

# IPVI INSIGHTS

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

**April  
2016**



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Filiberto Almendarez III



Hello, IPVI members, family and friends. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new IPVI President. My name is Filiberto Almendarez III, the former Operational Vice President. I am excited and honored to have the privilege of representing the Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments. I thank the prior Board of Directors, the new Board of Directors and all attending IPVI members for their support.

First, in reference to my work and experience, I have over 12 years' experience in Banking. The positions have been diverse from stamping mail while in High School to supervising various Divisions, which include Data Processing, Proof (Micro Encoding), Check Investigation and Deposit Teller. While in Banking, I received my Bachelor in Science from Northeastern Illinois University. Thereafter, I sought work and was hired by the City of Chicago in the Department of Finance. I have worked in Finance for over 20 years. My positions also varied from Data Entry, Accounts Payable, and Procurement to Auditing and Payroll. My enjoyment and familiarity of working with numbers has helped with temporarily filling the Treasurer's position, which is available on the Board.

Now, my Family. I am married to my beautiful wife Rosanna, who has been by my side, hand in hand from the beginning. We have 3 wonderful children. Our daughters are Arianna and Alessandra. They keep my wife and I busy with school activities and sports. I have coached them in basketball since 4<sup>th</sup> grade. They are now in High School. I have passed them



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on to what they call-Actual Coaches---Less yelling. It was fun. Our son is Filiberto IV (Little FIL). He is visually impaired in both eyes and uses his peripheral vision for the most part. It's amazing what he does without complain. He has shown me unbelievable strength and to see through my Heart. The mountains that he has climbed have far exceeded his father's. He is my Little Hero who keeps on TRYING. Now, at 11 years old, he wants to be a DJ. It's what my brothers and I did in our younger years. So, through the guidance of his father and uncles, he is under apprenticeship and will have to provide the Lights and Sounds for family gathering. Aside of his DJ career in the making, we did manage to take Judo together. I quickly learned my abilities. Little FIL was way better than I in Judo. Maybe it's the age. Regardless, we do what we can and venture for more. Only lack of imagination can slow us down. We are a happy, zany Family and I would not want it any other way.

In closing, I look forward to learning as well as contributing to our Organization. Please feel free to reach out to me or any other Board member. We are here to help, share knowledge and offer support. Also, if you know someone who may be interested in joining IPVI or participating as a Board member, please pass along the information. Lastly, my son says, "Hi, my name is FIL." So, feel free to call me FIL.



MEMORIES OF  
HEIDI MUSSER

***AUTONOMY***

That's exactly what I long for as a blind individual, but wherever I turn, my right for independence and autonomy is most often still not respected.

What gives me the greatest joy is feeling autonomous and creative when playing the piano. I have a marvelous memory and excellent ear for playing well without reading the printed score. But I truly would love to interpret exactly what the composer had in mind, when writing down his inspiration as it came to his mind and soul.

Here is what Joseph Golan, first of the second violins with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, put down on paper for me:

*To Whom It May Concern*

*Heidi Musser is a child with a rare musical gift. Her musical "ear" is exceptional in its early development and if properly trained could be phenomenon. She must be encouraged and helped in every way possible. She has what is commonly referred to as "absolute" or "pitch" perfect.*

I attended Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) for six years and ended up receiving a Bachelor's Degree in May 1996 with a focus on Music, yet, professors and administrators could never find a professor teaching Braille Music within the entire State of Illinois. What good is a college degree without the independence of reading and analyzing the music scores by myself? At the present time, after graduating almost twenty years ago, I still rely on my private piano teacher to read and interpret the written music for me. Shouldn't au-

tonomy be based on independently acquiring new knowledge as the foundation of a college degree?

About fifteen years after graduation, I took an Ethics class at Oakton Community College with Dr. Vincent Samar, who introduced me to Emanuel Kant, who applied the concept of autonomy to define personhood and human dignity. Kant claimed that autonomy, along with rationality, are the two criteria for a meaningful life. Here lies the answer to the puzzle I was searching for not only while attending classes at NEIU, but since my graduation.

I loved Dr. Samar's Ethics class, because by introducing me to Kant, he answered questions for me that lingered unanswered in my soul; yet, I finished this class with an "F." Why? When taking tests I was not versed with computer technology for blind students on campus. Also, I failed to search within a regular class period for answers of an open book test in my Braille version of the textbook.

The Americans with Disability Law, which became the law of our nation twenty-five years ago, has brought about vast favorable changes, but sadly, most blind students still lack autonomy to develop their God-given gift.





## **PLAY FOR ALL**

### **CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE *and* IPVI FAMILIES**

**A morning of fun for everyone**

**The Chicago Children's Museum at Navy Pier  
700 E. Grand Avenue, Suite 127  
Chicago, IL 60611**

**Saturday, April 9, 2016**

**Pre-registered families 9:00 - 1:00**

**General public 10:00 - 1:00+**

**To register or for more information, please contact:  
Gail Patterson at the Chicago Lighthouse -  
(312) 997-3695**

**Pre-registration includes:  
Free admission for Chicago Lighthouse &  
IPVI Families  
Free shuttle from the Chicago Lighthouse to  
Navy Pier**

**(first 50 people only!!!)**





# 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](mailto:vajuskie@aol.com)**



# reSources

Spring 2016 (Vol. 21, No. 1)

## The Power of Positive Interactions and Reinforcement with Children who are Deafblind

by Stacy Aguilera, CDBS Educational Specialist



Children who are deafblind need to gain a sense of success and be surrounded by positive experiences to feel empowered and reach milestones in their lives. Even as adults, if we lack confidence in a certain area of our life, we are less likely to venture into that realm. It is much easier to stay where we feel safe than to step out of our comfort zone and try new things. Multiple things have to be in place for us to do anything outside our comfort zone. The same thing applies to individuals with deafblindness. In this article, I will show how to create an environment that allows the space for a child with deafblindness to learn and grow using positive experiences and reinforcement.

## Letting go to let them Grow: Teaching Independence

Myrna Medina, CDBS Family Specialist



When we parents think about our children being independent, we may picture them as all grown up in a happy life, with us hoping that they will find a good job, be part of a community, and maybe even get married. When looking at this future picture, it may seem like “independence” is an event that

happens down the road. The reality is that we have already been promoting their independence from a very early age without realizing that we have started the process of letting them go.

## It’s My Life! Considering the Student-directed IEP Process (Part 2 of 2)

by Julie Maier, CDBS Educational Specialist

IDEA requires that students are involved in their individualized education plans (IEPs) beginning at the age of 17, a year before the student reaches age of majority (18 years of age), and are legally responsible for their IEP at the age of 18 unless they are otherwise conserved. Following a student-directed IEP process is a meaningful and effective way to prepare students for this important adult role. This student-centered process promotes and teaches many of the relevant self-determination and self-advocacy skills that have been identified as high-priority post-school outcomes for students with disabilities. For students to be meaningfully involved in the development of their IEP plans they need to be aware, informed, and allowed to participate, to the greatest extent possible, in all phases of the process—planning and assessment; participation in the meeting and development of goals and identification of supports and services; and consistent evaluation of progress on those goals and effectiveness of supports and accommodations. Students will require varying levels of instruction, support, and feedback from their teachers, support staff and families in order to successfully direct this IEP.



## THE IMPORTANCE OF PRE-BRAILLE

*Linda Gerra, EdD, and Maria DiBernardo, MA*

Close your eyes and count to 60. I bet that was the longest minute ever. Did you hear sounds differently? Did you smell things? Maybe you felt a slight breeze? Now, keeping your eyes closed, I, a complete stranger, will tell you that I'm going to take you for a walk. Do you feel anxiety and apprehension? This was just a short exercise but for some children who are blind and visually impaired, this is their life.

Some believe that when a child is blind or visually impaired their other senses become heightened. Although this is somewhat true and innately they do make accommodations, it is only through experience and instruction that they begin to organize, categorize and anticipate. Through positive experiences and encouragement they learn to trust their guiding hands.

Going back to the previous exercise, let's say I put you in a strange room with your eyes closed. How would you like things described to you? I'm sure it would help you figure out where you were if I told you your position in the room. You might even get a sense of the room if I told you the color and what was around you. It might even decrease your anxiety if I told you that you were going to be sitting on a soft couch. I might even offer you a snack. Are you in the mood for something crunchy and salty like potato chips or something mushy and sweet like rice pudding? Based on your life experiences you already know what those descriptive words mean and know what to anticipate.

## DESCRIPTIVE LANGUAGE— AN IMPORTANT TOOL

From early on, descriptive language is the most important tool that children who are blind and visually impaired can receive. Descriptive language helps the child to start categorizing, it decreases their anxiety, and helps them learn to anticipate. Through descriptive language they learn to become aware of where their body is in space. They become familiar with the concept of directionality, which means understanding the 'location' of objects/items/people and 'directions' such as left/right/front/back. Most importantly, through descriptive language, your child learns to trust!

All of these are components and precursors to the next step—pre-Braille skills. With a good foundation, children continue to be immersed in exploring different textures and mediums, learning concepts such as 'in' and 'out', 'top' and 'bottom'. Directionality games include 'left' and 'right', 'front' and 'back', as well as sequencing and pattern tasks such as 'first', 'second' and 'last'.

Learning to explore using two hands in a systematic and graceful pattern is a very important step in the precursor to pre-Braille skills. Introduction to the 6 dot Braille cell includes games using a muffin tin or a half-dozen egg carton, ping-pong balls or large bells to represent each configuration of a Braille letter.

With a little more support and experience children begin to learn to track different textured lines from left to right using two hands and correct finger placement. It's fun to track the textured line and find a break in the line that might have a prize sticker or possibly a yummy snack like a Skittle, M&M's or a Cheerio.

## INTRODUCE THE PERKINS BRAILLER

Well, we're moving right along! Let's introduce the Perkins Braille and start scribbling. Allow exploration of the Perkins Braille using descriptive words and hand-under-hand guidance. Scribble away new Braille-user, using any data configurations you want, periodically stopping to check what you wrote. Take the paper out and read using the correct finger placement while tracking and pretend to tell a story.

Time to play letter detective! You could even have the child put on a badge with the letter that you are going to find that lesson. This is similar to the 'find a break in the line' game except more instructional. Finding different letters and dot configurations within a full Braille cell line is a fun game to start learning and recognizing different dot configurations of different Braille letters. Writing and reading happens almost simultaneously.

As you see, with a good early foundation, encouragement and motivation, the world of Braille is opened up to the fingertips of blind and visually impaired children. Treasure at their fingertips!

It must be noted that not all blind and visually impaired children move on to learning Braille. However, a foundation of pre-Braille skills—description, directionality, and awareness of environment— not only assists children in decreasing anxiety and increasing self-awareness, but also supports them in all areas of development, including recreation, daily living, and pre-vocational skills.

My personal tip? Close your eyes. Based on that experience what would you like to know and how would you like it described to you. Lastly, have fun! Life is a learning experience

for everybody.

**Linda Gerra, EdD**, is a Director, Educational Services, at Lighthouse Guild, and Principal of the Harriet and Robert Heilbrunn School at Lighthouse Guild.

**Maria DiBernardo, MA**, is a Classroom Teacher.



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# NAPVI

## NAPVI Parent Education Videos Now Available!

Video of presentations from the NAPVI Family Conference held in Chicago this summer are now available!

Watch the video for a preview of the speaker presentations with vital information that NAPVI is making available to parents of children with visual impairments.

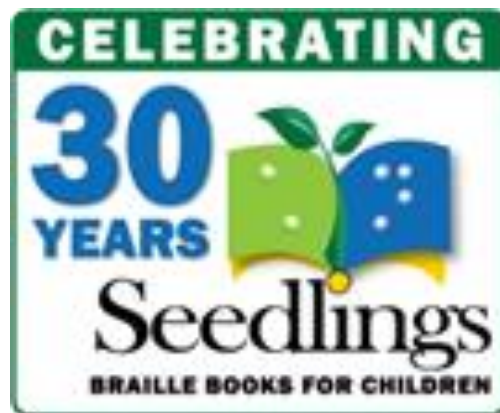
Go to: <http://www.lighthouseguild.org/programs-services/education/napvi/video-3#sthash.PuppcuYs.dpuf>



### **NAPVI Parent Education Videos**

Duration: 3 hours 49 minutes

1. Matt Simpson: "**The Importance of Sport for Developing Confidence and Independence in Life Skills for Youth with Visual Impairments**" (15:25)
2. Karen Wolffe, PhD: "**Social Skills as a Key to Life Success**" (1:10:01)
3. David Gamm, MD, PhD: "**Working with Families with Visual Impairments: A Pediatric Ophthalmologist's Perspective and**
4. Bernadine Noguera, OTR: "**An Occupational Therapist's Perspective on Early Literacy Learning for Students with Visual Impairment and Multiple Disabilities**" (48:50)
5. Gwen Botting: "**Fun in the Kitchen, Skills for a Lifetime: How to Teach Children Who Are Blind to Safely Help Out**" (57:47)



The ever-popular **SENSEsational Alphabet books** are back at Seedlings! And, we are still offering them at our deeply discounted price of \$20 each! The interactive ABC picture books allow blind and sighted family members to learn the alphabet and beginning words in sign language and uncontracted braille together! The book incorporates visual stimuli, movement, touch, smell and sound. Feel the different textures of the horse and lizard, smell the distinctive aromas of apples and roses, move the hands of the watch and pull the zipper, and much more! To order, go to

[http://www.seedlings.org/browse.php?  
search=SENSEsational+Alphabet&field=Item\\_name](http://www.seedlings.org/browse.php?search=SENSEsational+Alphabet&field=Item_name)

Karen S. Smith  
Community Outreach Manager  
Seedlings Braille Books for Children  
734-427-8552 x 301

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter (@SeedlingsBrlBks)!

*"Placing a book in a child's hands is like planting a seed."*





State of Illinois  
Bruce Rauner, Governor  
Illinois Department of Human  
Services  
James T. Dimas, Secretary



## *You're Invited*

### Conferences for Illinois Parents of Children with Vision Loss

Parents of children ages birth through High School are encouraged to join us for in-depth discussions of useful topics. Learn from experts in the field as well as from fellow parents.

#### The Conference Program

##### Parent Discussion Round Tables

Have a question? This session will break the conference participants into small groups to discuss what questions you, as a parent, have relating to your child's vision loss, education and socialization. Educators, therapists and experienced parents will lead these discussions. Come prepared with your questions. The only wrong question, is the one you don't ask.

##### Social Emotional issues

In this session you will hear and discuss emotional issues specific to vision loss. The presentation and discuss may include adjusting to vision loss, being 'different' from peers, socialization, etc. Parents have asked a variety of questions in the past on this topic...we hope to cover some of them.

##### Medical Information

A doctor specializing in Low Vision will talk about care for children with Low Vision. The doctor will tell you about basic vision issues and help you understand more about your child's specific disorder. Come with questions about vision disorders.

##### Transition

This will break out into 2 groups/room with parents of younger children meeting with a presenter/panel who works with younger children and the parents of children of older children will meet with a panel of persons with visually impairment and/or professionals dealing with 'Life after High School.'

#### Northern Illinois Vision Conference

**Saturday, April 16 , 2016**

Center for Sight & Hearing  
8038 MacIntosh Lane  
Rockford, IL 61107

**Time: 9:00 Check-in, 9:30 – 3:15**  
**Conference Program**

#### Planning committee:

Center for Sight & Hearing; Delta Gamma Center for Children with Visual Impairments; Illinois School for the Visually Impaired; Northwestern Illinois Association; Rockford Public Schools; Illinois Machine Sub-lending Agency (Illinois Heartland Library System); StarNET Regions I & III; StarNET Region IV; Illinois Talking Book Outreach Center (Reaching Across Illinois Library System); and Parents of children with vision impairment.



The Chicago  
Lighthouse

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



Seeing  
**WHAT'S**  
**Possible**  
Annual Dinner 2016

Please save the date for our 110th Anniversary  
Seeing What's Possible Annual Dinner.

**Friday, June 3, 2016**

The Four Seasons Hotel Chicago  
120 East Delaware Place

A special evening celebrating 110 years of The Chicago Lighthouse. This black-tie gala will honor **Dr. Joel A. Kaplan**, former Board chair and retired retinologist, who has changed the lives of countless people through his work and with The Lighthouse.

We will also honor a dynamic duo whose names are synonymous with our City, with service, and philanthropy: **Chairman Ed Burke**, the Dean of the City Council and our resident city historian, and his accomplished wife, **Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke**.

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Reception and Silent Auction | 7:30 p.m. Dinner and Program

**For more information please visit** [chicagolighthouse.org/event/gala](http://chicagolighthouse.org/event/gala), or Lindsay Inglis, Special Events Manager, (312) 447-3448, [lindsay.inglis@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:lindsay.inglis@chicagolighthouse.org)

**BLACK TIE** *preferred*



FOUNDATION  
FIGHTING  
BLINDNESS

## Speaker Series and VisionWalk Launch

### “Is The Bionic Eye (ARGUS II®) Right For You?”

We have put together an exciting program with the spotlight on the ARGUS II®, the prosthetic retina that’s been in the news lately! Rama D. Jager, MD, FACS of University Retina and Macula Associates will be performing these procedures in the Chicago area. Mark Bayram from Second Sight (the manufacturer of ARGUS II®) will explain how the device works and both of these gentlemen can answer your questions.

We will also be launching our **11th Annual Chicago VisionWalk, June 12, 2016!** Since 2006, VisionWalk has raised over \$35 million to support the mission of the Foundation. VisionWalk is a fun, family-friendly walk complete with music, food, kids activities, bounce house and more! Join people like you who are committed to changing the future for their friends and family members affected with retinal degenerative diseases.

#### **Busse Woods**

Ned Brown Meadow  
Elk Grove Village, IL

Registration and Fun begin at 9:00am  
Stage Presentation begins at 10:00am  
Walk begins at 10:30am  
RSVP deadline: April 9, 2016

Contact Michele DiVincenzo at 847-680-0100 or [MDivincenzo@FightBlindness.org](mailto:MDivincenzo@FightBlindness.org)

Visit [www.FightBlindness.org/ChicagoVisionWalk](http://www.FightBlindness.org/ChicagoVisionWalk)

*This Chapter Speaker Series is presented without charge and brought to you by The Chatlos Foundation Public Health Education Program of the Foundation Fighting Blindness.*

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7168 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 100, Columbia, MD 21061 | (800) 683-5555

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND



**BELL** **ACADEMY**  
Braille Enrichment for Literacy & Learning

The National Federation of the Blind of Illinois Presents Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning Academy

The National Federation of the Blind is excited to offer its' Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning Academy, BELL, this summer in Springfield, Illinois. This is a great opportunity for Braille skills to be addressed in a fun and new environment. The Springfield program will be an overnight program for child and parent. Local participants may drive in each day. Accommodations, food and programming will be provided.

Where: Springfield, IL

When: July 11-15

Time: 8:30-3:30 programming for children and parent- optional evening activities.

Cost: \$50

We will explore and learn new Braille and blindness skills. As a group, fun field trips will be taken to utilize and improve mobility skills.

Read more and apply at: <https://nfb.org/bell-program> after March 15, 2016.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND



**BELL** **ACADEMY**  
Braille Enrichment for Literacy & Learning

The National Federation of the Blind of Illinois Presents Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning Academy

The National Federation of the Blind is excited to offer its' Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning Academy, BELL, this summer in Chicago, Illinois. This is a great opportunity for Braille skills to be addressed in a fun and new environment.

Where: The Chicago Lighthouse  
1850 W. Roosevelt Rd.  
Chicago, Il 60608

When: July 25-August 5, 2016, Monday-Friday  
Time: 8:30-3:30  
Cost: \$50

We will explore and learn new Braille and blindness skills. As a group, fun field trips will be taken to utilize and improve mobility skills.

Read more and apply at: <https://nfb.org/bell-program> after March 15, 2016.

**FREE SPECIAL EDUCATION  
TRAINING FOR PARENTS**

**FRCD**



**Family Resource Center on Disabilities**  
Providing parents of children with disabilities with information, training, assistance, and support.

FRCD's workshops, training sessions, and hour long Lunch and Learn Webinars focus on specific aspects of the special education system in Illinois. All webinars are free.

**WEBINAR: An Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorder/Autism Speaks Family Services Supports and Resources and Support Session 1**  
Wednesday, April 6, 12-1pm

**WEBINAR: An Introduction to Autism and The ABC's of Behavior-Session**  
Wednesday, April 13, 12-1pm

**NEXT STEPS: Planning Ahead: Future Finances**  
Saturday, April 23, 2pm-4pm

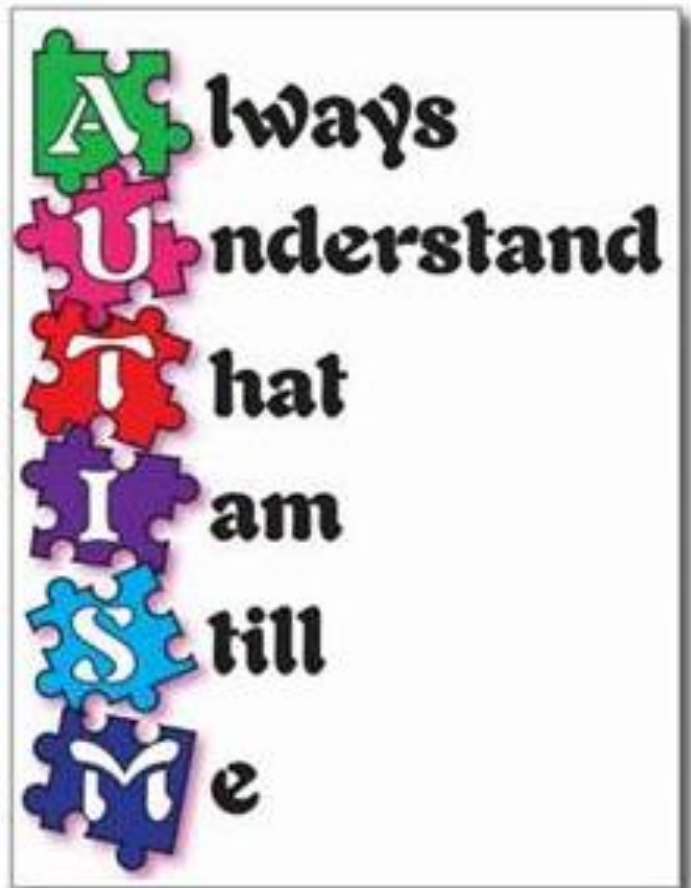
**Lunch and Learn Webinar: Transition to Adulthood**  
Wednesday, April 27, 12-1pm

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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 You are invited to contact FRCD for information, resources, support and training.

1-312-939-3513 | [info@frcd.org](mailto:info@frcd.org) | [www.frcd.org](http://www.frcd.org)  
20 East Jackson Blvd., Room 300  
Chicago, IL 60604



Please contact IPVI to see if you are up-to-date on your dues at  
1-773-882-1331  
Email: [ipvi@ipvi.org](mailto:ipvi@ipvi.org)  
[www.ipvi.org](http://www.ipvi.org)



## NEXT STEPS Training Series

### How to Advocate for Your Child with Special Needs Transitioning to Adulthood

*Free trainings that will help you prepare for your child's next steps after high school*

Do you know your child's goals after high school? Is your child's transition plan in alignment with their post secondary school goals? Are you aware of the types of services available to your child once he/she completes high school?

**NEXT STEPS:** This transition series consists of trainings for families to provide for a young person's transition from school to adult life in the community. This training series will focus on skills and information you will need to work with your child's school and post secondary service providers.

**Saturday, April 23, 2016**

**2:00PM - 4:00PM**

NEXT STEPS: Planning Ahead:  
Future Finances and Supports  
Waukegan Library, Classroom A  
128 North County Street  
Waukegan, IL 60085

**Saturday, May 11, 2016**

**2:00PM - 4:00PM**

NEXT STEPS: Adult Life  
Accessing Services  
Waukegan Library, (TBA)  
128 North County Street  
Waukegan, IL 60085



Register online at [www.frcd.org](http://www.frcd.org) or call Family Resource Center on Disabilities at (312)939-3513.

**IPVI**

**P.O. Box 316634, Chicago, IL 60631**

**1-773-882-1331 • Email: [ipvi@ipvi.org](mailto:ipvi@ipvi.org) • [www.ipvi.org](http://www.ipvi.org)**

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Filiberto Almendarez III  
(Temporary)

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Northbrook, IL 60062  
(847) 217-7590  
[pamstern3@gmail.com](mailto:pamstern3@gmail.com)

**SPANISH TRANSLATOR**

Noelia Gamino





# 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 316634 • Chicago, IL 60631

**Have questions or need more information?**

**Call us at  
1-773-882-1331**

**Illinois Association for Parents of  
Children with Visual Impairments**  
P. O. Box 316634  
Chicago, IL 60631

## **IPVI CALENDAR**

- |                          |  |                          |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| ▶ <b>April 9</b>         | <b>TCL &amp; IPVI Play for All (Museum, Navy Pier)</b> | <b>Chicago</b>           |
| ▶ <b>April 16</b>        | <b>Northern Illinois Vision Conference</b>             | <b>Rockford</b>          |
| ▶ <b>June 3</b>          | <b>TCL Seeing What's Possible Dinner</b>               | <b>Chicago</b>           |
| ▶ <b>June 12</b>         | <b>FFB Speaker Series and Vision Walk Lunch</b>        | <b>Elk Grove Village</b> |
| ▶ <b>July 11-15</b>      | <b>Bell Academy</b>                                    | <b>Springfield</b>       |
| ▶ <b>7/25 - 8/5</b>      | <b>Bell Academy</b>                                    | <b>Chicago</b>           |
| ▶ <b>4/23 &amp; 5/11</b> | <b>FRCD NEXT STEPS Training Series</b>                 | <b>Waukegan</b>          |

Please call  
1-773-882-1331  
for any questions, concerns,  
or comments that IPVI can  
help you with.

**Newsletter Deadline for  
MAY is APRIL 15**



**Check Out  
[www.ipvi.org](http://www.ipvi.org)**

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