

# IPVI INSIGHTS

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

**March  
2015**



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*By Lyle Stauder, President*

To our readership, I hope you're staying warm through this extremely cold winter. It is difficult to realize that spring starts this month with all the cold and snow abounding around us. However, the benefit of it being March is we know Spring is on its way together with its promise of new beginnings.

On this note, I have had a medical struggle this past month. As you may be aware, I have Aniridia. This condition caused my optic nerve to be strangled by the scarring and the retina to become detached. I lost all of my remaining vision and am awaiting for the swelling to go down to see if the reattachment surgery has been successful at all. I've dictated this while recuperating and realize that IPVI has and continues to be a support system for me and my family. We need more of you to help us so we can continue to help others know they're not alone. Consider being volunteers to IPVI. You will be enriched more than you'd ever expect. I know I have. Thank all of you for your prayers for my recovery.





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## Illinois School Health and Safety for All

A new report from the Chicago Medical-Legal Partnership for Children outlines an incomplete patchwork of health, wellness, and safety regulations within the Illinois school system; compares charter and district-run school policies toward management of chronic and other health-related issues; and recommends streamlining and improving health, wellness, and safety within the Illinois charter system in order to foster healthier schools, students and communities.

The report found that only a small percentage - 8 of 77 Illinois health, and safety regulations - that apply to public schools are also applicable to charter schools throughout the state. "Every student deserves the same health and safety protections that children across the state - or a district - are entitled to," states Illinois Representative Robyn Gabel (18th District), who is sponsoring legislation **HB 1360** to amend the Charter Schools Law to better protect the health and safety of all Illinois students.

Given that charter schools are the fastest-

*(Continued on page 4)*

**MS. VIC'S VOLLEYS**  
*Victoria Juskie, IPVI Treasurer*

**VOLLEY I**

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

Since our last publication, no new members have joined.

**VOLLEY II**

This month I want to request our members consider becoming volunteer board members for IPVI. We need new board members as requests of current board members to retire have been coming in. Some of the current board members founded the organization in 1986. I personally have been involved in since 1996. So it is time for some others to step up to take our places. We need parents who have younger children who are involved in infant to grade and high school levels who are facing challenges in today's environment. The seasoned team will help train the up and coming as well as be available for assistance; and as always, you will not be alone.

The commitment for each position is as follows:

**President:**

Coordinate the IPVI Board Activities; write a short monthly update and/or announcement to membership for submission to the Newsletter Editor by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month; attend as many major IPVI functions as possible (usually three a year – the Membership Outing at the Zoo, the Christmas Party, and the Annual Meeting); and attend a telephone conference call among the board members typically once a quarter which takes approximately 1 to 2 hours.

**Treasurer:**

Pay bills and verified expense reports, keep track of expenses and incoming donations/monies on Quicken, complete the Hilton Perkins grant application, coordinate the filing of the Non-Profit tax returns yearly, coordinate fundraisers, and attend a telephone conference call among the board members typically once a quarter which takes approximately 1 to 2 hours.

**Vice President - Operations**

Coordinate the outings under the President's direction, obtain information on other types of outings planned; set up for the annual Illinois AER conference table and attend the meeting (s) if possible, and attend a telephone conference call among the board members typically once a quarter which takes approximately 1 to 2 hours.

**Vice President - Services**

Coordinate membership, contact and recruit potential volunteers, assist in notifications of the membership, assist in fundraisers, and attend a telephone conference call among the board members typically once a quarter which takes approximately 1 to 2 hours.

**Secretary**

Document meeting results, file IPVI organizational paperwork, complete annual IL state corporate filings, assist with fundraising, and attend a telephone conference call among the board members typically once a quarter which takes approximately 1 to 2 hours.

So my tip of the day is to step up to the plate and assist us in continuing the legacy born in 1986 to help families with children with visual impairments know they are not alone. Every one of us is busy and has jobs, children, as well as other commitments, but we've managed to help because by assisting others, our children's lives are enhanced. I am truly grateful for all IPVI has done for my family,

and sincerely hope some of you will find it in your hearts to continue to keep our organization a viable, supporting leader in the vision loss community. Thank you for your consideration of this extremely rewarding volunteer opportunity.



*(Continued from page 2) - Illinois School Health and Safety*

growing sector of public education in the United States, and that charter school laws in many other states contain health and safety language similar to Illinois, this report has national as well as local implications.

The report, which additionally focuses on policies toward food allergies, asthma, self-administration of inhalers and Epi-Pens, and annual medical information requests, found the nation's third largest urban school district, Chicago Public Schools (CPS), to have health and wellness policies that go above and beyond Illinois state law. Amy Zimmerman, report co-author and longtime director of the Chicago Medical-Legal Partnership for Children commends CPS, noting, "Successful health and education outcomes go hand in hand. CPS demonstrates its commitment -- not only to child health and wellbeing -- but also to academic achievement by establishing these health policies that are in line with accepted best practices." Ms. Zimmerman goes on to observe that charters which voluntarily adopted policies inline with CPS innovations

have been offered support and resources from the district to implement, but "Even so, charters schools are unfortunately still not required to follow local school board health, safety and wellness policies. **HB 1360** addresses this gaping loophole at both the local school district and state regulatory levels."

For more information:

Jill Wohl  
773-562-0159 (cell)  
Amy Zimmerman  
773-988-8058 (cell)

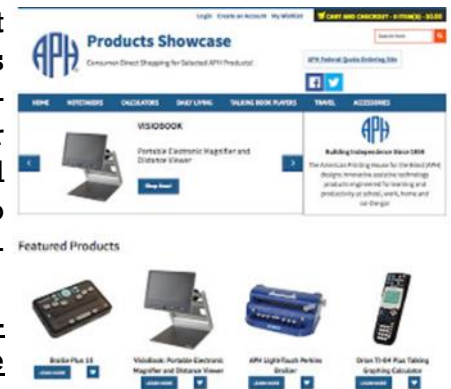
## APH NEWS

### A New Way to Give Us "Your Two Cents"—Product Reviews on the Showcase Shopping Site

Announced last month, APH has launched an additional way for our credit card customers to shop for select products:

the **APH Products Showcase Shopping Site**

(<https://showcase.aph.org/>)! A great feature of the new shopping site is the ability to submit a detailed product review. You can rate "Value," "Price," "Quality," and add any comments you have. Another way for you to submit your thoughts via our main website is the **APH Product Feedback "Your Two Cents"** page:



*(Continued on page 20)*



**PLAY FOR ALL**

**LIGHTHOUSE / IPVI FAMILIES**

**What: A morning of fun for everyone**

**Where: Chicago Children's Museum at Navy Pier  
700 E. Grand Ave., Suite 127  
Chicago, IL 60611**

**When: Saturday, April 11, 2015**

**Time: Pre-registered families 9:00 - 1:00  
General public 10:00 - 1:00+**

**To register or for more information contact:**

**Mary Zabelski at the Lighthouse  
(312) 997-3675 or 3695**

**Pre-registration includes:**

**Free admission for Chicago Lighthouse  
and IPVI Families**

**Free shuttle from the Chicago Lighthouse to Navy Pier**

**(first 50 people only!!!)**

FAMILY CONNECT WEBSITE

**HOW TO GET ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR YOUR CHILD**

*by Erin Sheldon*



Family Connect Editorial note: With school back in full force, you may be concerned about how the school year will progress. Assistive technology is an important component of your child's accommodations, but sometimes the expense can be a hurdle. We're delighted to welcome Erin Sheldon as a new guest blogger, sharing her story about working with the schools to get her daughter Maggie an iPad.

I do workshops for parents on effective advocacy. I compare a parent asking for an iPad to a teenager asking Mom for an iPhone. If your teen comes to you and says, "Mom, I NEED an iPhone!" We all say, "no, you don't, and here is why."

But if our teen comes to us and says: "Mom, as a new driver, I need a way to always find my way home and find my destination. I need a way to get in touch with you at all hours. I need a way to keep track of all my school assignments and deadlines. I need a way to record my work and volunteer hours. I need a way to organize all my school notes to help me prepare for tests. I need a way to research college options..."

Then we tend to say, "OK, that's all legit, let's start comparing our possible solutions." An iPhone could very well be the best possible solution.

What matters is that the teen has not come to us with her own pre-determined solution. When a parent says to the school, "my kid needs an iPad," the parent likely has something specific in mind. The parent has likely seen an iPad provide an opportunity to another child and the parent wants her child to have the same opportunity. The parent is really saying, "My child needs to be able to communicate. Needs to be able to engage with digital materials rather than paper in order to enhance attention. My child needs a keyboard or TTS or STT. My child needs a mobile way to search the web. She needs a way to show what she knows and who she is. My child needs easily adapted materials on the go. My child needs access to 1000s of photos and videos to communicate and engage with the world."

I tell parents that when they ask for an iPad, they have left the school team out of the problem-solving process. If people aren't part of the problem-solving process, then they aren't invested in the solution. But we can never persuade people to a solution unless we agree on the problem. So we need to start with what our child needs to be able to do.

Anyway, I find parents really respond to this kind of discussion and to this kind of analogy.

So often, the problem rests as much with the rest of the IEP team. If the occupational therapist (OT) does not believe the child can engage in any kind of generative writing, then she won't be problem-solving how the child can access the alphabet. If the school team has restricted literacy goals to matching letter names and sounds then they won't be problem-solving how the child can access texts for

wide reading. We HAVE to discuss WHY we need technology and access, in order to uncover the assumptions behind each professional's goals.

I say all this as a mom who went out and bought my kid an iPad because the school wouldn't. I say this as a mom who had the special educator, general educator, OT, and SLP all get together to approach me as a group to tell me it was a waste of money to even consider it. I say this as a mom who did it anyway. I say this as a mom for whom iPad technology was SO revolutionary for my daughter that our school board's entire iPad pilot project was performed in my daughter's school as an extension of what we had learned with Maggie. I say this as a parent in a board who now routinely prescribes iPads as a tool for kids with the most significant disabilities to access quality literacy instruction. I say this as a mom for whom our school board AT specialist said to me last May, "Can you believe that only a few years ago we all thought Maggie had profound intellectual disability, but just look at her now."

And I say this as a mom who responded, "Maggie hasn't changed. Her disabilities haven't changed. What's changed is that she now has the technology to provide access and opportunity to show us what she knows."

For Maggie, the iPad has been a diagnostic tool as much as an instructional tool. We now understand her cortical visual impairment, low vision, and auditory processing disorder so much better than we did before. We now understand much more about the accommodations she needs in order to attend and learn. This is information that was denied her educational team before we had the option of seeing her response to touchscreen mobile technology.



## Accessible STEM: An Introduction to Light for Blind Children

By Hillary Kleck



### Why Does Someone Who Can't See Need to Know About Light?

Because it exists! A child with visual impairments should always have the opportunity to explore the concepts behind everything to which a child with sight is exposed, with special attention focused on the fundamentals that are often picked up naturally through visual cues. A child that has been blind since birth may never experience light and vision the same way as someone with some or all of their sight, but that doesn't mean he can't understand the basic sciences of light and how it is referred to in everyday life.

### A Blind Child's Experience with Light

Your child has probably heard you talking about turning the lights "on" and "off" in the house or commenting on the bright sun shining outside on a pretty day. These are common references to light brought up on a daily

basis.

I have memories of my daughter Madilyn (blind since birth with bilateral anophthalmia) finding the light switch on the wall, flipping it up and down as she questioned its use, "What does this do?" to which I replied simply, "It turns the overhead light on and off." She played with it for a bit longer before accepting the fact that it made no difference to her whether it was flipped up or down. Another time she was sitting near the window and happened to move her hand out of the sunbeam where it had been sitting long enough to become warm. I sat back quietly smiling while a sense of wonder came across her face as she purposely moved her hand back and forth from the shadows to feel the warmth of the sunlight come and go. After a little while, I asked her about it and explained that what she felt was the energy from the sun streaming in through the window. These simple facts were enough to fill her curiosity at the time, but as she's grown older, I've struggled with explaining that there is also light that can be seen, but not felt. When I used basic scientific facts to describe how light works, she was able to understand the concepts using tactile pictures and memorizing key words.



## Introduction to the Science of Light

There are a few basic facts that are beneficial to learn. First, what exactly is light?

- Light is a form of energy detected by the sense of sight and makes things visible.
- Light can be different colors, and the absence of light is what we refer to as the "dark."
- Light travels in a straight line but can be reflected and bent in certain conditions.
- *Opaque, translucent, and transparent* are words that describe how objects make light's path change, or not.

Take a moment together to explore your home and other places your child is familiar with like your car and the yard. Be sure to allow him or her time to use his hands and other senses to examine different objects and areas safely as you give verbal descriptions. Discuss whether they give off any light and be sure not to leave out things that are out of reach like the sun and stars, and overhead lights that use a wall switch.

## Learn About Light

### What is light?

*Light is a form of energy detected by the sense of sight and makes things visible.*

### Where does light come from?

*Light can come from natural sources like the sun or artificial sources like lightbulbs.*

### How does light travel?

*Light travels in a straight line but its path can be changed when it hits objects.*



**ACTIVITY:**

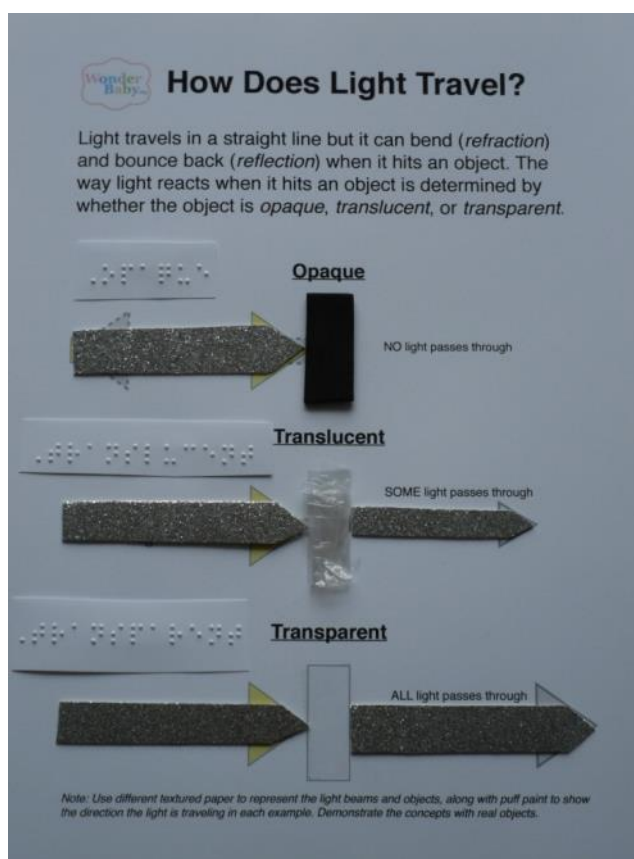
Explore your home, yard, car, classroom and other familiar places. Use your sense of touch to discover how different objects that give off light feel alike or different. Here are some ideas and questions to discuss:

- Which objects give off light and what are they used for?
- Can the light be turned on and off? How?
- Can light pass through the object? (Is it transparent or translucent?) i.e. A glass, a window, water...
- Does it make sound when the light is turned on?

**\*\*Please be sure to explore *safely!* Some things that give off light are hot and dangerous to touch.**

**[www.wonderbaby.org](http://www.wonderbaby.org)**

Make a worksheet using textured paper and puff paint to create raised line images to show how light travels. Encourage children to explore the worksheet through touch and ask questions about colors or how light interacts with familiar objects like his teddy bear or bedroom door.



By exploring real examples in your child's environment at home, school, and outdoors, he or she will be able to begin to comprehend the idea of light and use its common language socially with his/her sighted peers. Teachers can promote this type of inclusion in the classroom by using the same language and verbal descriptions with all students.



# 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](mailto:vajuskie@aol.com)**



for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

## 2015-2016 CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

There is still time to apply for our **2015-2016 Chicago Lighthouse Scholarship Awards**. Don't miss out on this great opportunity. Following is the website to our scholarship application. <http://chicagolighthouse.org/programs-and-services/youth-transition-services/-chicago-lighthouse-scholarship-program>.

I am also attaching it to this email. **Applications are accepted via e-mail ONLY. Only approved supplements will be accepted by regular mail.** Postsecondary students of all ages who are blind or visually impaired are welcome to apply for Lighthouse scholarships, including those pursuing two-year, undergraduate, graduate and advanced degrees as either full-time or part-time students. Although applicants from anywhere in the U.S. are encouraged to apply, priority will now be given to local applicants, that is, those who are from or are attending school in Illinois or the greater Chicago area. **Please know in order to receive a scholarship; you must be able to attend the scholarship ceremony. This year's scholarship ceremony will be held on Saturday, July 25, 2015 at 2:00 P.M.**

### **A completed application includes:**

- ▶ Completed Application (Please send as a separate Microsoft Word attachment)
- ▶ Personal essay (Please send as a separate Microsoft Word attachment)
- ▶ Eye Report (This document **MUST** be mailed)
- ▶ 2 Letters of Recommendation (Please have the individuals writing the letters of recommendation send it to the scholarship coordinator's email as a Microsoft Word attachment.)  
[Araceli.Heredia@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:Araceli.Heredia@chicagolighthouse.org)
- ▶ Financial Statement of Need (Please send as a separate Microsoft Word attachment)
- ▶ Official Transcripts from the school you are currently attending. (This document **MUST** be mailed).

Each of these items is discussed in more detail on the Scholarship Application. **The application deadline for the 2015-2016 school year is March 27th, 2015 by 5:00 P.M.** Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. You may also feel free to share this information with others who may not have access to email.

Please submit your completed application to: Scholarship Coordinator,

Araceli Heredia  
1850 W. Roosevelt Rd  
Chicago, IL 60608  
Phone: 312.666.1331 ext. 3548  
Email: [Araceli.Heredia@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:Araceli.Heredia@chicagolighthouse.org)



**LIGHTHOUSE  
GUILD**  
Vision + Health



## **NAPVI Scholarships**

**Call Now**  
**212-769-7801**

[scholars@lighthouseguild.org](mailto:scholars@lighthouseguild.org)

Director Special Programs, Gordon Rovins

Each year, the Lighthouse Guild scholarship program helps a number of outstanding and deserving legally blind students attend college or attend graduate school with scholarships of \$10,000. Scholarships are based on strong academic accomplishments and merit, and provide additional financial support to help students make a successful transition from high school to a college or attend/remain in the graduate school of their choice. Candidates are **not** required to demonstrate financial need. Recipients of the 2015 awards will be announced at the NAPVI National Family Conference.

### **Application Deadline**

The application period for 2015 runs through March 31. Scholarships are awarded by the summer of 2015.

### **Application Requirements**

1. **Provide proof of legal blindness.** Verification should be in the form of a statement from a state rehabilitation agency, an ophthalmologist or an optometrist.
2. **Provide proof of U.S. citizenship.** A passport, birth certificate, naturalization papers or proof of legal residency.
3. **Send documentation of academic achievement.** Copies of school transcripts and copies of SAT and/or ACT results.
4. **Include three letters of recommendation.** Two letters should attest to your academic skills. Each letter must include the name, address and telephone number of the person writing the reference.
5. **Write two personal statements of 500 words or less.** One describing your educational and personal goals, and \*another on the influence of an outstanding teacher on your education (**\*only for the College Bound Scholarship**)

Note: Your chosen college must be accredited by a body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. All college admissions policies must be non-denominational and open to applicants of all religions, faiths and beliefs.

### **Available Lighthouse Guild Scholarships for 2015**

- **The College Bound Scholarship:** Up to 20 scholarships for high school seniors who will be college freshman in the upcoming school year. This is a onetime only scholarship.
- **The Graduate School Scholarship:** 1 scholarship for students who are pursuing a Master's, PhD or any other post-Baccalaureate degree (MD, JD, MBA, etc.)



## NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND SCHOLARSHIPS

Attention all students. You have some time over your Winter breaks to work on financial resources for 2015. Please get your applications in for the largest scholarship program in the country for visually impaired and blind students. Simply go to [www.nfb.org/scholarships](http://www.nfb.org/scholarships) for more information.

Also many of our state affiliates have scholarship programs in addition to our national program. You can ask about them when you apply as you will need a state presidents letter.

For our Illinois state program, visit [www.nfbfillinois.org](http://www.nfbfillinois.org) for applications.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: **March 31, 1915**

Patti Gregory Chang  
National Federation of the Blind of Illinois, Treasurer  
NFB Scholarship Committee Chair  
[pattischang@gmail.com](mailto:pattischang@gmail.com)  
NFB of IL: [www.nfbfillinois.org](http://www.nfbfillinois.org)  
NFB: [www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org)



BLIND  
SERVICE  
ASSOCIATION

**Blind Service Association is now accepting applications for their 2015 Scholarship Program. Blind and visually impaired students in Chicago and the surrounding counties may apply for scholarships up to \$3,000. The deadline is April 1. For more information and applications call 312-236-0808 or e-mail [bgreen@blindserviceassociation.org](mailto:bgreen@blindserviceassociation.org).**

*Scholarships*

# Registration is OPEN!

## Early Childhood Today: Developing Successful Learners

STAR NET Region VI and the College of Education will hold their eighth annual conference at the Romeoville Campus. This conference is for parents, caregivers and professionals who shape the lives of children ages birth to 5 years old. Workshops will address six themes of social/emotional, speech and language, accommodations, early literacy, health and wellness, and best practices. Please visit [www.lewisu.edu/starnet](http://www.lewisu.edu/starnet) for details and registration.

**Wednesday, March 4, 2015**  
**8:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.**  
*(sign in 8-8:30 a.m.)*

**Lewis University – Romeoville Campus**  
One University Parkway, Romeoville, IL 60446

**FEE:** \$35 (includes continental breakfast, lunch, and instruction and workshop materials). There will be no refunds given.

**Register at:** [www.lewisu.edu/starnet](http://www.lewisu.edu/starnet)

**Registration:** Pre-registration is required and seats are limited. Registrations will be accepted based on a first-come, first-served basis. No on-site or phone registration allowed. When using a purchaser order, please fax a copy of the purchase order along with a completed registration form for each participant to (815) 588-7070.

**Registration must be received by Friday, February 27.**

STAR NET provides training, consultation, and resources to the early childhood community. The STAR NET system assists the State Board of Education in meeting local needs by providing services to professionals and parents of young children with special needs throughout Illinois.



**Note:** Child care is not available at the conference. Parents of children with disabilities under age 6 can apply for a family fellowship for a reimbursement stipend through STAR NET at [www.swccase.org/starnet](http://www.swccase.org/starnet). Please click on **Fellowship info** to apply.



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[www.lewisu.edu](http://www.lewisu.edu)

Co-Sponsored by STAR NET Region VI and Lewis University, in collaboration with SSAEYC, Early Intervention Training Program, Good Shepherd Center, and Child and Family Connections # 12

STAR NET | (708) 342-5370 | [starnet@swccase.org](mailto:starnet@swccase.org) |



## A NIGHT FOR THE AGES

Thursday, March 5, 6:00 p.m.

The National Federation of the Blind of Illinois Chicago Chapter is sponsoring a fun fundraiser. This extravaganza will be at Dick's Last Resort, located in Marina City, 315 N. Dearborn, Chicago. The cost for this event will be \$50 per person.

So, just what does this night entitle you to? Two hours of domestic beer, wine, or both beer and wine if you dare. Additionally, you are entitled to take advantage of a wide variety of appetizers. So, **COME ONE AND ALL**, and collectively experience a Night for the Ages.

Payment for this event must be received by Patti Gregory-Chang no later than February 27.

Payment options:

- ▶ You may pay online with a credit card by visiting [www.nfbofillinois.org](http://www.nfbofillinois.org).
- ▶ Cash or check. You may submit your payment by mail to Patti Gregory-Chang, 6919 W. Berwyn, Chicago, IL 60656. Payments may be by cash or check. If you wish to make your payment by check, please make checks payable to the National Federation of the Blind of Illinois.

**SO COME ONE AND ALL.** Your presence will truly make this an unforgettable experience. We have room for 50 participants, so ask your neighbors and co-workers. A good time will be had by all!

Denise R. Avant  
President



The National Federation of the Blind of Illinois Presents a Seminar for Parents and Teachers

**“Raising the Bar”**

**Friday, April 17, 2015**

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Chicago Marriott Midway  
CPDUs are Available

On Friday, April 17, 2015, the National Federation of the Blind of Illinois will hold its teachers’ seminar at the Chicago Marriott Midway, 6520 S. Cicero Ave., Chicago, Il. 60638. The seminar will be a day-long event consisting of meetings for teachers of children with visual impairment or blindness. Topics will include technology, physical activity, and encouraging others to foster independence.

Our keynote speaker will be Natalie Shaheen, director of education programs at the NFB Jernigan Institute in Baltimore.

Cost: \$30, including box lunches. Overnight accommodations are available for \$109 at the Chicago Marriott Midway, 708-594-5500. 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-Dennis Memorial Awards at [www.nfbfillinois.org](http://www.nfbfillinois.org) on or before **March 15, 2015**.

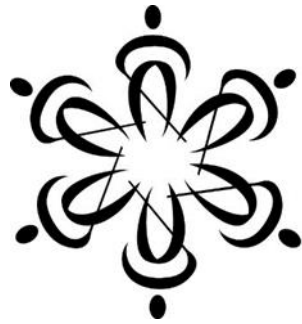
The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) is a 50,000-member organization that works to insure the full participation of blind people in all aspects of society.

If you would like to attend the seminar, please submit the registration form by April 3, 2015. For more information, please contact Debra Kent Stein at (773)-203-1394 or [dkent5817@att.net](mailto:dkent5817@att.net) or Denise R. Avant at (773)-991-8050 or [davant1958@gmail.com](mailto:davant1958@gmail.com). 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](http://www.nfb.org).

For more information on our Illinois Affiliate of NFB, go to [www.nfbfillinois.org](http://www.nfbfillinois.org).





## NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

Live the life you want.

The National Federation of the Blind of Illinois Presents a Seminar for Parents and Teachers

### “Raising the Bar”

Saturday, April 18, 2015

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Chicago Midway Marriott Midway

On Saturday, April 18, 2015, the National Federation of the Blind of Illinois will hold concurrent annual Spring Seminars for Students and Parents at the Chicago Marriott-Midway Hotel, 6520 S. Cicero Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. These seminars will be a day-long event consisting of meetings for visually impaired students, teachers and parents of children with visual impairment or blindness. Topics will include socialization, education, assistive technology, development of requisite blindness skills, and much more.

Our keynote speaker is Natalie Shaheen, director of education programs at the NFB Jernigan Institute in Baltimore.

Children ages three to twelve 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. Siblings of your visually impaired child are very welcome.

The student seminar is appropriate for anyone age 13 and older who is a student or interested in student issues. This seminar is run by our Illinois Association of Blind Students. We will have demonstrations of adaptive sports opportunities such as Judo, Beep Kickball, and Goalball. Our guest speaker for the Beep Kickball event will be Judy Byrd of Atlanta, the inventor of the game.

Cost: \$30 for parents' seminar; \$15 for our student seminar; and \$10 for ages 3 to 12, including box lunches. Overnight accommodations are available for \$109 at the Chicago Midway Marriott by calling (708) 594-5500. 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-Dennis Memorial Awards at [www.nfbfillinois.org](http://www.nfbfillinois.org) on or before March 15, 2015.

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 submit the registration form by April 3, 2015. For more information, please contact Debbie Kent Stein at (773) 203-1394 or [dkent5817@att.net](mailto:dkent5817@att.net). Vision impairment can be reduced to a nuisance with proper training. Please come and learn how.

**FOUNDATION  
FIGHTING  
BLINDNESS**

## **Chapter Announcement**



### **SAVE THE DATE**

**14th Annual  
Artistry of Wine ~ Perfect Pairings  
A Food & Wine Tasting**  
BENEFITTING THE FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS

**Thursday, June 11, 2015**  
6:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.

**HIGHLAND PARK COUNTRY CLUB**  
1201 Park Avenue West  
Highland Park, IL 60035

**EVENT CO-CHAIRS**  
Barbara & Joel Stone  
Marietta & George Abraham

**HONORARY CHAIR**  
Bruce Grieve

Artistry of Wine is a North Shore tradition where we raise a glass and enjoy great wine and delicious food artfully presented by some of Chicagoland's finest chefs, all while supporting the important work of the Foundation Fighting Blindness.

For tickets and sponsorship information, contact Ashley Mooney at (847) 680-0100 or [AMooney@FightBlindness.org](mailto:AMooney@FightBlindness.org)

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Gateway Drive, Suite 100,



Blindness, 7168 Columbia  
Columbia, MD 21046

REGISTER FOR YOUR FREE PARENT WORKSHOP TODAY!



Illinois State Board of Education

Gery J. Chico, Chairman  
Dr. Christopher Koch, State Superintendent

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

**Navegando en el IEP**  
Friday, March 6, 10am-1pm

**Six Principles of IDEA:  
Special Education What You Need to Know**  
Saturday, March 7, 10am-1pm

**Navigating the IEP Process**  
Saturday, March 14, 10am-1pm

**Transición 101**  
Saturday, Marzo 14, 10am-2pm

**Skills For Effective Parent Advocacy**  
Saturday, March 21, 10am-12pm

**Transición IEP**  
Wednesday, Marzo 25, 4:30-6:30pm

**Transion Plans:  
Roadmaps to the Future**  
Saturday, March 28, 10am-12pm

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The Family Resource Center on Disabilities (FRCd) offers parents of children with disabilities birth to 21 years old, their helpers, relatives, professionals, and interested community members no-cost training and

workshops, telephone and e-mail assistance, and resources to help claim their role as the child's most effective and significant advocate.

You are invited to contact 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



IEP SUPPORT AT YOUR CHILD'S IEP MEETING

Do you feel empowered to make decisions about your child's IEP? Do you attend your child's IEP meeting alone?

**Our Volunteer Parent Advocates will:**

- Help you prepare for your child's next IEP meeting.
- Attend your child's IEP meeting with you.
- Help you navigate the special education system.

**Requirements:**

- Must be the legal parent or guardian of the child with the IEP.
- Must meet with the Volunteer Parent Advocate prior to the child's IEP meeting.
- Must attend special education training and complete our parent questionnaire.
- Must reside in one of the following counties:

**Cook, Dupage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, McHenry, Lake, Will.**

(Continued from page 4) - APH News

(<http://www.aph.org/products/feedback/>). Whatever way you would like to submit it, we always welcome customer feedback!



Visit this section of *APH News* in the months ahead to find a cross reference of available APH products helpful in the development of important tactile skills necessary for meaningful interpretation of tactile graphics by young children and students with visual impairments and blindness.

The issue's focus is on APH products (or individual product components and activities) that reinforce Tactile Line Tracking and Discrimination Skills:

- Flip-Over Concept Books: LINE PATHS (1-08831-00)
- Moving Ahead Series:
  - Goin' on a Bear Hunt (6-77903-00)
  - Turtle and Rabbit (6-77901-00)
- On the Way to Literacy Storybooks:
  - The Longest Noodle (6-77500-01)
  - Bumpy Rolls Away (6-77502-03)
- Rolling Into Place storybook (1-08450-00)
- SQUID Tactile Activities Magazine with these activities or tactile mazes:
  - "Island Fun" (included in Issue 1: 1-08862-01)
  - "A-Maze Me!" (included in Issue 2: 1-08862-02)
  - "Stormy Weather" (included in Issue 3: 1-08862-03)
  - "Magic Carpet Ride" (included in Issue 4: 1-08862-04)
  - "Mouse Trap" (included in Issue 5: 1-08862-05)
  - "Star Maze" (included in Issue 6: 1-08862-06)
  - "Follow that Fly!" (included in Issue 7: 1-08862-07)
- Teaching Touch (1-08861-00) with line-tracking worksheets
- Web Chase (1-08460-00) Players navigate game tokens through a web of solid line spokes and dotted web strands.

Do you have other recommendations for products or activities encouraging the development of tactile line tracking and discrimination? Share your ideas with Karen Poppe, Tactile Graphics Project Leader, at [kpoppe@aph.org](mailto:kpoppe@aph.org) as she builds a comprehensive "Tactile Skills Matrix" for future reference on APH's Website.

## The "Established" APH Product Series: WEB CHASE

### Web Chase

([http://shop.aph.org/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/Product\\_Web%20Chase\\_1-08460-00P\\_10001\\_11051](http://shop.aph.org/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/Product_Web%20Chase_1-08460-00P_10001_11051))

is an originally designed board game by APH that is intended to develop important tactile skills within a fun, recreational context. As players navigate their hungry spiders through an insect-laden web, they learn to trace various raised lines (that make up the web), identify point symbols (on the spider tokens), and discriminate textures and shapes (of various prey).



Other concepts and skills developed include visual and tactual scanning, directionality, one-to-one correspondence, turn taking, counting, reading, sorting/organizing, problem solving, strategic planning, interpreting legends/keys, symbolic understanding, and following directions.

Web Chase's combined visual and tactile presentation makes it accessible to all players regardless of visual ability. Intended for ages 5+, it is a game of luck and skill and can be tailored for players' abilities. For example, prey can be assigned equal value for young players or given different values for older players. When the last insect on the game board has been captured, the spider having the greatest number of prey or value of prey in its lunch tray is the "Master of the Web."

## MAKING SENSE

**New Accessible Spelling Card Game:** We have a new, fun and accessible spelling card game available in our Product Center. A to 3 is a card game similar to Scrabble with vowels and consonants having different point values. Using a variety of strategies, players arrange cards into words three letters or longer to get the highest point total. The cards are color coded with large letters making them easy to see for the low vision player. This is a great game for the whole family to play regardless of vision. Stop by our Product Center to see how we've made the cards tactile using school glue! Each game comes with 100 cards, instructions, and optional score sheet. Call our

Product Center to order your game today or visit [www.talbareegames.com](http://www.talbareegames.com).

*Reprinted from MAKING SENSE, February 2015, 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).*



**Second Sense**  
Beyond vision loss



**Physicians**

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

**Visit our Locations**

10436 Southwest Hwy., Chicago Ridge, IL 60415  
P: 708-423-4070 F: 708-423-4216

600 Ravinia Ave., Orland Park, IL 60462  
P: 708-873-0088 F: 708-873-5224

333 Chestnut Street, Suite 104, Hinsdale, IL 60521  
P: 630-323-4202 F: 630-323-6588

7001 W Archer Ave., Chicago, IL 60638  
P: 708-423-4070 F: 708-423-4216

801 Mac Arthur Blvd. Ste. 302, Munster, IN 46321  
P: 219-836-7990 F: 219-873-0175

**IPVI**

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

**1-815-355-2098 • Email: [ipvi@ipvi.org](mailto:ipvi@ipvi.org) • [www.ipvi.org](http://www.ipvi.org)**

**PRESIDENT**

Lyle Stauder  
41 Groton  
Springfield, IL 62702  
(217) 787-9728  
[astauder@springnet1.com](mailto:astauder@springnet1.com)

**OPERATIONS VP**

Vacant

**SERVICES VP**

Mary Zabelski  
6153 N. Nettleton Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60631  
(773) 774-4742  
[Mary.zabelski@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:Mary.zabelski@chicagolighthouse.org)

**TREASURER**

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

**SECRETARY**

Dawn Wojtowicz  
9188 161<sup>st</sup> Place  
Orland Hills, IL 60487  
708-590-6447  
[deeder0477@aol.com](mailto:deeder0477@aol.com)

**NAPVI REGION 3 REPRESENTATIVE**

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

**SPANISH TRANSLATOR**

Noelia Gamino  
708-655-2747

**THIS PUBLICATION IS SUPPORTED  
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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

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  
1-815-355-2098**



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

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

## IPVI CALENDAR

- |             |   |                      |
|-------------|---|----------------------|
| ▶ 3/4       | <b>STAR NET VI Eighth Annual Conference</b>     | <b>Romeoville</b>    |
| ▶ 3/5       | <b>A Night for the Ages</b>                     | <b>Chicago</b>       |
| ▶ 4/11      | <b>Play for All: Lighthouse / IPVI Families</b> | <b>Chicago</b>       |
| ▶ 4/17 & 18 | <b>NFB Seminars "Raising the Bar"</b>           | <b>Chicago</b>       |
| ▶ 6/11      | <b>FFB Artistry of Wine ~ Perfect Pairings</b>  | <b>Highland Park</b> |

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

**Newsletter Deadline for  
APRIL 2015 is MARCH 15<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...