

IPVI INSIGHTS

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

**March
2016**



IPVI'S ANNUAL MEETING



Old Board: Fil Almendarez, Lyle Stauder, Mary Zabelski, Dawn Wojtowicz, Vicki Juskie



New Board: Fil Almendarez, Mary Zabelski, Joan Bielawski, Dawn Wojtowicz

Fil Almendarez is not only our new President but also our temporary Treasurer. We need someone to volunteer to join the Board and take on this position. If you are hesitant because you know nothing about being a Treasurer, our outgoing Treasurer, Vicki Juskie, will assist you in any way and take you through all that she does throughout the year. Don't think that someone else will volunteer. Call us now to join the Board and help not only our organization, but your blind/VI child and others too.



MS. VIC'S VOLLEYS
Victoria Juskie, IPVI Treasurer

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MS. VIC'S VOLLEYS

VOLLEY I

No new members have joined us this month.

VOLLEY II

It is with a heavy heart that I let the IPVI readership know that this is my final volley. I have enjoyed 19 wonderful years as an officer of IPVI in various roles. I have officially retired from the role as Treasurer, which I have done since 2002, on February 27th at our annual meeting.

I checked and noted that my first Ms. Vic Volleys column was written in May, 2004. For nearly 12 years, I have hopefully made you know that you and your family are not alone in this world of limited or no vision. I humbly offered some insights I've gained from the wonderful people who took me under their wing and showed me the path to success with our low vision child. I know that without their wonderful help, I wouldn't have made it through as well.

Emotionally bruised is how I would have described my first meeting in Springfield when I met Lyle and Anna Stauder, Eileen Martin, Nancy Grant, the Bielawskis, the Zabelskis and Shirley Springer as well as their children. Matt was about six months old when my mom and I went there. We met these marvelous people because I read a help wanted notice in IPVI *Insights* asking for someone to step up and join the IPVI board. They showed me an entirely new world. These individuals were and are the



most real and down-to-earth people I had ever had the pleasure of meeting, and their kids were gems. I'm proud to call them my friends.

Through my participation with this wonderful organization, I was also given hope for the future when I met other blind teenagers who were in college becoming successful in their life endeavors. I also met people who were third generation visually impaired or blind. They had jobs, marriages, children and were productive members of society who were giving back by volunteering. This insight helped my family to the path of early intervention, which was critical in assisting Matthew learn about the world, which he could not see very well. By continuing to draw from the knowledge of these veterans, we were able to navigate the school system; and he's now at ISU living on his own, getting good grades, handling his own entrepreneurial DJ business, and making Ken and I very proud. To all of those who helped, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

I hope over the years I haven't bored you to tears with my ramblings. I tried to express the importance of parents' learning how to help their children by being proactive and tenacious without being rude at IEP meetings; to keep good records; and to establish an arsenal of professionals specializing in your child's vision/medical condition(s).

I tried to instill the importance of learning Braille not only for the children but for mom and dad as well because of the unity it provides your family, including the opportunity for your child to become literate. Braille is not to be feared or considered antiquated. It is an equalizer. It puts your child on the same plane as fully sighted children. It's a language of its own which I truly believe helped Matt become more literate because he learned things sighted children may not have

paid enough attention to until they got older. For example, when you have to specifically make a capital letter sign before writing the letter as you do in Braille, it teaches you to always capitalize the first letter of a sentence. Paragraphing is a physical pattern in Braille that is emphasized while using that six key mystery machine. By bringing the Braille to school and starting a south side Braille Buddies, Matt showed his classmates an insight into how others like him learn so that they realized there wasn't much difference between them just because he couldn't see the blackboard. Thank you IPVI members and Erika and Heidi Musser for that lesson.

The advent of Matt's obtaining his first Optron at school for which Mrs. Punter and Pat Hall arranged let him really see his teacher's face for the first time. He finally understood facial expressions playing a role in human communication, something he hadn't grasped until that moment.

Obtaining mobility instruction allowed him to become an independent traveler. Although blessed with enough vision so as not to need a cane, learning about the world and navigating through it without assistance was critical to his self-esteem. Telescopic lens use became an equalizer for him.

His natural athletic abilities and a whole lot of chutzpah on his part (with lots of spotting help from Dad) allowed Matt to place in many golf tournaments and then succeed on the bowling team all by himself.

Participation in the yearly zoo outings, beep baseball with the Smolkas, goal ball, Hustle Up the Hancock, Helen Keller 5K Run/Walk, going to museums, holiday parties and other such activities let our family socialize and meet others affected by vision loss. Helping with fundraising activities like Bowling for Braille (Dawn Wojtowicz's pet project) or Can-

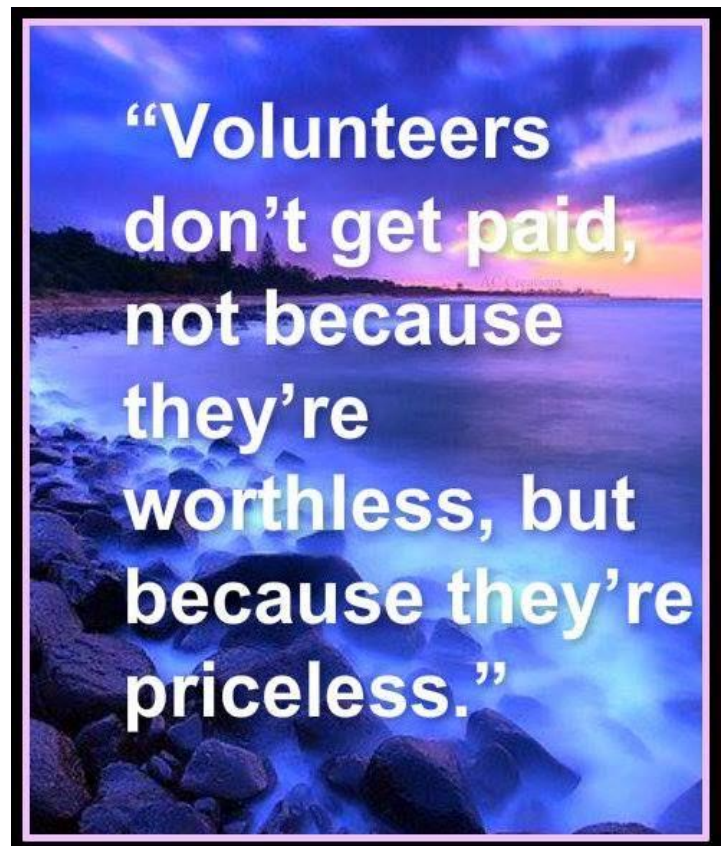
dy Day (Ken Juskie's brain child) or Wine Fundraisers (Rich Zabelski's terrific contribution) enabled the IPVI MJB scholarship program (which has awarded \$28,250 to date by the way) to be successful and helped more families attend these types of functions at no or lower cost. (A shout out to the numerous Lions Clubs, the Chicago Lighthouse and the 100% Foundation for their assistance in some of these activities as well is duly noted and very much appreciated.)

However, I truly believe without IPVI, some of these goals would not have been achieved, so it is my final request to you, loyal readers, that you call IPVI and volunteer some of your time some how, some way. We need parents with younger children who are going through the school systems now because you have thoughts and ideas that can help continue to improve the lives of our children, as well as a set of hands to lighten the work load. Camaraderie breeds confidence. We need each other. Help IPVI help you and others. Give your time to this wonderful organization and I promise – repeat, promise -- you'll never regret it.

You could also get involved so that you can change the course of history by becoming politically active (speaking before the Human Rights Committee perhaps or helping get out the word so that H.R. 3535 regarding the Cogswell/Macy Act is passed) so as to ensure our legislature keeps in place the mechanisms that allow our children equal learning opportunities under IDEA. Remember, none of this gets done unless some of you step up to the plate.

So this last tip of the day from me is to remember you are not alone. To realize this though sometimes you have to get involved and stretch yourself a little thinner so that you can cover more ground successfully. I know I did and I will be forever grateful. For example, it

would be wonderful if someone else or a number of you out there would agree to write a monthly column and send it in to Joan so as to continue to carry on this important communication we have begun. Truly think about it, please. It takes only an hour or so a month to do this. In the meantime, thank you all for lending me your ear; and I'm sure with being who I am, you haven't heard the last from me yet. Thanks again for all you've done for us. God bless each and every one of you.





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

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR CHILD FOR A GUIDE DOG

By Theresa Stern, MA

Growing up as a child with a visual impairment I remember asking my mom how I was supposed to get around when I grew up as I was not going to be able to drive. I remember her saying something about potentially my husband would schlep me around and then reminding me that I was, after all, learning how to get around with the white cane and public transportation.

The idea of eventually working with a guide dog had to occurred to her, and didn't to me until I turned thirty. You see, I ended up marrying a guy who was visually impaired too—so much for the chauffeur idea! I sure wish I had more information about my mobility options when I was a kid.



I am sure that you may be having the same discussions with your child, in fact you may have already been questioned about guide dogs. To be eligible to train with a guide dog from Guide Dogs for the Blind, the individual must be legally blind, have a need for a mobility aid, have a safe and stable home environment, be physically able to manage a large dog, and, very importantly, must be an independent traveler with at least three routes which they travel on a frequent basis.

Although there is no lower or upper age limit for eligibility we find that generally youth do not have adequate independent travel until later in their high school or college years. But, if your child is interested in pursuing the guide dog life-style there are some great ways to prepare for the future today. Please share the following with your child to help them be a successful guide dog handler one day!

TIPS FOR KIDS

Travel Skills

You are probably already working with an Orientation and Mobility (O&M) instructor to learn how to travel using a white cane. These skills are very important to master in order to work well with a guide dog. The difference between using a dog rather than a white cane is that you will not be able to depend on tactile feedback from your cane, therefore you will have to fully use your other senses to know where you are. Here are some tips and tasks for you to practice.

Use Your Ears!

- When you are traveling down the street, try to see if you can point in the direction of the traffic traveling the same direction you are. Can you point to the traffic moving in

the opposite direction?

- Your ears can give information as to where you are. See if you can hear when you are approaching an intersection. Can you tell when you are walking next to a wall or building by listening to the echo of your footsteps?

Use Your Feet!

- On a route with your O&M Instructor or parents, point out when you feel the sidewalk slope up or down. Can you tell when you are crossing a driveway or coming to a street crossing?
- Guide dogs like a lot of exercise. Try to get out for a walk every day!

Use Your Nose!

- Next time you go to the mall or to a downtown shopping area, see if you can smell where you are. Can you tell when you are in front of a restaurant or a bookstore?

Use Your Head!

- Guide dogs will guide you safely to the intersection but you will need to know when it is safe to cross the street. Practice crossing lots of different types of intersections such as four way stops, “T” intersections, off-set crossings, controlled and uncontrolled intersections.
- Practice learning routes. Be an active participant when your parents or teachers are driving you around; have them tell you what the street signs say and you tell them which way to go.

Life Skills

Your guide dog will help you need love and care—that’s how the partnership works. Here are some ways you can learn how to give your guide dog a loving home.

Use Your Hands!

Your guide dog will need you to feed him the same amount of food each day. Practice measuring out sand or rice. Can you accurately measure 1 and 1/2 cups?

Your dog will need clean drinking water every day. Can you fill a bowl with water from the tap? Use your fingers to tell how high the water is in the bowl.

The harness and leash that your guide dog will wear will have buckles and snaps. Practice fastening and unfastening buckles like the ones on your belt.

Dogs feel differently to the touch than people do. If you are uncomfortable with touching strange-feeling objects, practice touching different textures such as cotton balls, which feel like the soft fur on a dog’s ear, or a wet sponge that feels like his tongue!

Do you have a dog or a friend who has dogs? Get to know what their bodies feel like. Can you find the ears, eyes, nose, and tail?

Use Your Watch!

Your guide dog will be very conscious of the time. He needs to eat at the same time every day and will need to be taken out to go to the bathroom at certain times as well. Learn how to use your watch, it will serve you well!

Use Your Heart!

Guide dogs are living creatures that need lots of care and affection. You will need to provide your guide dog with love and praise every day. You will need to play with him and tell him when he is being a good dog, and also let him know when he is misbehaving. If you have a pet at home see if your parents will let you take on some of the responsibilities for it such as grooming, feeding, playing, etc. Is there a younger child in the house? Maybe you can help care for them. Learning to be a good nurturer is essential!

Theresa Stern, MA, has been legally blind since birth and travels with her fourth guide dog Wills. She holds a Master’s degree in Special Education with an emphasis in Rehabilitation Teaching for the blind and currently serves as Director of Outreach and Alumni Services at Guide Dogs for the Blind. For more information on Guide Dogs for the Blind visit www.guidedogs.com or call **800-295-4050**. Special thanks to Lori Cassels, O&M Instructor, for helping design these tips!

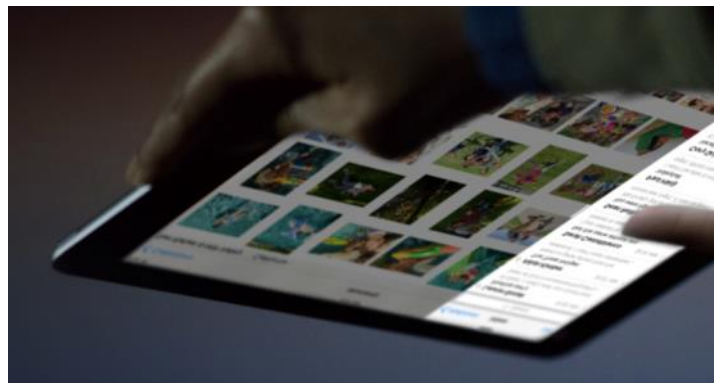
that blue light and exposure to computer screens is one of the major concerns of eye care professionals. Extended use of computers and smart phones can also disrupt circadian rhythms making sleep difficult. Blue Light charges us with energy because our brains associate this light with the brighter part of the day when we are active. The red tones on the opposite end of the spectrum are associated with mornings and evenings when we are just waking or falling off to sleep. Some actions you can take to prevent damage to your eyes and prevent sleep troubles are to use a screen protector on your laptop or smart phone. Your screen will still be bright but will not contain as much blue light. Apple’s next iOS update includes an automatic change from blue light to red light at the proper times of the day. Apps are also available to filter out blue light on your computer screens. You may also want to limit your computer or smart phone near bedtime.

Reprinted from MAKING SENSE, March 2016, Second Sense, Beyond vision loss, 65 East Wacker Place, Suite 1010, Chicago, IL 60601, 312-236-8569, www.second-sense.org.

MAKING SENSE

Effects of Blue Light: More is being learned about the damaging effect of blue light. Blue light comes from many different sources: the sun, fluorescent bulbs and computer screens. While we know it’s smart to wear sunglasses to protect vision from the sun, exposure to computer screens compounds the amount of blue light our eyes absorb. Like UVA and UVB light, blue light exposure can damage retinas if not protected. If your eyes are already compromised, more exposure could make you at further risk. The American Optometric Association noted

Apple released its latest iOS feature called Night Shift that “automatically shifts the colors in your display to the warmer end of the spectrum.” Apple says its goal is to make your screen feel “easier on your eyes” at night.





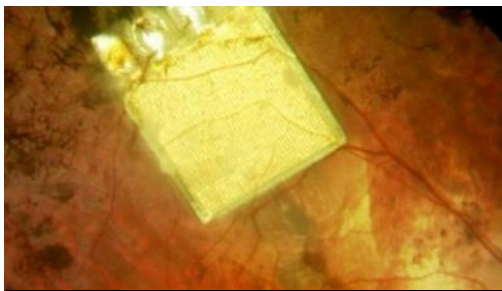
Rare Disease Resources

By Hillary Kleck

We all say you're not alone... but that doesn't mean you don't feel alone! In this post, you'll find rare disease resources for parents and families of children with a rare disease diagnosis. There are many organizations, professionals and families looking to connect with you to offer help, support and information!

Read More at:

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/rare-disease-resources>



A retinal Implant, photo from FFB

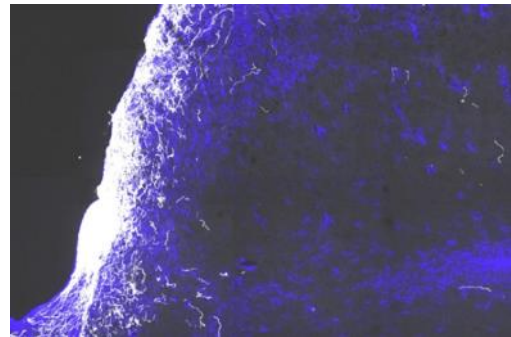
My child was just diagnosed with a rare retinal disorder, are there any treatments? Is there a cure?

By Amber Bobnar

This is probably the most common question I get at WonderBaby: Is there a cure for retinal diseases? 10 years ago the answer was very different... but today you may be surprised to see what's possible!

Read More at:

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/retinal-disease-treatment>



Regenerating Optic Nerves

Submitted on Jan 18, 2016 in Eye Conditions and Syndromes, Medicine

Sometimes it seems like all the cool medical news is coming out of retinal gene therapy or stem cell research, but what about optic nerve treatments? Everyone knows you can't regenerate nerves, so if the optic nerve is damaged or underdeveloped there really aren't any options. Or are there?

Read More at:

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/news/regenerating-optic-nerves>



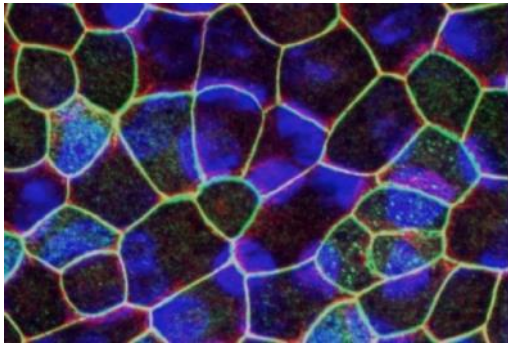
Genetic Testing for Retinal Diseases

By Amber Bobnar

I had the opportunity to speak to Karmen Trzupsek, M.S., C.G.C., a genetic counselor who specializes in inherited retinal and macular diseases, about genetic testing for retinal diseases like LCA. Karmen used to work in the genetics lab at the Casey Eye Institute in Portland, Oregon and now leads the Ocular Genetic Counseling team at InformedDNA. If you want to know more about the genetics behind an inherited retinal disorder, Karmen is definitely the person to talk to!

Read More at:

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/genetic-testing-retinal-diseases>



A Huge Leap Forward for LCA Gene Therapy

Submitted on Oct 05, 2015 in *Eye Conditions and Syndromes, Medicine*

Have you heard the exciting news from Spark Therapeutics? Spark has finished up its phase 3 clinical trials for their gene therapy treatment (called SPK-RPE65) intended to treat patients with LCA caused by the RPE65 gene mutation. And the results are good! The next step is to file a "Biologics License Application" with the FDA this year!

Read More at:

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/news/spark-lca-gene-therapy>



Optogenetics: A New Way to Restore Sight

Submitted on Sep 07, 2015 in *Eye Conditions and Syndromes, Medicine*

Optogenetics looks at restoring sight to patients with rod/cone retinal damage in a whole new way. Generally, it's the rods and cones in the retina that process light and send visual signals back to the brain. However, in many retinal diseases the ganglion cells are still operational. But here's the problem... ganglion cells don't process light. So what's the solution? What if ganglion cells could be transformed into cells that CAN process light?

Read More at:

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/news/optogenetics-new-way-restore-sight>

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WonderBaby.org



for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



GAMES GALORE!



presented by: The Chicago Lighthouse Associate Board

Wednesday, March 9, 2016
10:30 a.m.

Northmoor Country Club
820 Edgewood Rd., Highland Park

TICKETS

\$75 in advance | \$100 at the door

A light breakfast and lunch will be served.

Please bring your MahJongg set, Canasta cards,
Bridge cards or other games to enjoy!

For questions, please contact Haley Baer at Haleybaer@aol.com

Donations of gently used eyeglasses will be greatly appreciated.



The Chicago
Lighthouse



JOIN US

Autism Speaks Midwest Employment Symposium

Join us for this engaging event focused on bringing together individuals with autism, families, advocates, business leaders, entrepreneurs, adult service providers and state resources to share innovative approaches to addressing employment issues for adults with autism.

GET INSPIRED

Hear from a group of small businesses that are achieving success by harnessing the unique abilities of individuals with autism to create job opportunities for employment at every level. Meet a group of exceptional employees with autism who will share their stories about the jobs they love.

GET INVOLVED

You be the judge during our Pitch Fest event. Meet local entrepreneurs as they pitch their ideas for creating businesses to support employment opportunities for individuals with autism for a chance to win. Vote onsite and help select the winner.

GET SUPPORT

Network and connect with local advocates, families and service providers, and get answers to your employment questions in Question and Answer forums throughout the program.

THIS IS A FREE EVENT FOR ALL REGISTERED GUESTS
Space is limited and attendance will be on a first come, first serve basis.

SATURDAY, March 12, 2016
9 am - 12:30 pm

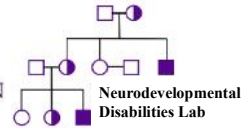
Northwestern University, Norris University Center
Rooms 202A and 202B, 1999 Campus Drive | Evanston, Illinois

To join us, please register online for the event at www.autismspeaks.org/msba

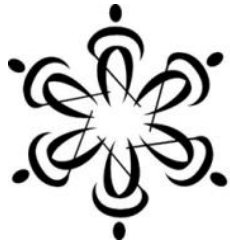
This symposium is part of the Midwest Small Business Accelerator Program, an Autism Speaks initiative created in partners with AutonomyWorks and funded by a generous grant from our donors.



Special thanks to our hosts:



Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders



NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF THE BLIND

Live the life you want.

2016 NFBI SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year the National Federation of the Blind of Illinois (NFBI) awards scholarships to qualified blind students. The scholarships are awarded at the annual convention of the NFBI. The following scholarships are planned:

PETER GRUNWALD SCHOLARSHIP: A scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 was established by the NFBI as a memorial to Peter Grunwald, whose work with members of the Illinois General Assembly resulted in implementation of several statutes that have changed what it means to be blind in Illinois.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF ILLINOIS SCHOLARSHIPS: Two scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 will be awarded.

Criteria: All scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic excellence and service to the community. To be eligible for any NFBI scholarship, an applicant must be a legally blind resident of, or student in Illinois, who is enrolled full-time in an accredited two-year, four-year or graduate college or university program.

To apply: Complete an application. Electronic application forms can be obtained from the scholarship chairman. Send your application and supporting documents via e-mail in MS Word format to:

Deborah Kent Stein, Chairman, NFBI Scholarship Committee
dkent5817@att.net

If email is not possible, send to:
Deborah Kent Stein
5817 N. Nina, Chicago, IL 60631
Direct questions to: 773-203-1394

Deadline: All application materials must be received by March 31, 2016



NFBI INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Know anyone in need of that all important first job?

The National Federation of the Blind of Illinois will sponsor high school and college students who wish to intern to obtain job experience. Students can work for up to 240 hours and NFBI will pay a stipend. Internships are designed to explore career goals or strengthen resumes.

We believe that blindness can be reduced to a nuisance and that we can live the lives we want. Students can apply to the National Federation of the Blind by visiting www.nfbfillinois.org.

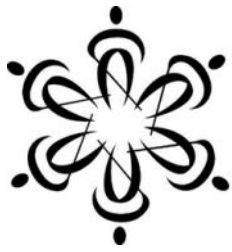
Internships may be done over the Summer, spread out over a semester or two, during a combination of Summer and school year or even on Winter break. This program has a strong mentoring component. Students will be matched with successful blind adults.

Criteria: All internships are awarded on the basis of academics and service to the community. To be eligible for any NFBI internship an applicant must be a legally blind resident of or student in Illinois. Applicants must be enrolled full-time as a junior or senior in high school, or in a regular accredited two-year, four-year, or graduate college or university program. Winners must commit to attend the National Federation of the Blind of Illinois State Convention in the Fall.

To apply: Complete an application. Electronic applications can be obtained by contacting the chair of the Scholarship Committee. Please submit all documents listed on the application via email in MWS Word format to: Deborah Kent Stein, Chairman, NFBI Scholarship Committee: dkent5817@att.net, 773-203-1394.

If email is not possible, send to: Debbie Stein, 5817 N. Nina Ave., Chicago, IL 60631.

Deadline: Students must apply six weeks before they hope to begin interning.



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

“Curriculum and Beyond”

Saturday, April 16, 2016

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. –

Chicago Midway Marriott Midway

On Saturday, April 16, 2016, 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 Carlton Anne Cook Walker, Manager of Braille 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 yoga and judo. Our guest speaker for the yoga session will be Yarina Liston, a certified yoga, dance, and judo instructor, and teacher at Loyola University.

Cost: \$30 for parents' seminar; \$15 for our student seminar; and \$10 for ages 3 to 12, including box lunches. Online registration is due no later than March 31, 2016. To register online, go to www.nfbfillinois.org. 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. Hotel registration is due no later than March 31, 2016. 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 on or before March 18, 2016.

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.

For more information on NFB go to www.nfb.org.

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

EL Vista Early Intervention Program/ Cohort #2

Statewide Illinois TVI's and Orientation and Mobility Specialists,

The Illinois State University EL VISTA program, is currently inviting applicants for its second of four cohorts. The one year, five-course sequence of study is aimed at increasing the number of professionals qualified to provide Early Intervention for young children who are blind or visually impaired. Coursework will begin with 13 classes over the summer of 2016, beginning late June and throughout July, with locations on the ISU campus in Normal, and in Naperville. After the summer semester, there are 6 Saturday classes from September to May, and another series of summer classes during the summer of 2017. The program is designed to allow professionals to maintain their current teaching job while attending classes and completing the practicum experiences. Upon completion of the coursework and practicum, candidates would receive a Graduate Specialization Certificate: Early Intervention Vision Specialist from Illinois State University, and will have the core knowledge competency needed to apply for the early intervention credentials in Illinois.

We hope that you are interested in applying. Information about minimum admissions criteria, the courses and practicum, are all located on our website at https://education.illinoisstate.edu/cert_vision/admissions/. The EL VISTA brochure is also located there, along with a link to "APPLY NOW".

Mindy Ely, the Program Coordinator, and I will both be at the IAER conference February 17-19 in Schaumburg. We will have a one day preconference on CVI with Dr. Amanda Lueck, will have a table in the exhibit hall, and will conduct a session about EL VISTA where attendees can hear directly from the EL VISTA students of the first Cohort. We hope that you might be able to join us at these IAER events. Go to il.aerbiv.org to register for the preconference and/or conference.

Let us know if you have any questions, and we hope that you will consider applying for EL VISTA, Cohort #2.

Gail Olson, Project Co-Coordinator
EL VISTA
Illinois State University, Department of Special Education
gcolson@ilstu.edu
http://education.illinoisstate.edu/cert_vision/

EL VISTA is supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education (H325K140108).

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE APRIL 1, 2016





NAPVI Parent Education Videos Now Available!

Video of presentations from the NAPVI Family Conference held in Chicago this summer are now available!

Watch the video for a preview of the speaker presentations with vital information that NAPVI is making available to parents of children with visual impairments.



Go to: <http://www.lighthouseguild.org/programs-services/education/napvi/video-3#sthash.PuppcuYs.dpuf>

NAPVI Parent Education Videos

Duration: 3 hours 49 minutes

1. Matt Simpson: "**The Importance of Sport for Developing Confidence and Independence in Life Skills for Youth with Visual Impairments**" (15:25)
2. Karen Wolffe, PhD: "**Social Skills as a Key to Life Success**" (1:10:01)
3. David Gamm, MD, PhD: "**Working with Families with Visual Impairments: A Pediatric Ophthalmologist's Perspective and**
4. Bernadine Noguera, OTR: "**An Occupational Therapist's Perspective on Early Literacy Learning for Students with Visual Impairment and Multiple Disabilities**" (48:50)
5. Gwen Botting: "**Fun in the Kitchen, Skills for a Lifetime: How to Teach Children Who Are Blind to Safely Help Out**" (57:47)

**FREE SPECIAL EDUCATION
TRAINING FOR PARENTS**

FRCD



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

FRCD's workshops, training sessions, and hour long Lunch and Learn Webinars focus on specific aspects of the special education system in Illinois. All webinars are free.

Six Principles of IDEA
Saturday, March 5, 10am-1pm

Navigating the IEP Process
Saturday, March 12, 10am-1pm

**NEXT STEPS Transition: Making it in the
Real World/Roadmaps to the Future**
Saturday, March 19, 2pm-4pm

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 |
www.frcd.org
20 East Jackson Blvd., Room 300
Chicago, IL 60604

**ODLSS PARENT
EMPOWERMENT EXPO**



ODLSS

Office of DIVERSE LEARNER
SUPPORTS + SERVICES

ODLSS upcoming event - please save the date

Saturday, March 19, 2016

National Teachers Elementary Academy
55 W. Cermak Rd., Chicago, Illinois 60616
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

This annual event is for parents of diverse learners to learn about ODLSS special education supports and services, and receive information about local and community resources.

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

NEXT STEPS Training Series

How to Advocate for Your Child with Special Needs Transitioning to Adulthood

Free trainings that will help you prepare for your child's next steps after high school

Do you know your child's goals after high school? Is your child's transition plan in alignment with their post secondary school goals? Are you aware of the types of services available to your child once he/she completes high school?

NEXT STEPS: This transition series consists of trainings for families to provide for a young person's transition from school to adult life in the community. This training series will focus on skills and information you will need to work with your child's school and post secondary service providers.

Saturday, March 19, 2016
2:00PM - 4:00PM

NEXT STEPS: Making it in the Real World/ Roadmaps to the Future
Waukegan Library, Classroom A
128 North County Street
Waukegan, IL 60085

Saturday, May 11, 2016
2:00PM - 4:00PM

NEXT STEPS: Adult Life
Accessing Services
Waukegan Library, (TBA)
128 North County Street
Waukegan, IL 60085

Saturday, April 23, 2016
2:00PM - 4:00PM

NEXT STEPS: Planning Ahead:
Future Finances and Supports
Waukegan Library, Classroom A
128 North County Street
Waukegan, IL 60085



Register online at www.frcd.org or call Family Resource Center on Disabilities at (312)939-3513.

IPVI

P.O. Box 316634, Chicago, IL 60631

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

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Noelia Gamino
708-655-2747

Easter Wishes

Oh! what a beautiful morning!
I've just dropped in to say.
I hope you have a beautiful,
And wonderful Easter Day!

Flowers are blooming everywhere,
Bird songs are in the air.
Spring is unfolding her treasures,
And wants us all to share.

Easter gives hope for tomorrow,
As after the winter comes Spring.
Our hearts can be filled with gladness
As hearts rejoice and sing.

Happy Easter!

~ Author : Southbreeze ~
www.reflectionsofsouthbreeze.com/





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

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

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

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

What does IPVI do?

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

Check one:

Parent/Guardian Membership: \$15 per year.

Child(ren)'s Names: _____

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

My child(ren)'s eye condition: _____

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

Group/Agency Membership \$50 per year.

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

Medical Specialist \$50 per year.

Scholarship Fund \$10.00

Donation: \$ _____ (tax deductible)

New Membership

Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) - _____

Email: _____

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

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

Have questions or need more information?

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

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

IPVI CALENDAR

- | | | |
|-----------|---|----------------------|
| ▶ 3/9/16 | TCL Games Galore! | Highland Park |
| ▶ 3/12/16 | Autism Speaks Midwest Employment Symposium | Evanston |
| ▶ 3/19/16 | ODLSS Parent Empowerment Expo | Chicago |
| ▶ 3/19/16 | FRCD NEXT STEPS Training Series | Waukegan |
| ▶ 4/16/16 | NFB Seminar "Curriculum and Beyond" | Chicago |

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

**Newsletter Deadline for
APRIL is MARCH 15**



**Check Out
www.ipvi.org**

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