

IPVI INSIGHTS

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

**March
2012**



ISVI Under New Management

by Bill Bielawski, IPVI President

A year ago, I served on the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired (ISVI) Advisory Council. I advocated moving ISVI from the IL Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) in the Department of Human Services (DHS) to the IL Board of Higher Education (IBHE). After months of debate, the vote was 5-to-5, and the Advisory Council President broke the tie by voting not to move ISVI to IBHE. We then voted to stay with DHS, but only if DHS created a new Division of Education, which it has not done.

So ISVI is still under DRS. But the former Director of DRS, Dr. Kilbury, has been replaced by Acting Director, Kristine A. Smith. And another member of DRS that liaised with ISVI will soon retire. It seemed there was a problem with the DRS management of ISVI because for the past 20 years, most ISVI superintendents left within 2 years.

To illustrate the problem, the following is taken from the front page story in the February 28, 2012 issue of the Jacksonville Journal Courier entitled "Ex-ISVI chief feels reputation restored" and subtitled "Murky allegations cited in '06

dismissal found baseless at trial". It's about former ISVI Superintendent Richard Snowden. He was hired by ISVI in April 2005 and was "reassigned" in November 2006 without explanation. The only lawsuit that went to trial was against IL DHS Secretary Carol Adams, who was found to have not violated Snowden's civil rights. During the trial, Secretary Adams produced no evidence that Snowden had done anything wrong and "she admitted that at most these were unsubstantiated allegations through anonymous sources." An investigatory arm of DHS conducted an investigation into the allegations and concluded they were baseless.

So Snowden lost the battle but won the war. His name was cleared. But why didn't DHS conduct an investigation before dismissing Snowden? And who were these anonymous sources and why did they lie? We may never know for sure. I hope that Acting Director Smith ensures that this never happens again. Most recently, ISVI Superintendent Reggie Clinton resigned stating "I have not been able to accomplish for ISVI what I originally hoped and thought I could." Will the new management of DRS allow the superintendent to improve ISVI? We'll see.

Inside This Issue:

ISVI Under New Management	1
Is Your Eye on the Cure?	2
Ms. Vic’s Volleys	3
Sharing the Vision, Parent to Parent	3
Ask M@	5
IPVI’s MJB Scholarship Fund	6
TCL Presents Jazz Night	7
TCL Vision Rehab Center in Glenview	9
Maintain a Healthy Diet...Protect Vision	10
Guild for the Blind	11
Chicago Fusion Theater	11
Trans. Security Admin. Help Line	11
FFB Speaker Series	12
More Scholarships	12
STARNET 6th Annual Family Conference	12
Conf. for IL Parents of Children w/V Loss	13
NFB 30 Scholarships	14
FRCD March 2012 Trainings	15
From 1st Steps to 1st Grade & Beyond 4/13	15
From 1st Steps to 1st Grade & Beyond 4/14	16
NFB Hazel tenBroek Res. Grant Program	17
ROPARD Sensory Safari	20
NFB Project Innovation Program in	21
Scientific Exploration	
Research Studies for Abacus	22
NFB Leadership and (LAW) Program	22
The Eye Specialists Center	24
IPVI Board of Directors	24
Join IPVI/Renew Membership	25
IPVI Calendar of Events	26

Is Your Eye on the Cure?

Announcing the New Blog of the Foundation Fighting Blindness

Are you hungry for the latest news on retinal disease research and exciting insights into the Foundation Fighting Blindness’ work to advance promising treatments? Is your “Eye on the Cure”?

We thought so, and we’d like to provide you with a steady diet of “insider” information connecting the Foundation with the internet community. We introduce “Eye on the Cure,” the official blog of the Foundation Fighting Blindness.

Watch the video to see Chief Research Officer and lead blogger. Dr. Stephen Rose, explain what he’ll offer in the new blog—namely, the timely information, behind-the-scenes perspective and poignant commentary that you crave.

Launch day was on Monday, February 6, and you can read Steve’s first posts, followed all week long by posts representing much of what “Eye on the Cure” will offer in the future. We invite you to check in with the blog, share with friends and family and make comments.

Sincerely,
The Foundation Blog Team
www.FightBlindness.org/Blog



MS. VIC'S VOLLEYS
Victoria Juskie, IPVI Treasurer

VOLLEY I

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

Kristin Puryear, Lake Bluff
Nikita Ellis, Oswego

VOLLEY II

Some of you may have heard of this group before but we got a call from Darlene Risook of Diveheart because she saw Shelly Meyers' recent newspaper article. After speaking with her, I promised her a plug for this very worthwhile organization. She thought Shelley and others at IPVI might be interested in a new experience. Ms. Risook works with Diveheart, which is an organization that takes people with all sorts of issues/conditions/disabilities and teaches them how to SCUBA dive. You can get more information from their website at DIVEHEART.org or at (630) 964-1983.

VOLLEY III

There are many times in my life where I have had to thank someone for teaching me a new perspective. Today I'd like to thank my husband, Ken. We just celebrated 25 years of marriage and it never ceases to amaze me how much I still learn from him. The story today that I want to talk about relates to how he taught me to deal with my own brother.

My mom had five children, and Jim is the eldest, three years my senior. There was an accident, and my brother became mentally disabled from it since he was about 2. He spent his school days at a boarding school for exceptional children called Joseph P. Kennedy School in Palos. He was able to obtain a high

**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

March

What would you like V.I. Professionals to Know?

Please tell V.I. professionals that children with visual impairment are just kids. They just want to have fun and participate with other kids. Children with VI know when they are not being included in part of a group activity. Make sure we have a little fun when educating our little ones, not just work, work, work.

--

V.I. professionals should continue to stimulate vision (in all facets of the eyes) even if, upon diagnosis, the ophthalmologist doesn't think there is much to work with.

--

You should always let them know your expectations for your child. Not just for that year but for years to come.

--

I was given so little prognosis for "hope" when Breck was first born/diagnosed. I would want them to know as a new parent we need some vision of hope.

--

Parents have some idea of what is working and what is not when it comes to our kids. Unfortunately our V.I. teacher

(Continued on page 7)

school diploma and has been diagnosed as functioning anywhere between 8 and 15 years old, leaning primarily towards the 15-year old side.

Now lots of people can relate to how well they functioned at 15. So since he is capable, we have set him up to live in a townhome across the street from us. He works full time at a sheltered workshop doing wood working chores like sanding, painting and staining. He's one of their best workers. He gets up for work on his own and gets picked up by a van which takes him there five days a week. He has two cats and a bird and is very happy with his independence. He brings me his wash, and I do his banking and shopping. He makes his own breakfasts and lunches, then eats dinner with us or has a plate to take home. He knows how to clean but like any other "teenager" needs to be reminded and/or helped.

Both of us are in our 50's now, and I vividly recall how my mom used to say to me that it wasn't fair. I asked what she was referring to and she'd say that I would be the one to take care of Jim after she passed, and that wasn't fair. She felt she was going to burden me with a dependent. I always told her, and to this day still believe, that it's not a burden. It's just the way it is. Jim's older so I never knew him to be anything but how he was, a functioning human being who needed someone to look out for him because he was a little slow. I never felt that he was someone to resent because he had a disability. In fact, I feel that I have a deeper understanding of human nature because of him. I watch how people react to him. If they are kind and patient, I think of them as the sort of individuals I'd hang around with. If they recoiled or were shocked, I knew in an instant how toxic they were.

Most of the time when I dealt with Jim I would talk to him in an authoritative and somewhat condescending tone -- I am ashamed to say --

especially when my patience was wearing thin. I know now I was modeling a parental relationship more than a sibling one. I really never talked to him like, let's say, a friend. That changed though when I saw how Ken reacted with him.

When Ken and I met, I was 26. Before I brought him home to meet the family, I gave him heads up about Jim's condition and said to myself that this would be somewhat of an eye-opening experience. How Ken would react to Jim was crucial because I had already committed to caring for Jim when my mom passed away in the future. So if Ken was going to marry me, he had to accept Jim, issues and all. Well, to my joy, Ken accepted Jim wholeheartedly. In fact, Ken reacted to Jim in a way I had never experienced. Ken treated Jim like a "regular guy." He started talking sports with him, asked questions about his interests, etc. The two of them talked for quite a while. Each time thereafter when they got together, too, it was the same way. You would have never known that Jim had any issues in the way Ken and he conversed. Jim seemed to blossom whenever he was around Ken and to this day, they have a very special bond.

So, Ken, thank you for teaching me how to treat Jim as though he were more of an individual than as a person with a disability. I talk kinder and more respectful to Jim as well as have more patience now. I no longer see him as someone who's disabled, but rather my brother, who by the way needs a little looking after. Thank you, too, Jim, for making me kinder, more empathetic, and in tuned to other's feelings.

Now lots of you might be thinking, "Why is she writing about a mentally challenged individual who has no vision issues in this column other than he is Matt's Godfather?" Well, let me bring it around and clue you in on a little secret. It's because Jim always needed a

helping hand and someone to look out for him that I became more sensitive to people who have issues. I learned that there were a lot of people worse off than Jim and a lot of others who were better. Lots of families have children who ride the short buses and have aids or assistants. Each one of those children is special in and of himself/herself. They are individuals with dreams and goals. Each and every one of them needs respect and attention, which brings me to the time when our son was born with special vision needs. Because of knowing Jim and meeting so many individuals with issues where he went to school, I wasn't so inept at dealing with unusual circumstances. I sort of jumped in and started to research Matt's condition and what was to be expected. I got back on my feet better because (1) I knew there were ways to find help and get information as well as (2) I realized having special needs wasn't the end of the road but rather just a different fork one takes to get to a destination.

So my tip of the day is don't feel so alone once you get a diagnosis. Research and find out about your condition, talk to others, try to find a support group and remember most of all... Your child is your child, with emphasis on "child." He or she may have issues, but as long as you love and support that child, you'll find new, wonderful albeit different experiences. Help your child become the best s/he can be just as you would any of your other children. Remember, you as parents have to be healed so you can help your family, and it's all right to grieve about it. Feel the emotions, face them, and then put them into perspective. Life is not over. It's just different.

Also, I recommend "Welcome to Holland" by Emily Perl Kingsley. This was one of the first stories I read after Matt's birth and it changed my attitude as well. Stories like these put you into a different mindset and significantly can help you get back on the road to healing emo-

tionally. Once you're back on track, helping your child and family navigate the new pathways will get easier, I promise. Take care.



ASK M@



Hey, everybody. I hope everyone is doing well. I must say winter has really held off nicely for us. As always, I have been really enjoying everyone's questions and comments at ipviaskm@gmail.com. In this issue, I would like to talk to you about bullying. This is a topic that I feel very strongly about. This is something that happens to nearly everyone at some point in life. This could be minor or major for any given person. But there are some key thoughts that, if kept in mind, could help when you find yourself in a situation where you are being bullied.

So in situations where you are being bullied, what you do all depends on the level of bullying. First, let's say, it is just minor. This is something that you would just want to talk out with a close friend or a family member. But if it

(Continued on page 8)



IPVI's Matthew Benedict Juskie Scholarship Fund

For students who are blind or visually impaired

Any individual intending to continue his/her education at a college, university or trade school and is interested in being considered for the MBSJF, must meet the following criteria: Illinois resident, blind or visually impaired, undergraduate or graduate student, and an IPVI member.

The candidate's application is processed free of charge. The student must mail or fax a written request to receive a copy of the application from IPVI. Then the student must complete the MBSJF Application Form, provide 3 completed Reference Forms, submit medical records or a letter from the vision specialist confirming the condition, and mail them to IPVI. The applicant may attach a 1-page resume of clubs, offices held, or any other pertinent information concerning his/her activity record.

The IPVI Board of Directors will review all scholarship applications and select the winners. IPVI reserves the right to announce such awards in its newsletters and marketing materials.

The MBSJF is funded completely from tax-deductible donations from **individuals, companies and corporations who support IPVI's goals.** Any individuals or groups wishing to donate to this fund, please forward your tax-deductible donations to IPVI. Thank you for your continued support of IPVI.



To request a scholarship application, please contact the Scholarship Program Coordinator, Vicki Juskie at: 815-464-6162 or vajuskie@aol.com

keeps doing the same things (that don't work).

--

I would like V.I. professionals to be well versed in CVI - because it requires a different educational approach than what TVIs are used to.

--

I would like TVIs to continue to learn about new ideas and philosophies in the field.

--

I wish TVIs had particular training in specific age ranges. It is ridiculous that one TVI covers preschool through 22 years of age - there is such a spectrum of developmental issues there.

--

Please don't view parents as "us vs. them". Include us in communication about our children. We want to be valued as equal partners, striving to do what's in the best interest for our children. We are willing to reinforce your efforts at home, and we hope you will keep an open mind with the input we provide.

Next month's question, asked to V.I. professional at the recent Illinois AER Conference (Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired):

QUESTION

What would you like to say to parents?



Newsletter entries will be published maintaining the anonymity of all unless otherwise approved.



Back by popular demand, The Chicago Lighthouse presents...

Jazz Night with Lisa Hilton and Nikki George

Thursday, March 29, 2012

8-10pm

The Joynt

650 N. Dearborn St., Chicago

Tickets: \$45 (until March 23)
\$55 (after March 23).

Tickets must be purchased in advance. Limited seating.

Supports our programs and services for people of all ages who are blind or visually impaired.

Attendees receive two hours of premium drinks, beer and wine.

No one under 21 years of age will be admitted. Business attire recommended.

For more information, please call Special Events at 312.997.3679 or events@chicagolighthouse.org.

(Continued from page 5) - @M

gets a little worse, this may be the time you need to talk to a close friend or family member and a counselor or someone that could possibly help you fix the problem. This is key because sometimes something that starts out as just a little thing, if you do not address the situation, could escalate into something much worse. Most bullying happens in school or during the years that you are in school, and you do not want to spend these years in school being bullied.

The main point of why I feel so strongly about bullying is because I know that everyone can be a victim of it at some point in one's life. Also, I see it almost everyday. I'm not saying people pushing each other down each day, but just the simple act of coming up with a name for someone and telling a couple of people could be considered bullying. No one can truly be sure how it makes the victim feel. The only person that knows this is the person being bullied. You hear all the time nowadays that a person committed suicide due to the harsh things said to them over *Facebook* or *Twitter*. Imagine what the person or people must feel after they realize that they were the cause for the death.

So with that being said, my call to action is for everyone, especially the ones still in school, if you see bullying taken place, stand up and say something to stop it. Sometimes all it takes is one person to make a difference, and such a little thing, with a tiny bit of guts, could turn someone else's life around potentially. Not only that, you may even make a friend out of it as well. It is never bad to go against what everyone else is doing and do what is right... trust me... I know.

If you are the one being bullied and for some reason no one will stand up for you, go talk to someone, anyone: a teacher, a supervisor, a parent or guardian, a close friend. They all

could play a huge role in helping. Don't let anyone ruin a part of your life because they decided it would be fun to be a bully.

Lastly and almost most importantly, **DO NOT BE A BULLY!** Never stoop to that level! No one likes to be bullied, so don't make anyone else feel that way. That's all the explanation needed for that.

As always I have the **Quote of the Month**. This month's is by Benjamin Disraeli, and he said:

"Courage is fire, and bullying is smoke."

In these seven words, there is such a deeper meaning. What this quote is saying is that the courage that it takes to be yourself and not be affected by what others are saying is the fire. Fire is almost always a beautiful thing. It is used in happy settings a lot like candlelit dinners, fireworks, and much more. This is due to having the courage to use a beautiful, yet potentially harmful thing. Then the smoke shows bullying. This is because smoke is usually not a very pretty thing. It in many instances causes death. The smoke in a burning building will usually kill one first before the fire; or the black smoke after a bomb is dropped, or the smoke from cigarettes, they all hurt your lungs. Bullying is an absolute horrible thing, like smoke.

So I hope everyone can go out and help someone who is being bullied and stand up to what everyone else is doing. Until next time, farewell.

M@



For the first time in The Chicago Lighthouse's 106 year history we have opened a new Vision Rehabilitation Center located in Glenview and serving the entire North Shore.



Coming Soon!!!

- **MOMS n' TOTS GROUPS (ages 0-3 years)**
- **SENSORY PLAY GROUPS (ages 0-3 years)**
- **ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY (ages 3 and up)**
- **TOY & BOOK LENDING LIBRARY**
- **PARENT/FAMILY SUPPORT GROUPS**

Stay Tuned...teen programs are being defined!

For more information, call (847) 510-2053
222 Waukegan Road, Glenview, Illinois 60025
www.chicagolighthouse.org/Glenview

The Chicago Lighthouse
Because there is **still** hope.™



You've probably heard that carrots are good for the eyes. But, so are many other foods including fruits, vegetables, nuts, lentils and certain meats. Did you also know that foods high in sugar or fat can actually be damaging to vision over time?

As part of February's Age-related Macular Degeneration Awareness Month, Prevent Blindness America wants to educate the public on what foods can benefit the eyes as well as what foods to avoid. Additional information is below.

Prevent Blindness America also offers a free, dedicated website at preventblindness.org/AMD that provides information on risk factors, symptoms, types of AMD, and treatment options.

Maintaining a Healthy Diet Can Help Protect Vision from Age-related Macular Degeneration

Eating for the Eyes Should Always be a Part of the Menu

CHICAGO (Jan. 24, 2012) –We've all heard the expression "eating with your eyes," but many people may not be aware of the benefits of eating *for* your eyes. In addition to promoting overall health, a diet rich with sight-saving beta carotene, lutein, zeaxanthin, zinc, omega-3 fatty acids and certain vitamins can also help guard against vision loss from eye disease, such as age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

AMD diminishes central vision and currently affects the vision of more than 2 million Americans, ages 50 and older and is a leading cause of blindness. AMD is a progressive disease that if left untreated, can result in severe vision loss and even blindness. The exact cause of AMD is unknown, but risk factors for the disease include age, race, smoking, family history as well as those with cardiovascular disease and hypertension.

A wide variety of foods including lentils, grapes, carrots, bell peppers, broccoli, spinach, sweet potatoes, kale, certain kinds of fish, turkey and some kinds of nuts, have been shown to aid eye health. Although there are a variety of available over-the-counter supplements designed for vision and eye health, a doctor should always be consulted before use.

Foods that contain refined starches and are high in sugar can be damaging to vision. A study by **Tufts University** showed that high-glycemic foods cause a dramatic rise in blood sugar, which over time, may damage the retina and capillaries in the eye by promoting oxidative stress and inflammation. Soda and sugary drinks, candy, baked goods, some cereals, white rice, foods made with white flour, such as white bread and pasta, should be avoided.

According to the **University of Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary**, more than one serving per week of beef, pork, or lamb as a main dish is associated with a 35 percent increased risk of macular degeneration as compared with less than three servings per month. Additionally, one serving per day of high-fat dairy food, such as whole milk, ice cream, hard cheese, or butter, also increases the risk of macular degeneration progression.


"We all know that watching what we eat can lead to overall health benefits such as lower choles-

terol and a reduction of calories, but maintaining a healthy diet, day after day, can be very challenging,” said Hugh R. Parry, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness America. “Prevent Blindness America hopes to encourage the public to remember that everything we put in our mouths can affect our eyes!”

Other healthy habits can lead to healthy vision. The risk of eye disease and vision loss can be lowered by:

- Avoiding trans fats
- Quitting smoking
- Controlling blood pressure and cholesterol
- Exercising regularly
- Visiting an eye care professional on a regular basis



In conjunction with February as Age-related Macular Degeneration Awareness Month, Prevent Blindness America offers a dedicated online resource for patients and caretakers to learn more about the disease. The website, preventblindness.org/amd, offers a variety of tools and information on everything from risk factors,  treatment options, and even a downloadable Amsler Grid, (a tool that can help identify vision abnormalities linked to AMD).

For more information on AMD and other eye disease, please contact Prevent Blindness America at (800) 331-2020 or visit preventblindness.org.

About Prevent Blindness America

Founded in 1908, Prevent Blindness America is the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness and saving sight. Focused on promoting a continuum of vision care, Prevent Blindness America touches the lives of millions of people each year through public and professional education, advocacy, certified vision screening and training, community and patient service programs and research. These services are made possible through the generous support of the American public. Together with a network of affiliates, divisions and chapters, Prevent Blindness America is committed to eliminating preventable blindness in America. For more information, or to make a contribution to the sight-saving fund, call 1-800-331-2020. Or, visit us on the Web at preventblindness.org or facebook.com/preventblindness.

GUILD FOR THE BLIND

Chicago Fusion Theater: On Sunday, March 11, the Chicago Fusion Theater is offering an enhanced performance of *Las Hermanas* at their storefront location at 66 E. Randolph St. This performance offers a touch tour of the set, an opportunity to meet the cast and audio de-

scription of the performance. Half priced tickets are available. For more information, call Bridget Dougherty-Melton at 312-744-16109.

Transportation Security Administration Help Line: The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has established a help line to assist travelers with disabilities and medical conditions. Travelers can call TSA Cares

at 855-787-2227 and receive information about screening policies and what to expect when going through the screening process at airports. Contact TSA Cares 72 hours prior to departure for checkpoint support with a TSA customer service representative.

FFB Speakers Series: The Chicago chapter of the Foundation Fighting Blindness presents a panel discussion entitled "Success with Low Vision" on Saturday, March 25th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Four individuals with vision loss provide insight to living with low vision. Family members, junior and high school students are encouraged to attend the discussion at Alexian Brothers Medical Center, Elk Grove Village. To learn more, call Nina West at 866-782-7330 or email nwest@fightblindness.org.

More Scholarships: The Council of Citizens with Low Vision International (CCLVI) offers three different scholarship opportunities—\$3,000 to three full-time college students, five video magnifiers for students and non-students and a scholarship for graduate students studying in the field of low vision. Deadline for applications is March 15th and March 30th. To learn more, visit www.cclvi.org. The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) also offers 30 scholarships to full-time college students who are legally blind. Deadline for applications is March 31st. For more information, visit www.nfb.org/scholarships or call 410-659-9314.

Reprinted from GUILD BRIEFS March 2012, *Guild for the Blind*, 180 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1700, Chicago, IL 60601-7463, 312-236-8569, www.guildfortheblind.org.



CONFERENCE

Illinois Family Leaders

Collaboration presents the...



6th Annual Family Conference

Resources and Inspiration for **Adult** Family Members and Caregivers of Children with Disabilities

Featuring Paula Kuth

The 6th Annual Conference is featuring Paula Kluth's all day presentation "Do You See Inclusion as a Place or a Process? And 6 Other Questions to Ask Your Child's School." In this interactive presentation, we will explore the philosophy of inclusion and how instruction can be designed for all learners. Participants will discuss the different questions that families can ask their school so that all children benefit and the entire school community is enriched. Information in this presentation can benefit families in Early Intervention and throughout their child's educational career. Planning for education begins in the transition process while children are enrolled in Early Intervention.

Saturday, April 28, 2012

Spalding Pastoral Center
419 NE Madison Ave, Peoria, Illinois

Registration 8:30-9:00am
Conference 9:00am-3:00pm

Hotel Information

Peoria Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau
www.peoria.org

Fairfield Inn & Suites

200 Eastlight Court
East Peoria, IL 61611
309-699-4100

A block of rooms with a special rate is available under the STARNET name. The special rate of \$70 + tax is available for reservations made by March 27, 2012.

You're Invited

Conferences for Illinois Parents of Children with Vision Loss

Parents of children ages birth through twenty-one are encouraged to join us for in-depth discussions of useful topics. Learn from experts in the field as well as from fellow parents.

The Conference Program

- **Kids Under Construction**
Learn strategies to build up your child's independence by encouraging age-appropriate responsibilities and continuing school learning at home.
- **Got Friends?**
Learn how to support your child's friendships and social growth by understanding the social challenges of vision impairment.
- **Camp: More than S'Mores!**
There's more to camp than s'mores and campfire songs. Parents of children with vision loss share their children's camp experiences.
- **iPads for Eye Students**
Learn how iPads can be used to benefit students with vision loss and test drive a few apps in this hands-on session.
- **Resource Swap Shop**
Who's the expert on resources available for families and children with vision loss? You are! In this small group discussion, we'll share experiences and information about helpful national, state and local resources. What resources have been most helpful to your family?

Southern Illinois Vision Conference

March 17, 2012

Mt. Vernon Primary Center
401 N 30th
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Northern Illinois Vision Conference

April 21, 2012

Center for Sight and Hearing
8038 MacIntosh Lane
Rockford, IL 61107

Time: 8:45 Check-in, 9:15 – 3:45 Conference Program

Hosts: Center for Sight & Hearing; Delta Gamma Center for Children with Visual Impairments; Hearing and Vision Early Intervention Outreach; Franklin-Jefferson Special Education; Illinois School for the Visually Impaired; Northwestern Illinois Association; Rockford Public Schools; Illinois Machine Sublending Agency (Illinois Heartland Library System); StarNET Regions I & III; StarNET Region IV; TransVision; Sheila Walker, EI DTV, EI DTO&M, CTVI, COMS; and Voices of Vision Talking Book Center (Reaching Across Illinois Library System).



30 SCHOLARSHIPS

*For Blind High School Seniors through Grad School Students
in the United States or Puerto Rico.*

The \$12,000 Kenneth Jernigan Scholarship

1 Scholarship for	\$10,000
2 Scholarships for	\$7,000 each
4 Scholarships for	\$5,000 each
22 Scholarships for	\$3,000 each

**PLUS a trip to the NFB Annual Convention
and other gifts to scholarship winners!**

ARE YOU A LEGALLY BLIND STUDENT?

Go to:

www.nfb.org/scholarships

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND 2012 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

To apply: Read the rules of eligibility, the timeline, the Submission Checklist, and the Scholarship FAQ, then fill in the online Scholarship Application Form. Supply the required documents and complete one telephone interview with our representative.

Deadline: March 31, 2012

All documentation and the interview request must be received by the deadline.

E-mail: Scholarships@nfb.org

NFB Scholarship Program: (410) 659 -9314, extension 2415 (8 a.m. - 5 p.m. ET)

NFB at Jernigan Place, 200 East Wells Street, Baltimore, MD 21230

WORKSHOPS

FRCD MARCH 2012 WORKSHOPS

Sessions

(10:00 AM-1:00 PM)

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

Phone Trainings

- 3/13 **Procedural Safeguards**
- 3/15 **(Taller de teléfono) Promoción padre eficaz (En español)**
- 3/13 **Promoción padre eficaz (En español)**
- 3/20 **Dispute Resolution**
- 3/27 **Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM/Assistive Technology)**

(For your convenience we are holding 1 hour training sessions over the phone)
(12:00 Noon-1:00 PM)

Sessions

(10:00 AM-1:00 PM)

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

- 3/1 **Next Steps-Making it in the Real World (Self Advocacy)**
- 3/3 **IEP Workshop**
- 3/6 **Six Principles of IDEA**
- 3/7 **Seis Principios de IDEA (En español)**
- 3/8 **Next Steps-Self Advocacy & Support**
- 3/10 **Early Transition with Illinois Parents of Visual Impairment**
- 3/14 **IEP Taller (En español)**
- 3/15 **Next Steps-Future Finances & Supports**
- 3/17 **Six Principles of IDEA**
- 3/22 **Next Steps-Accessing Services**

You must register in advance in order to get your materials in the mail.

Please call us at **312-939-3513**
or

You may register online at:
www.frcd.org

To view the training calendar go to **www.frcd.org** and click on Events/Training-Upcoming Events. To register for FRCD's Upcoming Trainings, contact us by phone at 312-939-3513, Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, or drop us an email at info@frcd.org.



SEMINARS



The National Federation of the Blind of Illinois
Presents a Seminar for Parents and Teachers
“From First Steps to First Grade and Beyond”

Friday, April 13, 2012

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 P.M. -- Holiday Inn O'Hare,
5615 N. Cumberland Ave., Chicago

On Friday, April 13, 2012, the National Federation of the Blind of Illinois will hold its teachers' seminar at the Holiday Inn O'Hare. The seminar will be a day-long event consisting of meetings for teachers of children with visual impairment or blindness. Topics will include STEM and transition programs, IEPs, socialization, assistive technology, development of requisite blindness skills, and much more.

Cost: \$25, including box lunches. Overnight accommodations are available for \$72 at the O'Hare Holiday Inn by calling (773) 693-5800.

Indicate that you are asking for the National Federation of the Blind rate. For those traveling from outside the Chicago-metro area, financial assistance may be available. Please apply through the Chappell Memorial Awards at www.nfbfillinois.org on or before March 1, 2012.

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) is a 50,000-member organization that works to insure the full participation of blind people in all aspects of society.

If you would like to attend the seminar, please complete the registration form by April 1, 2012. For more information, please contact Patti Gregory-Chang at (773) 307-6440 or patichang@att.net. Vision impairment can be reduced to a nuisance with proper training. Please come and work with teachers, students, and mentors with a positive outlook on blindness.

For more information on NFB go to www.nfb.org. For more information on our Illinois Affiliate of NFB, go to www.nfbfillinois.org.



The National Federation of the Blind of Illinois
Presents a Seminar for Parents and Teachers
“From First Steps to First Grade and
Beyond”

Saturday, April 14, 2012

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 P.M. -- Holiday Inn O'Hare,
5615 N. Cumberland Ave., Chicago

On Saturday, April 14, 2012, the National Federation of the Blind of Illinois will hold its an-

nual parents' seminar at the Holiday Inn O'Hare. The seminar will be a day-long event consisting of meetings for parents of children with visual impairment or blindness. Topics will include socialization, education, assistive technology, development of requisite blindness skills, and much more.

Children ages three to eleven are invited to participate in Kids Camp. This all-day program will provide children with the chance to try new activities and to meet other young people who are also visually impaired or blind.

Young people between the ages of twelve and eighteen may take part in The Teen Scene, hosted by the Illinois Association of Blind Students (IABS). Sessions will include discussions about how to make friends and the transition from high school to college, as well as games and activities designed to facilitate conversation and friendship.

Cost: \$25 adults, \$15 ages 12-18, and \$10 for ages 11 and under, including box lunches. Overnight accommodations are available for \$72 at the O'Hare Holiday Inn by calling (773) 693-5800. Indicate that you are asking for the National Federation of the Blind rate. For those traveling from outside the Chicago-metro area, financial assistance may be available. Please apply through the Chappell Memorial Awards at www.nfbfillinois.org on or before March 1, 2012.

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) is a 50,000-member organization that works to insure the full participation of blind people in all aspects of society. The National Organization of Parents of Blind Children (NOPBC) is a division of NFB that has been helping to spread a positive message about vision loss to parents for more than twenty-five years.

If you would like to attend the seminar, please

complete the registration form by April 1, 2012. For more information, please contact Debbie Kent Stein at (773) 203-1394 or dkent5817@att.net. Vision impairment can be reduced to a nuisance with proper training. Please come and learn how.

MISCELLANEOUS

The National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute announces the **NFB Hazel tenBroek Research Grant program** for 2012-13. Please cross-post as appropriate.

Though sighted, Hazel tenBroek (1911-2005) was a devoted member of the National Federation of the Blind. For many years, she was an unpaid coworker of her husband, NFB founding President Jacobus tenBroek, and after his death she served as Associate Editor of the NFB monthly magazine, the Braille Monitor. Near the end of her own life she agreed to donate the Jacobus tenBroek Papers to the Jernigan Institute. The tenBroek papers now constitute the centerpiece of the research resources of the Jacobus tenBroek Library.

Purpose: These awards will support projects that (1) require the resources of the Jacobus tenBroek Library and (2) are intended to lead to a product of educational or aesthetic value to the public and/or the academic community. Undergraduate students may apply, but only for work on a senior thesis or capstone project.

Awards: Up to five applicants will win awards of between \$500 and \$5000. Awards will be based on budgets submitted as part of the application (see below), but will not necessarily match the total proposed budget. In general, the awards will be proportional to the proposed length of residence in the tenBroek Library.

Period of residence: Winners of Hazel tenBroek Research grants are expected to spend at least five days in residence at the Jacobus tenBroek Library, any time between mid-July 2012 and mid-June 2013. The days of residence need not be consecutive. Awardees who come from a distance are invited to stay in Jernigan Institute sleeping rooms at no charge. Grant recipients are not required to stay at the Jernigan Institute, but we will not consider lodging costs in proposal budgets.

Presentation: At the conclusion of their stay, awardees will be expected to make a presentation of 20-30 minutes, followed by a question and answer period with Jernigan Institute staff members.

Acknowledgment and rights: All products of work done on these grants remains the intellectual property of the awardees, but must include an acknowledgment of the 2012-2013 NFB Hazel tenBroek Research Grant program. Should the editors regard the grant-funded work as appropriate for inclusion the Braille Monitor, tenBroek Library staff will work with the awardee in preparing an article.

Eligibility: All are eligible to apply, regardless of citizenship or age.

Travel and visas: Grantees are responsible for their own travel arrangements and visa arrangements (if needed).

Preferences:

Disability status: All else being equal, preference will be shown, first, to blind applicants, and second, to other disabled applicants.

Topic of project: We are especially interested in projects related to the life and work of Jacobus tenBroek or the history of the National Federation of the Blind. However, we will consider well-conceived projects in other areas.

Resources:

Published books, periodicals, etc. The Jacobus tenBroek Library, established in 2004, is currently engaged in a large scale acquisitions program (both retrospective and current). The scope of its published materials-largely in print, but also in talking book, Braille, and digital formats-extends to all facets (except the medical) of blindness and the lives of blind people. We encourage potential applicants to check THE BLIND CAT, our online public-access catalog (www.nfb.org/theblindcat), and let us know of books or other publications that are within our scope, that we do not yet own.

Archival and manuscript materials. The most significant single resource of the tenBroek Library is the Professional and Personal Papers of Jacobus tenBroek. Dr. tenBroek (1911-1968) was a towering figure in many areas. The NFB as he built it in the 1940s and 1950s adumbrated many of the features of today's disability rights movement, most importantly by asserting that blind must speak for themselves as consumers and as a demographic minority that experiences discrimination. A graduate of the University of California School of Law (Boalt Hall), tenBroek earned additional graduate degrees in both law and political science. His scholarly interests centered around constitutional notions of "rights" and he is credited with helping to refine the idea of rights in the post-World War II era. In addition to disability rights, his writings have proved central to civil rights law and welfare rights law. His 1958 book, *Prejudice, War, and the Constitution* is regarded as the definitive critique of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to allow the federal government to relocate Japanese Americans during the World War II.

TenBroek served on the faculty of the University of California from 1942 until his death. As a university professor, he stood strongly in favor of academic freedom, opposing the loyalty oath during the 1950s, and supporting the student Free Speech Movement in 1964. Simultaneously with his social activism and scholarly work tenBroek was a member and, for a period, chairman of the California Social Welfare Board.

The Jacobus tenBroek papers-consisting largely of typed and printed documents, but with a significant portion in grade 3 Braille-is a major primary resource for research on any of his personal and professional interests. A grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission has allowed us to complete basic processing of both the tenBroek papers and the larger institutional archives of the National Federation of the Blind. We have recently made finding aids to these and several smaller collections available through our archival search tool, THE CANE TIP (www.nfb.org/thecanetip).

Museum Collection: The tenBroek Library has an unprocessed collection of objects, including several exhibits on display in public areas of the Jernigan Institute. In storage are a number of mechanical and manual tools for writing in Braille, as well as electronic devices developed for use by the blind in the past half-century. The Jernigan Institute is also home to the International Braille and Technology Center, which collects state-of-the-art electronic devices, and the Independence Market, which sells a selection of "low tech" aids and appliances for the blind, including canes, clocks, low vision aids, and toys. The resources of the IBTC and the market are available for use by researchers.

Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments

Audiovisual collection: The tenBroek Library is also responsible for the NFB's collection of sound and moving picture recordings dating back to the 1950s. The AV collection includes recordings of NFB events, oral history interviews, broadcast public service announcements and other NFB archival material. At present there is no public access to the AV inventory, but we will gladly answer questions about this collection.

Photographs: We have more than forty thousand photographs in digital formats. They are entered with descriptive metadata in our photograph database, Photo Showcase. Photo Showcase is not available to outside researchers but, again, we will gladly help researchers locate photographs.

Applications: Applications will be accepted only as email attachments sent to jtblibrary@nfb.org, preferably using Microsoft Word, Microsoft Works word processor, Open Office Writer, or Rich text Format. All applications must have the following information, clearly labeled and in this order:

- I. Name and contact information, including relevant affiliations.
- II. Type of project (undergraduate thesis, graduate thesis, scholarly article or book, popular non-fiction, fiction or poetry, other artistic endeavor). If none of these, please specify what is intended.
- III. Title of project.
- IV. Abstract of no more than five hundred words
- V. Description of how the resources of the tenBroek Library will be utilized.
- VI. Budget. There is no budget form, and applicants should themselves choose the categories of expense they anticipate.

For further information, please contact the tenBroek Library (410-659-9314 x2225 or jtblibrary@nfb.org).

Deadline: All applications must be received by 8:00 AM, Eastern Time (GMT -05:00), Monday April 2, 2012. Decisions will be announced within a few weeks.

Cordially,
Edward T. Morman, MSLS, PhD
Director, Jacobus tenBroek Library
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND JERNIGAN INSTITUTE
200 East Wells Street at Jernigan Place
Baltimore, MD 21230
410.659.9314 x2225 / 410.685.2340 (fax)

The tenBroek Library is becoming the place for research on blindness. Check out THE CANE TIP (www.nfb.org/thecanetip, our archival database), and THE BLIND CAT (www.nwf.org/theblindcat, our online public access catalog). Both are fully accessible.

Onkyo Braille Essay Contest Sponsored by Onkyo Corporation and The Braille Mainichi

The Onkyo Braille essay contest is being administered by the National Federation of the Blind on behalf of the North America-Caribbean Region of the World Blind Union.

Essays must be written by contest participants, in English or their native language, in Braille, and must be completely original in nature. Entries should be no fewer than 800 words and no more than 1,000 words in length. There will be two groups of competitors—one Junior group, aged 25 and under; and one Senior group, aged 26 and up, and prizes range from \$500-\$2,000.

Essay topics:

1. How do you acquire knowledge and information through Braille or audio devices? (Illustrate with some interesting personal stories/episodes.
2. How can blind persons become independent by learning Braille or music?
3. Individual concept about world peace from the viewpoint of persons with disabilities.

All essays must be received by April 30, 2012.

Visit

<http://www.nfb.org/nfb/>

[Onkyo_Braille_Essay_Contest.asp](http://www.nfb.org/nfb/Onkyo_Braille_Essay_Contest.asp)

for more information and an application. The application is also attached here, in PDF and BRF format.

Please contact Trisha Tatam at (410) 659-9314 (ext. 2510) or ttatam@nfb.org if you have any questions.

Jennifer Dunnam
Manager of Braille Programs, Jernigan Institute
National Federation of the Blind

200 E. Wells Street
Baltimore, MD 21230
(612) 767-5658

E-mail: transcribers@nfb.org

<http://www.nfb.org>

Visit the Braille Certification page at <http://www.nfb.org/transcribers>

Sensory Safari

Posted by: Association for Retinopathy of Prematurity and Related Diseases

Date: 04/28/2012

Time: 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

ROPARD is pleased to announce that it will host a Sensory Safari at the Sterling Inn Hotel in Sterling Heights, Michigan on Saturday, April 28, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to at least 3:00 p.m. This event will be open, free of charge, to any child who is visually impaired and their accompanying family.

Age Groups

All ages (birth to 26)

Parents of children with visual impairments

Interest Categories

Recreation

Science/nature

Location:

Sterling Inn Hotel

Sterling Heights

Phone Number: 800-788-2020



**The National Federation of the Blind Announces the 2012 NFB Project Innovation Program
Students Charting Their Own Course into Scientific Exploration**

July 25-29, 2012*

In 2012, the National Center for Blind Youth in Science (NCBYS), a program of the National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute, is introducing an exciting science program for students ages 7-11 and 14-18 called NFB Project Innovation. This pioneer program will focus on fostering a sense of innovation and autonomy in young students by allowing them to determine their course of study during the week of the program. Students will ultimately focus on one investigation which they will showcase at the Innovators Expo. However, multiple branches of science will be explored throughout the program through extension activities.

A unique component of NFB Project Innovation is how it will serve two unique age groups simultaneously. The first of these two groups will be comprised of students in grades 3-6 (ages 7-11). This group, called Junior Innovators, will stay at the NFBJI for three days, July 25-29.** Twenty blind students will be accepted into this group. Each student will be required to attend with an adult chaperone. In this age group, students will interact with science professionals, blind mentors, and Senior Innovators. They will have the opportunity to show off their final innovations, which reflect their own personal interests and research, at the Innovators Expo.

The high school students, called Senior Innovators, will serve as junior advisors. They will not only participate in this science program but will model blindness skills, scientific investigation skills, and techniques to their younger counterparts. Senior Innovators will also have the opportunity to exhibit at the Innovators Expo. Students in grades 9-12 (ages 14-18) are eligible to apply to be a Senior Innovator. The Senior Innovators will stay at the NFBJI for four days, July 24-29, 2012.** Ten blind students will be accepted into this group.

There will be a \$250 fee for each Junior Innovator/Chaperone pair and a \$250 fee for each Senior Innovator attending. Other expenses, such as the cost of travel, room, board, and program materials, will be covered by the NFB Jernigan Institute for all students and student/chaperone pairs. Apply now at www.blindscience.org. Applications are due by April 1, 2012. For more information on this exciting new program, please contact Abby Bispo at 410-659-9314, extension 2312 or by email at abispo@nfb.org

*Exact program dates differ based on grade level

**Date range reflects travel time.

Abby Bispo
National Federation of the Blind
Jernigan Institute
Department of Education
200 E. Wells
Baltimore, MD. 21230



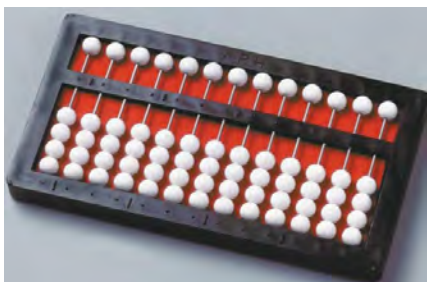
Dr. L. Penny Rosenblum, Dr. Sheila Amato, and Dr. Sunggye Hong are conducting a research study to examine the experiences of teachers of students with **visual impairments** (TVIs) in relation to their skills, knowledge, and attitudes with respect to the abacus. TVIs in the United States and Canada are invited to complete a 20-30 minute on-line questionnaire. The purpose of the study is learn about how TVIs were prepared to use the abacus, how they currently provide abacus instruction to their students, and their attitudes about the abacus. There is no risk for participation in this study, nor will any participant be financially compensated for his/her participation. To participate in this study, please go to

[https://ua.datstathost.com/OSS-Collector/Survey.ashx?
Name=abacuscurrentlyediting](https://ua.datstathost.com/OSS-Collector/Survey.ashx?Name=abacuscurrentlyediting)

If you have questions, please contact Dr. L. Penny Rosenblum at 520-621-1223 or by email at rosenblu@u.arizona.edu. Please feel free to share this email with other TVIs who may wish to participate.

Thank you,
L. Penny Rosenblum, Ph.D.
University of Arizona
Department of Disability and Psychoeducational Studies
Office: 520-621-1223
Fax: 520-621-3821
Email: rosenblu@email.arizona.edu

Visit the Program in **Visual Impairment** Web Site: <http://uacoe.arizona.edu/vi/>



The National Federation of the Blind Announces the 2012 NFB Leadership and Advocacy in Washington, D.C., (LAW) Program

Engaging the Voice of America's Blind Youth

April 13-18, 2012



The NFB LAW program provides blind students with a unique opportunity to explore the inner workings of our country's government, its history, and its culture. In addition to learning about the history of the organized blindness civil rights movement, how resolutions are passed, and how blindness legislation is created, participants will become familiar with advocacy work for blind individuals and available resources for blind students and adults. Highlights of the program include: visits to historical sites in Washington, D.C., meetings with influential government leaders, and presentations by prominent leaders in the National Federation of the Blind. Read more about this chance of a lifetime in the Summer 2011 issue of *Future Reflections*.

Twenty-four students (grades six to nine, or ages twelve to sixteen) will be accepted for the LAW program. All accepted students must be accompanied by a parent/guardian, teacher, or blind/low-vision mentor from their home state. There will be a \$250 fee per student/chaperone pair. Transportation, room, and board will be provided for students and chaperones.

Apply now by going to www.nfb.org/LAWProgram. Applications are due by February 1, 2012. For more information, call (410) 659-9314, extension 2312, or e-mail Natalie Shaheen at nshaheen@nfb.org.

Last year The NFB of Utah launched a new website, **BlindHow.com**. This sight has been up for more than six months during which time we have received over 500 posts with over 160 comments from over 370 members. Thank you to each of you that have contributed to BlindHow.com. We have had an extremely successful six plus months and look forward to the continued success in the upcoming months and years. Whether you have submitted content, made comments, asked questions, or even just used the website to obtain information, we thank you.

On March 1, 2012, BlindHow.com will be implementing an exciting incentive program! The purpose? We want you to visit, sign up, test drive, make comments, rank content, and become a contributor by submitting articles, videos and audio files. There are thousands of resources available on the web, but they are scattered and they take valuable time to find and sift through. We encourage you to submit content from the web that you have found enlightening, positive, and/or helpful. We also welcome original articles, videos, or audio tutorials. We want and welcome both!

How the contest works:

This contest will be a drawing, so anyone who participates has a chance to win. Every time you post original content to the website, we enter your name into the drawing 7 times. Every time you post information from another source, we enter your name into the drawing 3 times. Every time you make a comment on someone else's post, we enter your name into the drawing 1 time.

The contest will go from March 1, 2012 to April 15, 2012. Please email admin@blindhow.com to report any content you post or comments you make on BlindHow.com as this will be the only method used to track participation in the contest.

If you haven't visited us, please check out

BlindHow.com and see what it is all about. BlindHow.com allows for community members to view and share video, audio, or written tutorials and information on a myriad of topics regarding blindness and visual impairment. Topics could include things like, "How do you use an iPhone with voiceover?" "This is how I put on makeup every day: how do you?" "How do you mow your lawn?" "This is how I downhill ski."

If you can't find the answer you are looking for, then we want you to ask! If you have something to share, then become a contributor today! We know that there are many different ways to do one thing. For example, I may iron my shirt one way and you another. Knowledge is power and sharing is caring! You can make a difference.

Our primary goal is to create a positive environment where community members are willing to ask thoughtful questions and share knowledge related to blindness and visual impairment that will improve lives, encourage independence, and increase self-confidence.

Warmest regards,
The BlindHow Team

P.S. Please remember to let us know of any way we can improve your experience on BlindHow.com. We take your feedback seriously and have already made several improvements as a result of the feedback we have received. As always, we look forward to your continued support and website participation.

Check out the website at BlindHow.com today and click on the \$100 iTunes incentive link for more information and sign up today! For additional questions, suggestions, or input, please email admin@blindhow.com.



IPVI

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

Toll-free: 1-877-411-IPVI (4784) • Email: ipvi@ipvi.org • www.ipvi.org



Jonathan Buka, MD
Alexander J. Khammar, MD
Benjamin H. Ticho, MD
Karl E. Ticho, MD

10436 Southwest Highway
Chicago Ridge, IL 60415
708.423.4070

600 Ravinia Place
Orland Park, IL 60462
708.873.0088

40 S. Clay - 118E
Hinsdale, IL 60521
630.323.4202

PRESIDENT

Bill Bielawski
421 Applegate Court
Naperville, IL 60565
(630) 357-8576
wjbielawski@ipvi.org

OPERATIONS VP

Rich Zabelski
6153 N. Nettleton Avenue
Chicago, IL 60631
(773) 774-4742
richzabelski@ameritech.net

SERVICES VP

Judy Metoyer
221 S. Princeton
Itasca, IL 60143
(630) 414-0825
metoyer.j@sbcglobal.net

TREASURER

Vicki Juskie
21170 Deerpath Road
Frankfort, IL 60423
(815) 464-6162
vajuskie@aol.com

SECRETARY

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

NAPVI REGION 3 REPRESENTATIVE

Pam Stern
2775 Greenwood Avenue
Highland Park, IL 60035
847-433-0809
pamstern3@gmail.com

**THIS PUBLICATION IS SUPPORTED
(IN PART) BY THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION FOR
PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH
VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS (NAPVI)
HILTON/PERKINS
PROGRAM AND (IN PART) FROM A
GRANT FROM THE FAMILY RE-
SOURCE CENTER ON DISABILITIES**



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

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

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

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

What does IPVI do?

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

Check one:

Parent/Guardian Membership: \$15 per year.

Child(ren)'s Names: _____

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

My child(ren)'s eye condition: _____

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

Group/Agency Membership \$50 per year.

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

Medical Specialist \$50 per year.

Scholarship Fund \$10.00

Donation: \$ _____ (tax deductible)

New Membership

Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) - _____

Email: _____

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

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

Have questions or need more information?

**Call us at
1-877-411-IPVI (4784)**

**Illinois Association for Parents of
Children with Visual Impairments**
P. O. Box 2947
Naperville, IL 60567-2947

**FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND
or PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**THE TOP LINE... of your address
label indicates whether your dues
are "Paid" or if they are "Due."
Please send your annual dues in
each year.**

IPVI CALENDAR

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| ▶ March 17 | Southern Illinois Vision Conference | Mt. Vernon |
| ▶ March 29 | Jazz Night with Lisa Hilton and Nikki George | Chicago |
| ▶ April 13 &
April 14 | Seminar "From First Steps to First Grade and Beyond | Chicago |
| ▶ April 21 | Northern Illinois Vision Conference | Rockford |
| ▶ April 28 | Sensory Safari (ROPARD) | Michigan |
| ▶ April 28 | 6th Annual Family Conference (STARNET) | Peoria |

Please call
1-877-411-IPVI
for any questions, concerns,
or comments that IPVI can
help you with.

**Newsletter Deadline for
MARCH is FEBRUARY 10th**



**Check Out
www.ipvi.org**

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