

IPVI INSIGHTS

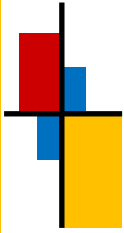
Connecting & Supporting Families Whose Children are Visually Impaired, Including Those with Additional Disabilities

July
2014



IPVI President Announcement

By Lyle Stauder



Please remember to send in your reservation to join us at the IPVI Members Only Brookfield Zoo outing. It plans to be an exciting, fun-filled, and educational day for our children.

We again want to give a shout out and thank the 100% Foundation for its continued support. Without Frank Davis and this generous organization, our wonderful yearly outing would not be possible. Thank you from all of the IPVI members and its Board. You are so appreciated.

2014 13TH ANNUAL MEMBERS ONLY OUTING

“Finding Other Parents and Families: Helping Each Other”

Imagine (in the mind’s eye) a sensory Zoo experience —listening to the animals, smelling the environment, touching real and simulated animals in their habitat....well

Saturday, July 12, 2014 at Brookfield Zoo

is the chance of a lifetime....the only problem? Are you going to be there?

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! Brookfield Zoo is BIG and the choices are many—arrive early and plan on spending the entire day. **Plan to arrive no later than 9:30 a.m.; the Zoo opens at 10 a.m.** Tons of activities are available throughout your day! Your IPVI T-Shirt will be your exclusive passport into all the action....parking (south lot), admission to Zoo, pizza lunch, the Great Bears’ Wilderness, the Seven Seas Dolphin Show (with exclusive after show event), Hammill Family Play Zoo, Children’s Petting Zoo, etc. Be prepared for weather.

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SPEAKER INFO



Mary Zabelski is the Senior Vice President of Educational Services at The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired. She has been the School Principal of the Chicago Lighthouse Child Development Center,

an Illinois State Board of Education approved therapeutic day school for twenty-five years. She has a Master of Arts in Special Education from Northeastern Illinois and has completed her coursework on her doctorate in Educational Psychology at Northern Illinois University. Previously she taught as a special education teacher, working with students who were blind or visually impaired and multi-disabled.

She is the parent of an adult daughter who is blind. Also, Mary is the recent past-president of the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments, Inc. (NAPVI), and the co-founder of the Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (IPVI).

Become an IPVI member! Dues paying members receive free admission and parking at our Members Only Events — Zoo Outing, Holiday Parties, Picnic, etc. — activities intended to provide social and literacy opportunities for children, parents, teachers, professionals and friends.

If you'd like more information on how to attend the 2014 IPVI Zoo Outing, or how to become a member of the "IPVI Family Network", **call Mary Zabelski at the Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind, 312-666-1331 x3675.**

IPVI's 2014 BROOKFIELD ZOO - MEMBERS-ONLY OUTING Saturday July 12th, 2014 Registration & Payment Form

Attendance is restricted to currently paid members of IPVI. All attendees must pre-register, purchase a 2014 Zoo T-Shirt and show current identification at the Zoo. Attendees may be required to sign Release of Liability & Use of Photographs Form.

Family Name: _____ **Home #** () _____ - _____

address: _____ **city:** _____ **zip code:** _____

e-mail: _____ **Cell #** () _____ - _____

1) **Name:** _____ **Age:** ___ **T-Shirt:** (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg), (XX-lg), (XXX-lg)

2) **Name:** _____ **Age:** ___ **T-Shirt:** (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg), (XX-lg), (XXX-lg)

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6) **Name:** _____ **Age:** ___ **T-Shirt:** (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg), (XX-lg), (XXX-lg)

7) **Name:** _____ **Age:** ___ **T-Shirt:** (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg), (XX-lg), (XXX-lg)

The T-Shirt is required & assists Zoo personnel in providing accommodations. Our theme is “Literacy through Experience at Brookfield Zoo”.....ask questions, touch the special exhibits, analyze and enjoy the unique sounds, and textures of the Zoo!

Membership Dues (\$15.00/year)		
Total Number of Zoo Admission T-Shirts @ \$9/person		
Donation to IPVI for (IPVI scholarship) or (Zoo costs)		
TOTAL MONEY (included with this form) payable to IPVI		

REGISTRATION CLOSES ON JUNE 27th, 2014

Mail this form and a check payable to IPVI for your T-Shirts and optional donation to:

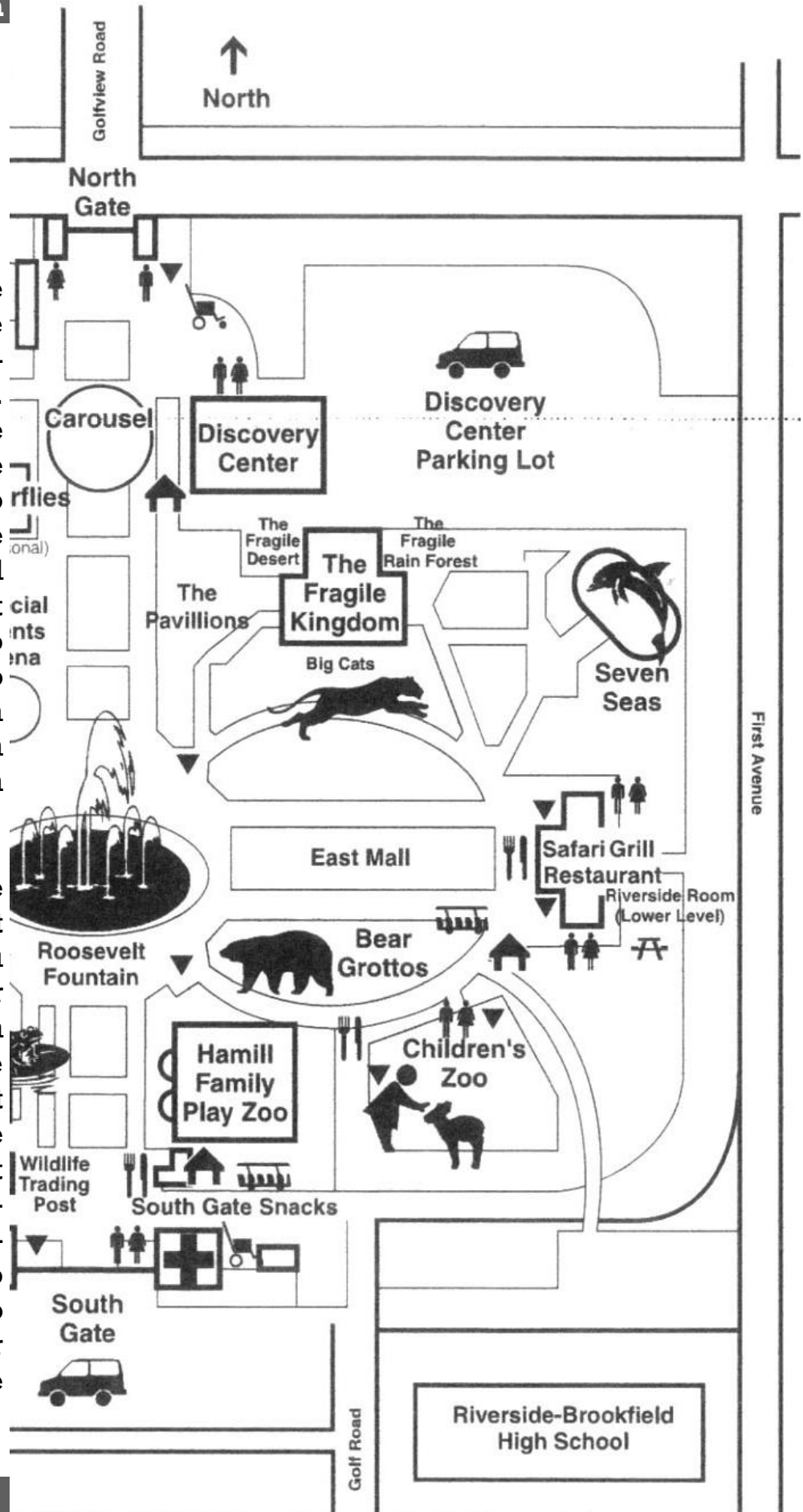
Mary Zabelski
The Chicago Lighthouse
1850 West Roosevelt Road
Chicago, IL 60608-1298



Chicago Zoological Society
Inspiring Conservation Leadership

We are gathering in the Discovery Center. We are to park in the Discovery Center Parking Lot. We need to enter at the SOUTH Entrance, not the main entrance. To get to the South Entrance, take 1st Avenue to Ridgewood Road (the first traffic light south of 31st street). Go west on Ridgewood to Golf Road. Turn right on Golf Road to the South Entrance Parking Booth (See map).

At the South Entrance Parking booth, say that you are with IPVI and you will not have to pay for parking. After the south parking booth, stay to the right and tell the next gate guard that you are with IPVI and they will let you on to the road leading to the Discovery Center parking lot. Come to the Discovery Center to check in and get your shirts and Zoo map. See you all there!



MS. VIC'S VOLLEYS

Victoria Juskie, IPVI Treasurer

VOLLEY I

Since our last publication, no new members have joined this month.

VOLLEY II

Ninety-seven percent -- that's right, I said 97%. What comes to mind when you hear this number? An "A" grade on a paper is what usually comes to mind for me. I always thought it was a great test score. It usually meant you got one wrong. Overall, if you got this number, you're happy.

Well, this number's significant impact on life first came to me when I was studying for my initial career as a court reporter. Yes, I was the person sitting at the front of the courtroom, next to the judge, tapping this alien looking machine that had paper folding from it. To become licensed in this profession at the time I did, you had to take shorthand at 225 words per minute as well as type 70 words a minute, both with 97% accuracy. Most typical conversation occurs at 160 to 180 words per minute. The extra cushion is for when the dynamics of the conversation increase. There are times 300 words a minute are being shouted out and people commence over-talking. Needless to say this was a stressful job.

So you may say then, "Make your point." Well, my point is that remaining 3% and what happens when something goes wrong. As a court reporter, that 3% meant words were dropped and not recorded. To help eliminate this problem, I would also use a

tape recorder as a backup. This greatly improved my stress level. Other 3% references deal with various things such as only 3% of the colonists in early America fought for Independence.

This segues into the fact that this percentage of 3% affects other portions of life. For example, the global literacy rate for adults with disabilities is 3%. If you're affected by low vision you're in even a lower percentage -- 1% of the 1%. Those of us in our vision community are part of the percentage of the population where something went wrong, whether at birth or later in life.

We know that we have a special condition. Our issues require that we work harder to keep up. In other words, we have to come up with a backup plan like I did when I used a tape recorder to level the playing field.

If low or no vision is the only affliction with which your child deals, then you need to realize that you can teach your child the same things that other children learn. You may just have to use some modifications. One of the biggest adaptations for low/no vision individuals is learning Braille. Braille provides your low/no vision child an equal footing for education, and literacy is what makes the difference in being able to support oneself. It provides a gateway to independence. This is why IPVI supports Braille literacy and hosts the Brookfield Zoo Outing to promote reading. We want also for you to realize you're not alone. So come join us to find out why learning is the gateway to success for any child, no matter what s/he sees.

So my tip of the day is after you've received

your diagnosis and recovered enough to plan your child's future course of action, include an active literacy plan. Don't be afraid of Braille. What we have found is that through literacy, we have a way to break the cycle – whether it's poverty or unemployment – for our children. We can turn them into self-sufficient, independent adults who can strive to do anything they set their hearts on. Isn't that what 97% of us parents want (with a 3% margin of error)? I know I do.

Have a great summer!



Prevent Blindness Urges Public to Celebrate Independence Day Safely by Not Using Consumer Fireworks

- Non-profit Group Provides Ideas on Ways Families Can Celebrate without Risk of Injury -

CHICAGO (June 20, 2014) – Every year, injuries from consumer fireworks send thousands to the emergency room. In fact, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) stated in its annual report that there were an estimated 8,700 injuries treated in emergency rooms in the United States, with the majority of those around the Fourth of July holiday.



According to the report, children younger than 15 years of age accounted for approximately 30 percent of the estimated injuries. And of the total overall injuries, 12 percent, or 600, were to the eyes. Burns were the most common injury to all parts of the body, except the eyes, where contusions, lacera-

tions, and foreign bodies in the eyes occurred more frequently

Gary A. Smith, MD, DrPH, president of the Child Injury Prevention Alliance (CIPA), is a pediatric emergency medicine physician and an expert on the damage that consumer fireworks can have on the body. Not only has he authored several published studies on fireworks-related injuries, he has treated many of them as well.

One case in particular that left an impression on Dr. Smith was that of a 4-year-old girl who was standing next to her mother as another family member lit a bottle rocket in their backyard. The bottle rocket took an unexpected path and flew toward the girl. Because it happened so quickly, nobody had a chance to react before the rocket struck the girl in the eye. The damage was so severe that the girl sustained permanent vision loss in that eye.

“Unfortunately, this was just one of the many painful and serious injuries to children that I’ve seen related to fireworks over the years,” said Dr. Smith. “Our studies show that parental supervision is not enough to prevent consumer fireworks injuries to children – in fact, children who are simply bystanders and not even handling the fireworks are often injured. The words that I hear when parents bring their child crying in pain to the emergency department after a firework injury are always the same: ‘Doctor, I can’t believe that this happened to my child. I was standing right there, but it happened so fast that I could not do anything in time to stop it from happening’. These are good parents who simply believed the myth that these products could be used safely. Do not make that mistake with your family.”

Prevent Blindness, the nation's oldest volunteer eye health and safety organization, offers alternatives to celebrate the holiday safely:

(Continued on page 8)



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

(Continued from page 6) - Independence Day Safety

- Paint flower pots with red, white and blue paint and glitter. Then plant a seed.
- Make pinwheels or wind socks with an Independence Day theme.
- After the sun goes down, wrap flashlights in colored cellophane to provide fun shades of light.
- Purchase non-toxic glow-sticks, ropes and jewelry that can safely light the night for kids.
- Create your own noisemakers by banging wooden spoons on pots and pans. Search your house for horns, whistles and bells and other items to create a marching band.
- Make your own firecracker sounds by popping bubble wrap.
- Using yarn, craft sticks, paint and construction paper, families can make the United States flag.
- Make 4th of July rockets by using paper towel rolls, paint, streamers and paper cement.
- Let kids create in the kitchen by making fun desserts using blueberries, strawberries and whipping cream for star-spangled treats.
- Have children design and decorate their own t-shirts and hats using glow in the dark paints. Add puffy paints and glitter to make them sparkle.
- Use hypoallergenic face paint or make-up to make designs on your child's face. Adults should apply the face paint and remove it with cold cream or eye make-up remover instead of soap. Follow product guidelines about applying product directly around the eyes.

As a public health-based organization, Prevent Blindness continues to support the development and enforcement of bans on the importation, sale and use of all fireworks and sparklers, except for authorized public dis-

plays by competent licensed operators. The group believes such bans are the only effective means of eliminating the social and economic impact of fireworks-related trauma and damage.

For more information on the dangers of fireworks, please call Prevent Blindness at (800) 331-2020 or log on to preventblindness.org/prevent-eye-injuries-fireworks. For details on the Fireworks Safety News Conference, please call (614) 464-2020 or visit preventblindness.org/ohio.

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New Report from Prevent Blindness Reveals Annual Costs Related to Eye Disease to Reach \$717 Billion by 2050

- Data Shows Staggering Projected Increases in Eye Disease Cases, Direct Health-related Costs -

CHICAGO (June 18, 2014) – As the U.S. population ages, the number of those with eye disease and vision problems will continue to spiral upward. A new report released by Prevent Blindness, “The Future of Vision: Forecasting the Prevalence and Costs of Vision Problems,” predicts more than \$384 billion in 2032 and \$717 billion in 2050 in nominal costs related to eye disease and vision problems.

Statistics from the report – commissioned from researchers at NORC at the University of Chicago – point to some alarming projections, including:

Costs related to eye disease, including government, insurance and patient costs, are projected to increase 376 percent by 2050.

Hispanics are projected to exhibit extremely high growth in diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma and cataract cases.

As the baby-boomer generation ages into the Medicare program, costs will further shift from patients and private insurance to government. By 2050, government will pay more than 41 percent of costs, while the burden paid by patients and private insurers will drop to 44 percent and 16 percent, respectively.

Women will continue to outnumber men in prevalence of all eye disease and vision loss categories except for diabetic retinopathy.

Those age 90 and older are projected to be by far the fastest growing population segment, with their population more than tripling due to both the aging baby-boomers and increasing longevity. This will have a significant effect on those living with eye disease, as many of these conditions are age-related.

The estimated average age of AMD patients is 80 years old, the oldest of any of the included eye diseases. Diabetic retinopathy patients have an average age of 66 years, the youngest of any of the included eye diseases.

Data from the 2014 Future of Vision: Forecasting the Prevalence and Costs of Vision Problems also includes:

Forecasts of vision-related disease by disorder, race, age and sex.

A breakdown of projected costs of eye disorders and vision loss from the perspective of three payers: government, private insurance and patients and their families.

The Future of Vision study results were derived using data culled from the 2012 Vision Problems in the U.S. report, the 2013 Cost of Vision Problems: The Economic Burden of Vision Loss and Eye Disorders in the United States study and the U.S. Census Bureau population projections.

“We cannot stand by and passively accept vision loss as an inevitable condition of growing old,” said Hugh R. Parry, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness. “The sheer numbers of those who are and will be personally and financially impacted by vision impairment and blindness is far too great to ignore. The time to plan and develop a national strategy for saving sight is now.”

For more information about the Prevent Blindness Future of Vision report, the Focus on Eye Health National Summit, or other vision-related topics, please visit preventblindness.org or call (800) 331-2020.

Additional details about the study, including data tables and charts can be found at: www.preventblindness.org/futureofvision.

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Anne Marie Piper



Dept of Communication
Studies
School of Communication
Northwestern University

I am an Assistant Professor in the departments of **Communication Studies** and **Electrical Engineering & Computer Science** (by courtesy) at **Northwestern University**. I direct the **Inclusive Technology Lab**.

My research investigates natural user interfaces to support communication, social interaction, and developmental needs of people throughout the lifespan. Much of my work focuses on technology-based solutions for individuals with disabilities and older adults. I have a line of research on assistive and educational applications of surface computing. Some of my recent work investigates how hybrid paper-digital interfaces support communication and language learning in home, school, and therapy settings. See my **lab website** to find out more about ongoing research projects.

Please get in touch if you are interested in assistive technology and are a current or potential student. I advise students in the following PhD programs:

Technology and Social Behavior PhD Program
Media, Technology, and Society PhD Program
Computer Science PhD Program

Currently I am teaching the following classes:

Contextual Interviewing for Design (COMM_ST 398, Fall 2013)
Gesture-Based Interface Design (MTS 525, Spring 2014)

<http://web5.soc.northwestern.edu/annemariepiper/>



Welcome

Researchers in the Inclusive Technology Lab at Northwestern University investigate new computer interfaces to support communication, social interaction, and developmental needs of people throughout the lifespan. Much of our work focuses on technology-based solutions for individuals with disabilities and older adults.

Through a human-centered approach, we engage in a variety of research activities, including field studies to understand the needs of various populations, iterative design of new technology prototypes, and evaluation of these prototypes through laboratory studies and long-term field deployments. Our work depends on partnerships with clinical practitioners, educators, and families in the local community. You will find lab members studying technology use and human behavior in therapy clinics, schools, and homes.

We are seeking outstanding students to join our lab. Please contact Anne Marie Piper if you are interested in research opportunities related to natural user interfaces, assistive technology, or educational technology.

If you are interested in participating in research, you can find a list of our ongoing research studies at <http://inclusive.northwestern.edu/>.

Department of Communication Studies
School of Communication
Northwestern University

Designing Surface Haptics Applications with a TPad Tablet

Our research laboratory designs new technology applications to support communication, social interaction, and learning. We are seeking participants for a research study on a new type of touch-screen computer.

Currently we are recruiting children (age 3 or older) and adults. We are recruiting participants who have normal/corrected vision as well as participants with vision impairments (e.g., low vision, legally blind). This research study focuses on English-based technologies, so participants must speak English.

Research studies will take place at our laboratory at Northwestern University (Evanston campus) or in your home. You will participate in a focus group or individual interview about how you use technology for communication, social interaction, and learning. We may also watch you use your current computer or communication device as part of the interview. We will audio record the interview so we can remember what you say. With your permission, we may take photos during the interview.

You will be paid \$15 for your participation. The focus group or interview will last no more than 1.5 hours.

If interested in this research opportunity, please contact:

Email: inclusive-tech@northwestern.edu

Phone: (847) 467-3760

PI: Anne Marie Piper, PhD

Department of Communication Studies

Northwestern University

IRB Study Number: STU00088275



Bionic Eye?



article by
Christin Miller

It sounds like a title for the next science fiction thriller, right? Fortunately, the science is very real. In February, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first retinal prosthesis. This prosthesis, called the Argus II Retinal Prosthesis System, offers restoration of partial sight to individuals afflicted with retinitis pigmentosa, or RP.

RP is a rare genetic eye disease that affects approximately 100,000 people in the United States. What the disease does is gradually destroy the light-sensing cells in the retina, a multilayered membrane located at the back of the eye. As these cells are destroyed, the individual loses the ability to tell light from dark.

The Argus II system works through three mechanisms: a surgical implantation of a prosthetic device inside the eye, a tiny video camera mounted on a special set glasses, and a control unit that is carried by the patient.

Images captured by the camera on the glasses are transformed into electronic signals that are then wirelessly transmitted to the prosthetic. The prosthetic, consisting of a grid of 60 electrodes implanted over a person's retina, displays those electronic signals allowing the brain to perceive the patterns of light and dark spots.

According to a blog posted on the FDA website by William Maisel, M.D., M.P.H., the FDA gave the go-ahead to Second Sight Medical Products Inc. to sell the Argus II only after carefully reviewing data from a clinical study

of 30 patients with RP.

The following is an excerpt from one of the patients at the public forum of the FDA's advisory meeting:

"The most exciting day to me was October 27th, 2009. It was the first time I was able to see letters on the monitor screen (during a test of visual perception). I had not seen letters since 1994, so that was huge."

Other reports state that the clinical trials demonstrated that individuals in total darkness could effectively identify the approximate size and position of objects and detect movement of objects and people. Furthermore, it was reported in an article on **newscientist.com** that the system has also been adapted to allow blind people to read Braille by sight rather than touch.

There are numerous stories of innovative advancements in technological and scientific research that predict restoration of sight for a variety of visual impairments. The success of this system is not only good news for RP patients. It also provides evidence that science one day could find a way to make restoration of sight available to all.

To read more about the retinal prosthesis or to read more of the excerpts from the actual patients, please go to:

[Argus Prosthesis](#)

http://blogs.fda.gov/fdavoices/index.php/tag/argus-ii-retinal-prosthesis-system/?utm_source=April+2013+Newsletter&utm_campaign=June+2014&utm_medium=email

[What was the study ... Argus Prosthesis](#)

http://artificialretina.energy.gov/about.shtml?utm_source=April+2013+Newsletter&utm_campaign=June+2014&utm_medium=email

inBraille™

Braille-inspired designs | See. Read. Support.



Offered by...
The Chicago Lighthouse
for People Who Are Blind
or Visually Impaired

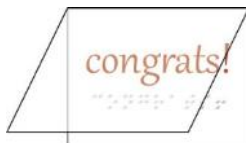


“inBraille™” greeting cards

These Braille-inspired designs, intended for the enjoyment of those who can see, as well as those who cannot, showcase the beauty and meaning of the Braille language. The cards have been graciously created by artist, Alisa Singer.

A Unique Design

The cover image pattern on each card corresponds to the embossed Braille message found inside the card.



All-occasion pack



“thinking of you”



“thank you”



“happy birthday”



“sympathy”



“congrats!”

5 cards/\$19

Cards that Give Back



The Chicago Lighthouse
for People Who Are Blind
or Visually Impaired

All inBraille™ cards are packaged by Lighthouse Industries employees who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise disabled. Proceeds of the sales of these cards will be used to fund the programs provided by The Chicago Lighthouse, a leader for over 100 years in delivering services for people who are blind or visually impaired.

How to Purchase

Cards are available in Lighthouse retail stores and online. They are sold as singles (\$4/in stores only) or as packaged sets.

For larger orders, call our Tools for Living Store at (800) 919-3375 or email us at chicagolighthouse.org/tools-for-living-store.

To learn more about inBraille™, go to <http://chicagolighthouse.org/inBraille>.

Our mailing address is:

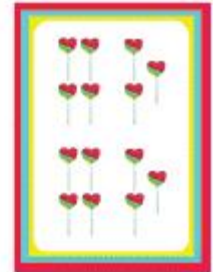
The Chicago Lighthouse
1850 W. Roosevelt Road
Chicago, IL 60608

hugs and kisses pack



"hugs and kisses"

6 cards/\$22



tikkun olam pack



"tikkun olam" (Hebrew phrase meaning 'repair the world')

4 cards/\$15

FAMILY CONNECT WEBSITE

5 Reasons Why Recreation Is SO Important for Children Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

by Emily Coleman



Learning to play t-ball

Summertime is approaching and for many children that means trying new sports or a new activity, hanging out at the park, going camping, and simply having adventures. Children who are blind or visually impaired can often be left out. The following are five reasons why it's so important to include these children in recreational activities.

1. Physical activity. Children who have a visual impairment sometimes don't get many opportunities to exercise. We all know that exercising is important to stay healthy, so this reason is obvious.

2. Hands-on learning. Sometimes, children with visual impairments simply don't know how to play any sports or participate in activities. They've never been taught, or haven't been exposed to recreation designed specifically for them. By including them in a variety of recreational activities, they can learn how to play, which leads to reason number three.

3. Finding their preference. Only after learning about a sport, or an activity, can a person truly decide if they like it or not. By providing children who are visually impaired with lots of recreational opportunities, they can decide for themselves what things they'd like to try again...and what things they'd rather not.

4. Socialization. It can be difficult for some children to make friends. Recreation provides a common activity that can start friendships, and maintain them through a shared interest or hobby. Try to see every recreational activity as a chance to meet a new friend, and to be a new friend to somebody else.

5. Self-esteem. Children who are visually impaired should be treated like their peers. They are just as capable, and expecting them to participate in recreational activities will build their self-esteem. If they are told that they "can" instead of that they "can't," they'll also expect more of themselves. Through every accomplishment, their self-esteem will improve, leading to greater independence. For all children who are blind or visually impaired, independence is the greatest goal. This is worked on during the school year through academics, but sometimes ignored during the summer. For the reasons listed above, I suggest you continue teaching independence throughout the warmer months by promoting recreation. Not only will it benefit your child this summer, but also for many summers to come.

Feelings of Isolation for Parents and Their Blind Child

by Emily Coleman



In April, my father-in-law passed away after battling cancer. His presence in my life, and the life of my family, was one of great importance. Although I realize that the passing of a loved one is not unique to me, the sadness I feel can be very isolating. As I went back to work and my daily life, and found myself among people that didn't know him, I carried a burden that seemed solely on my shoulders.

My father-in-law was always on my mind, and there was rarely anyone readily available to talk about him when I needed it. The only time I felt somebody could truly relate to my feelings was when I was with my husband, or his family, or others that knew and loved him. Of course, as life often does, this brought me back to thinking about the isolation of raising a child with special needs.

As a parent of such a child, we often feel nobody understands our circumstances. I've spoken about **Feeling Isolated** before, and how that isolation isn't felt only in this aspect of our lives, but in other ways as well. In the death of a family member, in the loss of a home, in the break-up of a marriage, and in fighting an illness; we all feel that we are fighting our battles alone. However, common sense tells us there are others that understand, and have been in that circumstance before. Finding those people can make it all just a little bit easier.

Like I seek out my husband and his family in our recent loss, parents of children who are blind find comfort in seeking out each other. Many of us have connected with other parents like us, and have found knowledge, strength, and friendship in those connections. We may begin seeking out those people for ourselves, but the true benefit goes beyond that and moves forward to our children.

Children who are blind can also feel very isolated. They are often the only children in their school and community with a visual impairment. It helps to connect them to a support system of their own. Through summer camps, or school for the blind activities, our children need to seek out other kids who are blind, too. Knowing they're not alone is an immense relief, and building social skills



is also very important.

When I'm feeling isolated, the pain is eased by a nice card from a friend, an unexpected gift, a hug, or even a random phone call. Connecting children who are blind with peers, and specifically other children who are blind, may help them find the same support. They can be taught not only how to make friends... but how to be a good friend. It's effortless to accept friendship from others, but harder to know how to reciprocate.

I know I'm grateful for the support and kindness that has been shown to me and my family over the last month, and I hope my son will have a similar support system of friends when he is an adult. We all feel isolated at times, but we never are truly alone. The best gift we can give our children are opportunities to make friends, so they feel less isolated, and therefore have a better chance to live fulfilling, independent lives.

Five Tips to Encourage Healthy Relationships Between Blind Children and Their Siblings

By Emily Coleman



Since the average family has more than one child, common sense tells us that children who are visually impaired often have a sibling. When a blind child is diagnosed, those siblings are required to take the "back seat" as their blind brother or sister receives services from many therapists and members of the medical community. From

From

the beginning, this can make the siblings feel left out, or simply not as valued. I suggest the following ways to encourage healthy relationships between children who are blind and their siblings.

1. Have the same expectations. For example, if you are a parent that has your children help with chores, make sure your visually impaired child helps, too. This is not only important to avoid sibling rivalry, but it's simply a good education. Expect your blind child to do their share of the work. This can require some adaptations on your part, and creativity at times, but if children in your home have a chore list...make sure EVERY kid does, and not just the sighted ones.

2. Inclusion goes both ways. Children who are blind benefit when they can be included with their peers, which means their siblings, too. Parents work really hard to not leave out their blind child. I suggest you do the same for the sighted kids. If you are working on braille or cane skills, teach the siblings, too. Most kids LOVE to learn braille because it is like a secret code. Knowledge about anything blindness related, will certainly lead to greater understanding, and possibly shared interests.

3. Find activities that are fun for the whole family. This is difficult for all families, regardless of who their children are because every kid is different. However, we know that family activities are the most fun when they are fun for everyone. Before planning a vacation, or even a game night, consider all sides. Don't make everyone play "Bop-it" for three hours because your visually impaired child loves it. Make sure everybody gets a turn to pick an activity, because showing favoritism will only hurt somebody's feelings.

4. Teach your visually impaired child how to interact with their siblings. Social interac-

tions are often learned visually when a child is very young, and are therefore picked up faster by those with sight. Children who are blind may have to be taught how to be polite and what is appropriate. If you're not sure where to start, consult with your child's teacher of the visually impaired (TVI). Don't let them get away with anything their sighted peers would get in trouble for...see my point #1. Have the same expectations!

5. Be an open book. Make sure you are always available to answer questions. Explain your child's diagnosis with all the children in your family, which will lead to discussion. Start young with the basics, and continually provide them with more as they're old enough to understand. Make the visual impairment something common in your home, so that it isn't feared, and so ALL of your children are comfortable talking about it. Also, they will realize that it is just one aspect of your family, and not the thing that defines them, or you.

Siblings are sometimes told that they will have to look out for their brother or sister who is visually impaired, and that responsibility is an unfair burden. Ideally, children who are blind should become as independent as possible, and can then look out for themselves. To build a path towards independence, I suggest you focus on equality. If your children feel they are all valued, and get the same amount of attention...they will want to look out for each other, and will have healthy two-sided relationships for life.

MAKING SENSE

Illinois Talking Book Center: Talking Books in Illinois has undergone some changes during the past year to help provide better service to you. The Illinois Talking Book Center

(ITBC) serves people in Illinois outside of Chicago. Their reader advisors can help you sign up for services, order books, find the titles you want and recommend other titles that may interest you. To contact the Illinois Talking Book Center, call 800-426-0709 or email info@talkingbooks.org. People living in Chicago should continue to call the Talking Book Center at Harold Washington Library at 312-747-4001.

Summer Social Club for Teens: The Chicago Park District is offering a place for teens, ages 16 to 25, to get together to explore Chicago and improve independence and life skills in the process. The group meets on Wednesdays and Fridays for four hours at Davis Square Park. To learn more and to register, call 312-742-7529.

Accessible Dart Game: The Audio Dart Master is an electronic dart game that uses synthesized voice and sound effect to make playing darts accessible. The nylon tip darts are sharp enough to stick but do not damage the board. The game provides information on where the dart lands, point totals and clock face location to target the next shot. The board also describes rules for 12 different games and has online help. To learn more, visit www.audiodartmaster.com or call 763-383-0077.



Reprinted from MAKING SENSE, July 2014, *Second Sense, Beyond vision loss*, 65 East Wacker Place, Suite 1010, Chicago, IL 60601, 312-236-8569, www.second-sense.org.



From the Field:

UEB Ready – NBA Training Opportunity

A 3-day intensive training on the Unified English Braille Code will be offered at the National Braille Association’s Professional Development Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, **October 23-25, 2014**.

For more information, visit www.nationalbraille.org or call (585) 427-8260.

Recent Actions of the Braille Authority of North America: Spring 2014

The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) held its 2014 spring meeting April 3 – 5 in Philadelphia, PA. Associated Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, (ASB), a BANA member organization, hosted the meeting.

During its three-day meeting, the BANA Board reviewed and acted on semiannual reports from its eighteen committees, considered committee recommendations, and deliberated issues and challenges facing braille users and producers. The UEB Task Force reported on the development of a plan for the transition to UEB in the United States as well as the collaborative steps that have been taken to initiate dialogue and planning among the various braille communities. The development of resources for training teachers, transcribers, consumers, and family members is a focus of BANA’s efforts at this time.

BANA welcomed three new organizational representatives to their first meeting as members of the Board. Dawn Gross is the new representative from the Alternate Text Production Center of the California Community Colleges (ATPC). Peggy Schuetz now represents the California Transcribers and Educators of the Blind and Visually Impaired (CTEBVI). Kyle

(Continued on page 24)

Join The **FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS**

TELL CONGRESS: PROTECT VISION RESEARCH

Recent breakthroughs in retinal disease research – many funded by the Foundation thanks to the support of people like you – have given rise to an exciting era of clinical trials. It is **no longer a question of if we can find treatments and cures for sight-stealing retinal diseases, but when.**

Now is the time to accelerate funding for vision research, both in the private AND public sectors.

Today, I hope you will join others in taking one simple action through our 2014 Summer Challenge to End Blindness to help make that happen.

Right now, Congress is debating budget priorities for the coming year, including funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Eye Institute (NEI). But if current proposed budgets are enacted, it would mark the 11th straight year that funding has not keeping pace with biomedical inflation. **That means less research grant funding from our partners at NEI – funding that could hold the promise of moving us toward a cure** for so many retinal diseases affecting millions around the world.

We must lend our support to the National Eye Institute to ensure it keeps up the momentum for funding research that is saving and restoring vision.

Email your members of Congress now and tell them to keep up the research momentum by funding NIH at \$32 billion and NEI at \$730 million. Find form at:

[https://secure2.convio.net/ffb/site/
Advocacy;jsessionid=8AA82A21BDDFC14611E7F54FB5F6ED1E.app263b?
cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=211&s_src=FY14SC1C2](https://secure2.convio.net/ffb/site/Advocacy;jsessionid=8AA82A21BDDFC14611E7F54FB5F6ED1E.app263b?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=211&s_src=FY14SC1C2)

Our message is simple: Sight-saving research needs to be a priority.

20 million Americans will be affected by vision-robbing diseases by the year 2020, making blindness one of the most urgent health issues of our time.

We are get closer every day to breakthroughs that can literally change lives for millions. Now is not the time to pull back, but to move forward in unison to end blindness.



Thank you in advance for taking action.



Stephen Rose, Ph.D.
Chief Research Officer

©2014 Foundation Fighting Blindness, 7168 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 100,
Columbia, MD 21046



for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



The Chicago Lighthouse

SECOND ANNUAL Mike Ditka Charity

GOLF tournament



Please join us for: The Chicago Lighthouse Second Annual Mike Ditka Charity Golf Tournament

Monday, July 14th, 2014

North Shore Country Club

1340 Glenview Road, Glenview, IL

- 10:00 am Registration & Practice Range Open
- 11:30 am Shot Gun Start
- Lunch Served on Course
- Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres & awards immediately following

Please join us in supporting vital services at our Chicago Lighthouse North facility in Glenview for people of all ages who are blind or visually impaired with the legendary former NFL player, coach, ESPN analyst and Lighthouse Board Member Mike Ditka.



North Shore Country Club
Home of the 2013 & 2014 PGA Encompass Championship Tour

For additional information, contact: events@chicagolighthouse.org or phone 312.666.1331 x 3352.

FRCD



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

March with FRCD at the 11th Annual Disability Pride Parade!

Join Family Resource Center on Disabilities (FRCD), a leading advocate for the rights of children with disabilities, for a day of solidarity, awareness and celebration of disability pride.



WHEN:

Saturday, July 19, 2014
Parade: 11am to 12:30 pm
Post Parade Festivities: 12:30 pm

WHEN:

We will meet at the staging area at 401 S. Plymouth Court at 10:15 a.m. Post parade festivities will begin 12:30 p.m. at Daley Plaza at Washington and Dearborn.

WHERE:

www.frcd.org/dpp2014/

Registration is free, but we ask that you register to march with FRCD, so that we know how many snacks and t-shirts we need to provide. Those who register by June 30, are guaranteed a free FRCD t-shirt.

Fall 2014 Volunteer Advocacy Training Project

The Volunteer Advocacy Training Project is a training program for individuals who are willing to become advocates for families as they navigate their way through the world of special education.

Requirements:

- Willing to attend all 8 sessions
- Willing to shadow an advocate at Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings
- Willing to advocate for a minimum of four families of children with disabilities

Training will cover:

- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- State Law (Part 226)
- The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

To complete an application online visit:

<http://frcd.org/vatp/app/>. For more information contact Paula Wills at paula.wills@frcd.org or call 312-939-3513. Deadline for application submission is Friday, August 15, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

All training and materials are free. The Volunteer Advocacy Training Project is eight sessions long and is limited to 12 committed participants. Homework is required and must be completed prior to each session. Participants must have access to a computer with internet for the purposes of completing homework.

The training will be in the fall of 2014 from 10:00am to 2:00pm (CST). The dates are:

September 8th, September 15th, September 20th, September 27th, October 4th, October 11th, October 18th, October 25th

Transition Needs Assessment

The Division of Rehabilitation has made a major commitment to expansion of VR services to transition age youth with disabilities. As part of this effort, DRS is conducting an online Transition Needs Assessment in order to obtain additional information on the priority service needs for the youth population. This survey builds upon the 2013 online needs assessment survey by focusing exclusively on transition needs.

There are two parts to the survey. The first asks for ratings of perceived need for a variety of transition-related services, using a 7-point rating scale. The second section describes four transition projects being developed by DRS and asks for an indication of support for each project. The survey is accessible to individuals using screen reader technology.

The online survey is located on the DRS Success web site. The survey is located at this link:
<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?module=17&item=71984&surveyid=250>

You can also access the survey by going to **drs.illinois.gov/success** and clicking on the link at the right side of the page labeled "DRS Transition Needs Assessment Survey".

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and let us know your thoughts on these service options.

Also, please forward this message to any individuals or organizations that you believe would be interested in offering their opinions regarding transition services.

Thank you for your cooperation. Should you have any questions, please contact Doug Morton at Douglas.Morton@illinois.gov, 312-814-1936 (Voice) or 888-440-8995 (TTY).

Save the Date

The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities is excited to announce that



will return to Navy Pier on
Free and Open to the Public
July 17, 2014
Navy Pier, Festival Hall A
10am-5pm

***AccessChicago* is the perfect event for people with disabilities of all ages!**

Test products, services and connect with community organizations to learn about available disability-related social services.

- Take part in various adaptive sports and recreational demonstrations.
- Learn about legal rights of people with disabilities.
- Participate in a free health screening.
- **Great family event! Fun activities for children!**

New This Year!

- Attendees can sign up online in advance via Eventbrite! [Go to \[www.eventbrite.com/e/accesschicago-tickets-10022356137\]\(http://www.eventbrite.com/e/accesschicago-tickets-10022356137\) to sign up for *AccessChicago* early to avoid lines, enter raffles, sign up for MOPD news alerts mailing lists, and more!](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/accesschicago-tickets-10022356137)
- Exhibitors can now sell products and services at *AccessChicago*!



City of Chicago
Rahm Emanuel, Mayor

Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities
Karen Tamley, Commissioner



MIDWEST MEETUP: DAY AT THE DUNES

Swim, hike, play Discs on the Dunes (accessible disc golf), Sculptionaries, Castle Contests, music, chill with cool people, food, fun, and memories

Hey all you blind high school & college students; Are you ready for a break after a long semester, a way to meet & bond with friends and build real memories? Come for some fun in the sun with the IL & IN Associations of Blind Students' Day at the Dunes.

Saturday, July 20, 2014

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore – Michigan City, IN

Departure: 10:00 AM from Indianapolis and locations along the way; Return: 10:00 PM

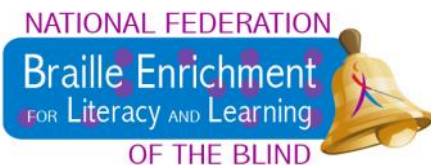
Just \$15 (includes transportation & food)

To register, go to: **http://nfbofillinois.org/?page_id=651**

For more information or to learn about transportation options, please contact Christopher Meyer at (765)480-2978 or chsmeyer@umail.iu.edu. Don't forget your swimsuits and towels!

The National Federation of the blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people, because low expectations





The National Federation of the Blind is excited to offer its Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning Program, BELL, this summer in Illinois. This opportunity will be a weeklong residential program on Illinois State University's campus.

Where: Illinois State University Campus, Normal, IL

When: July 21- July 25, 2014

Who: Blind child/Parent pairs

Cost: \$50

The children will explore and learn new Braille and blindness skills.

A Parent session will run parallel with the student portion. Information on allowing for independence, community resources and child advocacy and much more will be covered.

Apply at: <https://nfb.org/bell-program> after March 15, 2014



(Continued from page 18)

Key has recently been appointed as the representative from the Clovernook Center for the Blind.

In addition to extensive deliberations involved in the 44-item meeting agenda, actions of note included the following:

Revisited and revised organizational priorities in order to balance BANA's work during this time of focus on the transition to UEB.

Approved a recommendation from the Tactile Graphics Technical Committee that any braille volume containing one or more tactile graphics should contain a note on the Transcriber's Notes page stating: "The Guidelines and Standards for Tactile Graphics, 2010 was used in the preparation of the tactile graphics."

(Continued on page 28)



Join ISVI and HVEIO for the 1st annual:

ISVI-P

Illinois Summer Vision Instructional Partnership

Cortical Vision Impairment: Visions of Change

Building Visual Behaviors

Integrating Vision into Daily Routines and Activities

More Typical Visual Functioning

Use of Technology with Students with CVI

Effective Practices

Use of American Printing House for the Blind Materials

Illinois EI and Educator Credit available

IL School for the Visually Impaired

Friday—August 8, 2014

8:30—3:30

Cost: **FREE** (lunch on your own)

We have arranged for a room block for Thursday August 7th at the **Holiday Inn Express** at 2501 Holliday Lane, Jacksonville, IL. You must make your hotel reservation before July 10 to get group rate.

The room block is listed under

ISVI- Andrea Marwah

Room rate is: \$83 + tax

Space for room block is limited, don't delay

217-245-6500

Presenter: **Beth Ramella**

Beth is a teacher certificated in the education of students with visual impairment, a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS) and director of Outreach Services at the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children. Ms. Ramella participated in the two-year, Pennsylvania, collaborative training initiative known as the CVI Mentor Project with Dr. Christine Roman-Lantzy. Dr. Roman-Lantzy and Ms. Ramella have worked collaboratively to develop a model for capacity building for children with CVI at the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children.



State of Illinois
Department of Human Services



For conference and registration information:

Gail.Olson@illinois.gov

Call 217-479-4318

Visit: bit.ly/HVEIOEvents

Sponsored by:



Illinois School for the
Visually Impaired
658 E. State Street
Jacksonville, IL
217-479-4400



HEARING and VISION
EARLY INTERVENTION OUTREACH



EARLY INTERVENTION TRAINING and TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Do you have a visually impaired child? Hadley can help.

The Hadley School for the Blind's Family Education Program includes a number of tuition-free distance education courses to help busy parents support their blind or visually impaired children. Instructors provide personalized, one-on-one instruction and advice and are available by phone, email, fax or online. They also can provide information and referrals to other professionals in the field.

Courses include:



✦ **Braille and Your Baby or Toddler** — This new course provides parents and professionals with tools and information needed to prepare a child for reading braille, including an introduction to the braille alphabet and numbers for sighted readers. It discusses the creation of a braille-rich environment and activities that promote the development of oral language and motor skills.



✦ **Learning Through Play** — Play is essential to a child's growth and development. This course offers parents and caregivers suggestions on teaching children about themselves and the world around them, including how to be more confident and independent.



✦ **You, Your Child and Your Community** — This one-lesson, "mini" course shows how planning can help parents face challenges more confidently while strengthening relationships their child, other family members and their community. Other mini-courses include "Beginning the Special Education Journey" and "How to be Your Child's Advocate."

For a full list of courses focused on early childhood and school-age children, visit the Hadley Web site at www.hadley.edu and click on Family Education Program.

Questions? Contact Debbie Worman at debbie@hadley.edu or call 800-323-4238.



BLAST OFF TO SPACE CAMP!



The 2014 sessions for SCI-VIS (Space Camp for Interested Visually Impaired Students) will be held Sept. 20 – Sept. 25, 2014 (travel home 9/26/2014) at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Students throughout the world are invited to attend this very special program. Space Camp will gather academically oriented visually impaired students. Braille, large print, low vision devices, CCTV's, refreshable braille displays, and synthetic speech, among others are available during this special week to allow a better experience for children with

visual impairments.



The word "camp" truly understates the **EXPERIENCE** of Space Camp. Students live in a simulated space station called Habitat 1. They have the opportunity to practice their leadership and teamwork abilities as they prepare for two Space Shuttle missions.

While preparing for a "role" (Shuttle Pilot, Communications Officer in Mission Control, Space Station Scientist, and many others), students learn about the history of manned space flight, shuttle and space station basics, and water survival. Simultaneously, they experience lunar gravity (1/6 Earth gravity), the 5DF (degrees of freedom) chair, and the Zero G wall. The students participate in building a lunar colony. They also build and fly their own rocket! They will tour Rocket Park, the world's most comprehensive collection of rocketry. At night the Spacedome Theater features space and science films, such as "Blue Planet" and "The Dream is Alive" which were filmed in space by astronauts, projected on a 67-foot dome screen. And more, and more, and more...

Space Camp is open to students from 4th grade (age 10) through high school. There are four separate programs available, including Aviation Challenge (Mach I-III), Space Academy, Advanced Academy, and Space Camp. Each program costs \$700.

Space Camp, Space Academy, and Advanced Academy focus on space travel. Another exciting part of Space Camp is the Aviation Challenge Program. Aviation Challenge (AC) introduces students to the total experience of military jet pilot training. Students learn the basics of flying, propulsion systems, navigation, high performance maneuvering, and more. Students fly simulators, practice taking off and landing on aircraft carriers, and participate in search and rescue missions. They also learn and practice the basics of land and water survival. WOW! There is a lot to do in Aviation Challenge.

Grant for Space Camp available - Yes, rocket science can be a lot of fun! Space Camp 2014 will be from Sept. 20 to Sept. 25, 2014 (travel home 9/26/2014.) It will again be a week full of fun, action and exciting activities. AER IL will sponsor the camp fee for one student and assist with travel expenses for a chaperone. Please view the Space Camp flier and the Scholarship application or call Andy Heim at 309-264-8895 for more details.

Space Camp 2014 Info - PDF

Space Camp 2014 Application - Word

Space Camp 2014 Application - PDF

For more information contact

Andy Heim at:

Magnified Vision

P.O. Box 5454

Morton, IL 61550

Phone: (888) 567-8766

Email: info@magnifiedvision.net

(Continued from page 24)

Approved a document detailing specific factors and specifications that should be employed when producing braille signage. This new fact sheet will be posted on the BANA website.

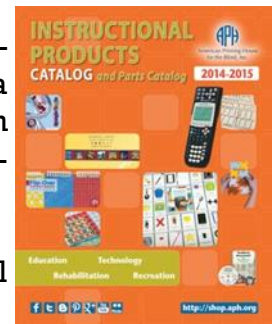
Voted that, in light of the major revision underway to align the Braille Formats publication with UEB, BANA will not produce for sale hardcopy editions of Braille Formats 2011, which can be downloaded free of charge from the BANA website and printed or embossed. The Board also voted to add the recently posted errata in the HTML, PDF, and BRF files of Braille Formats 2011 that are posted on the BANA website. These decisions followed an extensive deliberation of the complex issues impacting BANA's current obligations and resources. NOTE: Braille Formats 2011 went into effect in January 1, 2013. Materials now being transcribed should follow these guidelines.

BANA also hosted an Open Forum, which was well attended by individuals from the Philadelphia community. BANA Board members and forum participants enjoyed reading example documents transcribed in Unified English Braille and discussing the characteristics of the code. They also discussed the progress of the transition to UEB as well as ongoing plans for informing braille readers and preparing educators and transcribers about specific code changes.

For more information and additional resources, visit www.brailleauthority.org.

New Instructional Products Catalog Now Available!

The new *Instructional Products Catalog 2014-2015* is now available! Over 20 major new products or product families are featured in this catalog, which is a complete listing of APH products other than textbooks. Find new products in the areas of geography, biology, mathematics, early childhood, assistive technology, and more.



To request your free print catalog with the bright orange cover, please email catalogs@aph.org or call 1-800-223-1839 M-F, 8am to 4:30pm Eastern time.

Accessible editions of this catalog will be posted on our website soon. All products listed in the catalog are available for purchase on our shopping site.

NEW! Talking Typer for Windows: Digital Download, Licenses

25-49 Licenses, D-03430-ED1 -- \$69.00 per machine

50-74 Licenses, D-03430-ED2 -- \$63.00 per machine

75-99 Licenses, D-03430-ED3 -- \$55.00 per machine

100 or More Licenses, D-03430-ED4 -- \$47.00 per machine



Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments

APH is now offering a lower cost per copy for this classic keyboarding software if purchased as a multiple-machine license. The license is available for the non-enhanced voicing version of Talking Typewriter. **Note:** The price for an individual copy of Talking Typewriter is \$79.00.

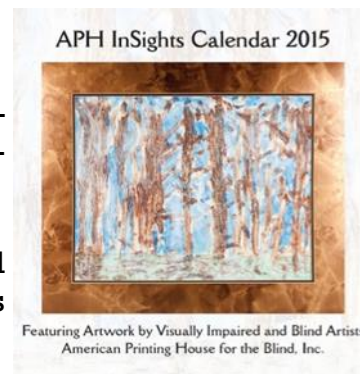
Talking Typewriter(TM) is computer keyboarding and typing training software that speaks and displays lessons on screen. It includes drills, practice, and typing games and is adjustable to the student's level of skill and sight impairment.

NEW! APH InSights Art Calendar 2015

5-18971-15 -- \$7.00

This beautiful full-color calendar features the artwork of visually impaired artists. Suitable for low vision or blind students and adults or anyone who enjoys unique artwork.

Months, days, holidays, and moon phases appear in both braille and large print. This calendar can be used at a desk or hung on a wall and is ring bound to allow pages to be folded over easily.



Features

- Full-color artwork by visually impaired and blind artists
- Large print and braille
- Front cover can be imprinted and brailled with your company name, logo, address, website, 800 number, etc.
- Makes an excellent fund-raiser!

Note: A special version of this attractive calendar can be custom-printed with your organization's name for fund-raising purposes!

Braille Plus 18 Unleashed!

T-Mobile® USA Inc. is making it easy for you to test your **Braille Plus 18** and any other tablet device that works on a GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) network. Just take your Braille Plus 18 into a local T-Mobile® store and show them the SIM card slot on your device. T-Mobile® USA Inc. will give you the proper size SIM card and a phone number free of charge. With the free account you can browse the Web and email up to 200 MB worth of transferred data. Each month you will receive another 200 MB of data to use; any unused amount does not roll over. You cannot go over the allotted amount as it just stops working until it is reloaded the next month, so there are never any fees. This is a great, safe, and free way to try out the Braille Plus 18 on the Internet. Find your local T-Mobile® store or more information



at this website:

www.t-mobile.com/landing/bring-your-own-tablet.html.

NIP EVENT: *Visions of Change* Coming to Illinois!

APH and the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired are pleased to announce an upcoming National Instructional Partnerships (NIP) event, "Cortical Vision Impairment: Visions of Change." The event will be held Friday, August 8, 2014 at the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired in Jacksonville, IL.



Beth Ramella, Director of Outreach Services at the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children, will present the workshop. Beth is a member of Dr. Christine Roman-Lantzy's CVI Mentor Project in Pennsylvania, and has worked collaboratively with Dr. Roman-Lantzy to develop a model for capacity building for children with CVI at the Western Pennsylvania School.

There is no cost for the training. Registration information, lodging arrangements and other details can be found at bit.ly/HVEIOEvents, or contact Gail Olson at Gail.Olson@illinos.gov, or call 217-479-4318.

THE BUDDY BIKE

This RARE & UNIQUE tandem bicycle for 2 is known as "THE BUDDY BIKE". You can research it for yourself on the internet & there is a demonstration & video on how it works & it will have some more detailed pictures so you can get a better idea on what you are looking at! It is just one single bike with 2 seats side by side as opposed to front & back. This way you both can see everything with no one sitting behind you and staring at your back! LOL! It has 2 sets of handle bars; the person that chooses to sit on the left side will have control of the steering and breaks, and your buddy, who will sit on the right, is just the passenger but needs to pedal, so there is some work involved for the passenger! This "BUDDY BIKE" is in excellent condition & now that the warmer weather is approaching, this is a great way to travel and enjoy the outdoors! I am asking \$500 for this bike. It is well worth the investment! If you should have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at 630-460-7155. My name is Michelle.





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

FEATURED SESSION

Global Positioning Systems and the Traveler with a VI: "Who?" "What?" "Where?" "Why?" and "How?"



The parameters of GPS for the traveler with a visual impairment, examples of how to effectively use the information to nurture the development of travel confidence and experiential knowledge, and tactics to foster the development of control in the environment will be discussed in this session.

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

Watch This Session for FREE!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Visual Impairment, Balance and Mobility: Improving Balance and Mobility in People Over 50 Years of Age with Visual Impairments

Older adults with visual impairments have increased risk of falls and injury. Results from a systematic review, and clinical trial are presented. The intervention group (n=60) received a lesson in the Alexander Technique for 12 weeks, the control group (n=60) usual care. The Alexander Technique uses manual guidance and verbal feedback to improve balance and mobility. Measures of balance, mobility and emotional well-being were measured at baseline, 12 weeks and 12 months. Falls data were with calendars over 12 months.

MORE: Same website



Metrics to Measure Client Progress

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Cane Color Recognition by Passing Motorists

This session will describe the results of a research project conducted by the author and his class of advanced Orientation & Mobility (O&M) students measuring the recognition factor by passing motorists of various long canes typically used by persons who are blind. The use of canes colored other than white has become increasingly popular among younger cane users and has been met with some support by some of the O&M community. This session will discuss protections offered by White Cane Laws and will report the results garnered by this research project.

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.

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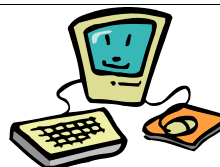
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IPVI CALENDAR

- | | | |
|-----------|--|--------------------------|
| ▶ 7/12 | 2014 13th Annual Members Only Zoo Outing | Brookfield |
| ▶ 7/14 | TCL Mike Ditka Charity Golf Tournament | Glenview |
| ▶ 7/17 | AccessChicago | Chicago |
| ▶ 7/19 | FRCD 11th Annual Disability Pride Parade | Chicago |
| ▶ 7/20 | Midwest Meetup: Day at the Dunes | Michigan City, IN |
| ▶ 7/21-25 | NFB Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning Program (BELL) | Chicago |
| ▶ 8/8 | ISVI-P Illinois Summer Vision Instructional Partnership | Jacksonville |
| ▶ 9/20-25 | Space Camp | Huntsville, AL |

Please call
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for any questions, concerns,
or comments that IPVI can
help you with.

**Newsletter Deadline for
AUGUST 2014 is JULY 15th**



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