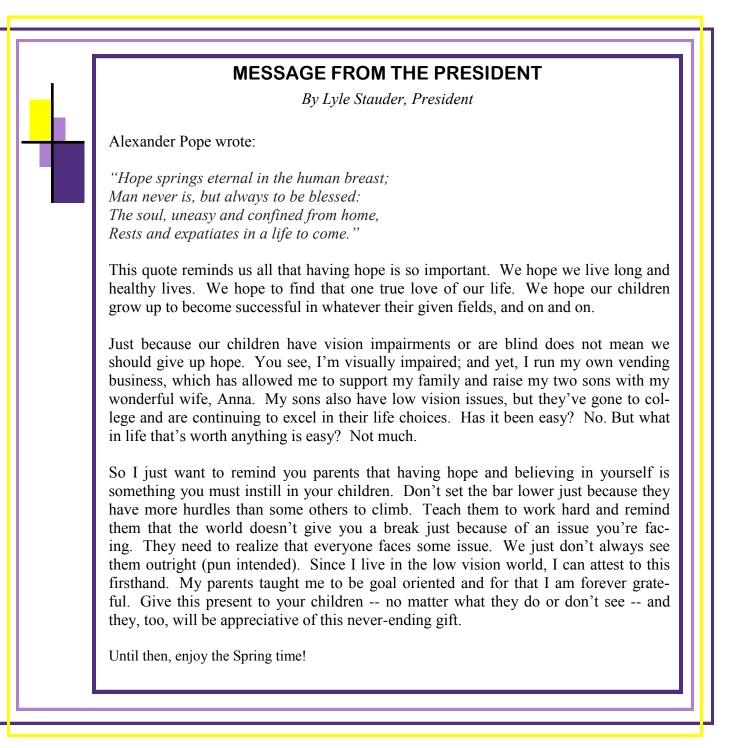
April

2015

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



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IPVI NEEDS BOARD MEMBERS

President:

Coordinate the IPVI Board Activities: write a short monthly update and/or announcement to membership for submission to the Newsletter Editor by the 15th of each month; attend as many major IPVI functions as possible (usually three a year the Membership Outing at the Zoo, the Christmas Party, and the Annual Meeting); and attend a telephone conference call among the board members typically once a quarter which takes approximately 1 to 2 hours.

Treasurer:

Pay bills and verified expense reports, keep track of expenses and incoming donations/monies on Quicken, complete the Hilton Perkins grant application, coordinate the filing of the Non-Profit tax returns yearly, coordinate fundraisers, and attend a telephone conference call among the board members typically once a quarter which takes approximately 1 to 2 hours.

Vice President - Operations

Coordinate the outings under the President's direction, obtain information on other types of outings planned; set up for the annual Illinois AER conference table and attend the meeting(s) if possible, and attend a telephone conference call among the board members typically once a quarter which takes approximately 1 to 2 hours.

Vice President - Services

Coordinate membership, contact and recruit potential volunteers, assist in notifications of the membership, assist in fundraisers, and attend a telephone conference call among the board members typically once a quarter which takes approximately 1 to 2 hours.

Secretarv

Document meeting results, file IPVI organizational paperwork, complete annual IL state corporate filings, assist with fundraising, and attend a telephone conference call among the board members typically once a guarter which takes approximately 1 to 2 hours.

MS. VIC'S VOLLEYS Victoria Juskie, IPVI Treasurer

VOLLEY I

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

Filberto and Rosanna Almendarez, Chicago

VOLLEY II

This month we are highlighting thank you's received from our scholarship and grant awardees. Personally receiving these notes make all the work we volunteers do for this organization worth the efforts. Every little bit helps is basically what we've been told; and after receiving these notes, I agree. I also reiterate that I'm proud of our organization and all of those individuals/organizations that donate to IPVI to make these grants possible.

So my tip of the day, is please continue to help in whatever way you can and you, too, will feel rewarded. As you see from these appreciative notes, anything any one of you donates does make a significant difference in these students' lives; and, in essence, by giving, our lives are enriched. So, please persist in supporting the efforts of IPVI, and we will continue to help as many students as possible. God bless all of you donors whether you give your time or your money as everything counts and makes a difference.

Once again, thank all of you! You're the best!!





PATRICK ACKERMAN



Meet Patrick Ackerman. He and his family have been members of IPVI for nearly two decades when Patrick was diagnosed with optic nerve-retino-choroidal coloboma in his right eye, with anisometropic amblyopia (commonly referred to as lazy eye) in his left eye. He is far -sighted with his close up vision corrected with thick lenses. When Patrick was little, he given therapy by the Chicago Lighthouse staff.

Retinochoroidal coloboma is an eye abnormality that occurs before birth. In retinochoroidal coloboma, the retina, which is the lightsensitive tissue that lines the back of the eye, and the blood vessel layer under the retina, called the choroid, are missing pieces of tissue. In many cases, retinochoroidal coloboma does not cause symptoms, however complications such as retinal detachment, may occur at any age.

The physical aspects of Patrick's eyes caused issues growing up as they obviously made him different from the other children. Additionally, he has some additional conditions, which are

not vision related. Patrick compensated by developing a wonderful outgoing personality through singing and acting. Additionally, he began to be interested in politics and felt his voice could aid in politically advocating for people with all types of disabilities.

He is currently attending the College of Elmhurst studying political science with a minor in communication. Patrick has aspirations to be involved in politics. In fact, he and two others founded The Elmhurst College Democrats back in 2012. They had a bit of a slow start, but once Patrick became President, he made sure that their group had a presence on the campus. He feels they were able to do just that in the first semester as they registered voters, hosted discussions, and ultimately were able to build strong bonds.

Patrick applied for the MBJ Scholarship, however, with his corrective lenses, he is not legally blind which precludes him from being able to receive the total \$2,000 grant. However, due to his eye conditions, we have granted him a \$250 book allowance; and his wonderful letter of thanks expresses his gratitude.

We wish Patrick the best of luck and feel confident he will be very successful any of his endeavors. God bless you and good luck.



This is Patrick Ackerman with the previous Governor Quinn. This photo op came about when Mr. Quinn was presenting the Elmhurst College with a grant for its Science Department on campus,

and the entire student body was invited for the presentation. Patrick was luckily able to attend; and at the end, he was also fortunate enough to be able to briefly talk with the Governor. He felt this was a truly an incredible experience to be in that setting.

See the next two pages for Thank You notes.

Visual Impairment in the Spotlight Thanks to Comcast/Xfinity

By: Dawn Wojtowicz

This winter our son, Jake (11), had the opportunity to interview for a commercial for Xfinity. The interview was simple, just a Skype call on our lap top from home. The interviewer asked him all



kinds of questions about his favorite movie -which is **Star Wars** and his favorite character, Yoda. He was asked to describe the movie and characters the best he could. He described Yoda as being brown, very tall and very old. Although Jake did not get the commercial, it was such a fun experience for him to be able to interview for the part.

The commercial, filmed over holiday break, aired during the 2015 Academy Awards, and starred a beautiful 7-year old little girl named Emily. It is titled "**Emily's Oz**" and advertises Comcast's new talking guide for Xfinity. The commercial directs viewers to take a walk through Emily's version of the Wizard of Oz. Describing the Scarecrow as having wooden teeth, and the Cowardly Lion as being small as a toy poodle and having webbed feet. She then explained Dorothy as looking exactly like her. This was truly entertaining and extremely touching to those that experience life

(Continued on page 6)

August 18, 2014

Dear Mrs. Juskie and IPVI,

Thank you very much for the generous grant towards my books for this school year. I am extremely appreciative of it, and will be sure to use it to further my academic career, as well as my political aspirations. Thanks for thinking of me; your kindness and generosity will forever be cherished.

I can't help but think about how my journey with IPVI over the years. I still remember when I was 2 years old and still living on the northwest side of Chicago and having Susie Kuranishi from the Lighthouse come over to my house once a week to work with me on improving my visual impairments, and also helping my mom with advocating for me throughout my childhood.

Throughout the past 20 years of my life, I couldn't have gotten as far without the direct and indirect assistance along the way. I will forever by indebted to you all without knowing how to thank all of you properly. You have done so much for me, and I am genuinely humbled by everything you have done for me.

Sincerely,

Dear INI, I would like to personally thank you for this amazing scholarship. I am so thankful for the opportunity you have given me. This scholarship allows me to achive my goals and dreams. I had an amazing time last year making brinds, working hard, and learning a lot. hiciwing this scholarship is both an honor and a blussing. Thank you. Sincerely, Stephanie Collins

(Continued from page 4) with a child who has a visual impairment.



I am very excited that visual impairments are in the spotlight as featured in this commercial. Being low incident, visual impairments tend to take a back seat on awareness and products designed for those with them. Comcast really shines in creating the first talking guide from Xfinity. We are thankful to companies such as Disney who offer a descriptive feature on their DVDs and Blu-ray. Comcast takes it one step further in the quest for independence with their new guide.

If you haven't yet had a chance to view the commercial, you can find it on YouTube as "**Emily's Oz**".



IPVI INSIGHTS

PLAY FOR ALL

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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 11, 2015

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

To register or for more information contact:

Mary Zabelski at the Lighthouse (312) 997-3675 or 3695

Pre-registration includes:

Free admission for Chicago Lighthouse and IPVI Families

Free shuttle from the Chicago Lighthouse to Navy Pier

(first 50 people only!!!)





<u>Pathways</u> is a six month summer program for blind and visually impaired youth from ten years old to end of high school. It is headed by a vision and rehabilitation teacher and runs from June 22 to July 31. Pathways includes training in daily living skills, such as cooking, house cleaning, shopping, cane travel, and money management. Kids participate in triathlons, go swimming, learn yoga, learn sailing, visit cultural sites, and participate in the performing arts. There is a \$60 application fee for early registration until May 12, or a \$70 application fee after May 12. For an application, call 312-236-0808.

Bill Green • Youth Program Coordinator • Blind Service Association 17 N State St, Suite 1050 • Chicago, IL 60602 (312) 236-0808 • fax (312) 236-8619 bgreen@blindserviceassociation.org • www.blindserviceassociation.org





The Best Tactile Easter Crafts on the Internet

When I was a kid, Easter was all about crafts. We'd have big egg-dying contests and see who could make the prettiest, most colorful Easter egg.

But what fun is a dyed Easter egg if you can't see it?

Of course all you need to do is use your imagination a bit to think of ways to decorate your eggs with more than just color—you could use puffy paint, glue, or strings to draw tactile lines, or glue jewels or raised stickers to your eggs.



Egg Hunt Sensory Game

On a rainy Sunday afternoon we were looking for something fun to do....

So we grabbed some plastic Easter eggs, filled a tray with rice and created our very own Egg Hunt Sensory Game!

Setting up your egg hunt game couldn't be any easier. All you'll need is:

- 1. A deep tray
- 2. Plastic Easter eggs
- 3. Lots and lots of uncooked rice
- 4. Something to put in your eggs to make sounds

And now the fun begins!

Where to Buy Beeping Easter Eggs

If you're on the hunt for beeping Easter eggs, then you've come to the right place! The search for these often expensive eggs, as well as the commercial talking or noise-maker eggs, can be a headache, and even more so as Easter Sunday draws closer. So to help make the search a little easier this year, we've sifted through the web and browsed our local stores to bring you this list of where to find beeping, talking and noise-maker eggs for your child with a visual impairment. Happy Hunting!



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Please go to **WonderBaby.org** to find out not only more about these items, but many more helpful Easter ideas.

APRIL 2015

IPVI's Matthew Benedict Juskie Scholarship Fund



Any individual intending to continue his/her education at a college, university or trade school and is interested in being considered for the MBJSF, 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 MBJSF 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 MBJSF 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



The National Federation of the Blind of Illinois Presents a Seminar for Parents and Teachers

<u>"Raising the Bar"</u> Friday, April 17, 2015 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Chicago Marriott Midway CPDUs are Available

On Friday, April 17, 2015, the National Federation of the Blind of Illinois will hold its teachers' seminar at the Chicago Marriott Midway, 6520 S. Cicero Ave., Chicago, Il. 60638. The seminar will be a day-long event consisting of meetings for teachers of children with visual impairment or blindness. Topics will include technology, physical activity, and encouraging others to foster independence.

Our keynote speaker will be Natalie Shaheen, director of education programs at the NFB Jernigan Institute in Baltimore.

Cost: \$30, including box lunches. Overnight accommodations are available for \$109 at the Chicago Marriott Midway, 708-594-5500. 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-Dennis Memorial Awards at **www.nfbofillinois.org** on or before **March 15, 2015**.

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 submit the registration form by April 3, 2015. For more information, please contact Debra Kent Stein at (773)-203-1394 or <u>dkent5817@att.net</u> or Denise R. Avant at (773)-991-8050 or <u>davant1958@gmail.com</u>. 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.nfbofillinois.org.



The National Federation of the Blind of Illinois Presents a Seminar for Parents and Teachers

<u>"Raising the Bar"</u> Saturday, April 18, 2015

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Chicago Midway Marriott Midway

On Saturday, April 18, 2015, the National Federation of the Blind of Illinois will hold concurrent annual Spring Seminars for Students and Parents at the Chicago Marriott-Midway Hotel, 6520 S. Cicero Ave., Chicago, Il. 60638. These seminars will be a day-long event consisting of meetings for visually impaired students, teachers and parents of children with visual impairment or blindness. Topics will include socialization, education, assistive technology, development of requisite blindness skills, and much more.

Our keynote speaker is Natalie Shaheen, director of education programs at the NFB Jernigan Institute in Baltimore.

Children ages three to twelve 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. Siblings of your visually impaired child are very welcome.

The student seminar is appropriate for anyone age 13 and older who is a student or interested in student issues. This seminar is run by our Illinois Association of Blind Students. We will have demonstrations of adaptive sports opportunities such as Judo, Beep Kickball, and Goalball. Our guest speaker for the Beep Kickball event will be Judy Byrd of Atlanta, the inventor of the game.

Cost: \$30 for parents' seminar; \$15 for our student seminar; and \$10 for ages 3 to 12, including box lunches. Overnight accommodations are available for \$109 at the Chicago Midway Marriott by calling 708) 594-5500. 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-Dennis Memorial Awards at www.nfbofillinois.org on or before March 15, 2015.

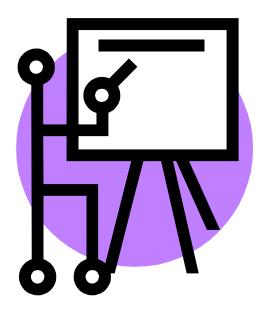
The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) is a 50,000-member organization that works to insure the full participation of blind people in all aspects of society. The National Organization of Parents of Blind Children (NOPBC) is a division of NFB that has been helping to spread a positive message about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

If you would like to attend the seminar, please submit the registration form by April 3, 2015. For more information, please contact Debbie Kent Stein at (773) 203-1394 or <u>dkent5817@att.net</u>. Vision impairment can be reduced to a nuisance with proper training. Please come and learn how.

Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. School for Exceptional Children at St. Coletta's of Illinois is offering a free

SPECIAL NEEDS RESOURCE FAIR

This event is open to the public and for all those with an interest in special needs services.



Date: Saturday April 25, 2015 Time: 9-2 18350 Crossing Drive Tinley Park, Illinois 60487

This event is an opportunity for families to learn about services and programs that local, regional, and state agencies provide for our local special needs community.

Christine Bodzianowski Community Outreach Coordinator cbodzianowski@stcil.org 708-342-5200 ext. 343

FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS

Chapter Announcement



SAVE THE DATE

14th Annual Artistry of Wine ~ Perfect Pairings A Food & Wine Tasting BENEFITTING THE FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS

> **Thursday, June 11, 2015** 6:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.

HIGHLAND PARK COUNTRY CLUB 1201 Park Avenue West Highland Park, IL 60035

> **EVENT CO-CHAIRS** Barbara & Joel Stone Marietta & George Abraham

HONORARY CHAIR Bruce Grieve

Artistry of Wine is a North Shore tradition where we raise a glass and enjoy great wine and delicious food artfully presented by some of Chicagoland's finest chefs, all while supporting the important work of the Foundation Fighting Blindness.

For tickets and sponsorship information, contact Ashley Mooney at (847) 680-0100 or **AMooney@FightBlindness.org**

©2012 Foundation Fighting Gateway Drive, Suite 100,



Blindness, 7168 Columbia Columbia, MD 21046

REGISTER FOR YOUR FREE PARENT WORKSHOP TODAY!



Space is limited; registration is mandatory Please visit **www.frcd.org** or call 312-939-3513 for registration and workshop location.

Six Principles of IDEA: Special Education What You Need to Know Saturday, April 11, 10am-12pm

> **Navigating the IEP Process** Saturday, April 18, 10am-12pm

Skills For Effective Parent Advocacy Saturday, April 25, 10am-12pm

The Family Resource Center on Disabilities (FRCD) offers parents of children with disabilities birth to 21 years old, their helpers, relatives, professionals, and interested community members no-cost training and workshops, telephone and e-mail assistance, and resources to help claim their role as the child's most effective and significant advocate.

You are invited to contact FRCD for information, resources, support and training.1-312-939-3513 | info@frcd.org | www.frcd.org 20 East Jackson Blvd., Room 300 Chicago, IL 60604

APH NEWS

Beep Kickball Needs Survey

APH has received two new product submissions for 1) a beep kickball and 2) buzzing bases. Please complete this needs survey to help APH determine the need value of a beeping kickball kit. We welcome input from young and old alike.



http://goo.gl/forms/eEY54Y5WMi

Paint-by-Number Product Need Survey

APH received a new product submission for a series of original, bold line/tactile drawings that students can use for painting or coloring with crayons or markers. The paint-bynumber instruction will teach "real world colors" for each image. Please complete this short survey to help APH determine the need for a paint-by-number product. Thank you for your help in the development of this potential product.

http://goo.gl/forms/Xrnf6jG57v

Quick Tips Corner

Welcome to a new feature in the APH News – Quick Tips Corner! Every month, we'll be here to tell you all about APH Quick Tips-those short, informative APH-centric videos that



you love so much! APH Quick Tips are archived here: www.aph.org/quick-tips/

And, here are our latest four Quick Tips!



<u>Child in a Strange Country</u> – This interactive display from the Museum of the American Printing House for the Blind shows Helen Keller's educational journey, and is the museum's main traveling exhibit.

Web Chase – This fun APH board game just happens to also help improve tactile discrimination skills!





Products Showcase - The APH Products Showcase shopping site is a new way for credit card customers to shop and rate products!

Tactile Graphic Image Library – A collection of archived, well-designed templates — available free of charge from APH — to aid with the creation of tactile graphics.

Let us know what you think by emailing Kerry at kisham@aph.org. And, thanks for watching!

Order Fall Textbooks Now!

It's not too early to order your fall 2015 textbooks!

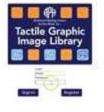
Braille Textbooks formats available:

- Hard copy braille
- Downloadable braille-ready files (.BRF) from the APH File Repository that are ready to be embossed at your location

Large Print Textbooks formats available:

- Hard copy large print
- Downloadable digital files to be used on computers, iPads, Book Port Plus and other digital players
- Downloadable digital files with image descriptions

Check out all the options by visiting the <u>Accessible Textbook Department</u> or calling 1-800-223 -1839. Order your textbooks now for timely delivery for the upcoming school year!







Physicians

Benjamin H Ticho, MD - Pediatric ROP & Adult Ophthalmology
Jonathan S Buka, MD - Ophthalmology-Glaucoma & Lasik Surgeon
Alexander J Khammar, MD - Pediatric ROP Ophthalmology
Karl Ticho, MD – Ophthalmology
E. Michael Cassidy, MD - Ophthalmology
Roshni A Vasaiwala, MD – Cornea Specialist
Hassan A Shah, MD – Oculofacial Plastic, Orbital and Ophthalmic Surgery
Megan Allen, OD – Optometrist
Birva K Shah, OD – Optometrist

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600 Ravinia Ave., Orland Park, IL 60462 P: 708-873-0088 F: 708-873-5224

333 Chestnut Street, Suite 104, Hinsdale, IL 60521 P: 630-323-4202 F: 630-323-6588

> 7001 W Archer Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 P: 708-423-4070 F: 708-423-4216

801 Mac Arthur Blvd. Ste. 302, Munster, IN 46321 P: 219-836-7990 F: 219-873-0175

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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, nonprofit 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.

Check	one:
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□ 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 englose this form along with your payment by check t		

Please enclose this form along with your payment by check to: IPVI • P.O.Box 2947 • Naperville, IL 60567-2947

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.

Have questions or need more information? Call us at 1-815-355-2098 Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments P. O. Box 2947 Naperville, IL 60567-2947 Please contact IPVI to see if you are up-to-date on your dues at the address on the left or 1-815-355-2098 Email: <u>ipvi@ipvi.org</u> www.ipvi.org

IDVI CALENDAR

- ► 4/11 Play for All: Lighthouse / IPVI Families
- ► 4/17 & 18 NFB Seminars "Raising the Bar"
- ► 4/25 Special Needs Resource Fair
- ► 5/12 BSA Pathways Registration Due
- ► 6/11 FFB Artistry of Wine ~ Perfect Pairings

Chicago Chicago Tinley Park Chicago Highland Park

Please call **1-815-355-2098** for any questions, concerns, or comments that IPVI can help you with.

Newsletter Deadline for MAY 2015 is APRIL 15th

