

IPVI INSIGHTS

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

**February
2015**



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Lyle Stauder, President

Well, parents, it's February and many of you who have school age children may be beginning preparations for your son or daughter's Individual Education Plan (IEP). For those of you who have very young children and may not be aware, in Illinois at age 36 months, the State of Illinois provides early intervention services for children with disabilities. Once they begin school, IEP's are prepared to assist your child's education by putting into place certain plans specifically designed to assist your child in school. For example, your child may need an aide, mobility training, Braille instruction, etc.

It is important that you attend these meetings and learn what the system has planned for your child. Don't feel intimidated when you walk in the room and see there are several individuals there -- usually the social worker, your child's assigned teacher, a vision itinerant, and maybe the school psychologist, the Vice Principal, and the local vision agency director, etc. It may feel a little overwhelming being outnumbered, but don't worry. These professionals have your child's best interests at heart. I suggest though that you bring someone with you for a second set of ears and who will take notes.

If you would like to add things, it is then that you should provide your input. If you feel something should be changed or added, your thoughts are important. For example, if your child has some vision, sometimes Braille will not be offered. However, if you feel it is important that this instruction occur, then ask for it. It is your right. There are agencies other than IPVI such as the Chicago Lighthouse or Family Resource Center on Disabilities that provide parent training and pamphlets as well as other reading materials that will explain your rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Re-

MS. VIC'S VOLLEYS

Victoria Juskie, IPVI Treasurer

VOLLEY I

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

Since our last publication, no new members have joined.

VOLLEY II

Since November, I have been hearing from numerous first-year college students. They have told me how hard their tests are; and now we are in 2015, they are rejoicing their first semesters are over. What really gets me though is that 18 years ago, I worried whether or not my vision-impaired child would be able to go to college or ever live on his own. Yet here he stood amidst a group of them echoing the same sentiments.

I was so proud knowing my husband and I helped mold this young man, but I know we didn't do it alone. So I want to again say thank you to the following people whose impact on Matt's life cannot be measured.

Dr. Ben Ticho, pediatric Ophthalmologist
Dr. George Harris, Pediatrician
Mrs. Mary Zabelski, Birth to Three, Chicago Lighthouse
Ms. Sharon Williams, Vision Itinerant Birth to Three, Chicago Lighthouse
Ms. Pat Hall, SOWIC Vision Impaired Program Coordinator
Ms. Debbie Marco, Vision Itinerant
Ms. Jill (Palmer) Punter, Vision Itinerant
Ms. Debbie Faynick, Mobility Instructor
Dr. Charles Bouchard, Loyola Ophthalmologist

Every one of his teachers and principals at the following schools: Indian Trail, Hilda Walker,

Summit Jr. High, and Lincolnway North
Every one of our family members
The other numerous doctors, technicians and specialists as well as past IPVI board members

Lyle and Anna Stauder, Eileen Martin, Bill and Joan Bielawski, Cara Yates, Rich Zabelski, Dawn Wojtowicz and all the other friends who provided support to us during the years, including the volunteers and teachers who led the basketball, golf, bowling, etc. teams.

Each and every one of you (and countless others, too) helped, and we are eternally grateful.

VOLLEY III

This appreciation list is an example to parents with a newborn or young child who is blind or visually impaired. It is also a plea to ask you not to despair. Your child should do well because there are services in place in our state to help; there are dedicated organizations experienced in low vision issues which can assist you; and IPVI can direct and emotionally support you. You will begin to realize that your child will learn but adaptations will be required.

Ensure you reach out to others with experience on this because otherwise you'll continue to feel overwhelmed. Your life will be different than imagined but, in many ways, it will be enriched. No one knows why these things happen to certain people; but in my experience over the last half century, I do know that everyone has something with which they are dealing – some medical, some emotional, some physical, etc. We can't always tell by looking at a person what's going on with his/her life. However, you will grow to be more compassionate, understanding, patient, and educated on your family's issues. You'll become an expert on your child and what works and what doesn't. You will become vocal about his/her needs and be the advocate. It is

important to attend the meetings and doctor/therapist visits. I suggest taking notes as they train the parents initially on how to keep up these lessons daily on their own.



Also, I strongly suggest enrolling your child in a birth-to-three program. The first three years are critical because so many of the bridges in the brain are formed during these years. One of the

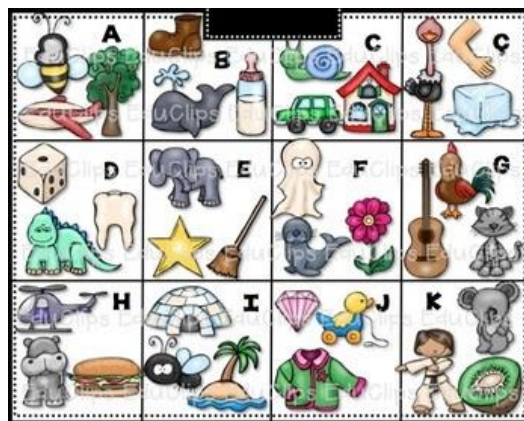
most important things they'll teach you to do is to remember first to treat your child like any other child. Talk and read to him/her; explain the world in vivid detail; and take photographs. Write down milestones and give them some freedom to explore the surroundings safely. Remember, lots of times, children with low vision are quiet babies. I remember thinking how good mine was -- hardly making a peep. Then I was told this wasn't good. This is because when the child is alone, s/he is using hearing to learn but that's not enough. Blindisms occur such as body rocking and eye poking because they are bored. Try to discourage these socially unacceptable activities early on because they will become ingrained habits that are hard to break otherwise. Try not to let her sit alone for long periods of time in a crib with nothing interesting to discover. Put in toys that make noise or talk where he can reach them.



Another good suggestion I received is if your child has low vision, get some colorful striped or high contrasting pattern cloth remnants from a fabric store. Then tape them

on the walls around a foot or two from the ground where the baby crawls. He may start to notice these contrasts and be drawn to explore them.

I also taped a 2' x 4' plastic sheet (which was supposed to go under the high chair to catch crumbs) that had large colorful alphabet letters and pictures on my island cabinet in the kitchen. When Matt crawled or walked past, I'd point to the letters and pictures and tell him about them, saying things like, "This is an 'A' tracing the letter. A is for apple, ape and alligator. This apple is red and the alligator is green." Over and over, I used this chart for several years. It helped him understand the con-



cepts of reading and colors. Even if s/he has no vision, read books while the child is sitting in your lap from infancy forward. Let him touch the pages and hear the stories. There are many books from Seedlings and other places that have textured pictures. These will help comprehension and become the base for learning to read and later to use Braille if required. Remember they don't teach Braille until the concept of reading is understood by the child.

So my tip of the day is there are lots of ways to get creative in teaching your child with low or no vision about the world, seek them out. Remember, you're the expert on your child and you're her first teacher. Keep your expectations high for him. You'll be amazed at this wonderful person that's growing up and maturing, and then you'll be able to let others know just how far your child has come. Stay positive, warm, and take care until next time.

FROM FAMILYCONNECT

Louis Braille's Gift of Furthering Independence for People who are Blind or Visually Impaired

Posted on 1/1/2015 at 4:07 PM
by Shannon Carollo



I am no stranger to the theme of independence. My husband is a member of the United States Air Force. We live on an American military base in Japan. I can't leave my house without being reminded of the independence I have been gifted, for I live alongside those who protect it and sacrifice for it. Oh, how thankful I am!

And there's the independence my husband and I daily (okay, hourly!) instill in our preschool children. For example, I often see a dreadfully messy room, and while it would be ten times less of an ordeal if I quickly reorganized it, I choose to call out, "Sweethearts!" (I say 'Sweethearts' on a good day or I resort to their first and middle names on a frustrating day), "Please come to your room and put away your clothes and toys." **You parents know, I'm trying to think long-term and prepare my children for independent adult life.** I want my children, and my students who are blind and visually impaired, to experience the freedom, ability, and self-esteem that come from accomplishing tasks independently.

It is this kind of independence Louis Braille provided for those who are blind or visually

impaired when he developed braille. **For those whose visual impairments make reading print impossible, uncomfortable, or slow, the mastery of braille opens up a world of independence.** Instead of relying on others for reading and writing or having to solely rely on technology, a person who is visually impaired can rely on literacy achieved through braille. Now he can produce braille and read braille books, magazines, recipes, labels, calendars, lists, reports, menus, maps, and information. He can independently create shopping lists and record phone numbers "on the go" with a slate and stylus or a braille note taker. He can use a note taker with a refreshable braille display to record notes in school or at a work meeting. He can organize print material with braille.

Thanks to the concept of Louis' braille code, no longer does a visually impaired reader need to struggle to read with his nose nearly touching a library book, no longer does he get headaches from the eye strain induced by print reading, and no longer is it a given that he will read at a significantly slower pace than his peers. Yes, a braille reader has definitely been given a gift. Thank you, Louis Braille, for this gift of independence.

While the importance of braille and the independence it offers will remain the same, the braille code itself evolves, though infrequently. The Unified English Braille (UEB) code was established in 1995 to simplify rules and reduce ambiguity, and to harmonize the braille code for all readers and writers of English braille. Come January 2016, an updated UEB code will officially launch. This time the changes include adding technology symbols and removing several contractions. Thankfully, braille will continue to remain relevant in our information and technology age.

So, happy birthday and a robust thank you to the late Louis Braille! Thank you for develop-

ing braille, providing literacy, and furthering independence for those who are blind and visually impaired. (Louis Braille's birthday was on January 4, 1809 .)

For more information on UEB, listen to AFB's free webinar **A Brief Overview of Unified English Braille**. Additionally, if you are the parent or teacher of a child with a visual impairment, please utilize FamilyConnect's **Literacy Resources**. And if your child attends school with sighted students, the **Braille Bug®** is a great way for children to learn more about braille through accessible puzzles, riddles, trivia, and secret "coded" messages.

Braille for Children's Clothing

Posted on 1/7/2015 at 4:35 PM
by Scott Truax

I wanted you to know about a parent who has created a solution for helping her child be independent while dressing. Gracie Benedith has created these items and sent me the pictures and descriptions.



As a mother of a legally blind child, I saw the struggles that my son had to deal with getting dressed every single morning. My husband and I had to get up earlier to assist him with his clothes while trying to teach him how to get dressed independently. I suddenly had an epiphany

to start a clothing line for blind and visually impaired people called Braille Code! Why not have a clothing line that they can call their own?

I designed this line with style that would appeal exclusively to the blind and visually impaired. Braille Code consists of:

- Polo shirts with my three blind mice or Braille Code logo with the braille back patch,
- Button-down shirts and blouses with braille number patches (inside) on each side for correct buttoning,
- T-Shirts with logos and back patches,
- Socks with back patches,
- Baseball caps with Braille Code logos,
- Right and Left adhesive patches to adhere to the inner tongue of any and every shoe to put on correctly!



All these items will assist children to get dressed more efficiently and independently! Although the line appeals to children, this brand can also assist adults who may have been dressing themselves for years to put on button-down shirts, socks and footwear correctly to save time on getting ready and walking out the door on time.

My goal is to give parents like me a way to

help/give our children a sense of pride, independence, and acceptance of who they are with style!

You may contact me at graceisblessed2@yahoo.com if you would like more information.

Announcing Upcoming Sleep Studies in Blind Children and Teens

Date Posted: 01/12/2015

**Is your child blind?
Do they have problems sleeping or trouble with daytime sleepiness?**

Non-24-Sleep Wake Disorder (Non-24) occurs primarily in individuals who are totally blind. People with Non-24 have a "body clock" that does not reset daily. This can lead to problems with sleep and/or daytime excessive sleepiness. To learn more about Non-24, please visit www.non-24.com/overview-video.php.

We are looking for parents or guardians of children and teens up to age 18 that are blind. You can help researchers understand Non-24 by taking a brief phone survey. In addition, you will have the opportunity to be informed of upcoming clinical studies recruiting in your area. The treatment being studied for children is approved for use in adults.

Survey participants need to be parents or guardians of children who are:

- up to age 18
- blind, and
- have sleep problems and/or daytime sleepiness

Collected information will be kept strictly confidential.

For each completed survey, a donation of \$24 up to \$50,000 will be made to organizations that support people with blindness.

If you want to participate in the survey, please call toll-free 1-844-361-2424 Monday-Friday between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM ET, email info@non24registry.com, or contact us online at www.non24registry.com. Thank you!



A New Savings Plan for the Disabled

529 ABLE Beneficiaries Will Still Qualify for Supplemental Security Income
By AnneTergesen, January 11, 2015

A new type of savings vehicle for the first time offers the disabled and their families the benefits of tax-free growth.

Called 529 ABLE plans, the state-sponsored accounts, authorized by Congress in late 2014, resemble 529 college plans. In addition to offering tax-free growth, 529 ABLE plans will allow people with disabilities to save as much as \$100,000 and still qualify for benefits including Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), a federal program for disabled people with low incomes, says Sara Hart

Weir, president of the National Down syndrome Society, which lobbied for the bill.

Previously, to qualify for SSI, a person could have no more than \$2,000 in assets.

Of course, the new accounts aren't for everyone. In particular, families who expect that there might be money left over that the disabled person doesn't use should carefully weigh the pros and cons of 529 ABLÉ accounts versus so-called special-needs trusts, says Michael Kitces, director of research at Pinnacle Advisory Group in Columbia, Md.

Blind or Disabled

To qualify for a 529 ABLÉ plan, a beneficiary must have been blind or disabled before age 26 and either be entitled to SSI benefits or have a doctor's certification of blindness or a "physical or mental impairment which results in severe functional limitations," according to a summary of the law prepared by Len Weiser-Varon, an attorney who specializes in municipal finance in Boston.

In many ways, the new 529 ABLÉ accounts, which state legislatures are expected to start authorizing this year, resemble 529 college-savings plans. A disabled person or friends and relatives can use them to make one-time or regular contributions, which grow tax-free if they're used for "qualified expenses" that include education, housing, transportation, employment training, legal fees and funeral expenses. (If used for other purposes, investment gains are subject to income tax and a 10% penalty.) The account owner—or a person appointed to make decisions on his or her behalf—will pick from the plan's investment options. Currently, the average cost of a 529 college-savings investment is 1.1% a year, according to Morningstar.



But in other ways, these accounts will differ from college 529s. For example, while families who open 529 college-savings accounts are free to select a plan offered by any state, those with 529 ABLÉ accounts must use the plan offered by the state in which the beneficiary resides.

Moreover, beneficiaries with 529 ABLÉ accounts won't be able to amass as much savings as those with 529 college-savings accounts. That's because annual contributions to 529 ABLÉ accounts are currently capped at \$14,000, and each beneficiary is restricted to just one such account—limits that don't apply to 529 college-savings accounts.

Another important difference between 529 ABLÉ and 529 college-savings accounts: Parents, grandparents and others who set up college-savings 529s can be the account owner and retain the right to take their contributions back, provided they pay income tax and a 10% penalty on the earnings. But those who contribute to 529 ABLÉ accounts will be making irrevocable gifts.

Perhaps the biggest downside to an ABLÉ account applies to beneficiaries who receive Medicaid. If they die with money in these accounts, their estates must repay the state for benefits they received after creating the ABLÉ account.

Contrast With a Trust

For families that can fund a special-needs trust (also called a supplemental-needs trust), deciding whether to use that or a 529 ABLÉ account—or both—is complicated. Because these trusts typically cost from \$2,000 to \$5,000 to set up, they often make sense only if there is more than \$50,000 available to fund one, says Steven Cohen, a specialist in disability law in Boston.

While 529 ABLÉ accounts offer tax-free growth, investment gains in trusts are subject to income tax. A special-needs trust allows disabled people or their families unlimited contributions without affecting a beneficiary's eligibility for government benefits. But once an ABLÉ account balance exceeds \$100,000, SSI benefits are suspended. Moreover, when the beneficiary dies, a special-needs trust isn't required to reimburse the state for Medicaid benefits—unless the beneficiary funded the trust with his or her own earnings or savings.

Email: encore@wsj.com



Renewed Efforts by the White House to Change "No Child Left Behind"

On January 12, 2015, the 50th Anniversary of the original introduction of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, outlined the White House's priorities for the revision of this law. The ESEA is commonly referred to as

"No Child Left Behind," the title of the latest reauthorization of this law signed into law by George Bush in 2002. The ESEA was supposed to be reauthorized in 2007, but because of the increased controversy surrounding NCLB and other factors, reauthorization still has not occurred.

In his speech, Mr. Duncan outlined several key components that the White House intends to propose for the ESEA reauthorization, such as: access to high-quality preschool for all students, better support for low-income schools, education that includes more than math and reading, teacher evaluation systems that take into account student progress, and high standards that ensure students are college and career ready.

Mr. Duncan made clear that annual statewide assessments will continue to be a cornerstone of determining whether progress is being made. However, these standardized tests should be streamlined and limits should be set on the amount of time spent on state- and district-wide testing. In addition, unlike the current testing that measures the number of students who are proficient at each grade level, the administration proposes measuring student's academic growth, regardless of the performance level at which they start. Schools would be judged on the progress students are making, rather than how many students are performing at grade level. This would purportedly allow more flexibility and better measurement to accommodate diverse learners. Overall, Mr. Duncan's speech is largely consistent with President Obama's "Blueprint for Reform" released by the the U.S. Department of Education in March 2010.

So what about students with disabilities? As noted by the Council for Parent Attorneys

and Advocates (COPAA) in their May 8, 2011 response the Blueprint provides little detail of how the proposed changes would apply to students with disabilities. In some ways, the absence of comment about students with disabilities is troubling. There is little evidence that NCLB or other recent initiatives, such as charter schools, have had a positive impact on students with disabilities.

There is widespread concern that high stakes testing may negatively affect some students with disabilities. In COPAA's response to the earlier but similar proposal, for example, it notes that accountability provisions for students with disabilities may be watered down or schools may be permitted to divert funding intended for students with disabilities under IDEA to other students based on ESEA accountability provisions, which could reduce overall services for students with disabilities.

Ultimately, there is still more information needed, and advocates and parents of students with disabilities will need to keep a close eye on developments to ensure that students with disabilities continue to have educational opportunities equal to that of their non-disabled peers. And things are moving quickly - Senator Alexander introduced his "Discussion Draft" of ESEA last week, and the Senate HELP (Health, Education, Labor and Pensions) committee is expected to hold three hearings before mid-February (the first was held on January 21). This bill could be voted on by the full Senate as early as late February.

Minority Students and Students with Disabilities are Disciplined More Their Peers

In 2014, the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights conducted a nationwide data collection study on the use of discipline, seclusion and restraint amongst students. Data

was collected from approximately 16,500 school districts and 97,000 schools, including traditional public schools, alternative schools and charter schools.

Even starting as early as preschool, the statistics showed that although black students only represent 18% of the total enrollment, they represent nearly half (48%) of preschool students who receive suspension. In elementary and secondary school, the disparity only continues. Statistics showed that 16% of black students are suspended compared to less than 5% of white students. In addition, when black students are broken down by gender, 20% of boys and 12% of girls are suspended. This is more than three times their white counterparts.

Of additional concern are the statistics on students with disabilities, particularly minority students. The IDEA states that students with disabilities should not be subject to discipline for behavior that is caused by or is a manifestation of his/her disability, or is due to failure by the school to implement the IEP. Yet statistics showed that these students are twice as likely to receive an out-of-school suspension than their non-disabled peers. In addition, while students with disabilities represent only 12% of students enrolled, they represent 75% of students who are subjected to physical restraint and 58% of students subjected to seclusion in schools.

And for black students with disabilities, the effects are multiplied. More than 20-25% are subject to multiple suspensions. And although black students represent only 19% of students with disabilities under the IDEA, 36% of these students are subjected to the use of mechanical restraints, like being strapped down.

These racial disparities are similar to those previously reported in smaller studies, and

(Continued on page 23)

Sharing A Vision Conference

Join Us!

Crowne Plaza Springfield, IL
September 28-30, 2015

Sharing A Vision brings together thousands of Illinois' early childhood educators, administrators, policy makers, advocates, families and many more. This three day, information packed event will connect you with experts who will provide new ideas and best practices to help you reach your goals.

<http://sharingavision.org/index.html>



Request for Presenter

The Sharing A Vision (SAV) Presenter Committee is excited to accept proposals for presentations for the 14th Biennial Conference. **Proposals are due January 31, 2015.**

<http://sharingavision.org/conf/2015/presenters.html>

Exhibitor and Sponsorship Activities

Connect and grow your business by registering as an exhibitor and learn about sponsorship opportunities.

<http://sharingavision.org/conf/2015/exhibitors.html>



Art Gallery Submissions

Showcase artwork from children (birth to eight) attending your program in the Creative Expressions Gallery.

<http://sharingavision.org/conf/2015/gallery.html>

Showcasing Sessions

Showing Sessions are an effective forum for the exchange of information and research, and to present innovative ideas.

<http://sharingavision.org/conf/2015/showcasing.html>



Hotel Accommodations: <http://sharingavision.org/conf/2015/hotel.html>

Tips for the First Time Conference Attendees: <http://sharingavision.org/tips.html>

Jeanette McCollum Nominations: <http://sharingavision.org/conf/2015/mccollum.html>

Contact Info: <https://illinois.edu/fb/sec/6925927>

STAR NET | 6020 West 151st Street | Oak Forest | IL | 60452



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



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scholars@lighthouseguild.org
Director Special Programs, Gordon Rovins

Each year, the Lighthouse Guild scholarship program helps a number of outstanding and deserving legally blind students attend college or attend graduate school with scholarships of \$10,000. Scholarships are based on strong academic accomplishments and merit, and provide additional financial support to help students make a successful transition from high school to a college or attend/remain in the graduate school of their choice. Candidates are **not** required to demonstrate financial need. Recipients of the 2015 awards will be announced at the NAPVI National Family Conference.

Application Deadline

The application period for 2015 runs through March 31. Scholarships are awarded by the summer of 2015.

Application Requirements

1. **Provide proof of legal blindness.** Verification should be in the form of a statement from a state rehabilitation agency, an ophthalmologist or an optometrist.
2. **Provide proof of U.S. citizenship.** A passport, birth certificate, naturalization papers or proof of legal residency.
3. **Send documentation of academic achievement.** Copies of school transcripts and copies of SAT and/or ACT results.
4. **Include three letters of recommendation.** Two letters should attest to your academic skills. Each letter must include the name, address and telephone number of the person writing the reference.
5. **Write two personal statements of 500 words or less.** One describing your educational and personal goals, and *another on the influence of an outstanding teacher on your education (***only for the College Bound Scholarship**)

Note: Your chosen college must be accredited by a body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. All college admissions policies must be non-denominational and open to applicants of all religions, faiths and beliefs.

Available Lighthouse Guild Scholarships for 2015

- **The College Bound Scholarship:** Up to 20 scholarships for high school seniors who will be college freshman in the upcoming school year. This is a onetime only scholarship.
- **The Graduate School Scholarship:** 1 scholarship for students who are pursuing a Master's, PhD or any other post-Baccalaureate degree (MD, JD, MBA, etc.)



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND SCHOLARSHIPS

Attention all students. You have some time over your Winter breaks to work on financial resources for 2015. Please get your applications in for the largest scholarship program in the country for visually impaired and blind students. Simply go to **www.nfb.org/scholarships** for more information.

Also many of our state affiliates have scholarship programs in addition to our national program. You can ask about them when you apply as you will need a state presidents letter.

For our Illinois state program, visit **www.nfbfillinois.org** for applications.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: **March 31, 2015**

Patti Gregory Chang
National Federation of the Blind of Illinois, Treasurer
NFB Scholarship Committee Chair
pattischang@gmail.com

NFB of IL: **www.nfbfillinois.org**

NFB: **www.nfb.org**





Leading the Way 2015 Science in the Grand Canyon

An adventure for blind, visually impaired, and sighted students

One of the seven natural wonders of the world, Grand Canyon is an ideal setting to explore science, culture, leadership, and to listen to nature. In partnership with Grand Canyon Youth, the United States Geological Survey (USGS), and the National Park Service Natural Sounds Program, this opportunity brings together teens who are blind, visually impaired, and sighted for the adventure of a life time. Though a specific skill-set is not required to be eligible for the program, a general appreciation of and interest in science is required.

The first 3 days of this program will be spent on dry land in Northern Arizona. Here, you will build community with your team members, camping skills, and engage in science and service projects. You'll spend the next 8 days on the upper half of the world-renowned Colorado River, where your team will raft exhilarating whitewater, float through calm stretches, and journey by foot through slot canyons.



www.gcyouth.org

Rafting the Grand Canyon is a coveted journey with limited permits. Our partnership with Grand Canyon Youth makes it possible for 10-12 Leading the Way participants to enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

LEAD

STEP OUTSIDE YOUR COMFORT ZONE AND LEARN TO EMBRACE A NO BARRIERS MINDSET.

LEARN

EXPLORE NEW CULTURES, ENGAGE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE AND HARNESS BARRIERS TO UNLEASH YOUR POTENTIAL.

LIVE

EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF TRAVEL AND DISCOVER THE POWER YOU HAVE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.

Program Highlights

- Study Grand Canyon soundscapes and perform research for the National Park Service and the United States Geological Survey every day.
- Raft the Colorado River, hike beautiful canyon rims, and sleep under the stars on sandy beaches.
- Listen to the sounds of everything around you, learn about Grand Canyon geology, and be inspired to unleash the potential of the human spirit.
- Challenge yourself to examine your own leadership strengths and weaknesses, and craft your own personal vision for living a life of purpose and meaning.

This No Barriers Youth 9-month program in partnership with Grand Canyon Youth is designed to show what's in you is stronger than what's in your way. Our mission is to unleash the potential of the human spirit by providing life-changing travel experiences for students and educators of all abilities and backgrounds. Our Leading the Way program was developed in partnership with world-renowned adventurer Erik Weihenmayer. In 2001, Weihenmayer became the only blind man in history to reach the summit of the world's highest peak - Mount Everest. Leading the Way has been featured on ABC Nightline, World News Tonight, Travel Channel, and CBS Sunday Morning.

..... How to Apply

WHO?

Students 15-19 years old at the time of the expedition who are blind, visually impaired, or sighted

WHEN?

Applications are due February 1 and available : http://nobarriersyouth.org/programs/leading_the_way/

HOW MUCH?

Program Fee: \$2075+ airfare to Phoenix, AZ. Each participant will receive a scholarship from the National Park Service Natural Sounds Program to reduce the price to **\$1,225 + airfare**. In exchange, you become an ambassador and provide presentations about what you have learned.

..... Timeline

February 1, 2015:

Application deadline

Spring 2015:

4 team conference calls
July 13-24, 2015: Expedition to the Grand Canyon

Fall 2015: Conduct a Natural Sounds Awareness Project and tell your story!



Leading the Way: Science in the Grand Canyon - Details

Leading the Way Science in the Grand Canyon is an unparalleled educational adventure. On this No Barriers Youth 9-month program in partnership with Grand Canyon Youth, the USGS, and the NPS Natural Sounds Program, you'll dive into field science, community service, and immersive experiences that will empower you and change your life forever!

Before you travel ...

A trip of a lifetime requires thoughtful preparation. You'll engage in team conference calls that cover topics such as scientific research, natural sounds, Southwest conservation issues, and learning how to harness adversities you face. Create awareness about your program throughout your community.

While you travel ...

We value authentic, hands-on travel. You'll explore the rich cultural and natural diversity of the Grand Canyon while learning more about your own leadership style and how to craft a personal vision on how to live life fully.

After you travel ...

You'll harness the energy, knowledge, skills, and values you developed to carry out a natural sounds awareness project back home. Your message of inspiration will help break down barriers between those with and without disabilities.

What's included in the price?

Your program fee of \$1,225 includes all expenses once you arrive in Phoenix, all meals, lodging, ground transfers, taxes, tips for guides and other services, No Barriers t-shirt, journal, basic travel insurance, preparatory curriculum, year-long support, on-site No Barriers Expedition Leader during travel, and professional river guides.

Not Included:

Airfare to/from Phoenix, AZ; and any personal items.



Itinerary*

JULY 13-15

Travel to Phoenix, AZ then head up to the Flagstaff area for your pre-trip orientation and team-building retreat. Learn about science projects you'll do in the Canyon and practice working together in a mixed-ability group. Sighted students need not have previous experience working with blind or visually impaired individuals.

JULY 16-23

Raft and explore the upper half of the Colorado River. Learn about life on the river, natural sounds, geology, desert ecology, and river folklore. Camp on the river banks and conduct science for both the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the National Park Service Natural Sounds Program.

JULY 23-24

Hike out of the Grand Canyon via the Bright Angel Trail. This is a long, strenuous hike that will challenge you to employ your No Barriers Mindset! Once out of the canyon, enjoy a shower and overnight in a hotel in Flagstaff. Then, return to Phoenix and travel home.

*Itinerary subject to change.

**This is a physically demanding program that requires participants to be in good physical condition. The hike out of Grand Canyon is about 10 miles, up-hill in hot desert temperatures. Selected applicants will be required to submit a comprehensive health and medical packet with a doctor's sign-off. Blind/VI participants' Orientation and Mobility Instructors will be contacted to ensure this program is a good fit for each participant.

No Barriers USA
224 Canyon Ave., Suite 207
Fort Collins, CO 80521
T. 877.627.1425



for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



LIGHTING UP little lives

presented by: **The Chicago Lighthouse Junior Board**

Thursday, February 5, 2015

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

DeLux Bar & Grill

669 N. Milwaukee Ave.

TICKETS

\$40 in advance | \$50 at the door | \$350 for 10 tickets

Tickets include 2 complimentary drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and sweets.

ACT NOW! seating is limited. Buy tickets at
<http://store.chicagolighthouse.org/catalog/event-tickets>
or phone David DeBoer at 312.666.1331 ext. 3668

Proceeds benefit The Chicago Lighthouse programs for
children who are blind or profoundly visually impaired.



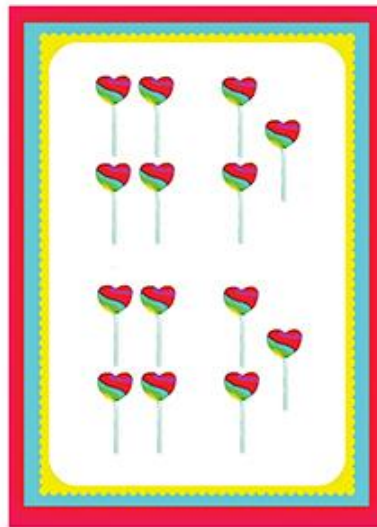
The Chicago Lighthouse
for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired



Braille-inspired designs | See. Read. Support.



inBraille™ Greeting Cards Uniting Art With Cause



Cards are available in Lighthouse retail stores and online. They are sold as a package of 6 for \$22 (or as singles for \$4 each, in stores only.) For larger orders, call our Tools for Living Store at (800) 919-3375 or email us at store@chicagolighthouse.org. To learn more about inBraille™ greeting cards, go to chicagolighthouse.org/inBraille.



The Chicago Lighthouse
for People Who Are Blind
or Visually Impaired



**2015 Illinois AER Vision
Conference**

February 19-20, 2015

Hyatt Regency Schaumburg

Schaumburg, IL 60173

Hello AER members!

I am so excited to share with you our **Conference at a Glance** for the 2015 Illinois Vision Conference. With the help of an incredible program committee, headed by Doug Anzlovar, the IAER Board has created an exciting line-up of sessions for all of our professional divisions. We hope you take a look and become as excited we are! Make sure to **REGISTER** by February 5 to get the early bird rate. Conference is February 19 & 20, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Schaumburg Chicago.

This year we have an exciting experience for our Pre-conference day! Registration for the Pre-conference is combined with the Conference Registration. See the IAER **Pre-conference Flyer** for more information.

We are looking to have a more interactive conference this year. We want to see IAER, know the faces and names of our members. Please send pictures of IAER members to Amy Lund, **alund@sps186.org**. All photos need to have a caption of who is in the photo.

Enjoy your busy holiday times and IAER will see you in February!

Amy Lund
President IAER

Registration is OPEN!

Early Childhood Today: Developing Successful Learners

STAR NET Region VI and the College of Education will hold their eighth annual conference at the Romeoville Campus. This conference is for parents, caregivers and professionals who shape the lives of children ages birth to 5 years old. Workshops will address six themes of social/emotional, speech and language, accommodations, early literacy, health and wellness, and best practices. Please visit www.lewisu.edu/starnet for details and registration.

Wednesday, March 4, 2015
8:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.
(sign in 8-8:30 a.m.)

Lewis University – Romeoville Campus
One University Parkway, Romeoville, IL 60446

FEE: \$35 (includes continental breakfast, lunch, and instruction and workshop materials). There will be no refunds given.

Register at: www.lewisu.edu/starnet

Registration: Pre-registration is required and seats are limited. Registrations will be accepted based on a first-come, first-served basis. No on-site or phone registration allowed. When using a purchaser order, please fax a copy of the purchase order along with a completed registration form for each participant to (815) 588-7070.

Registration must be received by Friday, February 27.

STAR NET provides training, consultation, and resources to the early childhood community. The STAR NET system assists the State Board of Education in meeting local needs by providing services to professionals and parents of young children with special needs throughout Illinois.



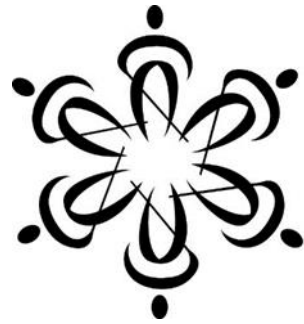
Note: Child care is not available at the conference. Parents of children with disabilities under age 6 can apply for a family fellowship for a reimbursement stipend through STAR NET at www.swccase.org/starnet. Please click on **Fellowship info** to apply.



LEWIS UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Practical. Focused. Relevant.
www.lewisu.edu

Co-Sponsored by STAR NET Region VI and Lewis University, in collaboration with SSAEYC, Early Intervention Training Program, Good Shepherd Center, and Child and Family Connections # 12

STAR NET | (708) 342-5370 | starnet@swccase.org |



NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF THE BLIND

Live the life you want.

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

“Raising the Bar”

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.

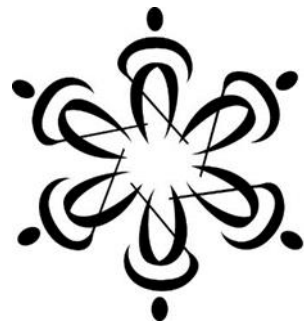
Cost: \$30, including box lunches. Overnight accommodations are available for \$109 at the Chicago Marriott Midway, 708-594-5500. Indicate that you are asking for the National Federation of the Blind rate. For those traveling from outside the Chicago-metro area, financial assistance may be available. Please apply through the Chappell-Dennis Memorial Awards at www.nfbfillinois.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 dkent5817@att.net or Denise R. Avant at (773)-991-8050 or davant1958@gmail.com. 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.



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

Live the life you want.

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

“Raising the Bar”

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.nfbfillinois.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 dkent5817@att.net. Vision impairment can be reduced to a nuisance with proper training. Please come and learn how.

REGISTER FOR YOUR FREE PARENT WORKSHOP TODAY!



Illinois State Board of Education

Gery J. Chico, Chairman
Dr. Christopher Koch, State Superintendent

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:
Saturday, February 14, 10am-1pm

Navigating the IEP Process
Saturday, February 21, 10am-1pm

Skills For Effective Parent Advocacy
Saturday, February 28, 10am-1pm

The Family Resource Center on Disabilities (FRCD) offers parents of children with disabilities birth to 21 years old, their help

ers, 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**

(Continued from page 10) - Matt Cohen & Associates

paint a dismal picture of the state of educational equity. It is clear we have a long way to go to meet our goal of ensuring equal education for every student.

APH NEWS

Notice of Battery Charge Issue: APH SMART Brailer by Perkins

We have determined there is a problem with the battery in some of the SMART Brailer units. Affected batteries are not charging properly. Perkins Products is diligently working to correct the problem that will ultimately result in those customers affected receiving free replacement batteries.



Sales of the SMART Brailer (1-00820-00) and of the Replacement Battery (1-00822-00) have been put on hold until the problem is corrected.

If you believe your brailer has this problem, please contact the APH Customer Service Department at **1-800-223-1839** or **cs@aph.org**. We are also reviewing sales of the brailer and the replacement battery to identify customers who may have an affected unit.

Please note the brailers will perform as intended when plugged into an electrical outlet.

APH will stay constantly engaged in the process until all our customers are fully satisfied.

(Continued on page 25)

WINTER 2015

IN FOCUS

A PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS

We are introducing a new mobile app for the Foundation's newsletter, *In Focus*. This app, now available for free at [Apple](#), [Amazon](#) and [Google](#) stores, was specially designed to allow you to interact with the newsletter in a way you've never done before. By using the app, you can now click from an electronic version of the newsletter to articles on our website that relate to that article. The app also enables you to view the latest *In Focus* in increased or decreased font sizes, and dig deeply into content you find interesting.

This app is available for free in the [iTunes store](#), [Google Play](#) and [Amazon](#).

I hope that you find these apps as helpful and exciting as we do.



With gratitude,



William T. Schmidt
CEO



iTunes Store



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

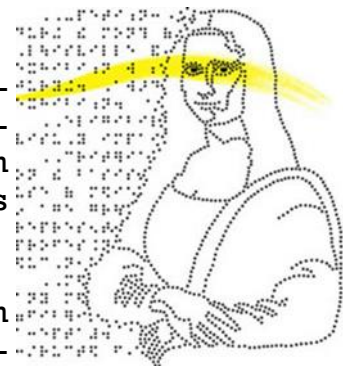
FOUNDATION
FIGHTING
BLINDNESS

(Continued from page 22) - APH News

[The 2015 InSights Art Competition Opens!](#)

The deadlines for the Twenty-fourth Annual Juried Art Competition and Exhibition for Artists Who Are Visually Impaired or Blind have been established.

APH invites visually impaired and blind artists of all ages to submit artwork to APH InSights 2015! This art competition and exhibition is exclusively for blind and visually impaired artists and draws entries from across the U.S. and around the world. Last year we received 315 entries from across the U.S.



Again this year, there are two deadlines: Student Preschool through High School must submit a completed entry form along with the original artwork (no digital images) by **March 24, 2015**; Adults must submit their complete entry package by **April 1, 2015**. Each artist may submit only one entry.

The competition is open to any person who meets the following definition of blindness: corrected visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye (as measured on a Snellen Chart), or a visual field limited to 20 degrees or less. This includes those who function at the definition of blindness (FDB), listed above, due to brain injury or dysfunction. There is no limit on the subject or the type of materials that can be used, but the artwork must be original in concept and execution and be completed by the artist, with minimal assistance from others.

Updated entry forms and rules will be posted on the website in February. Contact Roberta Williams by email with questions: rwilliams@aph.org.

[Proud to be a Partner of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library](#)



The Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL) has been gaining national and international attention since its inception in 1996. In fact, this model program recently received the Library of Congress Best Practice designation in December 2014 for its success in addressing social barriers to literacy!

So how does it work? DPIL has established partnerships with over 1,500 communities throughout the US, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom to help build home libraries for preschoolers. While Dolly's Imagination Library negotiates bulk purchases of books and incurs administrative

overhead expenses, each partner community raises funds to buy those books at a greatly reduced price and ship them to the children in that area. The combined efforts of DPIL and its partners results in the distribution of 9 million books per year!

APH is proud to be connected to this award winning organization to promote literacy right from birth. The APH partnership with DPIL was forged in 2011 to make its annual selection of high-quality, culturally diverse books available in audio and braille formats to visually impaired preschoolers, a community which spans the entire US and its possessions. Through the generous financial support of donors, this print/braille book program – now called Braille Tales – has expanded to include parents and guardians who are braille readers.

You can help fire a child's imagination and demonstrate your belief in the power of reading by making support the APH Braille Tales Print/Braille Book Program at www.aph.org/dolly-partons-imaginary-library/ where you can also learn more about registering a budding braille reader.

APH Winter Wonderland Sale

Load up a world of savings on selected APH products with APH's Winter Wonderland Sale 2015, January 1—March 31. As always, first come, first served.



www.aph.org/products/wonderland.html

Here Are Several Websites That Offer Valentine Crafts for Children Who Are Blind



- ◆ <https://www.pinterest.com/wonderbabyorg/tactile-valentines-crafts-ideas-for-blind-kids/>
- ◆ <http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/resources/celebrate-valentines-day>
- ◆ www.familyconnect.org/blog.asp?BlogID=1&BlogEntryID=599
- ◆ www.wonderbaby.org/articles/tactile-art
- ◆ <http://www.familyconnect.org/info/after-the-diagnosis/helpful-products/valentines-day-ideas/125>



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

Visit our Locations

10436 Southwest Hwy., Chicago Ridge, IL 60415
P: 708-423-4070 F: 708-423-4216

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

IPVI

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

1-815-355-2098 • Email: ipvi@ipvi.org • www.ipvi.org

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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, 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
1-815-355-2098**

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: ipvi@ipvi.org
www.ipvi.org

IPVI CALENDAR

- | | | |
|-----------------|--|------------|
| ▶ 9/28-30, 2015 | Sharing a Vision Conference <u>Proposals due January 31</u> | |
| ▶ 7/13-24, 2015 | Science in the Grand Canyon <u>Application Deadline February 1</u> | |
| ▶ 2/5, 2015 | TCL Sweets for Sight | Chicago |
| ▶ 2/19-20, 2015 | Illinois AER Vision Conference | Schaumburg |
| ▶ 3/4, 2015 | STAR NET VI Eighth Annual Conference | Romeoville |
| ▶ 4/17 & 18 | NFB Seminars "Raising the Bar" | Chicago |
| ▶ 7/10-12, 2015 | Guild/NAPVI Nation Family Contest | Chicago |

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

**Newsletter Deadline for
MARCH 2015 is FEBRUARY 15th**



**Check Out
www.ipvi.org**

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