

# IPVI INSIGHTS

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

June  
2013



## 2013 12TH ANNUAL MEMBERS ONLY OUTING

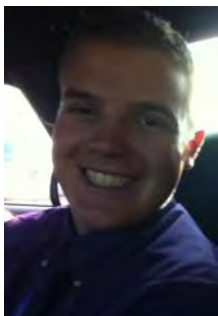
### *“Literacy through Experience at Brookfield Zoo”*

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 20, 2013 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 at 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), Hamill Family Play Zoo, Children’s Petting Zoo, etc.



#### **SPEAKER INFO**

Our keynote speaker will be Matthew Juskie. Matt is a 17-year old senior at Lincolnway North High School and writes the Ask M@ column in our IPVI’s monthly Insights. He is an honor student, an avid golfer who utilizes a spotter as he is legally blind, has aniridia and nystagmus. He will speak about the importance of parental influence on the success of children with vision impairments or other disabilities.

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 2013 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.**

## Inside This Issue:

IPVI Zoo Outing	1
Annual Membership and Brookfield Zoo	2
2013 Zoo Registration Form	4
Zoo Directions	5
Ms. Vic's Volleys	3
Change/IPVI's Phone Number	3
Pictures/Helen Keller Walk	7
Sharing a Vision, Parent to Parent	7
Ask M@	8
Paralympic Journey Continues	8
Making Sense	9
Pedestrian Safety	9
Pet/Guide Dog Transportation Services	9
FFB Power of 3	10
Seedlings Braille Books for Children	11
Summer Audio-Description Movies	12
Summer Plays with Audio Description	13
FFB Vision Walk	15
Lighthouse North Summer Camp	16
Summer Camp Registration Form	17
Lighthouse North/Paul Gaynore, AMC Settlement	18
TCL Annual House & Garden Walk	19
Lighthouse North Outing to Botanic Gardens	20
ican's 8 <sup>th</sup> International Conference	21
NAPVI 2013 8th International Conference	22
Blind, Inc. Buddy Program	23
NFB Bell Program	24
Lighthouse Away Southwestern Expedition	25
NFB STEM-X	27
FRCD Improving Special Education	28
FRCD Free Parent's Workshops	29
FRCD Summer Camp	29
Lighthouse North's Adult Enrichment Programs	30
Lighthouse North's Young Professionals Social Club	31
IPVI's MJB Scholarship Fund	32
Pacer/Planning Child's Transition to K	33
The Eye Specialists Center	36
IPVI Board of Directors	36
IPVI Membership Dues	37
IPVI Calendar of Events	38

## Annual Membership and Brookfield Zoo

*Bill Bielawski, IPVI President*

If you haven't received our mailing yet, you will in a day or two. This mailing lets you renew your membership with IPVI, or join "NAPVI and IPVI". It also lets you sign up for our annual outing at Brookfield Zoo. There are three pieces of paper in the envelop.

The first page is printed on our IPVI letterhead. It gives an explanation of the mailing. At the bottom of the front side, it gives the date of the Zoo Outing. On the back, it has instructions and a map for the Zoo (see page 5). This page is for you to keep.

The second page is your membership form preprinted with the information we currently have in IPVI's membership database. Please update any information that has changed or is missing. You have the option to join only IPVI by sending a \$15 check payable to IPVI to our Naperville address. Or you can join both "NAPVI and IPVI" by sending a \$40 check payable to NAPVI to NAPVI's address.

If you already are a member of NAPVI+IPVI, we still sent you a membership form to update your information. Mail this form, but no money to our IPVI address. NAPVI will send you a notice when your membership expires.

The third sheet of paper is the usual Zoo Outing registration form (see page 4) so you can order and pay for your T-shirts. This form and your T-shirt check payable to IPVI will be sent to Mary Zabelski at the Chicago Lighthouse.

The Zoo Outing is a members-only event so you must join IPVI or NAPVI+IPVI as described above. You will get free parking, free entrance to the zoo, free children's exhibits, free lunch, and a free dolphin show. I hope to see many of you at Brookfield Zoo on the 3rd Saturday in July.

PLEASE REGISTER BY JULY 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Mail Registration Form & your check payable to IPVI to:

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



Dear Families and Readers:

Due to costs and little use, IPVI will no longer have a toll free number. All calls will continue to be handled by Victoria Juskie.

IPVI's main contact number is being changed to 815-355-2098. This is Victoria's cell phone number, and she will be able to receive text messages as well. You may leave messages for any IPVI Board Member on any matter and they will be forwarded.

If you have any questions, please contact us at this number or via email at [vajuskie@aol.com](mailto:vajuskie@aol.com). Thanks for your understanding.

### MS. VIC'S VOLLEYS

*Victoria Juskie, IPVI Treasurer*

#### **VOLLEY I**

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

The **Jager** Family, Chicago

#### **VOLLEY II**

I would like to thank the Lions Club and all of its volunteers for the wonderful Helen Keller 5K Run/Walk Day of festivities. They provided all the runners/walkers with a t-shirt and a goody bag, free lunch of pizza, hot dogs, snacks, and drinks, as well as camaraderie and terrific memories. Additionally, there

were raffle prizes awarded and ribbons for the top-placed runners.

The Smolkas, David, Terri and Samantha, helped run the beep baseball game between Chicago Comets and the Burbank Police Department that was a hoot to watch.

We had numerous families and individuals join the festivities from IPVI besides me. We like to say thanks to The Jagers; The Gaminos; The Wolfes; The Sprechers; Pam Stern; Corrine Lambert; Matthew, Angela and MacCauley Juskie, as well as The Smolkas.

We would also like to thank those that donated and sponsored our team, especially: The Mussers; Marybeth Fitzpatrick; The Lamberts; Laura Braeunig; Lori Coleman, The Jagers,

*(Continued on page 6)*

## IPVI's 2013 BROOKFIELD ZOO - MEMBERS-ONLY OUTING Saturday July 20<sup>th</sup> Registration & Payment Form

Attendance is restricted to currently paid members of IPVI. All attendees must pre-register, purchase a 2013 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)  
3) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_ T-Shirt: (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg), (XX-lg), (XXX-lg)  
4) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_ T-Shirt: (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg), (XX-lg), (XXX-lg)  
5) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_ T-Shirt: (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg), (XX-lg), (XXX-lg)  
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!

	Number of T-Shirts	Cost of T-Shirts
Total Number of Zoo Admission T-Shirts @ \$9/person		
Donation to IPVI for (IPVI scholarship) or (Zoo costs)		
<b>TOTAL MONEY (included with this form) payable to IPVI</b>		

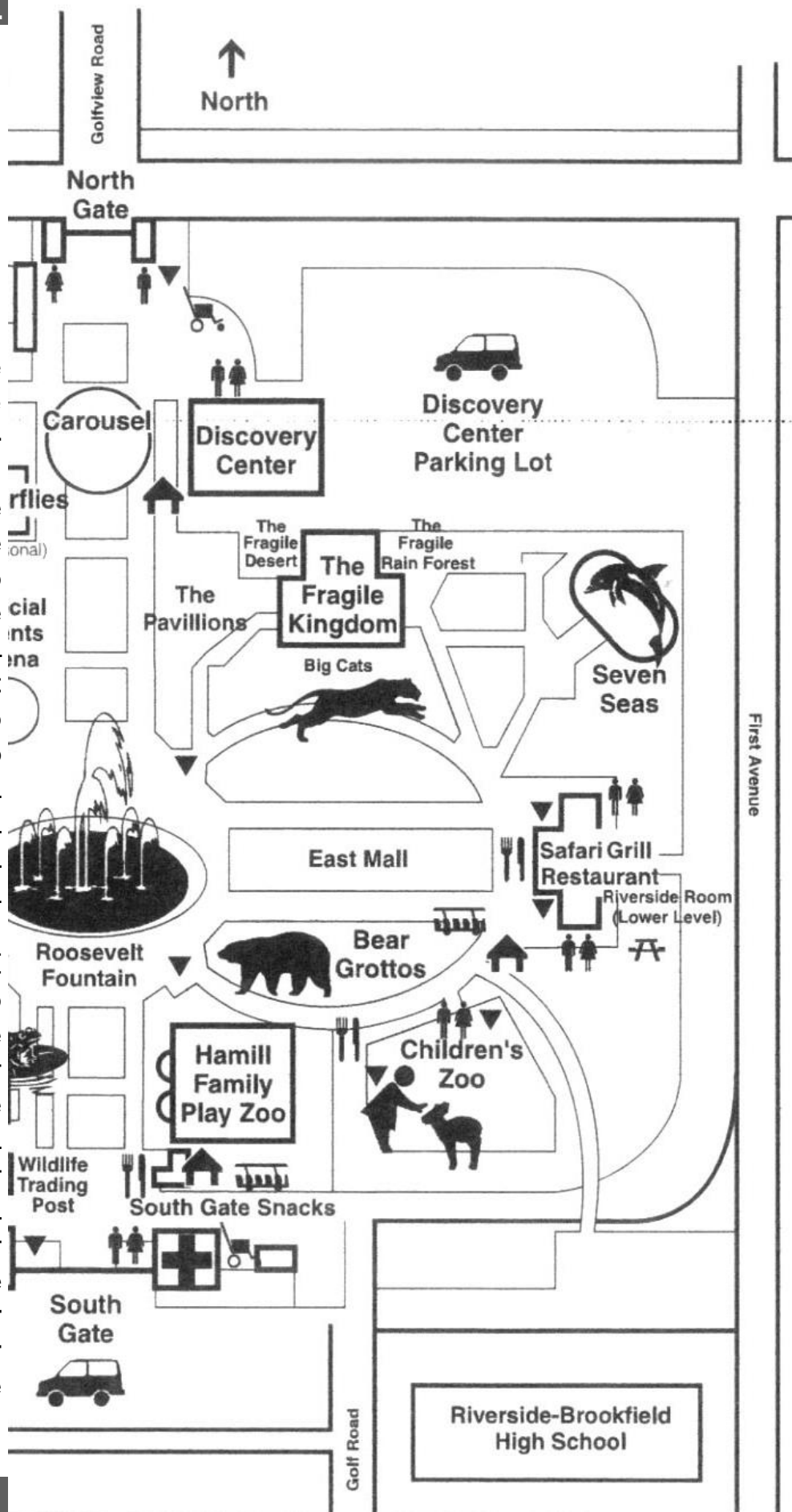
### REGISTRATION CLOSES ON JULY 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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



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!





(Continued from page 3) - Ms. Vic's Volleys

The Gaminos, The Sprechers, The Smolkas, The Wolfes, The Havertys; and The Juskies.

### **VOLLEY III**

Terry Prince, a singer-songwriter, self-published author/lecturer and nationally certified Fitness Instructor teaching on the Body, Mind and Spirit connection. wrote:

*"Your life is your garden, your thoughts are the seeds. If your life isn't awesome, you've been watering the weeds."*

How true these words are. Our attitude about ourselves and our lives has a major impact on the quality of our lives. I have been amazed at how wonderfully adept many of the parents of children with visual issues are at keeping up a positive attitude about the challenges being faced.

I have to admit during the first three years after our discovering our child's visual impairment and the uncertainty of his future vision or lack thereof, I was scared. Scared of the unknown. Frightened of what lay ahead. However, what never faltered was my faith in God. They say, when one door closes, He opens a window. Will it be different dealing with the issues of a loss of vision and/or other physical/mental abilities? The plain answer is yes. What isn't different is that you love that child just the way he/she is and s/he loves you – warts and all. Treat the child the same way you do any other. Will we make mistakes? Yes. Will we have bad days where we feel everything is against us and we wonder why? Of course. But guess what? Even if there is nothing identified as different about your child at birth, that doesn't mean something along the way in life won't change or develop to give you cause for concern -- physical, intellectual, emotional or otherwise. You'll have the same emotions either way. In each instance, the only thing you can do is your best.

So my tip of the day is to keep your faith and love your child as is. Look forward to all the joys you're going to get as well. Those are the things to focus on, like each milestone reached -- whether later than usual or not. Being a member of a support group like ours is a lifeline also. I know I wouldn't have fared nearly as well as I did if it weren't for IPVI and its "veterans of war," -- the war on outsiders' stupid remarks, the struggles against the naysayers, the doctors' "doomsday" prognoses, etc. These individuals helped me and still do. I thank all of you and hope in some small way, I can repay you by being here to help the others that follow us. I can use some help though, so anyone who wishes to volunteer, please come forward and join the ranks. IPVI sure could use you. :D

### **VOLLEY IV**

Happy Father's Day to all those who are Fathers, Grandfathers, Godfathers, Stepfathers, Foster Fathers, Adopted Fathers, Expectant Fathers, Fathers-in-Law and men who care for others like Fathers, whether you're here or in heaven: Have a wonderful blessed Father's day. Thank you for all you've done to help children become productive members of society who know and feel love because of who you are. You are appreciated, cherished and irreplaceable even if those children don't tell it to you often enough. All of your efforts as well as your mistakes have molded these children. Without you they won't or wouldn't have become the people they are. God Bless All of You!



## SHARING THE VISION, PARENT TO PARENT

**Let's have a dialogue. Do you have a question? One of us may have an answer or at least a suggestion.**

Submit questions and responses for the IPVI Newsletter to:

Pam Stern  
NAPVI Region 3 Representative  
[pamstern3@gmail.com](mailto:pamstern3@gmail.com)

### **JUNE QUESTION**

*How has a Blind Role Model Impacted  
How You Feel About Your Child's Future?*

**Newsletter entries will be published  
maintaining the anonymity of all un-  
less otherwise approved.**

### **Editor's Note:**

IPVI members, please send in answers to the "Sharing a Vision, Parent to Parent" column. I'm sure many of you have something you would like to say about the questions that pertain to your child. Your answers do not have to be long, but whatever you say may be beneficial to other members of IPVI.

Thank You,

Joan Bielawski



**Lion's Club  
Helen Keller 5K Run/Walk Day**



**Beep Baseball Game**

## ASK M@



Hey, everyone. I hope all are doing well and enjoying the weather. School is finally over!!!! Finals went well for me and, hopefully, the same for all the young ones out there. Sorry, parents, you don't get to play all day. You

still have work! Ha, ha! I'm just kidding. We appreciate all you do.

This month, I have a couple things to talk about. First off, I would like to send out a big shout-out and thanks to the Lions Clubs all over the Chicagoland area for a great Helen Keller Fun Run/Walk way back on April 28th. It was a great time and very nice to get to reunited with all the families of IPVI that attended. Thanks for coming out.

Second off, I would like to convey a strong message for everyone. I want you to remember that even though you may have some struggles in your life, and sometimes they may seem a little much -- possibly too much to overcome—just remember, you're not alone. The big thing is that each and every person around you has his/her own set of issues. You may sit there and say "that one person may seem like the happiest, most popular person. I wish I could be like that." But what needs to be understood is that you have no idea what he or she is keeping bottled inside.

I have really learned this recently from clubs and extra activities I've participated in. I have gotten to talk with and get to know some other kids that may be some of the most popular or happiest. But just through casual conversation, you can see that is not really true. Their lives are not perfect.

In line with this, the worst commercial I have ever heard is the one where the woman is crying, asking everyone to join the organ donation program with the State. Now, I'm all in favor of that, but she then says something like, you guys don't know what it's like to not have a normal life. I'm sorry, but she can't be further from the truth. What is a normal life anyway? We all have our own issues, so no one really lives a "normal" life. That just really gets to me. More importantly you must remember, it might not be a vision issue. For others it may be difficult to comprehend things or more difficult to remember stuff—anything. You could sit there and say, "Well, that's nothing compared to my problems," but my answer to that would be, no, that's not true. In their life that is their biggest issue, and in your life, yours is yours. It's as simple as that. Adversity hits every single one of us. It is how we cope by just simply trying to make the best out of everything. I suggest that you never look at what it could be. Look at what it isn't. It always could be worse, so take what you have and cherish it. This is some of the biggest advice I could give. It no doubt is hard to do; but trust me, you will be such a happier person for doing so. So I hope everyone can try to remember this the next time you get down.

Have a great month, and I'll talk to you next time.

(Happy Father's Day, Dad.)

M@



## PARALYMPIC JOURNEY CONTINUES!!

*By Terri Smolka*

During the May 4, 2013 weekend, Samantha Smolka participated in the GLASA Regional Tournament (a meet qualifier for Nationals) for swim, track and field. Sam's swim times were very good, especially since she had to over-



come a separated shoulder during the past winter. She finished in the top three for the 50-yard freestyle, 50-meter breaststroke and the 100-yard IM, which included the backstroke, freestyle, butterfly and breaststroke.

On that Saturday and Sunday, Sam completed track/field events in which she set personal records, especially in the 200-meter sprint for a time of 32.43 seconds. This is a fantastic accomplishment as this beats her previous record by at least two full seconds. The representative from the U.S. Paralympics told us she vaulted to the ranking of World Class B for T13's in the vision category for track. Sam was extremely emotional accomplishing such a goal and has a dream of being selected to the United States team for 2016.

She is on her way up! Next stop, National Junior Disability Championships in Rochester, MN in July!!

(Editor's note: Sam, congratulations on your wonderful accomplishments. Great job, good luck at the next level, and God bless you!)



### MAKING SENSE

**Pedestrian Safety:** As a pedestrian, sighted or not, the chance of being hit by a car are significant. If you are lucky enough to be somewhat okay, you are probably still in shock. Unfortunately, your reaction to shock can lead you to make poor decisions. Your first reaction may be a desire to go home. Before you do, try to keep these tips in mind. First, call 911 and have a report filed. Try to engage any witnesses that may have seen what happened. Second, go to the hospital even if you think you feel okay. Adrenalin can negate the effect of the accident. Third, when you get home, record what happened as this can be a good reference for filing insurance claims. Lastly, use the "In Case of Emergency" or ICE contact in your cell phone. This involves entering the acronym "ICE" as a contact in your phone and the number of a family member or friend who should be called in case of an emergency. These tips were excerpted from Martin Courcelles' Word Press blog and can be found at <http://mcourcel.wordpress.com>.

**Pet or Guide Dog Transportation Services:** Chicago Pet Transport provides, safe, reliable transportation in their clean, climate controlled vehicles for pets and guide dogs, with or without their owners. Transportation services are available for emergencies, trips to veterinary clinics or other destinations throughout Chicago and some suburbs. Discounts are available for people with vision loss. For information, call 312-256-4474 or email [reggie@www.chicagopettransport.com](mailto:reggie@www.chicagopettransport.com)

*Reprinted from MAKING SENSE, June 2013, Second Sense, Beyond vision loss, 65 East Wacker Place, Suite 1010, Chicago, IL 60601, 312-236-8569, [www.second-sense.org](http://www.second-sense.org).*





**POWER OF 3**  
TAKE THE SUMMER CHALLENGE *for*  
PREVENTIONS | TREATMENTS | CURES

**POWER OF 3**

**CHAIRMAN'S MATCH**

**\$25 BECOMES \$75**

**\$50 BECOMES \$150**

**\$100 BECOMES \$300**

For every dollar you contribute to the Foundation Fighting Blindness by midnight on June 30, my wife, Lulie, and I will match it with an additional two dollars — **TRIPLING** your generous donation!

Why? Because we need you to join us in making vision-saving research pay off for everyone.

You see, in just a few short weeks, the Foundation Fighting Blindness' Scientific Advisory Board will meet to review nearly 40 research funding requests from the brightest minds in the field of vision research. And when they do, we want to make sure that no promising research project goes unfunded!

You see, thanks to the support of caring friends like you, we have reached an exciting new era of clinical trials, when dozens of potential treatments are being tested. To keep pace, the Foundation is committed to supporting no fewer than 30 clinical studies within the next few years.

Studies like the gene therapy clinical trial at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia where improvement in vision is not a dream — but becoming a reality — for both children and adults. Tami Morehouse, one participant in the study, described the improvement in her vision as "incredible." She can now see her children's faces and appreciate summer flowers. These are truly life-changing results!

I'm sure you will agree it is essential to dedicate even more funding to clinical trials like this one in the years ahead — as well as continue our foundational research in other innovations like optogenetics and helping transplanted retinal cells integrate and survive in the eye.

But clinical trials are costly — often exceeding \$40 million.

That is why **EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS**. No one of us alone can ensure that every promising clinical trial receives the funding it needs. But together we are powerful — a core message of the Foundation's summer Power of 3 campaign.

That is why Lulie and I are matching every gift made before June 30th not just once, but twice, **TRIPLING THE POWER** of your gift! So it's the perfect time to make your gift to the Foundation Fighting Blindness.

Now, more than ever, we need to keep the research going. And you and I need to work together to do it.

The hopes of millions of people living with vision loss—perhaps someone you know and love—are on our shoulders. Thank you for helping them to see again.



So join Lulie and me in taking action in the Power of 3 Chairman's Match by making your donation today.

Thank you, and have a great summer!

Gordon Gund, President

Foundation Fighting Blindness  
7168 Columbia Gateway  
Drive, Suite 100  
Columbia, MD 21046  
800-683-5555  
[www.FightBlindness.org](http://www.FightBlindness.org)

**Seedlings Braille Books for Children's Book Angel Program**  
**Register Your V-I Child to Receive 2 Free Books!**



What a great way to get some free braille books for Summer Reading! Register your visually impaired child with Seedlings' Book Angel Program and receive two free braille books! This wonderful program is made possible by generous supporters of Seedlings.

This program has been a huge success, bringing much joy to young braille readers. The children love receiving **two free books** that they can read and re-read to their heart's content.

This is also a great way to introduce braille to V-I toddlers and pre-schoolers who may become braille readers. Just sign them up for some of our Print-and-Braille books, and they will be able to enjoy reading time with their sighted parents and siblings while picking up some important pre-reading skills.

The Book Angel Program is open to visually-impaired children who live in the U.S. and Canada. Book Angel orders will be filled when your child's name is selected, and as time and materials allow. The books will be shipped "Free Matter for the Blind."

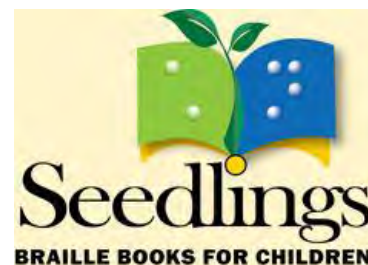
To register simply fill out our online form at: <http://www.seedlings.org/special.php> and then on "Book Angel Program".

You can also use the registration form in the Seedlings Catalog and fax it to: 734-427-8552 or mail it to: Seedlings, PO Box 51924, Livonia, MI 48151-5924. Please let us know if you would like us to send you our catalog with over 1,200 book titles.

Seedlings Braille Books for Children is a non-profit organization providing high-quality, low-cost braille books for blind children.

Seedlings Braille Books for Children  
14151 Farmington Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48154  
800-777-8552  
[www.seedlings.org](http://www.seedlings.org)

Contact: Therese Vick  
(734) 427-8552





## SUMMER AUDIO-DESCRIPTION MOVIES AT THEATER NEAR YOU!

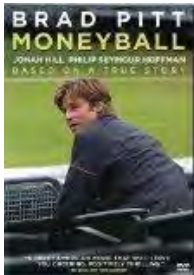
Narration is provided during non-dialogue moments, specifically for people who are blind or have low vision

The Chicago Lighthouse Vision Rehabilitation Center  
222 Waukegan Road  
Glenview, IL 60025



Wednesday, July 10, 10:00am – 12:00pm

***Guilt Trip*** starring Barbra Streisand and Seth Rogen, is a comedy-drama based on a real-life trip where invites his widowed on a cross-country road-trip as he tries to sell his new product.



Wednesday, July 24, 10:00am – 12:00pm

***Moneyball*** starring Brad Pitt, Robin Wright, Philip Seymour Hoffman is based on true life story which changes the way baseball is played. Oakland A's general manager challenges the system and defies conventional wisdom when his is forced to rebuild his small-market baseball team on a limited budget.



Wednesday, August 7, 12:30pm – 2:30 pm

***Soul Surfer*** is the true story of competitive teen surfer Bethany Hamilton, who lost her arm in a shark attack and courageously overcame all odds to become a champion again, inspiring millions worldwide through her sheer determination and unwavering faith. With Dennis Quaid.



Wednesday, August 21, 12:30-2:30

***We Bought a Zoo***, starring Matt Damon and Scarlett Johansson is about a father moves his young family to the countryside to renovate and re-open a struggling zoo following the death of his wife in this comedy/drama

**Of course we will be serving popcorn and beverages!**

**RSVP: Pam Stern, Manager of Youth/Adult Enrichment Programs**  
**[pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org)**  
**847.510.2054**





## SUMMER PLAYS WITH AUDIO-DESCRIPTION

(Narration when there isn't dialogue between characters)



800 East Grand Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60611, 312-595-5600

### ***Henry VIII-*** Sunday, June 9, Touch Tour at 12:30, performance at 2:00

As the sordid tale unfolds of England's most opulent king-notorious for his habit of wedding and beheading-Anne Boleyn rises to power, Queen Katherine is ousted from her throne, and the political machinations and exploits of a king's reign are laid. "Highly recommended! Director Barbara Gaines' altogether stunning production is a true revelation." –Chicago Sun-Times



"A fast-moving, hugely entertaining, very fluid production" –Chicago Tribune

170 N. Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60601, 312-443-3800

### ***Jungle Book-*** Wednesday, July 10 at 7:30pm

This world premiere is a music-filled spectacle about young Mowgli's adventures growing up in the animal kingdom. It is based both on Rudyard Kipling's children's tales and the classic Disney film. For adults and families with children ages 6+.



**Steppenwolf Theatre Company**

1650 N Halsted Street in Chicago, IL, 312-335-1650

### ***Slowgirl-*** Sunday, August 4, Touch Tour: 1:30pm Curtain: 3pm

In the wake of a harrowing accident at a house party in Massachusetts, a teenager flees to her

uncle's isolated retreat in the Costa Rican jungle to await, or avoid, the repercussions. As the reclusive uncle and his impulsive niece get reacquainted over the course of a week, startling details about their pasts slowly unfold. *Slowgirl* is a compelling story about owning your past—and getting on with your life. “Audiences will find themselves on the edge of their seats, drawn into an ever-deepening relationship that’s pulsing with intensity, confusion and love.” *Theatre-Mania*

**Belleville - Sunday, August 18, 1:30 Touch Tour, 3:00 Curtain**

Newly married American expats Zack and Abby live an enviably hip, do-gooder existence in the up-and-coming neighborhood of Belleville, Paris. But a single encounter in the apartment they rent...



*York Times*

A “thrillingly good” drama with elements of a “nail-biting psychological thriller” by *The New*

**Victory Gardens Theater**

2433 N Lincoln Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614, 773-871-3000

**Mojada - Sunday, August 11 - 3:00pm (touch tour at 1:30pm)**

A breathtaking reimagining of Euripides' *Medea* transported to Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood. Medea, a young, gifted healer n exile, enters the United States illegally to escape a past filled with betrayals. With husband and her son in tow, she is caught in a struggle to adapt to the modern world. A modern take on the Greek myth tackles American immigration, family, tradition, culture and the explosive moment when they all collide.

**If interested in any performance and lower group rates contact:**

**Pam Stern, Manager of Youth and Adult Appreciation**  
**pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org 847-510-2054**



Foundation Fighting Blindness  
Invites you to join us at the 8th Annual  
**Chicagoland VisionWalk**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2013**

BUSSE WOODS Grove #5  
Elk Grove Village, IL  
9:00 a.m. Registration  
10:30 a.m. Walk Begins  
Parking is FREE!

The Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB) is pounding the pavement nationwide to increase awareness and research dollars through VisionWalk, FFB's signature fundraising event. VisionWalk will raise money to support cutting-edge research to find the preventions, treatments and cures for retinal degenerative diseases.

**WALK WITH US!**

VisionWalk is a 5K (3.1 miles) walk designed to raise awareness and dollars for the fight against retinal degenerative diseases. All are welcome including guide dogs! All walk routes are wheelchair and stroller accessible.

Bring the family out for a fun day and an easy 5k walk! We will have food, face painting, live entertainment by award-winning band Hi-Fi Superstar, tattoos, bounce house, balloon twisting and more. Join us for a fun-filled day while supporting a great cause!

How can you help?

- For a Team with family, friends, co-workers, neighbors
- Form a Team with family, friends, co-workers, neighbors
- Walk as an Individual
- Volunteer at the Walk
- Become a Sponsor of the Walk
- Make a Donation to a Walker

Visit [www.VisionWalk.org](http://www.VisionWalk.org) for more information

For more information, please contact Michele DiVincenzo, Director, Events, Midwest Region (847) 680-0100 or via email at [MDivincenzo@FightBlindness.org](mailto:MDivincenzo@FightBlindness.org).

**FOUNDATION  
FIGHTING  
BLINDNESS**

Foundation Fighting Blindness  
7168 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 100, Columbia, MD 21046  
800-683-5555  
[www.FightBlindness.org](http://www.FightBlindness.org)



**Please make plans to join  
The Chicago Lighthouse Vision Rehabilitation Center  
for our second year of summer camp.**

**A different theme will be featured  
every Friday from 9:00am-4:00pm,  
June 14 to July 19, 2013, for ages 6-21.**

### **Program Highlights**

**Campers will participate in a variety of multisensory activities ranging from therapeutic horseback riding, swimming, kayaking, tandem cycling, cooking (and of course, eating), Beep Baseball, and field trips. To add to the excitement, each day will revolve around a theme, and in the past have included costumes, the “un-birthday” celebration, talent show, and Olympics Day.**



**Campers will develop friendships, learn new skills, and above all, HAVE FUN!  
To learn more about the summer day camp program,  
please contact Pam Stern at  
847-510-2054 or [pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org).**

**We are conveniently located at  
222 Waukegan Road in Glenview, Illinois**





**CAMP LIGHTHOUSE REGISTRATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fridays, 9:00am – 4:00pm, June 14 - July 19, 2013 (6 sessions)  
Fee \$360; prorating is available for those who miss a week.

Circle Credit Card:

Visa

Mastercard

Discover

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address if different from above:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return registration form to:**

**Pam Stern, Manager of Youth/Adult Enrichment Programs  
222 Waukegan Road Glenview, IL 60025  
pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org  
Tel. (847) 510-2054, Fax (847)-729-2207**





**The Chicago Lighthouse  
Vision Rehabilitation Center  
222 Waukegan Road  
Glenview, IL 60025**

**proudly presents**

**Paul Gaynor  
Public Interest Division Chief, Illinois Attorney General**

**The landmark settlement by Illinois Attorney General, Lisa Madigan with AMC, Illinois largest movie theater operator, will be discussed. By 2014, AMC movie theaters will be equipped with audio-description at all of its theaters and its 460 movie screens.**



**Wednesday, June 19, 2:00pm – 3:00pm**

**RSVP:**

**Pam Stern, Manager of Youth/Adult Appreciation Program  
[pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org) or 847-510-2054**

## SAVE THE DATE

### For The Chicago Lighthouse Associate Board's Annual House and Garden Walk



**Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

10am-3pm with last entry into homes at 2:45pm.

Arrival at registration for check-in will begin at 9:30am

**Registration:** North Shore Congregation Israel  
(1185 Sheridan Rd., Glencoe, IL)

**House Walk Tickets Until June 24:** \$65.00/person. Tickets will also be available for purchase at registration on June 26<sup>th</sup> for \$85.00. Gourmet Box Lunch: \$15.00

Enjoy a delicious and convenient catered box lunch in our Hospitality House. All lunches include fresh fruit salad and bottled water. Prepared by Once Upon a Bagel Catering. Lunch choices: Asian Chicken Salad, Chopped Vegetable Salad, Turkey Roll-Up. **\*\*All lunches must be pre-ordered.\*\*** Any questions regarding lunches, please contact Joani Osland at 312-919-3353.

Go to [store.chicagolighthouse.org/catalog/event-tickets](http://store.chicagolighthouse.org/catalog/event-tickets) to purchase your House Walk tickets and lunch.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We need over 100 volunteers to make this event work! Volunteers are needed for both morning and afternoon shifts from either 9:15am-12:15pm or 12:00pm-3:00pm. All volunteers will receive a complimentary ticket to the house walk and may tour the homes before or after their shift. To sign up for a volunteer slot or for more information on becoming a volunteer, visit our House and Walk volunteer website at [www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/1494821024018](http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/1494821024018).

If you cannot attend the event but would like to make a donation, please go to [chicagolighthouse.org/giving/how-donate](http://chicagolighthouse.org/giving/how-donate).

To purchase your tickets over the phone or for more information about this event, please contact Lynn Muslin from the Associate Board at 847-433-5917 or Lynn Milligan from The Chicago Lighthouse at 312-666-1331 x 3352 or [lynn.milligan@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:lynn.milligan@chicagolighthouse.org).

The Associate Board is a group of women from Chicago and the North Shore who have joined together to raise awareness about the services offered at The Chicago Lighthouse. Since 1986, the Associate Board has raised over \$1.4 million for children, seniors, and family support services.



**Please join  
The Chicago Lighthouse Vision Rehabilitation Center  
222 Waukegan Road  
Glenview, Illinois 60025**

**in celebrating the arrival of summer with an outing to**

**The Chicago Botanic Gardens  
1000 Lake Cook Road  
Glencoe, IL 60022**



**Wednesday, June 26, 10:00am-12:00pm  
Lunch immediately following  
(bring a sack lunch or purchase food in the café)  
Feel free to stay longer and enjoy the gardens**

**12:45pm-1:30pm WALKING CLUB at the gardens**

**There is a maximum number of participants  
RSVP quicky:**

**Pam Stern, Manager of Youth/Adult Enrichment Programs  
[pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org) 847.510.2054**



# SAVE THE DATE



## ican's 8<sup>th</sup> international conference

**July 12th-14th in Chicago**

*Bringing Families and Individuals with anophthalmia and microphthalmia together*

**Conference Hotel:**

DoubleTree Magnificent Mile | 300 East Ohio St | Chicago, IL 60611

Topics to include: Treatment updates, genetics update, panel discussion including individuals with A/M and parents, question and answer forums to answer questions from parents, issues related to the trials and tribulations of raising children with special needs. There will also be a licensed psychologist to facilitate group sessions for the kids (both those with A/M and their siblings).

**Download Registration Packet at <http://anophthalmia.org/conference.shtml>**

For more information or to make suggestions place contact

**Jodi Dennis**

740-361-5672

[jodidennis@anophthalmia.org](mailto:jodidennis@anophthalmia.org)

**Tanya Bardakjian**

215-456-8726

[bardakjiant@einstein.edu](mailto:bardakjiant@einstein.edu)



**Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary**  
UIC Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences



**The Chicago Lighthouse**  
For People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

## 2013 International Family Conference July 19-21



**An international conference covering aspects of raising a child with visual impairments.**

- Interactive sessions and panel discussions to address parents' needs
- Networking with other families and professionals
- FREE daycare program for children, and activities designed especially for teens
- Fun for the whole family with special receptions and events

The 2013 Conference will be held at:

**Boston Marriott Newton**  
**2345 Commonwealth Avenue**  
**Newton, Massachusetts 02466**

**HOTEL RESERVATION** : Book on-line at: [www.marriott.com/bosnt](http://www.marriott.com/bosnt) and enter **NPVNPVA** in the group code box or call **1-800-228-9290**. The hotel rate is **\$129** per night until **June 24th**.

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION:** at [www.guildhealth.org/family](http://www.guildhealth.org/family)



This beautiful hotel is also an ideal family vacation destination, featuring special discounted hotel rates for the Families Connecting with Families Conference. The Boston Marriott Newton is centrally located.

- Kayak or canoe your way along the scenic Charles River into Boston
- 12 miles from the Boston Children's Museum, Museum of Science, New England Aquarium, Minute Man Historical Park and much more
- Walk through history along Boston's Freedom Trail or take a Duck Tour

### SPONSORS



The Carroll Center for the Blind



New England Consortium  
of Deafblind Projects



Perkins School for the Blind

## The Buddy Program

A 3-week summer program for children ages 9-13  
Saturday, July 13th through Saturday, August 3rd 2013

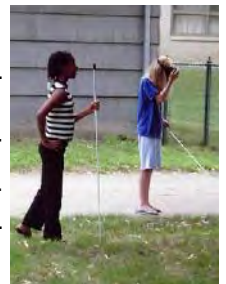
Warm Greetings from BLIND, Incorporated

It is once again time to start planning for our 2013 Buddy program.

This three-week summer fun and learning program is for children ages 9 to 13. The dates are July 12 through August 4, 2013. The Buddy Program offers an opportunity for blind children to make friends and have fun in a positive and secure setting as well as to learn and practice alternative techniques of blindness while building self-confidence.



The training in alternative techniques includes instruction in reading and writing Braille, basic cane travel, cooking skills, and introductions to independent living skills. Students may learn to pour liquids, carry a food tray, do laundry, follow a recipe, and much more while building self-confidence and problem solving skills.



Students also participate in "talk time," where they discuss important issues about blindness with blind peers and instructors. This time gives the students a chance to discuss their feelings about blindness, their frustrations with uncomfortable situations, and helps them develop a positive attitude about blindness and their abilities.



In addition, students participate in many exciting activities in the Twin Cities area, such as visits to nature parks, Wild Mountain Water Park, and horseback riding. These activities allow students to develop their socialization skills. Activities are well supervised and mentoring for the children is provided by active blind role models. Lifelong friendships begin during this brief summer experience.

During these entire out-of-the-classroom activities during the Buddy Program, one of our goals is to teach our students the alternative techniques of blindness and gain the self-confidence that would allow them to return home and actively participate in even more fun activities with their sighted friends.

Buddy student's being instructed in using an outdoor grill are in the process of lighting the flames with a long butane lighter.



**While the Buddy Program is supported primarily through grants, this does not cover the entire cost for operating the program. The individual fee for this year will be \$400.00. This fee can be paid through state rehabilitation agencies, the child's school by inclusion in the IPE, individually, or any other source(s). If you would like assistance in working with any of these agencies please let us know. Some scholarships for fee waivers may be available. Please contact us for further infor-**

ation. Participants need approximately \$5.00 per week for spending money and transportation to and from the program.

Enrollment will be limited to 10 participants.

If you have questions please call 612-872-0100 (ext. 251), toll-free 800-597-9558, or email [cguggisberg@blindinc.org](mailto:cguggisberg@blindinc.org). You may complete an application by visiting our website at [www.blindinc.org](http://www.blindinc.org)

Sincerely,  
Charlene Guggisberg  
Coordinator for Youth and Special programs  
612-872-0100 ext. 251  
1-800-597-9558  
[cguggisberg@blindinc.org](mailto:cguggisberg@blindinc.org)

## NFB BELL PROGRAM

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

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

**When:** July 29-August 9, 2013  
Monday/Wednesday/Friday Times: 8:30-3:30  
Tuesday/Thursday Times: 8:30-4:30

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

Apply at: <https://nfb.org/bell-program>

The Illinois Affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind has two listservs for all interested

in blindness issues in IL. IL-Talk is for everyone and IABS-Talk is specific for those interested in student issues. Sign up by going to [www.nfbnet.org](http://www.nfbnet.org).

Please give to the National Federation of the Blind Annual Appeal by sending to NFBI, c/o Glenn Moore, Treasurer PO Box 1065 Elgin, IL 60121.

Find us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/nfbi](http://www.twitter.com/nfbi) and on facebook by searching on "National Federation of the Blind of Illinois."

Patti Gregory Chang Esq.  
President, NFBI  
[pattichang@att.net](mailto:pattichang@att.net)





# The Chicago Lighthouse

## Lighthouse Away Southwest Expedition

July 22nd - 30th, 2013

*The expedition is intended for both sighted and blind/low vision students between the ages of 15 and 19 years old*

### Program Highlights



Warm yourself by a campfire as you visualize ancient tales recounted by a Navajo storyteller and flute player under the endless stars of Canyon de Chelly.



Enjoy a true escape as you raft the San Juan River, embrace the mystical powers of the desert and conduct important research on the impact of sound on the environment.



Explore hidden and mysterious cliff dwellings and learn how their original inhabitants faced conservation issues similar to those we face today.



Take your new leadership skills to the next level at the No Barriers Summit, and meet with other youth to truly explore what it means to have a No Barriers mindset.



### Program Description

The stunning scenery of the Southwestern U.S. never fails to awe and inspire those who take the time to discover its riches. This region, known as the Four Corners, showcases dramatic geologic formations and sits at a crossroads of American Indian, Spanish and American cultures. As a testament to the unique combination of natural and cultural history in the region, the Colorado Plateau boasts the country's highest concentration of National Parks and Monuments. Raft the San Juan River, explore spectacular National Monuments, and visit the Navajo Nation, the largest American Indian reservation in the country. There's no better place to contemplate your place in the universe than under the desert sky's magnificent canvas of stars.

### Pre-Travel Curriculum



Desert ecology, soundscape research and Southwest conservation issues



Navajo culture and Spanish, American Indian and U.S. history



Leadership skills, service learning and responsible travel knowledge

For more information on camp,  
Contact Pam Stern, Manager of Youth and Adult Enrichment Programs,  
At 847-510-2054 or [pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org)

## Program Itinerary

This is a sample standard 9-day program. This program provides an intense wilderness experience - travelers should be in good physical health and comfortable “living” in the outdoors.

### Day 1:

#### Travel Day

Today we drive from Telluride to Durango, Colorado. Here, we spend the night at a modest motel.

### Day 2:

#### Canyon de Chelly & Navajo Culture

Today we travel to the Navajo Nation, specifically Chinle, Arizona – the gateway city to Canyon de Chelly National Monument. We get our first taste of Navajo culture and watch the sun set from an overlook on the rim of spectacular Canyon de Chelly. Tonight we camp at a campground on the rim.

### Day 3:

#### Hiking & Storytelling

Before we hike down into the dramatic red rock walls of Canyon de Chelly, a Navajo Park Ranger introduces us to the challenges of protecting an area that’s been inhabited by humans for over 5,000 years. Once in the canyon, our resting spot is Antelope House Ruin, where we camp under a massive alcove on a Navajo family’s property. Tonight we are captivated by fireside Navajo storytelling and music as we gaze at the stars above.

### Day 4:

#### Hiking & Service

Today we engage in a service project that will help the family whose property we’re staying on. We may help clear the area of invasive species or assist Canyon elders with a special project such as building fences or benches. We hike out of the canyon in the late afternoon and then drive a few hours to the San Juan River. Tonight we meet up with our river guides from Grand Canyon Youth and camp near the river at a campground called Sand Island.

### Days 5-7:

#### Raft the San Juan River

We begin our voyage down one of the most spectacular rivers in America, the San Juan. We spend the next four days floating 27 miles from Sand Island, Utah to Mexican Hat, Utah.

Although we use rafts to make our way down the river, we actually spend quite a bit of time on land hiking to ancient ruins, playing games around camp and exploring the amazing geological features of the region. This is a calm section of the river and the largest rapids we encounter are Class II. During our time on the river, we camp on sandy beaches every night and help with each meal preparation.

### Day 8:

#### Transition Day

Today we spend our last morning on the river and then help our guides unload all the boats and pack up gear. From the “take-out” in Mexican Hat we either drive to Gallup, New Mexico or Moab, Utah. Here, we enjoy a much-deserved shower at our motel and reflect on our awesome adventure.

### Day 9:

#### Travel Day

Depending on whether we’re driving or flying, we may have time to visit another National Park nearby before heading home.



To learn more, visit [http://globalexplorers.org/news/chicago\\_lighthouse\\_canyon\\_skies\\_program\\_2013](http://globalexplorers.org/news/chicago_lighthouse_canyon_skies_program_2013)

## NFB STEM-X

Science, technology, engineering, and math to the extreme!

### APPLY NOW!

The NFB Jernigan Institute is pleased to announce the newest National Center for Blind Youth in Science program—NFB STEM-X. This inquiry-based science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) program will provide students with learning opportunities in STEM disciplines ranging from engineering and robotics to the science of cooking. The program, to be held in the Baltimore metropolitan area on the campus of Towson University from July 29 to August 3, will serve fifty blind high school students from around the country.

The “X” in the program’s title draws inspiration from the aerospace community, where historically programs and missions have utilized the letter as an abbreviation for exploration, and as a statement that the effort seeks new solutions and new discoveries that surpass previously assumed barriers to scientific advancement. In this same way, the NFB STEM-X program challenges the notion that blind people are unable to pursue STEM fields, or on a larger scale, are predestined to a life of social welfare and government dependence.

Students will choose from one of five focus disciplines (chemistry, computer science, engineering, robotics, and space science) in which to specialize during NFB STEM-X. Students will spend half of each of the four instructional days engaged in their focus discipline, learning alongside fellow high school students with blind and sighted STEM professionals as their guides. All five focus disciplines will work collaboratively throughout the program, capitalizing on each other’s specialization to innovate creative solutions to complex problems.

Outside of their work in their focus discipline, students will have the opportunity to participate in enrichment activities that will provide them with authentic learning experiences in a wider variety of STEM disciplines. Evenings will be filled with activities that will help students develop their leadership skills and build their confidence while having fun and socializing with blind teens from across the country.

**Who:** Blind students currently in grades 8-12

**What:** A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn new and exciting information in STEM, and experience a small taste of life on a college campus while meeting new friends.

**Where:** Towson University, Towson, MD (just north of Baltimore).

**When:** July 29 to August 3, 2013

**Cost:** Note: The registration for the program will be \$300. Note: The registration fee covers travel, lodging, and food for the program.

**How:** Note: Applications will close at 11:59 on May 15, 2013

## Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments

**Hashtag:** #NFBSTEMX

Learn about all the exciting activities and learning opportunities that take place at National Center for Blind Youth in Science programs, which have been taking place since 2004, by reading about the most recent programs:

[Charting Our Own Course: NFB Project Innovation](#)  
[Driving Change: The 2011 NFB Youth Slam](#)

If you have questions, please contact:  
[Natalie L. Shaheen, M.Ed](#)  
Director of Education,  
Jernigan Institute  
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND



### We are Getting Closer to Improving Special Education Safeguards for Children and Families.

Please contact your elected Senator today and ask that they support HB 1288 and HB 1446. With your support both bills already made it out of the House and out of the Senate Education Committee and are now waiting to be voted on by the full Senate. In order to call your representative please use Illinois Maternal and Child Health's Action Network and enter your zip code to find your elected representative's email and telephone number.

HB 1446 requires that special education and related services be provided in accordance

with the student's IEP no later than 10 school attendance days after notice is provided to the parents. HB 1446 Fact Sheet

HB 1288 also provides important protections to children and families who access special education services. HB 1288 allows families to exercise "stay-put" rights by requesting mediation. "Stay-put" rights allow children to remain in their current school placement while there is a dispute. Currently "stay put" can only be exercised by filing for a Due Process hearing which is costly for both families and school districts. HB 1288 also ensures that complainants, such as parents, receive a copy of the school district's response to the complaint. HB 1288 Fact Sheet Unfortunately, HB 1288 is opposed by ISBE so it is critical that your elected representatives hear from you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me directly.

Thanks so much! We need your support to

make this happen.

Amy Zimmerman

Director

Chicago Medical Legal Partnership for  
Children

Health & Disability Advocates

205 W Randolph St, Ste 510, Chicago IL 60606

Phone: 312-265-9075 | Fax: 312-223-9518 |

TTY: 866-584-8750

[azimmerman@hadvocates.org](mailto:azimmerman@hadvocates.org)

[www.hadvocates.org](http://www.hadvocates.org)

professionals, and interested community members no-cost training and workshops, telephone and e-mail assistance, and resources to help claim their role as the child's most effective and significant advocate.

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

1-312-939-3513 | [info@frcd.org](mailto:info@frcd.org) |

[www.frcd.org](http://www.frcd.org)

20 East Jackson Blvd., Room 300  
Chicago, IL 60604

### FRCD



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

#### REGISTER FOR YOUR FREE PARENT WORKSHOP TODAY!

Space is limited; registration is mandatory Please visit [www.frcd.org](http://www.frcd.org) or call 312-939-3513 for registration and workshop location.

#### “My Child is Special - Lo Que Es Especial de Mi Hijo(a)”

Monday, June 10, 10am-12pm

Monday, June 17, 10am-12pm

Monday, June 24, 10am-12pm

#### (A.Y.L.P.) Advance Youth Leadership Power Meeting

Tuesday, June 11, 4-6pm

Tuesday, June 25, 4-6pm

#### Reaching Our Dreams

Friday, June 14, 4:30-6:30pm

Friday, June 28, 4:30-6:30pm

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



#### Family Resource Center on Disabilities

#### Summer Conductive Education Camp for Children with Physical Disabilities

Monday, June 17 - Friday, July 12

All day

2434 S. Kildare, Carlos Cant Center

Contact:

Patti Herbst at 708-588-0833

Medicaid accepted, Scholarships available.

<http://ow.ly/kxnFZ>

or email

[paula.wills@frcd.org](mailto:paula.wills@frcd.org)







Hello all,

Due to clients' interest, new Adult Enrichment Programs are being developed at

The Chicago Lighthouse Vision Rehabilitation Center  
222 Waukegan Road  
Glenview, Illinois

Please let us know what appeals to you, and circle your preferred day(s) and time(s).

### Book Club



Karen Odean, Director of Talking Books, will provide free audiobooks for those registered.

Please circle the day(s) and time(s) preferred

M   T   W   Th   F                      Morning    Afternoon

### Writing Club



Do you have professional background, or simply enjoy as a hobby, i.e., memoirs, travel journals, poetry, creative writing, etc., come share your writing, and get feedback from club members.

M   T   W   Th   F                      Morning    Afternoon

Please list other clubs you may be interested in:

Contact:

Pam Stern, Manager of Youth/Adult Enrichment Programs  
[pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org)    847.510.2054



**The Chicago Lighthouse Vision Rehabilitation Center  
proudly offers  
Young Professionals**



**at  
222 Waukegan Road  
Glenview, Illinois 60025  
monthly, day and time to be determined;  
please let me know your availability**

**For more information contact:**

**Pam Stern, Manager of Youth/Adult Enrichment Programs  
847.510.2054  
[pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org)**



# 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 MBSF, 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 MBSF 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 MBSF 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: 1-815-355-2098 or [vajuskie@aol.com](mailto:vajuskie@aol.com)**

# Planning for Your Child's Transition to Kindergarten: A Timeline

When your child moves from Early Childhood Special Education services into kindergarten in an elementary school, it can be both exciting and challenging. Kindergarten is a big step in any child's life. For a child with disabilities, being ready for that step often requires some intentional preparation. By working with your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team, you can plan for your child's success and make that first elementary school experience a good one.

## One Year Before

Planning for your child's entrance into kindergarten can begin as early as a year ahead of time. You can start the process by talking with the IEP team regarding your child's strengths and weaknesses in various situations. You may want to discuss your child's skills in the following areas:

- Social development
  - Able to trust other adults and children
  - Able to play with other children
  - Able to learn and play in a group
- Emotional development
  - Has some degree of independence and self-direction
  - Has self-control or is learning to wait for things (even briefly)
  - Is somewhat confident and willing to try new things
  - Is interested in school and in learning new things
- Language development
  - Able to understand directions
  - Able to express needs
  - Can express thoughts in sentences
  - Has a reasonably broad vocabulary
  - Can be understood by adults and other children
- Motor development
  - Can run and jump
  - Has self-help skills: dressing, eating, toileting
  - Can copy simple symbols, numbers, and letters
  - Can hold a pencil appropriately for writing
- Intellectual and academic development
  - Able to focus and attend to an activity for 10-15 minutes
  - Understands that letters stand for something

- Can follow simple directions and remember simple routines
- Able to stick with and solve simple problems

Discussing these areas will help you and the team think of goals that you might need to include in the IEP so your child will be prepared for kindergarten.

### The Spring Before

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In the spring before your child starts kindergarten, you can begin to consider specific school choices. Your IEP team can tell you about options for your child. Many districts assign children to a kindergarten in a specific school based on geographic location. Most schools have “kindergarten roundup/registration” events so families can learn about the kindergarten program. Plan to attend school information nights and open houses. You may wish to visit and observe possible schools and classrooms to see if the school is a good fit for your child. If you look at a school in the spring, remember that the children you observe are at the end of their school year, and their skills will be more advanced than those of a child just beginning kindergarten.

After you have completed any visits, plan to meet with your child’s IEP team to discuss which school your child will attend in the fall. Once you’ve made that decision, ask to schedule a “transition meeting” to meet a kindergarten teacher from that school and review your child’s IEP. During this meeting you and the rest of the IEP team can do the following:

- Write or review IEP goals and objectives
- Discuss how these goals will be implemented in the kindergarten environment
- Discuss any needed accommodations and modifications
  - Instructional
  - Building/safety
  - Behavior
  - Transportation
- Discuss your concerns regarding the transition

### The Summer Before

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Once the team has met and the IEP is revised as needed, it is time to think of ways to help prepare your child for this big step. Prior to the start of school, visit the classroom if you can, and explore the new school including the:

- Lunch room
- Bathrooms
- School office (principal)
- Playground
- Place where your child will be dropped off and picked up

Other ways to help your child be ready for school include:

- Making sure immunizations are up-to-date



- Taking pictures of the new school and classroom and using these pictures to talk about the transition over the summer
- Arranging summer playtimes with other students who may be in your child's class
- Reading books with your child about kindergarten
- Practicing walking to the bus stop or to school

You may also want to work on skills such as:

- Stating first and last name
- Writing name, if appropriate
- Standing and walking in a line
- Waiting for a turn
- Following directions
- Following the rules of a game
- Building independence (using the bathroom, putting on a coat, tying shoes, etc.)

### Before School Begins

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Before school starts in the fall, you may wish to:

- Check with the team to make sure that all necessary equipment and accommodations listed in your child's IEP are available in the classroom.
- Request a lunchroom menu and plan accordingly if your child has food allergies or sensitivities. Food allergies should also be discussed as part of a health plan with the school nurse.
- Make sure you know your child's bus stop.
- Consider preparing a "snap shot" or short description of your child to share with the classroom teacher. To do so, order PACER's free handout, "Introducing Your Child to the School Community Using a "Student Snapshot" Format (PHP-c160)." Order it by calling PACER or download it at: <http://www.pacer.org/parent/php/php-c160.pdf>.

### A Time for Growth

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Your child's transition to kindergarten can be a positive experience by presenting both you and your child with new opportunities for growth and development. Transition is a process that happens over time and involves all the "stakeholders" (children, parents, preschool and Early Childhood Special Education teachers, childcare providers, kindergarten teachers, and maybe other family members as well). During this process, you will meet many people who will care about you and your child, and you will continue to have input into your child's education. Remember that your input is extremely important because you are the expert on your child. Your opinions matter, so share them freely with the rest of the team. Being an active member of the IEP team is the best way to help your child be successful.

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**THIS PUBLICATION IS SUPPORTED  
(IN PART) BY THE NATIONAL  
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PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH  
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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

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**Have questions or need  
more information?**

**Call us at  
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Please contact IPVI to see if you are  
up-to-date on your dues at the ad-  
dress on the left or  
1-815-355-2098  
Email: [ipvi@ipvi.org](mailto:ipvi@ipvi.org)  
[www.ipvi.org](http://www.ipvi.org)

## IPVI CALENDAR

▶ June 9	Chicagoland VisionWalk	Elk Grove Village
▶ 6/14-7/19	Chicago Lighthouse North Summer Camp	Glenview
▶ June 26	Lighthouse House & Garden Walk	Chicago
▶ June 26	Lighthouse North Outing to Botanic Gardens	Glencoe
▶ July 12-14	ican's 8 <sup>th</sup> International Conference	Chicago
▶ <b>July 20</b>	<b>IPVI Annual Zoo Outing</b>	<b>Brookfield</b>
▶ July 19-21	NAPVI 2013 International Family Conference	Massachusetts
▶ 7/12-8/4	Blind, Inc. Buddy Program	Minneapolis
▶ July 22-30	Lighthouse Away Southwest Expedition	Southwestern USA
▶ 7/29-8/9	NFB Bell Program	Chicago
▶ 7/29-8/3	NFB STEM-X Program	Baltimore

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

**Newsletter Deadline for  
JULY is JUNE 10<sup>th</sup>**



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

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