

IPVI INSIGHTS

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

June
2016



2016 IPVI Members' 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 16, 2016 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 9:30am, the Zoo opens at 10am.** Tons of activities are available throughout your day! Your IPVI T-Shirt will be your exclusive passport into all the action.....into the Zoo, the new **Great Bears' Wilderness, the Seven Seas Dolphin Show (with exclusive after show event), and Hamill Family Play Zoo!** Sensory experiences abound!!

Our theme is “Literacy through Experience at Brookfield Zoo”.....ask questions, touch the special exhibits, analyze and enjoy the unique sounds, smells and textures of the Zoo!



Our luncheon, at the Discovery Ballroom, will include parent-educator Mary Zabelski. Mary has worked for 30 plus years in the field of vision education. In 2010, she was recognized by the IAER with the “Distinguished Service Award for Dedication in the field of Blindness and Visual Impairment”; in 2005 The Lighthouse Children’s Program was selected nationally as “The Best School serving children with Disabilities”; Mary co-authored

(Continued on page 3)



Inside This Issue:

2016 IPVI Members' Outing	1
Some Past Zoo Trips	2
Brookfield Zoo Registration & Payment Form	4
Brookfield Zoo Directions	5
Brookfield Zoo Map	6
President's Report	7
Memories of Heidi Musser	8
FFB Speaker Series & Vision Launch Walk	9
WonderBaby Information	10
National Prevalence Rates for Vision in U.S.	12
Interested in Working This Summer???	13
TCL House & Garden Walk	13
IPVI Board of Directors	14
Father's Day Poem	14
IPVI Membership Dues	15
IPVI Calendar of Events	16



Some Past Zoo Trips



2015 Zoo Trip



2009 Zoo Trip

(Continued from page 1)

the Parents Guide To Special Education For Children with Visual Impairments. She is past-president of the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (6 years), Co-founder and past-president of IPVI. Mary Zabelski, our speaker, received national and international recognition on ABC-TV's "20-20" where her story chronicled the challenge she, as a single mother, would face in being suddenly confronted with the diagnosis of retinoblastoma - rare childhood eye cancer.....then giving permission to the eye doctor to remove both of her daughter's eyes.... one and then the other. ABC-TV 20-20 detailed her story of internal strength and courage in raising a totally blind daughter, who the eye doctor admittedly expected would die shortly thereafter. But as the story celebrates, Mary's daughter went on to graduate from the eye surgeon's alma mater - Harvard University magna cum laude and class president. Later, she received her law degree from UCLA Law School. The story celebrates the mother's strength in guiding her daughter to unbelievable accomplishments in academics and sports. Her daughter, Cara Dunne, won the United States Women's Giant Slalom championship at age 11 years and represented the U.S. on two national Paralympic teams - US Alpine Ski Team and US Cycling Team - winning 13 World Championship and Paralympic Medals in both summer and winter competition. With a thirst for travel, Cara traveled the world as a motivational speaker; linguist in 4 languages, advocate on behalf of the disabled and cancer survivors. Cara is a lawyer, news journalist, poet, author, and mother of two.

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.

Paid membership includes monthly newsletters and invitations to Parent Rights, Adaptive Technology, and Advocacy seminars.

If you'd like more information on how to attend the 2016 IPVI Zoo Outing, or on how to become a member of the "IPVI Family Network", call **Mary Zabelski at (773) 882-1331**. The registration form is on the following page.

Mail Registration & Payment by June 30th To:

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

**2016 BROOKFIELD ZOO - IPVI MEMBERS' ONLY OUTING
Saturday July 16th Registration & Payment Form**

Attendance is restricted to current (paid) members of IPVI**. All attendees must pre-register, purchase a 2016 Zoo T-Shirt and show current identification at the Zoo. Attendees may be required to sign Release of Liability & Use of Photographs Form. Registration is limited to onefamily per IPVI family membership - parents and their children. **EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO PURCHASE SEPARATE IPVI MEMBERSHIPS.**

Family Name: _____ IPVI Current Membership [y/n] _____

Address: _____ city/zip: _____

e-mail: _____ H () _____ - _____ C () _____ - _____

1) MEMBER: _____ Age: _____ T-Shirt: (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg)

2) SPOUSE: _____ Age: _____ T-Shirt: (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg)

3) CHILD: _____ Age: _____ T-Shirt: (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg)

4) CHILD: _____ Age: _____ T-Shirt: (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg)

5) CHILD: _____ Age: _____ T-Shirt: (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg)

6) CHILD: _____ Age: _____ T-Shirt: (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg)

**** Double and Triple extra large shirts available at extra cost of \$1.00/shirt.**

Admission to the "2016 IPVI Members' Only Event" includes parking (enter far South lot), buffet lunch, admission into Zoo, Dolphin Show and Hamill Family Play Area. The T-Shirt is required and identifies your participation and assists Zoo personnel in providing accommodations.

Membership Dues (\$15.00/year per family	
Total Number of Zoo Admission T-Shirts @ \$10/person	
Additional Tax Deductible Donation to IPVI	
TOTAL MONEY INCLUDED - PAYABLE TO IPVI	

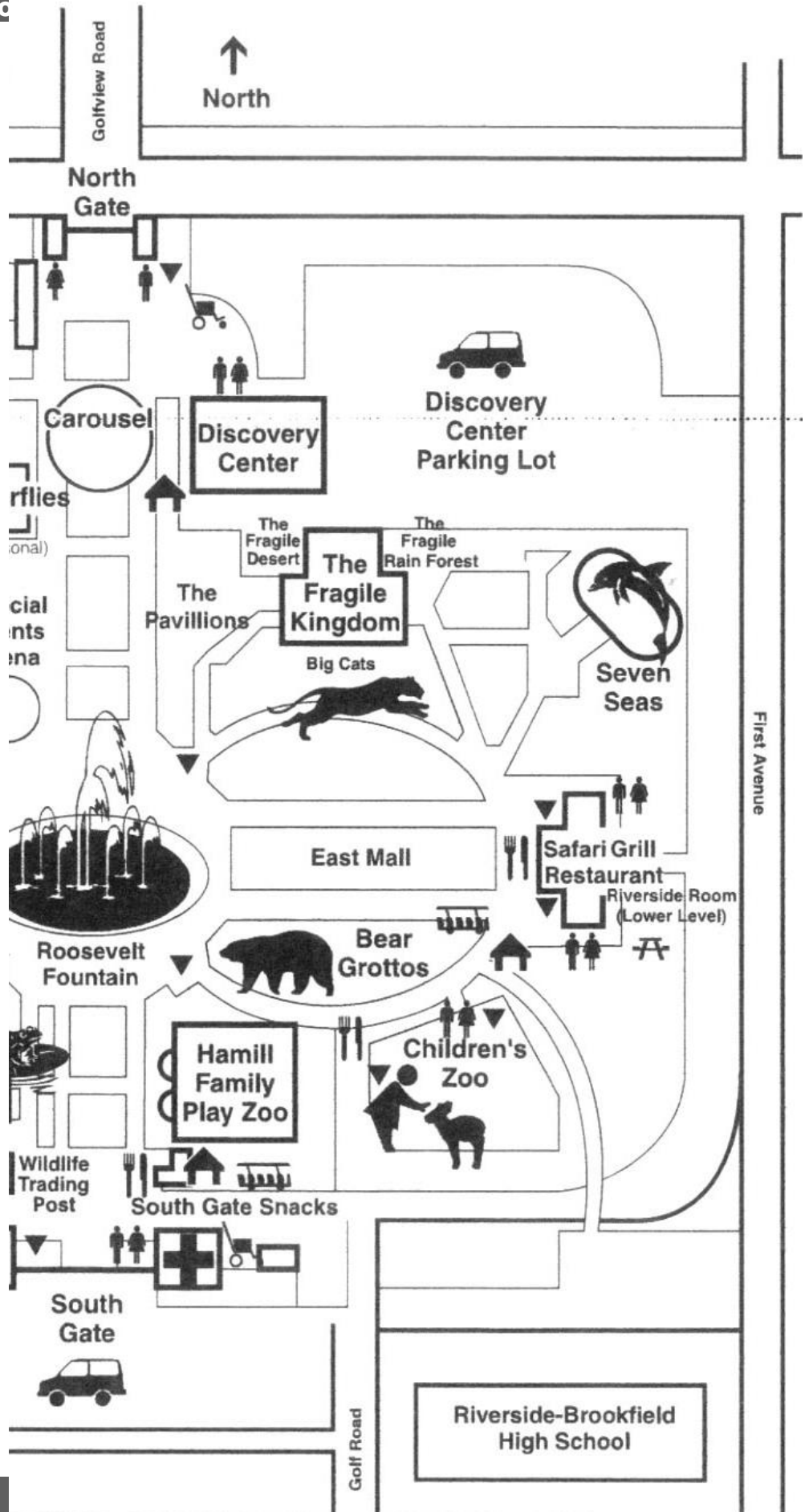
REGISTRATION CLOSSES ON JUNE 30th, 2016

**IPVI is funded from member dues, activity/event participation fees, & private and public donations. IPVI benefits are available to anyone who needs and applies for membership, regardless of their ability to pay. IPVI is an all volunteer organization. We sincerely welcome your participation, support and ideas. We focus on supporting families challenged by visual impairments.



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).

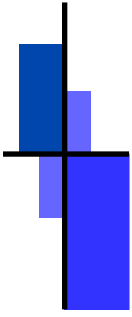
At the South Entrance Parking booth, say that you are with IPVI and you will not have to pay for parking. After the south parking booth, stay to the right and tell the next gate guard that you are with IPVI and they will let you on to the road leading to the Discovery Center parking lot. Come to the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





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Filiberto Almendarez III



As a parent reflecting on first knowing about my child, from the uncertain challenging future to overcoming most encounters, I realize through the Ups and downs, you have to ENJOY YOUR CHILD. Do not limit your relationship. Focus on the Joy and glance at the challenges. Let your imagination run wild. Do not wait or expect for someone to do it. I was told, among many things, my son would/should not ride a bike. Well, I should and would hold on to him until he learned how to balance. After a few bumps, bruises and pedal scratches, I ran along side of him as he rode his bike. Don't forget, you are a verbal steering wheel, so share your vision with your child and guide him/her safely while having Fun. If, the outcome is different than expected, you still achieved a beautiful day well spent with your child. Also, listen for hints of what your child may want to try. My son would talk about hockey, but really meant ice skating. SO, I took him ice skating. In the beginning, I thought, how can we do this? The hard ice, other skaters, sharp skate blades. How will we accomplish this? In reality, be cautious and just do it. The rest falls into place. We only took a break when it was adult skating. After our skating adventure, my son pulls me and quietly said, "Thanks Dad for making one of my Dreams come true". I smiled, but could not respond. But he too, made one of my Dreams come true. As we know, Time stops for no One. Do not let life pass you by. Enjoy your little Blessing and glance at the challenges.

Reminder: Our Annual Zoo Outing at Brookfield Zoo is approaching. If, you have not submitted your membership dues, please do so. Also, to ensure all IPVI communication reaches you, please forward any changes. Lastly, when searching for IPVI in the internet, our website is **WWW.IPVI.ORG**.

MEMORIES OF
HEIDI MUSSER

**CHILDREN HELPING
CHILDREN**

Prepared for: IPVI Insights - Issue June 2016

If my life would have remained in the hands of educators and administrators within the Chicago Public Schools, I would not be able to claim my success as an open water swimmer, triathlete, classical pianist and tutor for Braille as my contribution to society. As a young, totally blind child attending school integrated with regular sighted children to learn to get along with each other was a right denied to me. I was robbed of interacting creatively with children of different backgrounds and capabilities.

As a blind child on our street block, I was pretty much avoided by other children on the block. Recently, my mother confessed to me that in order to lift the shame of our family from my three siblings, my parents enrolled them at The Latin School of Chicago on North Avenue (10 miles from our home), so the neighborhood children would not come to our home and wonder with embarrassment when their sister with a disability wanted to play too. The Latin School granted my siblings nearly full scholarships, yet my mother had to struggle with the burden of driving on the congested Kennedy Expressway twice on school days, often three times.

It's almost incomprehensible that over the past 40 years how favorable changes have taken place in my neighborhood. Now children on the block seek me out to teach them to play piano at our home and to help them to overcome the initial fear for learning how to swim at the pool at our YMCA. I feel loved

and that I have gained value as a neighbor!

Reading the book "Enabling Acts" by Dr. Lenard J. Davis, who advocates fighting for the rights of people with disabilities, my mother came across the following quote by him:

The disability isn't th"the person so much as it is th" society.

In society we are trained at an early age to think and to reason how others want us to think and act.

I feel proud that I have been able to plant tiny seeds to change the thinking in respect to what blind children and adults are able to do. My close involvement with CAF (Challenged Athletes Foundation) in San Diego, CA, has offered me the opportunity to do so. For the past fifteen years every October, I swam 1 Mile in the Pacific Ocean off the Cove of LaJolla/San Diego followed by a 50 Mile tandem bike ride on hilly coastal roads.

Participation in last year's San Diego Triathlon Challenge in October, served as a very special eye-opener for me! I observed that CAF's mission has contributed immensely for parents of children with amputated limbs to encourage their so-called normal children to discover the joy of pushing the wheelchair of their brother or sister participating in triathlons. By doing so, the siblings of "disabled" children receive loud applause from the watching crowd of spectators. The self-esteem of the children on both sides is amazingly increased. In order to show off and hear the crowds cheer, they all want to do it over and over. What a discovery of epic proportions!

If children discover at an early age the joy of giving of themselves, they will seek out during their adult life what Erich Fromm claims: "Giving is the highest expression of potency. In the very act of giving, we experience our

strength, our wealth and our power as human beings."

Here is my question: Could we emphasize this discovery among teachers in public school?

* * *

*

I welcome your comments. Please write me at:

hmusser@msn.com



Please contact IPVI to see if you are up-to-date on your dues at
1-773-882-1331
Email: ipvi@ipvi.org
www.ipvi.org



Speaker Series and VisionWalk Launch

**"Is The Bionic Eye (ARGUS II®)
Right For You?"**

11th Annual Chicago VisionWalk June 12, 2016

Since 2006, VisionWalk has raised over \$35 million to support the mission of the Foundation. VisionWalk is a fun, family-friendly walk complete with music, food, kids activities, bounce house and more! Join people like you who are committed to changing the future for their friends and family members affected with retinal degenerative diseases.

Busse Woods

Ned Brown Meadow
Elk Grove Village, IL

Registration and Fun begins at 9:00am

Stage Presentation begins at 10:00am

Walk begins at 10:30am

RSVP deadline: April 9, 2016

Contact Michele DiVincenzo at 847-680-0100 or
MDivincenzo@FightBlindness.org

Visit www.FightBlindness.org/
ChicagoVisionWalk

**FOUNDATION
FIGHTING
BLINDNESS**



Ballyland Magic App: Introducing iPad Accessibility to Children Who are Blind or Visually Impaired

Ballyland Magic app introduces visually impaired and blind kids to iPad accessibility features like VoiceOver through a fun game. Enter to win a free download!

Apple's iPad and other iOS9 devices (like the iPhone and iPod Touch) are supposed to be very accessible for kids with special needs, but you might need help setting them up so your child can use them properly. We'll show you how to adjust your settings and tell you about all the cool accessible features!



Our Favorite Apps for Children Who are Visually Impaired

A collection of 15 (mostly free!) apps perfect for kids who are blind or visually impaired. Listed in categories ranging from visual stimulation to communication and fine motor needs.



Top 10 iPad & iOS9 Accessibility Features



5 Ways to Get a Free iPad for Your Special Needs Child!

Just because iPads are cheaper than other pieces of assistive equipment doesn't necessarily make them affordable! Here are five tips on how to get grants and funding for a free iPad.



iPad Basics: What's an App?

Shared by Eric Jerman

You've got an iPad, but you're still new to this whole app thing. What are apps? And how do you buy them? Eric Jerman explains how to find and download apps for your iPhone or iPad by using the Apple App Store and iTunes.



Braille Bricks

Shared by Hillary Kleck

Braille Bricks is a new toy set aimed at promoting braille literacy...

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/resources/braille-bricks>



12 Tips for an Accessible Zoo Visit

A WonderBaby reader is preparing to take her child to the zoo and she wanted to know how to make the experience meaningful. I asked some friends for advice and received some great feedback! Mostly, everyone emphasized calling ahead and talking to zoo coordinators. You won't know what adaptations are available unless you ask. There's a very good chance that you'll be surprised by what they offer—from free pony rides to even special access to animals that are normally off limits!

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/accessible-zoo-visit>

All other articles are written by Amber Bobnar, Founder of WonderBaby



New Report on National Prevalence Rates for Vision Conditions in U.S. Children

Established with the intention of supporting the development of public health infrastructure to promote and ensure a comprehensive, multi-tiered continuum of vision care and eye health for young children, the Chicago-based National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health (NCCVEH), a division of Prevent Blindness (formerly known as Prevent Blindness America), has released a new report, entitled "Children's Vision and Eye Health: A Snapshot of Current National Issues," which begins with an outline of children's health issues in the United States, including national prevalence rates for vision conditions (amblyopia, strabismus, astigmatism, myopia, and hyperopia, for example), with breakdowns by age and ethnic group. The report also includes details on the effect of access to care, a summary of school vision screening rates and requirements by state, examples of effective state program approaches, and a state-by-state breakdown of regulations related to school-age and preschool-age vision screening. The purpose of the report is to provide information and examples that may help individuals devise community-based health promotion strategies that lead to improved vision systems for children.

Some key findings provided in the report include:

- the economic costs of children's vision disorders are significant, amounting to \$10 billion annually in the United States;
- more than one in five preschool-age children enrolled in Head Start programs have a vision disorder;
- visual functioning is a strong predictor of academic performance in school-age children;
- Amblyopia (sometimes called "lazy eye"), is the most common cause of vision loss in children;
- uncorrected refractive errors (including significant near-sightedness, far-sightedness, and astigmatism) in infants and preschool-age children are associated with developmental delay, as well as with clinically identified deficits in cognitive and visual-motor functions that may, in turn, have a negative impact on school readiness;
- among children with diagnosed eye conditions, children who are African American have lower overall health care expenditures than Caucasian children, but twice the expenditures for eye- or vision-related emergency services, possibly indicating less frequent access to a regular source of office-based health care; and
- more than one-third of Hispanic or Latino and non-Hispanic black adolescents have inadequately corrected refractive error.

In 2009, Prevent Blindness was awarded a grant from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau at

the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to create NCCVEH. "When we established the NCCVEH, we set out to identify and address the vision health needs of our children, as well as put together effective strategies and programs," said **Hugh Parry**, president and chief executive officer of Prevent Blindness. "Our new report was created to provide an easy-to-use, evidence-based guide that helps us demonstrate the need for essential vision care for our kids and sound approaches to achieve a lifetime of healthy vision." For more information, contact: National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health, Prevent Blindness America, 211 West Wacker Drive, Suite 1700, Chicago, IL 60606; phone: 800-331-2020; e-mail: kbaldonado@preventblindness.org; website: <http://nationalcenter.preventblindness.org>.

Interested in Working This Summer???
Apply for a Summer Job Through
One Summer Chicago!



ODLSS

Office of **DIVERSE LEARNER**
SUPPORTS + SERVICES

Students interested in earning money and gaining valuable work experience should apply today.

Where: Different locations throughout the Chicago area

When: Begins the last week of June for 6 weeks.

How: Apply online.

<https://www.onesummerchicago.org/SummerJobs/>

We Invite You to Join Us
June 23, 2016

Tour four of the North Shore's most beautiful homes & enjoy a leisurely day with friends while supporting

The Chicago Lighthouse

The Midwest's largest & most comprehensive agency serving the blind, visually impaired, disabled & veteran communities.

Purchase tickets & lunches online at:
Chicagolighthouse.org/event/houseandgarden

On the day of the House Walk guests will check in between 9:30 am & 1:30 pm at:

NORTH SHORE CONGREGATION ISRAEL
1185 SHERIDAN ROAD, GLENCOE

Tickets may be purchased at the door.



The Chicago
Lighthouse

Associate Board

IPVI

P.O. Box 316634, Chicago, IL 60631

1-773-882-1331 • Email: ipvi@ipvi.org • www.ipvi.org

PRESIDENT

Filiberto Almendarez III
5323 N Delphia Ave #124
Chicago, IL 60656
(773) 693-5713
falmendareziii@yahoo.com

OPERATIONS VP

Joan Bielawski
421 Applegate Court
Naperville, IL 60565
(630) 357-8576
wjbielawski@yahoo.com

SERVICES VP

Mary Zabelski
6153 N. Nettleton Avenue
Chicago, IL 60631
(773) 882-1331
maryzabelski@hotmail.com

TREASURER

Filiberto Almendarez III
(Temporary)

SECRETARY

Dawn Wojtowicz
9188 161st Place
Orland Hills, IL 60487
(708) 590-6447
deeder0477@aol.com

NAPVI REGION 3 REPRESENTATIVE

Pam Stern
1912 Mission Hills Lane
Northbrook, IL 60062
(847) 217-7590
pamstern3@gmail.com

SPANISH TRANSLATOR

Noelia Gamino



You Never Gave Up On Me

BY: 365GREETINGS.COM

At times of confusion you guide my way,
You gently wiped my tears away;
All these years you loved me unconditionally;
Dad you never gave up on me.

When I stumble and fall,
You rushed immediately when I called;
Dad thank you for not giving up on me,
Your love has set me free.

When I am weak and hurting,
You held back nothing;
You were always there to pick me up,
You never gave up on me Dad.

Thank you for your words of encouragement,
Your counsels will never be forgotten;
All those years that you have never gave up on me,
Will be etched in my heart for eternity.

Happy Father's Day



Join **IPVI** or renew your membership today!

The *Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments* is a state-wide, non-profit organization that enables parents to find information and resources for their children who are blind or visually impaired, including those with additional disabilities.

Your IPVI membership dues or generous contributions help to support all of our ongoing efforts:

- Regular communications which include: workshops, conferences, training seminars, legislative issues, organizational announcements, products, and advice about raising a child who is visually impaired.
- Offers several \$500 college scholarships each year.
- Publishes a resource catalog which includes anything and everything to do with visual impairment.
- Conducts training and support sessions where parents share experiences and ideas.
- Holds fun outings adapted for children with visual impairments at athletic, cultural, educational, and entertainment settings.
- Represents parents of children with visual impairments at conferences, public hearings, and on committees.

What does IPVI do?

- Promotes and provides information through meetings, correspondence, publications, etc., which will help parents meet the special needs of their children with visual impairments.
- Facilitates the sharing of experiences and concerns in order to provide emotional support and relief from feelings of isolation for parents and their families.
- Creates a climate of opportunity for children who are blind in the home, school, and society.
- Fosters communication and coordination of services among federal, state, and local agencies and organizations involved with providing services to people who are visually impaired.
- Advocates on a statewide level for services to children who are visually impaired and their families.
- Keeps members informed about current proposals and actions which impact on children with visual impairments and their families.

Check one:

Parent/Guardian Membership: \$15 per year.

Child(ren)'s Names: _____

Birthdate(s) of my visually impaired child(ren): _____

My child(ren)'s eye condition: _____

I give my permission to release my name to other parents.

Group/Agency Membership \$50 per year.

Extended Family/Friend Assoc. Membership \$15/year.

Medical Specialist \$50 per year.

Scholarship Fund \$10.00

Donation: \$ _____ (tax deductible)

New Membership

Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) - _____

Email: _____

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

IPVI • P.O.Box 316634 • Chicago, IL 60631

**Have questions or need
more information?**

**Call us at
1-773-882-1331**

**Illinois Association for Parents of
Children with Visual Impairments
P. O. Box 316634
Chicago, IL 60631**

IPVI CALENDAR

- | | | |
|------------------|---|--------------------------|
| ▶ June 12 | FFB Speaker Series and Vision Walk Lunch | Elk Grove Village |
| ▶ June 23 | The Chicago Lighthouse House & Garden Walk | Glencoe |
| ▶ July 16 | IPVI's Annual Zoo Outing | Chicago |

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

**Newsletter Deadline for
JUNE is MAY 15**



**Check Out
www.ipvi.org**

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