

IPVI INSIGHTS

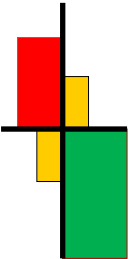


Connecting & Supporting Families Whose Children are Visually Impaired, Including Those with Additional Disabilities

DECEMBER 2018

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Filiberto Almendarez III



IPVI Families, I hope everyone enjoyed Veteran's Day and had a happy and full Thanksgiving. I definitely did. Especially being with my family. It's a time of seeing food through smell. I sure could smell it and almost taste it before I saw it. We all know the smell of Deliciousness and it was.

On another note, I was unable to attend the IPVI Outing at the Children's Museum, but heard it was another joyous event. IPVI families all over the place. Children being out, learning and exploring-*Beautiful.*

Now, since we are in the holiday season, I am looking forward to the last event of the year. The IPVI and Chicago Lighthouse Christmas Party. Many families attend, so make sure to call to reserve your spot. I had the pleasure of talking and spending time with many families and catching up on life. Plus, I will be in the food section serving, so I get to say hello to everyone. Also, there will be music, food, fun and Santa Claus, who will greet all the children and give presents. Don't forget to smile. Pictures will be taken. While we celebrate, we should keep in mind, that Christmas is not as much about opening our presents but opening our hearts. So be thankful to all who have assisted us through the year and be open to help others needing assistance, whether now or in the New Year.

Take care and wishing you and your family, a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year!



Prevent Blindness Declares December as Safe Toys and Gifts Awareness Month to Provide Tips on Purchasing Items for Children

During the Holiday rush, gift buying can be hectic. But before purchasing any gifts for children, Prevent Blindness recommends buyers make safety the priority.

Last year, **U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)** issued a report stating that there were an estimated 240,000 toy-related injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments. An estimated 80,100 of those injuries were to children younger than age 5. And, 45 percent (or 107,400) of the total injuries were to the head and face area, the area of the body with the most injuries. Read more at: <https://www.preventblindness.org/CPSC-data-reports-more-than-107000-face-head-toy-injuries>

Children's Vision and Eye Health

Vision plays an important role in children's physical, cognitive, and social development. More than one in five preschool-age children enrolled in Head Start have a vision disorder. Uncorrected vision problems can impair child development, interfere with learning, and even lead to permanent vision loss; early detection and treatment are critical. Visual functioning is a strong predictor of academic performance in school-age children, and vision disorders of childhood may continue to affect health and well-being throughout the adult years.


The economic costs of children's vision disorders are significant, amounting to \$10 billion yearly in the United States.

Learn More at: <https://www.preventblindness.org/childrens-vision-and-eye-health>

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**THE CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE AND IPVI
INVITE YOU TO A
HOLIDAY PARTY FOR TODDLERS AND SMALL CHILDREN
(FROM BIRTH THRU 9 YEARS)**

**AT
THE CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE
1850 W. Roosevelt Road
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2018**

11:30 a.m. – 2:30 P.M.

**FEATURING SANTA CLAUS, IPVI ELVES, HOLIDAY CAROLS, FOOD,
ARTS/CRAFTS
HOLIDAY PRESENTS**

**Birth to Three Families, IPVI Members - Welcome
(Thank you IPVI, Lions Clubs & Community Partners)**

R.S.V.P. Gail Patterson – 312-997-3695



The One Question I Can't Answer as a Special Needs Mom During the Holidays

By Nicole Feeney

There is pain watching a child open a gift you know isn't appropriate for them, and I don't want to deny loved ones the joy of giving a gift. How do I channel the happiness of the season when things are just so hard? READ MORE at:

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/christmas-question>



To the Special Needs Family Who Just Can't Do Christmas This Year

Shared by Amber Bobnar

A message for all the parents of special needs kids who just can't do Christmas this year: It's OK. Skip it. READ MORE at:

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/cant-do-christmas>



Make Your Own Tactile Christmas Ornaments

By Amber Bobnar

Here's a simple and fun holiday activity! Make tactile Christmas ornaments with your child and create a more accessible Christmas tree! READ MORE at:

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/tactile-christmas-ornaments>



10 Sensory Christmas Activities For Children Who Are Blind

Shared by Amber Bobnar

During the holidays we are baking, decorating and spending time with family and friends. Get your kids involved by having them help in the kitchen, create Christmas decorations or make their own gifts to give to their friends! READ MORE at:

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/ten-sensory-christmas-activities>

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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: \$20 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 \$20/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

December 15 Holiday Party for Toddlers and Small Children Chicago

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

**Newsletter Deadline for
January 2019 is December 15, 2018**



**Check Out
www.ipvi.org**

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