

IPVI INSIGHTS

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

January
2015



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Lyle Stauder, President

Happy New Year to all of our members, readers, families and professionals who support IPVI. We hope your holidays were happy and fulfilling. Now that winter is really setting in, we find ourselves hoping to relax a little while Mother Nature decides whether or not to knock us down with piles of snow.

To keep the winter doldrums at bay, I am recommending parents that you get your children interested in the NFB Writing Division Contest that is being held by the NFB. It has prizes and sounds like it would be fun. It has a theme this year of "75" for its diamond anniversary, so writers, put your thinking caps on and come up with a story regarding 75 "*something(s)*". For more information see the NFB website at writers.nfb.org.

Please note that starting next month, I will be available to speak with any families on the phone Tuesdays from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at 217-741-6194 to answer any questions you may have.

As was noted last month, we're going to ask our readers to pay their dues every January, so if you haven't renewed your membership recently, please do so now so that we can continue to provide the scholarships and outings at little or no cost to families with children who are blind or visually impaired.

Until next time, have a great 2015 New Year!

Happy New Year



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IPVI Members and Donors:

This wonderful update letter came in from our recent scholarship awardee Samantha Smolka who is attending NIU. It was so uplifting we had to share it. This is what your donations help IPVI to accomplish. Without all of you, none of it would be possible. Thanks so much. Additionally, this shows our parents that visual impairments can be overcome and your child can be very successful. Keep up the good work, Sam!

".. First I want to thank you again for the scholarship that I was awarded; it really has helped me a lot especially since I can continue to earn my major with as little stress as possible. Secondly, I have finished my first semester at Northern Illinois University and I am proud to say that I received 3 A's and one high B. I was actually quite surprised with the grades that I received due to the fact that I was stressing out quite a lot during finals and it being my first final in college that just added on to the stress, but I pulled through it and did really well. This semester (2nd semester) actually starts on Monday the 12th and to be honest I am only scared about my Psych class, but with a little bit of studying and rewriting notes I should be fine. I will be in one of my pre requisite classes as well; SESE (Intro to special education) and I cannot wait for that because I get to learn more about my major.

My track season for NIU is just beginning as soon as we get back on campus and I am doing a little rehab for my knee; but I am still a key part of the team and I cannot wait for the season to officially begin. In addition to being on the team, we have done some community service including: Feed My Starving Children, Kite Fest, Corn Fest, and many more. This whole semester actually flew on by, and I am quite surprised with how fast it went. I will continue to let you know how I am doing during my second semester and thank you again."

*Sincerely,
Samantha Smolka*

MS. VIC'S VOLLEYS

Victoria Juskie, IPVI Treasurer

VOLLEY I

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

Gina Hendricks, Riverdale
Jesse & Anne Blazek, Chicago

VOLLEY II

Today's column doesn't deal specifically with vision loss but with special needs in general. You see, just before Thanksgiving, our family lived through a very stressful and tumultuous time as my older brother with special needs had a heart attack. He was rushed to the hospital and the next day had two stents placed into his arteries around the heart, as they were 99% blocked. As most of my family has died too young from heart attacks, this was a very touch-and-go situation.

During this time, a lot of thoughts run through your mind. The "what ifs" race through your head. Lots of prayers flow from your heart, and your mind begs the Lord to help him pull through. Through God's blessings, Jim made it and was home in time for Thanksgiving dinner. For this, Lord, we are truly grateful.

While sitting in the hospital, I ran different scenarios through my mind. What would I do if Jim passed away so soon? How would life change? He is my oldest brother and only 59. Much too young to be gone is all I thought. All of my life, my mom and I protected him. He lived at the Joseph P. Kennedy School for Exceptional Children from 6 to 19, when he graduated from their high school. During those times, we only saw him on the weekends. The Brothers there taught him basic life skills and helped him become a good man.

After he came home to live full time, he was employed in sheltered workshops and has been useful in any task he was capable of performing. According to the tests and reviews, he operates between 8 and 15 years old, so he'll never be able to drive or live completely on his own without help. He makes only pennies on the dollar for his services, but he is proud of every paycheck, whether it is \$5 or \$50. He is a productive member of society.

He has lots of outside interests and friends from the Boys Scout Troup 161 to those at Trinity Services. I thank all of them for coming to the hospital and visiting with him. The neighbors and friends at church were also very supportive. Heck, he knows so many people that I even laughed after he got home, saying he'd probably have a bigger showing at his future funeral than I would. He even has a better social life than I do -- I know that -- as he goes to several dances a month with the Lincolnway Special Recreation Association, to camping with the scouts, to church weekly, and to other events as they come along. This comforted me during his hospitalization in that I knew he was having as fulfilling a life as we could provide.

During his surgery, the words my mom told me before she passed away 12 years ago passed through my head. She said she was sorry that she was going to leave me with burden of caring for him. She told me it wasn't fair. I looked at her when she said this and told her he wasn't a burden. In other words, "*He ain't heavy, he's my brother.*" See, I never knew life without a special needs brother. I know he's a big reason I became a caring and compassionate person. Our family was always the different one in the neighborhoods we lived in because of him, and I would fight off those that teased him because of his mental disabilities. It wasn't fair to him. He didn't ask to be differently abled, and he deserved the same opportunities everyone else in America

had, to live life to his fullest potential and to grow to be the best person he could. Even though he has his limitations (as we all do), he is living life to the fullest he can; and isn't that what we want for all of our children and ourselves? The chance to be all one can be?

So I hope a long time from now when it is his time, I will still feel no regrets in how I tried to be there for him. He touches lots of people's lives positively even if he is a little pesky and repeats himself. Also, I thank all of those who have shown him kindness and patience, especially my husband who taught me how to treat Jim like a normal guy.

So my tip of the day is in those moments when you're at your wits end because of the extra work it takes to deal with your child's disability, whether it's low or no vision, physical/mental handicaps, or the inability to hear or communicate typically, that you step back and look for the positives this person brings into your life. I am sure that, like me, when all is said and done, you wouldn't change the circumstances at all because you've been enriched by the experience and are better people because of it. I know I am. Thanks, Jimmy, for being the best big brother!

On that note, I wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!



**LIGHTHOUSE
GUILD**
Vision + Health

NAPVI

LISTENING SKILLS FOR ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY

Linda Gerra, EdD, Director
Educational Services, Lighthouse Guild

General Skills Areas

Your child should develop the ability to:

- Be aware of sounds. Sounds are all around us, within us, and made by us. Listen for all the sounds that are around you.
- Be able to identify sounds. Identify familiar sounds, give names to specific sounds, and identify qualities and characteristics of sounds.
- Localize the sounds. Determine where a sound is coming from. Sounds can come from different heights, they can be behind or beneath objects or around a corner. They can be moving or stationary (dynamic or static).
- Discriminate between sounds. Sounds can be "masked" or surrounded by other sounds. Focus on a single sound to isolate other sounds in the environment. By identifying and localizing each sound, you can determine which sound is the important one, or the one you are looking for.

Recommendations for Supporting Active Listening in Orientation and Mobility

- Use specific language when giving directions. For example, "Put your hands on the

counter in front of you and look to the right... Behind the book there is a wicker basket turned upside down. Look underneath the wicker basket.” RATHER THAN “Look over there.”

- Check on listening comprehension by asking your child to put instructions or directions into their own words, rather than just repeating the message.
- Label and discuss specific sounds. Practice listening for sounds and talking about what they are, describe how they sound (loud/quiet, moving/skill, safe/unsafe, high-pitched/low-pitched), where they are coming from. Ask him what he thinks is making the sound, and encourage him to problem-solve out loud.
- Create mental images during listening and create environmental cues.
- Describe the important details in the environment and encourage your child to ask questions about what is around him on a specific route.
- Acknowledge distracting sounds and redirect your child to focus on the target sound. When a “masking sound” is distracting, wait for the sound to end, or move away from the masking sound.
- Introduce new information when he is stationary. Keep in mind that when children are in motion they have to attend to safety, balance, orientation, and mobility.

Sound Localization and Tracking Activities

Have your child sit in a quiet indoor location with a stationary constant sound source, such as a radio or a ticking timer. Encourage him to point to and label the sound location using specific terms, such as “the sound is in front of me,” or “the sound is up over my head.” Repeat the exercise, changing the position of the sound source by moving it in different positions in relationship to him, above or below, in front of or behind, and next to him.

Your child is sitting still with a moving sound source. Have him point toward a constant sound source and then track it as it is moved in a variety of ways (for example, up and down, left and right, and around). Help him describe the way the sound is moving.

Your child is moving in relation to a stationary sound source. Have him turn in relation to a stationary sound source to place the sound in front, behind, and on the right and left sides. Ask him to move toward and away from the sound source. With younger students, this activity can be turned into a game of “Simon Says.” Vary the game by “hiding” an interesting sound source, such as a boom box, for him to find. Whenever possible, use an interactive sound source that he would enjoy playing with once the object is located.

Your child is moving in relation to a moving sound source. Have him track a slowly moving sound by walking parallel to it without contacting it. Guide him if needed; then have him try it independently. This is a prerequisite skill for efficient community travel and safe street crossing. This skill can be easily practiced anytime when walking next to a street with sounds of moving vehicles present.

Make it fun! Play games with sounds in different environments. Go on a sound scavenger hunt to find a list of different sounds, play “I hear with my ear” (a variation of the children’s game “I Spy”), or make up your own game. Encourage your child to point toward sounds, guess their source and name the position and location. Whenever possible, have him travel to a sound source and experience it hands-on. Children typically enjoy recording sounds. Go for walks to record sounds in a certain position (in other words, on one day record sounds on the right, on the next day the left, then in front, behind, above, or below).

Seek out naturally occurring opportunities for

your child to localize sound. Point out how the hum of the refrigerator is to the left of the kitchen door and how the sound of the car moves as it passes by. Keep in mind that high-pitched sounds can be more difficult to localize than low-pitched ones. Children with low vision may benefit from closing their eyes (or if comfortable with it, using a blindfold) during these activities to help them focus on auditory information.

Reprinted from 2014 AWARENESS, *Lighthouse Guild and NAPVI, 15 West 65th Street, New York, NY 10023-6601, 800-562-6265, Lighthouseguild.org/napvi.*



2015 NFB WRITERS' DIVISION WRITING CONTEST

The annual youth and adult writing contests sponsored by the NFB Writers' Division will open January 1st and close April 1st.

NEW THIS YEAR: 2015, being the Federation's 75th birthday, the contest will for the first time ever have a required theme. All submissions will need to somehow incorporate the theme of 75. It does not have to be necessarily about the anniversary of NFB. It could just be the number

75, or perhaps the diamond anniversary, or 75 steps to your destination, or even 75 balloons. Thinking of past entries, 75 aliens would work. Seriously, let your imagination take over. Write the piece you want, just remember to include the theme of 75; this is inspired by the 75 years of the great work that has been happening within, and because of the National Federation of the Blind.

Adult contests, poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and stories for youth are open to all entrants eighteen and over.

The youth writing contest, poetry and fiction, are to promote Braille literacy and excellence in writing; youth must submit both a braille hard-copy version along with an electronic doc or RTF file. The contest is divided into three groups, determined by grade level – elementary, middle, and high school.

Prizes for contest winners range up to \$100 for adult categories, and up to \$30 for youth.

All contest winners will be announced the first week in July, at the Writers' Division business meeting during the NFB national convention, held in Orlando, Florida. In addition, a list of winners will appear on our website, <http://writers.nfb.org>.

All winners from both, the adult and youth contests will be considered for publication in our Division's magazine, *Slate & Style*.

For additional contest details and submission guidelines, go to our website, <http://writers.nfb.org>.

Respectfully yours,
Robert Leslie Newman
President, NFB Writers' Division





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



In order to address the need of a more uniform approach to children's vision health systems, The National Expert Panel (NEP) of the National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health (NCCVEH) at Prevent Blindness is pleased to announce that its recommendations have been published in the January 2015 issue of Optometry and Vision Science: <http://journals.lww.com/optvissci/pages/default.aspx>

The recommendations include:

- 1) [Vision Screening for Children 36 to <72 Months: Recommended Practices](#)
- 2) [Vision and Eye Health in Children 36 to <72 Months: Proposed Data System](#)
- 3) [Vision and Eye Health in Children 36 to <72 Months: Proposed Data Definitions](#)

Details are below. More information on the recommendations, the National Expert Panel and the National Center for Children's Eye and Vision Health at Prevent Blindness can be found on the dedicated website at: visionsystems.preventblindness.org

I would be happy to arrange an interview with you and the Director of the NCCVEH, Kira Baldonado, who has spearheaded this effort since its beginning in 2009. Please let me know if you are interested or would like additional information.

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**National Expert Panel Provides Recommendations for
Vision Health Systems for Preschool Age Children**

- Expert Panel to the National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health at Prevent Blindness Develops Specific Guidelines and Strategies to Help Ensure Healthy Sight -

CHICAGO (Dec. 15, 2014) – To address the need of an effective approach in helping to ensure the vision health of children across the country, the National Expert Panel (NEP) of the National Center for Children’s Vision and Eye Health (NCCVEH) at Prevent Blindness has published recommendations providing an evidence-based approach to vision screening in children ages 3 through 5, as well as system-based public health strategies to ensure improved surveillance and program accountability as it relates to children’s vision in the United States. The recommendations are published in the January 2015 issue of Optometry and Vision Science, and are further discussed on this special NCCVEH-hosted Vision Health Systems for Preschool Age-Children website at <http://nationalcenter.preventblindness.org/>.

In 2009, Prevent Blindness was awarded a grant from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau at the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to establish the National Center for Children’s Vision and Eye Health. The mission of the Center is to develop a coordinated public health infrastructure to promote and ensure a comprehensive, multi-tiered continuum of vision care for young children. The NCCVEH convened the NEP, a panel of leading professionals in ophthalmology, optometry, pediatrics, public health, and related fields, to review the current scientific literature, explore best practices, and gain consensus on the best approach to children’s vision and eye health.

“A vision screening is a great first step to saving vision and putting our kids on a path of healthy development,” said Hugh R. Parry, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness. “But that is only one step in the continuum of vision health for children. There also must be mechanisms in place to make sure that screenings are administered effectively and that the children are receiving follow-up care. By putting forth these recommendations, the National Expert Panel is providing an excellent approach to helping our kids achieve a lifetime of healthy vision while improving public health surveillance and program impacts.”

The NEP has written three papers targeting children aged 36 to less than 72 months entitled:

- 1) [Vision Screening for Children 36 to <72 Months: Recommended Practices](#)
- 2) [Vision and Eye Health in Children 36 to <72 Months: Proposed Data System](#)
- 3) [Vision and Eye Health in Children 36 to <72 Months: Proposed Data Definitions](#)

Added Parry, “We want to thank all of the members of our Expert Panel as well as those who have supported this monumental effort along the way. By engaging leaders from various medical, scientific, and public health fields, we were able to combine forces to create a strategy that addresses many of the vision and eye care needs for our children.”

For a copy of the recommendations from the National Expert Panel of the National Center for Children’s Vision and Eye Health, additional information on general children’s eye health, the NCCVEH or Prevent Blindness, please visit visionsystems.preventblindness.org or call (800)-331-2020.



**LIGHTHOUSE
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Vision + Health



NAPVI Scholarships

Call Now
212-769-7801

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.

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**





**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



NAPVI

National Family Conference

National Association of Parents of Children with Visual Impairments



July 10-12, 2015 • Chicago, Illinois

Location:

Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind

1850 W Roosevelt Road, Chicago, IL

Conference hotel:

Chicago Marriott at Medical District /UIC

For more information contact Susan LaVenture, Executive Director NAPVI at

laventures@lighthouseguild.org or 800-562-6265

FAMILY CONNECT WEBSITE

Great Expectations Program

Posted by: National Braille Press

Great Expectations brings popular picture books to life using a multi-sensory approach — songs, tactile play, picture descriptions, body movement, engaged listening — all designed to promote active reading experiences for children with visual impairments.

Parents will learn how to describe a picture in a book, how to explore a book's visual concepts, how to play and have fun telling "the whole story." Children will learn to listen carefully to words, feelings (voice), actions, scene, plots, and character development—elements that they would otherwise miss by not seeing the pictures.

Age Groups

Infants and Toddlers
Preschoolers
Grade Schoolers
All ages (birth to 26)
Parents of children with visual impairments

Interest Categories

Education
Arts and crafts
Dance/music
Multiple disabilities
Parenting
Reading activities

Location:

88 Saint Stephen St
Boston, MA 02115
Contact: Order Department

Phone: (617) 266-6160 ext. 520
Email: orders@nbp.org
URL: http://www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/programs/gep/ge_index.html

APH NEWS

NEW! Tactile Clothing Tape

[1-07420-00](#) -- \$59.00

Related Product

Pocket Braille Slate Slotted for Labeling Tape: [1-00160-00](#) -- \$58.00

Create labels for color, laundry instructions, or other information about clothing — stays attached through washing, drying, and ironing!



Tactile Clothing Tape allows braille readers to keep colors and other information about their clothing and linens exactly where they need it: attached to the item and ready to be read. The brailled information remains clean and readable after going through automatic washers and dryers, and even holds up under an iron as long as a layer of fabric is kept between the iron and the label!

Unlike pre-made color labels that are limited to a few clothing colors, this tape allows you to include your own abbreviations for as many colors or patterns as you wish. You can create labels with laundry instructions, clothes matching information, names, etc.

Includes

- Two 120-inch rolls of 1/2 inch wide washable tape
- Two packs of sturdy quilting safety pins

Braille and print instructions

To Make Labels

- Use braille label marker or braille slate with slots for labeling tape (not included)
- Braille desired information on tape
- Leave approx. 1/2 inch of space on one end of tape for safety pin or on both ends for sewing
- Cut label off roll
- Pin or sew label to clothing or linens
- Keep label attached when item is laundered and/or ironed

Note: Includes safety pins, please supervise young children when using.

The "Established" APH Product Series: Scattered Crowns

Scattered Crowns: Tactile Attribute Game

is a fun, versatile board game that encourages young children, especially those with visual impairments and blindness, to develop tactile skills. As players search for crowns with specific attributes: band texture (smooth, rough, or striped), number of jewels (1, 2, or 3), and number of points (3, 4, or 5) they will practice texture/shape/size discrimination, tactile memory, systematic searching skills, and spatial concepts (left, right, above, below, row, column, etc.)



Other concepts and skills practiced during

game play include counting skills, turn-taking, sorting/organizing, and social interaction skills. The game is conducive to playing classic concentration games using the crown pieces or user-constructed matching game pieces (e.g., basic shapes, braille words/letters, etc.) The colors in Scattered Crowns provide high contrast for children with low vision or Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI).

This game is one of several [board style games](#) that APH has to offer that not only assists with teaching important tactile readiness and reinforces early braille literacy concepts, but also serves to meet the expanded core curriculum areas of recreation, leisure, and social interaction.



The STAR NET Region VI Workshop Catalog from January, 2015 through June, 2015 is now available on our website at www.swcccase.org/starnet.

You now have the option to register for our workshops/webinars on-line. Please go to the workshop/webinar page and click the "Register on-line" link and complete the registration form. If you prefer, you may still download the registration form in the catalog on Page 25 and either e-mail or fax the completed form to our office as has been our procedure in the past.

If you have any questions please contact our office at starnet@swcccase.org or at 708-342-5370.

Register soon!
Thank You!

STAR NET Region VI
6020 West 151st Street
Oak Forest, Illinois 60452
708-342-5370

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, January 17, 10am-1pm

Navigating the IEP Process
Saturday, January 24, 10am-1pm

The Family Resource Center on Disabilities (FRC) 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 FRC 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

MAKING SENSE

Comcast's New Talking Television Remote: Comcast has developed new voice-guided access to television programming. The new talking guide reads aloud program titles, network names, time slots, DVR and On Demand settings. It will also provide program descriptions and ratings from Common Sense Media and Rotten Tomatoes. Comcast plans on more accessible features in the future.

Parenting with Vision Loss: The American Printing House has published a new large print book with audio CD on parenting with vision loss. The book covers a wide variety of topics and advice from successful parents with vision loss. Topics include deciding to have children, keeping children safe and dealing with the reactions of family, friends, and service professionals. To order, visit www.aph.org or call 800-223-1839.

NVDA Integrates with Windows Magnifier: Here's a great tip from David Flament, our manager of adaptive technology. You can now control Windows Magnifier with NVDA using a new add-on by Green Light Go. This new add-on integrates magnification into NVDA allowing for magnification and speech. Hotkeys can control preferences such as inverting colors, zooming in and out and toggling the magnifier off and on. David says to be sure to check out the magnifier options under the NVD preferences menu when using this add-on. This is an open source product and available as a free download at www.greenlightgo.org/projects/nvda/.

Reprinted from MAKING SENSE, January 2015, Second Sense, Beyond vision loss, 65 East Wacker Place, Suite 1010, Chicago, IL 60601, 312-236-8569, www.second-sense.org.



Watch hours of captivating speaker recordings on the AER Knowledge Center.

FEATURED SESSION

Make the Most of Your Time



Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) is a curriculum addressing the knowledge and skills that are necessary for future successes in the Georgia workforce. Family and Consumer Science Education (FACS) is one Career Pathway that aligns particularly well with the ECC areas of Career Education, Self-Determination, and Independent Living Skills. In this session we will look at standards from the FACS curriculum and show how they align with the ECC. We will offer strategies for modifying the curriculum; examine methods of assessment, standards based instruction, and progress monitoring; and provide tips for collaborating with content teachers.

<http://aerbvi.sclivelearningcenter.com/index.aspx>

Watch This Session for FREE!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



More to Mobility with Children Than Cane Travel: Strategies for Teaching the "Unspoken Requirements" of Effective Traveling

Strategies and ideas will be shared for teaching the "unspoken requirements" of an independent traveler with a visual impairment. Often, mobility over focuses on cane technique, or environmental awareness, neglecting foundational skills like risk taking, and curiosity, required skills and traits to confidently move around our world safely with grace.

MORE: Same website



Music as Motivator for Communication for Students with Deaf-blindness

This presentation will highlight a study conducted to investigate the use of music as a motivator for expressive communication for students with deaf-blindness. The presentation will show-case activities, methods, and strategies used in a music classroom, as well as ways to integrate ECC skills into these activities.

MORE: Same website



Teaching Access Technology: What to Teach When?

This session will give participants a framework to guide them in the scope and sequence of teaching access technology to people who are blind or have low vision.

MORE: Same website



Physicians

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

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**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

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

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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

- ▶ 1/1-4/1, 2015 **NFB Writers' Division Writing Contest** <http://writers.nfb.org>
- ▶ 2/19-20, 2015 **Illinois AER Vision Conference** Schaumburg
- ▶ 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
FEBRUARY 2015 is JANUARY 15th**



**Check Out
www.ipvi.org**

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