more fun, especially in times that you are down." M@

I truly do believe in this. I know from experience that if it was a tough day at school or I'm just having one of those days where everything is somewhat agitating, if I go out on the golf course or go to the range, it just makes the day better (that is until the ball goes into the water, but that's another story). So I want you the next time you are having a tough day, for whatever reason, to take some time to go do whatever it is that you love, and I bet that you will feel so much better.

So until next time, see ya!

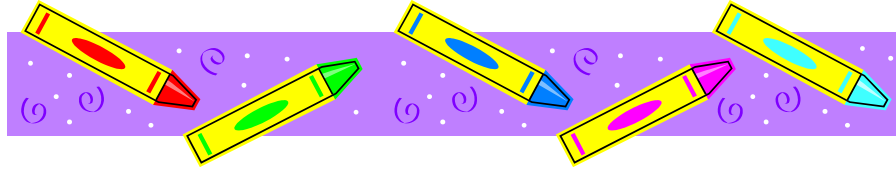


Eye on the Cure: Advancements in Stem Cell Research

We continue to see exciting new advancements and research moving into a human clinical trial phase.

(Continued on page 8)

Pre-School Enrichment Program Now Enrolling!!!



Come Join Us for 8 Weeks of Fun, Friends and Learning
Students will learn social skills, daily living skills,
Pre-Braille/Braille skills and much, much more!

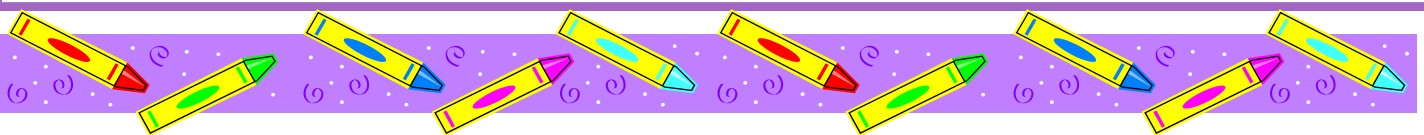
Program Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00-3:30
Starting April 17

The last day of class will be June 7. Please join us
the following day, June 8 for our Special Games. Details
to follow.

Program Location: The Chicago Lighthouse
Children's Development Center
1850 W. Roosevelt Rd.
Chicago, IL 60608

Fee: \$90 (that's less than \$12 a week!)

For enrollment information contact
Mary Zabelski (312) 997-3675 by April 11





IPVI's Matthew Benedict Juskie Scholarship Fund

For students who are blind or visually impaired

Any individual intending to continue his/her education at a college, university or trade school and is interested in being considered for the MBSJF, must meet the following criteria: Illinois resident, blind or visually impaired, undergraduate or graduate student, and an IPVI member.

The candidate's application is processed free of charge. The student must mail or fax a written request to receive a copy of the application from IPVI. Then the student must complete the MBSJF Application Form, provide 3 completed Reference Forms, submit medical records or a letter from the vision specialist confirming the condition, and mail them to IPVI. The applicant may attach a 1-page resume of clubs, offices held, or any other pertinent information concerning his/her activity record.

The IPVI Board of Directors will review all scholarship applications and select the winners. IPVI reserves the right to announce such awards in its newsletters and marketing materials.

The MBSJF is funded completely from tax-deductible donations from **individuals, companies and corporations who support IPVI's goals.** Any individuals or groups wishing to donate to this fund, please forward your tax-deductible donations to IPVI. Thank you for your continued support of IPVI.



To request a scholarship application, please contact the Scholarship Program Coordinator, Vicki Juskie at: 815-464-6162 or vajuskie@aol.com

(Continued from page 5) - Eye on the Cure

Just this week, the Foundation was able to share a major advancement in stem-cell research – one in which blood cells were used to create stem cells, which were then turned into retinal tissue. This groundbreaking work is conducted by Foundation-funded researcher Dr. David Gamm at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

To complement this news, I asked David to be our very first guest blogger on the Foundation's blog, Eye on the Cure. In his post, David does a great job of explaining why, exactly, stem-cell research is crucial to the Foundation's ongoing search for treatments and cures of retinal diseases. He also mentions his team's work, including the recent breakthrough, which is featured on the Foundation's website.

What Dr. Gamm was not aware of when he wrote the post is that the Foundation recently awarded a \$300,000 grant to the Hadassah Medical Center, where other Foundation researchers are investigating the immune system's reaction to the transplantation of stem cells into the retina.

On both Eye on the Cure and the Foundation's website, we'll continue to update you on developments in stem-cell research as they occur. You'll also find stories and discussions about many other treatment approaches, including pharmaceutical, gene therapy and technological. And we intend to host experts like Dr. Gamm as guest bloggers in the future. I encourage you to visit both sites regularly.

These advances would not be happening today without your financial support. It is just that simple.

I thank you so much for being our partner in the fight against blindness.

Sincerely,

Stephen Rose, Ph.D.
Chief Research Officer



CONVENTION

Braille Monitor February 2012 Convention Scholarships Available

by Allen Harris

From the Editor: Allen Harris chairs the Kenneth Jernigan Convention Scholarship Fund committee. He has an important announcement for those who would like to attend this year's national convention but find themselves short of funds. This is what he says:

The Kenneth Jernigan Convention Scholarship Fund is looking for individuals who can use some financial assistance to attend our national convention in Dallas, Texas. In 2012 our convention will begin on Saturday, June 30, and run through Thursday, July 5. The convention is a day shorter than you might expect, ending with the banquet Thursday evening.

Who is eligible to receive a Kenneth Jernigan Convention Scholarship?

If you are a member of the National Federation of the Blind who has not yet attended a national convention, you are eligible to apply.

What do I have to do to apply for a Kenneth Jernigan Convention Scholarship?

You must do the following and are responsible

(Continued on page 10)

For the first time in The Chicago Lighthouse's 106 year history we have opened a new Vision Rehabilitation Center located in Glenview and serving the entire North Shore.



Coming Soon!!!

- **MOMS n' TOTS GROUPS (ages 0-3 years)**
- **SENSORY PLAY GROUPS (ages 0-3 years)**
- **ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY (ages 3 and up)**
- **TOY & BOOK LENDING LIBRARY**
- **PARENT/FAMILY SUPPORT GROUPS**

Stay Tuned...teen programs are being defined!

For more information, call (847) 510-2053
222 Waukegan Road, Glenview, Illinois 60025
www.chicagolighthouse.org/Glenview

The Chicago Lighthouse
Because there is **still** hope.™



(Continued from page 8) - Convention Scholarships Available
for these application requirements:

1. Find out who your state NFB president is and get him or her to write a letter of recommendation for you, or you may have a chapter president or other officer write a letter of recommendation, but we must have a letter from a Federation leader who is familiar with you.
2. You must write a letter to the Kenneth Jernigan Fund committee expressing the reasons why you want a scholarship. Describe your participation in the Federation and what you think you would get and give to the convention. Please send all information to Allen Harris, 5209 Sterling Glen Drive, Pinson, Alabama 35126, or email the information to <kjscholarships@nfb.org>.
3. You must register for and attend the entire convention, including the banquet.

What else must I do to insure that my application will be considered?

We must receive all of the following:

1. Your full name
2. Your address
3. Your telephone numbers (home, business, cell)
4. Your email address (if you have one)
5. Your state president's name and the name of your local chapter, if you attend one

All applications must be received by **April 15, 2012**.

How do I get my scholarship funds?

You will get a debit card at the convention loaded with the amount of your scholarship award. The times and locations to pick up your debit card will be listed in the notice you receive if you are a scholarship winner. The committee is not able to provide funds before

the convention, so work with your chapter and state affiliate to assist you by advancing funds you can pay back when you receive your scholarship.

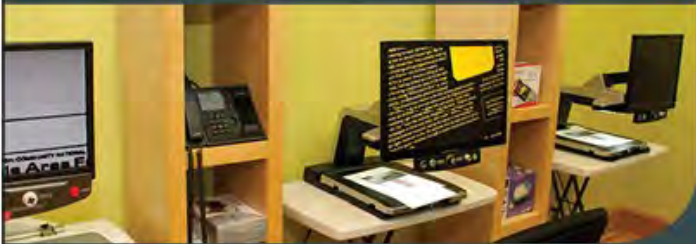
When will I know if I have been selected as a Kenneth Jernigan Scholarship winner?

The committee makes every effort to notify scholarship winners by May 15, but you must do several things to be prepared to attend if you are chosen:

1. You must make your own hotel reservation. If something prevents you from attending, you can cancel your reservation.
2. You will receive a letter with the convention details which should answer many of your questions. It is also helpful to find a mentor from your chapter or affiliate to act as a friend and advisor during the convention. Although you will not know officially whether or not you have been selected until mid-May, you must make plans to attend and then adjust your plans accordingly.
3. Last summer in Orlando the Jernigan Fund scholarship committee awarded sixty-four Kenneth Jernigan Scholarships. The average grant was \$500. You can include in your letter to the committee any extenuating circumstances which the committee may choose to take into consideration. Above all, please use this opportunity to attend your first convention and join several thousand other blind Federationists in the most important meeting of the blind in the world.

If you have questions or need additional information, call Allen Harris at (205) 520-9979 or email him at <kjscholarships@nfb.org>. We look forward to seeing you in Dallas.

OPTIMIZING YOUR VISION



Thursday, April 12th and
Sunday, April 15th

A FREE two-day event
featuring low vision experts
at the NEW Chicago Lighthouse
Vision Rehabilitation Center
in Glenview!



Chicago Lighthouse North | 222 Waukegan Road | Glenview, Illinois 60025

The Chicago Lighthouse's Vision Rehabilitation Center in Glenview serves people of all ages who are experiencing low vision or blindness.

Our programs include Adaptive Technology, Clinical Low Vision Services, Children and Youth Programs, Legal Counseling, Occupational Therapy, Psychological Counseling, Services for Seniors and the Tools for Living™ Retail Store.

For more information, please visit: chicagolighthouse.org/north or email: ilene.green@chicagolighthouse.org

Please call 847-510-2055, if you are interested in attending. RSVP is required.

Free parking is available. The Chicago Lighthouse North is accessible by Pace and Metra. Shuttle will be available on the days of the event from Golf Metra Station.

Because there is **still** hope.™



Click here to see full OPTIMIZING YOUR VISION program

WORKSHOPS

FRCD APRIL 2012 WORKSHOPS

Sessions

(10:00 AM-1:00 PM)
20 E. Jackson Blvd. Room 300
Chicago, IL 60604

Phone Trainings

- 4/10 Procedural Safeguards of IDEA
4/12 Promoción padre eficaz (En español)
4/17 Dispute Resolution
4/24 Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM/Assistive Technology)

(For your convenience we are holding 1 hour training sessions over the phone) (12:00 Noon-1:00 PM)

Sessions

(10:00 AM-1:00 PM)
20 E. Jackson Blvd. Room 300
Chicago, IL 60604

- 4/10 IEP Workshop
4/11 IEP Taller (En español)
4/14 IEP Workshop
4/21 Six Principles of IDEA
4/28 Transition to Post Secondary to Transition with Autism Society of Illinois

You must register in advance in order to get your materials in the mail.

Please call us at 312-939-3513

or

You may register online at:

www.frcd.org

To view the training calendar go to www.frcd.org and click on Events/Training-Upcoming Events. To register for FRCD's Upcoming Trainings, contact us by phone at 312-939-3513, Monday-Friday, 9am -5pm, or drop us an email at info@frcd.org.

CONFERENCE

Illinois Family Leaders

Collaboration presents the...



6th Annual Family Conference

Resources and Inspiration for Adult Family Members and Caregivers of Children with Disabilities

Featuring Paula Kuth

The 6th Annual Conference is featuring Paula Kluth's all day presentation "Do You See Inclusion as a Place or a Process? And 6 Other Questions to Ask Your Child's School." In this interactive presentation, we will explore the philosophy of inclusion and how instruction can be designed for all learners. Participants will discuss the different questions that families can ask their school so that all children benefit and the entire school community is enriched. Information in this presentation can benefit families in Early Intervention and throughout their child's educational career. Planning for education begins in the transition process while children are enrolled in Early Intervention.

Saturday, April 28, 2012

Spalding Pastoral Center
419 NE Madison Ave, Peoria, Illinois

Registration 8:30-9:00am
Conference 9:00am-3:00pm

Hotel Information

Peoria Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau
www.peoria.org

Fairfield Inn & Suites

200 Eastlight Court
East Peoria, IL 61611
309-699-4100

A block of rooms with a special rate is available under the STARNET name. The special rate of \$70 + tax is available for reservations made by March 27, 2012.

SEMINARS



The National Federation of the Blind of Illinois
Presents a Seminar for Parents and Teachers
“From First Steps to First Grade and
Beyond”

Friday, April 13, 2012

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 P.M. — Holiday Inn O'Hare,
5615 N. Cumberland Ave., Chicago

On Friday, April 13, 2012, the National Federation of the Blind of Illinois will hold its teachers' seminar at the Holiday Inn O'Hare. The seminar will be a day-long event consisting of meetings for teachers of children with visual impairment or blindness. Topics will include STEM and transition programs, IEPs, socialization, assistive technology, development of requisite blindness skills, and much more.

Cost: \$25, including box lunches. Overnight accommodations are available for \$72 at the O'Hare Holiday Inn by calling (773) 693-5800. Indicate that you are asking for the National Federation of the Blind rate. For those traveling from outside the Chicago-metro area, financial assistance may be available. Please apply through the Chappell Memorial Awards at www.nfbfillinois.org on or before March 1, 2012.

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) is a 50,000-member organization that works to insure the full participation of blind people in all aspects of society.

If you would like to attend the seminar, please complete the registration form by April 1, 2012. For more information, please contact Patti Gregory-Chang at (773) 307-6440 or patichang@att.net. Vision impairment can be reduced to a nuisance with proper training. Please come and work with teachers, students, and mentors with a positive outlook on blindness.

For more information on NFB go to www.nfb.org. For more information on our Illinois Affiliate of NFB, go to www.nfbfillinois.org.



The National Federation of the Blind of Illinois
Presents a Seminar for Parents and Teachers
“From First Steps to First Grade and
Beyond”

Saturday, April 14, 2012

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 P.M. — Holiday Inn O'Hare,
5615 N. Cumberland Ave., Chicago

On Saturday, April 14, 2012, the National Federation of the Blind of Illinois will hold its annual parents' seminar at the Holiday Inn O'Hare. The seminar will be a day-long event consisting of meetings for parents of children with visual impairment or blindness. Topics will include socialization, education, assistive technology, development of requisite blindness skills, and much more.

Children ages three to eleven are invited to participate in Kids Camp. This all-day program will provide children with the chance to try new activities and to meet other young

people who are also visually impaired or blind.

Young people between the ages of twelve and eighteen may take part in The Teen Scene, hosted by the Illinois Association of Blind Students (IABS). Sessions will include discussions about how to make friends and the transition from high school to college, as well as games and activities designed to facilitate conversation and friendship.

Cost: \$25 adults, \$15 ages 12-18, and \$10 for ages 11 and under, including box lunches. Overnight accommodations are available for \$72 at the O'Hare Holiday Inn by calling (773) 693-5800. Indicate that you are asking for the National Federation of the Blind rate. For those traveling from outside the Chicago-metro area, financial assistance may be available. Please apply through the Chappell Memorial Awards at www.nfbfillinois.org on or before March 1, 2012.

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) is a 50,000-member organization that works to insure the full participation of blind people in all aspects of society. The National Organization of Parents of Blind Children (NOPBC) is a division of NFB that has been helping to spread a positive message about vision loss to parents for more than twenty-five years.

If you would like to attend the seminar, please complete the registration form by April 1, 2012. For more information, please contact Debbie Kent Stein at (773) 203-1394 or dkent5817@att.net. Vision impairment can be reduced to a nuisance with proper training. Please come and learn how.

Sensory Safari

Posted by: Association for Retinopathy of Prematurity and Related Diseases

Date: 04/28/2012

Time: 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

ROPARD is pleased to announce that it will host a Sensory Safari at the Sterling Inn Hotel in Sterling Heights, Michigan on Saturday, April 28, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to at least 3:00 p.m. This event will be open, free of charge, to any child who is visually impaired and their accompanying family.

Age Groups

All ages (birth to 26)

Parents of children with visual impairments

Interest Categories

Recreation

Science/nature

Location:

Sterling Inn Hotel

Sterling Heights

Phone Number: 800-788-2020



The **Foundation Fighting Blindness** is excited to announce that VISIONS, our national conference for individuals and families affected by retinal diseases, will return June 28 – July 1, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis! We received an overwhelmingly positive response from those who attended the 2011 conference, and we are striving to make VISIONS 2012 even better.

VISIONS2012

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS
JUNE 28 - JULY 1, 2012 | HYATT REGENCY MINNEAPOLIS, MN

The conference will feature valuable sessions geared specifically toward individuals affected by retinal degenerative diseases. Science and information sessions will focus on the latest advancements in research, new and exciting treatment options, current and upcoming clinical trials, and practical skills for living and coping with vision loss. In addition, you will have the chance to ask some of the world's best retinal researchers and clinicians your own questions in "The Doctor Is In" sessions.

VISIONS 2012 also offers you the opportunity to meet and network with individuals from around the country, and even the world, who are affected by similar diseases. And you can discover the latest low vision products, services and resources from the vendors in our Exhibit Hall.

No other conference offers so much in one weekend. Join us at VISIONS 2012, where you can learn, share, experience and hope. This conference is not to be missed – register today! The extended Early Bird discounted registration rates are good until March 31, 2011!

What's New in 2012

You asked, we've answered! Since VISIONS is all about you, our guests, we've added some features based on past attendee feedback. Here's what's new in 2012:

- Extended Exhibit Hall Hours
- Beginner & Advanced Level Research Sessions
- Sessions for Adolescents & Young Adults
- More Networking Sessions
- Closing Research Session on Sunday Morning
- Mall of America Bus Trip

Learn more about these exciting new features on the [VISIONS 2012](#) website and in our future e-blasts!

Foundation Fighting Blindness
7168 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 100
Columbia, MD 21046
800-683-5555
www.FightBlindness.org

GUILD FOR THE BLIND

Oral Hull Summer Adventure Camp: Imagine yourself whitewater rafting, kayaking, bungee jumping, zip lining, hiking, or sky diving in beautiful Oregon. It's all possible at Oral Hull summer adventure camp! Week-long camps are available for the very adventurous or the less so. For more information call 503-668-6195 or visit www.oralhull.com.

Service Dog Eye Exams: For the fifth year, the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists will sponsor National Service Dog Eye Exam Month throughout May 2012. Board-certified veterinary ophthalmologists will provide free eye exams to certified active service dogs. To participate, register online at www.ACVOeyeexam.org by April 30th. Once registered, access the list of participating veterinary ophthalmologists to schedule an exam on a first-come, first-served basis.

Reprinted from GUILD BRIEFS April 2012,
*Guild for the Blind, 180 N. Michigan Ave.,
Suite 1700, Chicago, IL 60601-7463, 312-236-8569, www.guildfortheblind.org*



HADLEY SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Hadley Family Education Courses Now Available on eReaders

The **Hadley School for the Blind** now offers three courses in its Family Education Program in a new medium—eBook. Upon enrollment,

students will receive a link to the download page, where they can select a format appropriate for their eBook reader. Hadley eBook courses are compatible with Amazon Kindle, Barnes and Noble Nook, Sony Reader, iBooks app for iPhone/iPod/iPad, and any other eBook reader that accepts ePub or MobiPocket file formats.

The courses include You, Your Child and Your Community, Beginning the Special Education Journey and How to Be Your Child's Advocate. Hadley's Family Education courses are offered tuition-free to parents or grandparents of a blind or severely visually impaired child as well as spouses, adult daughters or sons, or adult siblings of a blind or severely visually impaired adult. The eBook format is especially convenient for busy parents on the go.

Hadley has provided tuition-free distance education courses to its blind and visually impaired students and their families and affordable tuition courses to blindness professionals since 1920. Since 2002, the school has offered online courses.

"We have now been offering online courses for ten years. As we pass this important milestone, we move into the next phase of online education—mobile learning, or mLearning—which offers students the ability to complete coursework from their mobile devices, thus enabling them to on the go, on demand. I am excited to on the cutting edge of this important trend in technology and distance education," says Hadley President Chuck Young.

For more information about Hadley's courses available on eReaders or the school's mLearning initiative, please visit www.hadley.edu.



New Hadley Course Gives a Voice to Braille Music

For music students and performers who are blind, learning to read braille music is essential. For those who are sighted and want to learn about transcribing print music into braille, teaching braille music or simply supporting someone who is interested in learning the braille music code, Hadley's new large print course, "Braille Music Basics," offers an introduction to the fundamentals of braille music.

The prerequisite for this five-lesson course is completion of Hadley's "Braille Music Diagnostic," which assesses the student's ability to read print music at an elementary level, as well as visually read and produce uncontracted braille. Lessons 1 and 2 provide some of the basic braille music symbols used in braille music for any performance medium. Those lessons concentrate on music for single-melody instruments, like clarinet or violin. Lesson 3 explains braille music for voice with melodic and choral accompaniment. Lesson 4 presents braille music for keyboard instruments. Lesson 5 addresses some questions about teaching and transcribing braille music. The information in this introductory course does not enable students to professionally transcribe print music, teach music or teach braille. However, after completing the course, students can enthusiastically support and encourage a music student who is blind and learning to read music independently.

"Learning the basics of braille music is a great opportunity for music teachers working with students who are blind. Reading music should begin for a student who is blind just as it does for one who is sighted. Reading braille music can open many doors toward self-confidence and further independence. This course gives music teachers and parents enough understanding of braille music so they can gain their

own self-confidence in encouraging and helping a braille reader begin reading music they want to play," says instructor Linn Sorge.

Written by musician and braille music transcriber Ruth Rozen, this course is offered tuition-free for students in Hadley's Family Education Program and tuition-free for a limited time for students in the Hadley School for Professional Studies. An online version of the course will be available later this year. The development of the course was partially funded by a generous grant from the American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville, Ky.

For more information or to enroll, please visit www.hadley.edu or contact Student Services at 800.526.9909 or student_services@hadley.edu.

###

About Hadley: Founded in 1920, The Hadley School for the Blind's mission is to promote independent living through lifelong, distance education programs for people who are blind or visually impaired, their families and blindness service providers. The world's largest educator of braille, Hadley enrolls 10,000 students in all 50 states and 100 countries each year. For more information, visit www.hadley.edu or call 800-323-4238.



**The Hadley School
for the Blind**

MISCELLANEOUS

Warm Greetings from BLIND, Incorporated.

It is once again time to start making plans for your summer. This year the PREP, Post-

secondary Readiness Empowerment Program, our eight-week program for blind high school students, will run from June 11 to August 3, 2012. (Formerly known as Life 101.)

This exciting summer program is for blind high school students and is designed to prepare them for academic, employment, and social success. The PREP curriculum is designed to empower blind youth with the alternative techniques of blindness they will need to be successful in the college and the career fields they choose, and to give them the confidence and belief in themselves they need to find and keep a job.

The core classes include Braille reading and writing, independent cane travel, Industrial Arts, adaptive technology, and home/dormitory management, that includes cooking, cleaning, washing and labeling clothes, personal care, and daily living skills.

PREP students live in apartments with fellow students and adult counselors. These counselors and instructors serve as successful and positive role models. Students shop for groceries, prepare meals, and clean their apartments as part of their home and personal management training. They begin to learn how to live independently while still in a supportive environment. They develop problem-solving skills and come to realize that they will be able to take care of themselves and take responsibility for their own futures.

This program is based on a positive view of blindness, that if blind people are given proper training and opportunity, they can be successful in education, find meaningful employment, and live full and productive lives.

Traveling to Dallas Texas

In 2012, PREP students will enjoy the exciting opportunity of accompanying BLIND, Incorpo-

rated staff and adult students when we travel to Dallas, Texas to attend the week long national convention of the National Federation of the Blind, the largest annual gathering of blind teenagers and adults in the world. During this convention, our PREP students will join hundreds of other high school and college students from around the country when attending the National Association of Blind Students seminar and participate in other meetings and seminars and learn about new groundbreaking technology. This annual convention is packed full of fun and great learning opportunities and experiences.

Throughout the summer the PREP students will also participate in a variety of fun activities from canoeing and camping, to rock climbing, and shopping at the mall of America.

For more information: or to complete an application you can visit our website at www.blindinc.org or call 612-872-0100 (ext. 251), or toll free 800-597-9558, or e-mail cguggisberg@blindinc.org

Sincerely,
Charlene Guggisberg, Coordinator for Youth and Special programs



CHICAGO CHAPTER ANNOUNCEMENT

Come and share your thoughts, experiences, and advice with those affected, family members, and friends. Also, learn about the **Foundation Fighting Blindness'** great research and upcoming activities. Join us for a Coffee Social in one of the following Chicagoland locations:

Arlington Heights

Wednesday, April 25th

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Panera Bread-Arlington Annex
5 West Rand Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Naperville

Monday, May 7th

6:30p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Panera Bread
2775 Showplace Drive, Suite 123
Naperville, IL 60564

Frankfort/Orland Park

Wednesday, May 30th

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Panera Bread
11069 West Lincoln Highway
Frankfort, IL 60423

SPORTS



Developmental Rowing Camp,
May 20-25

USABA in partnership with U.S. Rowing, Disabled Sports USA and U.S. Paralympics, is pleased to host the first development camp for rowers with physical disabilities; to include those individuals who are blind or visually impaired in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. A special invitation is extended to disabled Veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces who sustained physical disabilities

(Continued on page 20)



VisionWalk
A CURE IS IN SIGHT

**The Foundation Fighting Blindness'
7th Annual Chicagoland VisionWalk
Kick-Off Luncheon**

We hope you can join us for this free event to kick off our 7th Annual VisionWalk.

Who: All Team Captains, individual walkers, their friends, family and colleagues. We would also like to welcome anyone who has not participated previously and wants to learn more about the event.

What: A free luncheon to kick off the Chicagoland VisionWalk. Learn how you can support the important work of the Foundation Fighting Blindness. VisionWalk will take place on Sunday, June 10, 2012, at Busse Woods in Elk Grove Village, IL.

When: The kick-off luncheon will take place on Saturday, April 14, 2012, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Where: Maggiano's Restaurant, 1901 E. Woodfield Road, Schaumburg, IL.

Why: More than 10 million Americans are affected by blinding retinal diseases, such as macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa and Usher Syndrome. The Foundation Fighting Blindness is working to find treatments and cures for these devastating diseases. Funds support cutting-edge research in areas such as genetics, gene therapy, transplantation, artificial retinal implants and pharmaceutical and nutritional therapies.

Contact: RSVP by Friday, April 6, 2012, to Michele DiVincenzo at 847-680-0100 or mdivincenzo@fightblindness.org. For more information on VisionWalk, please go to www.visionwalk.org.

Join Us at the Walk!

7th Annual Chicagoland VisionWalk
Sunday, June 10, 2012
Busse Woods



Find us on Facebook 

(Continued from page 18) - Development Rowing Camp

(vision loss, lower- and upper-body amputee). Financial support for injured service men and women is available.

Participants will increase their individual rowing technique, build rowing confidence, provide opportunities to row in a team boat and learn the skills of competitive racing.

Deadline for consideration is April 15, 2012

For more information on this camp, contact:

Garrett Klugh, Camp Coordinator
gklugh@hotmail.com
(609) 933-9800

Rich Cardillo, USABA Military Sports
Coordinator
military@usaba.org or
(719) 866-3221

For more information about USABA Rowing Camp and an event calendar, please visit our website at www.usaba.org

- Camps
- Bowling
- Special Events
- Inclusion Services
- Much, much more!

WDSRA is an extension of nine park districts offering:

- More than 1,500 programs, trips and special events per year
- Safe learning environment
- Caring, dedicated, trained staff
- High staff to individual ratio
- Wide range of programs appealing to a variety of interests
- Reaching children with all needs and disabilities
- Inclusion services for park district programs are designed specifically for each child
- Programs that grow with you—preschools to seniors

WDSRA is a two-time winner of the National Gold Medal Award and a recipient of the Illinois Distinguished Agency Award.



**Western DuPage Special
Recreation Association**

630-681-0962

www.wdsra.com

Equal Fun For Everyone

**CELEBRATING CHILDREN AND ADULTS
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS!**

Fun recreational programs for children and adults of all ages with disabilities.

- Special Olympics Sports
- Wheelchair and Adapted Sports
- Drama, Dance, Music and Art
- Social Clubs
- Trips and Outings



**Brand New ONYX PORTABLE/
VIDEO MAGNIFIER W/
CAMERA**

Easy to use & delivers magnification in 3 distinct viewing modes, distance view, document view & mirror- image self-view.

Includes a 19 inch flat panel monitor which has a camera mounted to it that rotates 360 degrees as well as the unique telescopic arm allowing the ability to look in any direction for ultimate flexibility. It also comes with a durable carrying case on wheels which makes it easy & convenient for transporting.

So if you want to make seeing printed type,

pictures, handwriting or just small details easier, then this device is exactly what you need! If you are interested, please feel free to contact Michelle @ 630-460-3747.

APH NEWS

Oldies but Goodies: The "Established" APH Product Series

ColorTest II Colorino

The **ColorTest II: Talking Color Analyzer** is a hand-held device that can help users who are blind or colorblind distinguish colors independently. It has hundreds of potential uses at home, work, or school. This device can be used by both adults and children and can provide increased self-confidence as they obtain the ability to independently do things, such as organize their own wardrobes, sort colored office or school supplies, etc.



The ColorTest II senses over 1,000 nuances of color, is able to detect patterns, and is able to provide color analysis with specific values for brightness, hue, and saturation. It uses a clear human voice to announce information through either its built-in speaker or through earphones that can be plugged into the earphone jack. Additional features include a talking clock, timer, calendar, and thermometer. The ColorTest II has a rechargeable battery and comes with a battery charger, as well as a carrying case.

The ColorTest II is available in Spanish and English and can be purchased using Federal Quota funds.

The **Colorino** is a similar, but less complex device. Although it has fewer features than the ColorTest II, it is a very useful tool and it has the advantage of being somewhat simpler to operate, given that it uses only two buttons. The Colorino can detect more than 100 nuances of color and can also be used as a light detector. The Colorino is not available with Federal Quota funds, but is the lower-priced option. It also has both a built-in speaker and an earphone jack for privacy.



If you have any suggestions for other products you would like to see highlighted in this monthly feature, please send your comments to Monica Turner at mmtturner@aph.org.

New Way to Order: Periodic Table Reference Chart and Booklet

Chart with Braille Booklet: 5-08855-00 -- \$44.00

Chart with Print Booklet: 7-08855-00 -- \$44.00

This frequently requested reference chart is available in a durable and colorful print-braille version. The chart comes with either a reference booklet in print or in braille that contains additional tables listing the elements by name, atomic number, electron configurations, etc. Chart measures approximately 22½ x 13 inches.



New Way to Order: This handy chart is now being sold in a new way. The chart is no longer sold under its previous catalog number, 1-08855-00. Customers now have a choice of purchasing the chart with either a Braille or a print manual. Please use the catalog numbers listed above to order the version that fits your needs.

TECH TALK

MY Favorite accessible IPHONE Apps

By Patti S. Gregory-Chang

As many of you know I am an Apple convert. Like many blind folks I appreciate the accessibility of the phone and the apps that come with it. Not all apps in the app-store however, are accessible. This article attempts to survey my personal favorites.

My reference folder has a simple app called "Dictionary". You type in the word and hit search. The app pulls up the dictionary definition. I also have a free app called "Fastcase" which non-lawyers will also find useful. You can use keywords or citations to search legislation and case law. Interestingly, "Fastcase" is not free if used on the web, but is on the iPhone.

In my social folder I have "Facebook" which is mostly good. It lacks some of the on the web features like full group management and some buttons are not labeled but it can be managed for the things most often used by Facebook users. Byron Lee recommended a very nice program called "Tweetlist" that I like a lot. It is labeled properly and does everything you can do on Twitter.

Both my personal bank and our NFBI bank have

good apps. Bank of America's app is called "BofA". Fifth Third Bank's app is "Fifth Third Mobile Banking". I find both easier than managing accounts on the web via PC.

Many doctors are now part of a bigger network and allow you to access your medical information online. "My Chart" allows you to view and make appointments, view alerts, check medications and see test results.

My navigation folder contains a couple of really good CTA apps. I use "Bus Tracker" which tells you when your bus will arrive at your stop. An icon for "CTA Mobile" allows me to get directions specific to transit in Chicago very quickly.

Now let's talk about fun. My books folder has "Audible.com" which lets me play downloaded books. I also have "BLIO." I use "Read to Go" which plays Bookshare books all the time. That app is fully accessible. It does lock up on occasion but is well worth the trouble. My phone even has games. My favorite is "Accessible Minesweeper". That works like a concentration game. The object is to locate the mines before they blow you up.

So, go and gain efficiency and fun with your iPhone. I know I have.



IPVI

P.O. Box 2947, Naperville, IL 60567-2947

Toll-free: 1-877-411-IPVI (4784) • Email: ipvi@ipvi.org • www.ipvi.org



Jonathan Buka, MD
Alexander J. Khammar, MD
Benjamin H. Ticho, MD
Karl E. Ticho, MD

10436 Southwest Highway
Chicago Ridge, IL 60415
708.423.4070

600 Ravinia Place
Orland Park, IL 60462
708.873.0088

40 S. Clay - 118E
Hinsdale, IL 60521
630.323.4202

PRESIDENT

Bill Bielawski
421 Applegate Court
Naperville, IL 60565
(630) 357-8576
wjbielawski@ipvi.org

OPERATIONS VP

Rich Zabelski
6153 N. Nettleton Avenue
Chicago, IL 60631
(773) 774-4742
richzabelski@ameritech.net

SERVICES VP

Judy Metoyer
221 S. Princeton
Itasca, IL 60143
(630) 414-0825
metoyer.j@sbcglobal.net

TREASURER

Vicki Juskie
21170 Deerpath Road
Frankfort, IL 60423
(815) 464-6162
vajuskie@aol.com

SECRETARY

Dawn Wojtowicz
9188 161st Place
Orland Hills, IL 60487
708-590-6447
deeder0477@aol.com

NAPVI REGION 3 REPRESENTATIVE

Pam Stern
2775 Greenwood Avenue
Highland Park, IL 60035
847-433-0809
pamstern3@gmail.com

THIS PUBLICATION IS SUPPORTED
(IN PART) BY THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION FOR
PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH
VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS (NAPVI)
HILTON/PERKINS
PROGRAM AND (IN PART) FROM A
GRANT FROM THE FAMILY RE-
SOURCE CENTER ON DISABILITIES



Join **IPVI** or renew your membership today!

The *Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments* is a state-wide, non-profit organization that enables parents to find information and resources for their children who are blind or visually impaired, including those with additional disabilities.

Your IPVI membership dues or generous contributions help to support all of our ongoing efforts:

- Regular communications which include: workshops, conferences, training seminars, legislative issues, organizational announcements, products, and advice about raising a child who is visually impaired.
- Offers several \$500 college scholarships each year.
- Publishes a resource catalog which includes anything and everything to do with visual impairment.
- Conducts training and support sessions where parents share experiences and ideas.
- Holds fun outings adapted for children with visual impairments at athletic, cultural, educational, and entertainment settings.
- Represents parents of children with visual impairments at conferences, public hearings, and on committees.

What does IPVI do?

- Promotes and provides information through meetings, correspondence, publications, etc., which will help parents meet the special needs of their children with visual impairments.
- Facilitates the sharing of experiences and concerns in order to provide emotional support and relief from feelings of isolation for parents and their families.
- Creates a climate of opportunity for children who are blind in the home, school, and society.
- Fosters communication and coordination of services among federal, state, and local agencies and organizations involved with providing services to people who are visually impaired.
- Advocates on a statewide level for services to children who are visually impaired and their families.
- Keeps members informed about current proposals and actions which impact on children with visual impairments and their families.

Check one:

Parent/Guardian Membership: \$15 per year.

Child(ren)'s Names: _____

Birthdate(s) of my visually impaired child(ren): _____

My child(ren)'s eye condition: _____

I give my permission to release my name to other parents.

Group/Agency Membership \$50 per year.

Extended Family/Friend Assoc. Membership \$15/year.

Medical Specialist \$50 per year.

Scholarship Fund \$10.00

Donation: \$_____ (tax deductible)

New Membership

Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) - _____

Email: _____

Please enclose this form along with your payment by check to:

IPVI • P.O.Box 2947 • Naperville, IL 60567-2947

Have questions or need more information?

**Call us at
1-877-411-IPVI (4784)**

**Illinois Association for Parents of
Children with Visual Impairments**
P. O. Box 2947
Naperville, IL 60567-2947

**FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND
or PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**THE TOP LINE... of your address
label indicates whether your dues
are "Paid" or if they are "Due."
Please send your annual dues in
each year.**

IPVI CALENDAR

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--|--------------------|
| ▶ April 12 & 15 | TCL's Optimizing Your Vision | Glenview |
| ▶ April 13 & 14 | Seminar "From First Steps to First Grade and Beyond | Chicago |
| ▶ April 17 | TCL's Preschool Enrichment Program Enrolling | Chicago |
| ▶ April 21 | Northern Illinois Vision Conference | Rockford |
| ▶ April 28 | Sensory Safari (ROPARD) | Michigan |
| ▶ April 28 | 6th Annual Family Conference (STARNET) | Peoria |
| ▶ June 10 | FFB's VisionWalk | Schaumburg |
| ▶ 6/28-7/1 | VISIONS2012 | Minneapolis |
| ▶ 6/30-7/5 | Braille Monitor Convention/Scholarships Available | Dallas, TX |

Please call
1-877-411-IPVI
for any questions, concerns,
or comments that IPVI can
help you with.

**Newsletter Deadline for
MAY is APRIL 10th**



**Check Out
www.ipvi.org**

Calendar of Events!
News and Updates!
Useful Links to Web Sites!
And more...