

IPVI INSIGHTS

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

**May
2014**



IPVI President Announcement

By Lyle Stauder

May is here and many things are planned. Don't forget to register for the Brookfield Zoo Outing on 7-19-14. Please note, we are looking for a volunteer who has a panoramic camera and will take the group picture for the newsletter. After taking the pictures, all you'd have to do is download them to Joan Bielawski, Editor, at wjbielawski@yahoo.com. Please call Vicki Juskie at 815.355.2098 if you can commit to this volunteer job for 2014's Zoo outing.

Thank all of you who have sent in vendor baskets for the September 20th Bowling Fundraiser. Please email Dawn at deeder0477@aol.com with your details as they come in. Again, if everyone in our readership asks for a donation from a vendor, we'll have a great turn out for this fundraiser. Thanks for your continued support.

Don't forget to attend the Illinois Special Needs Expo at the DuPage Expo Center in St. Charles, Illinois on May 3, 2014. It is free and has a terrific selection of vendors. Also, it will provide the most recent information on treatments and resources for many health related domains from experts in their fields. You can "Google" Illinois Special Needs Expo for more information, or see our article in this newsletter.

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Happy Mother's Day!

SAVE
the **DATE**

for the
IPVI



Fundraiser

on September 20



to help us with providing Silent Auction and Raffle Prizes which could include vendor baskets, sports items, or something you would like to donate.

MS. VIC'S VOLLEYS
Victoria Juskie, IPVI Treasurer

VOLLEY I

Since our last publication, no new members have joined this month.

VOLLEY II

Well, I think we filled out at least 25 applications for scholarships. The one thing I've got to say about this process is to start early. Matthew could not believe how many different essays were needed as each application asked for something different.

Of course, it's necessary to complete your FASFA form as soon as possible so that you know what the government determines is your contribution figure. FASFA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid in case you're a rookie. That should be one of the first things your family does in senior year right after December 30th.

I also recommend that by at least by junior year you should begin your research on the variety of scholarships available. Make sure to check with your school's student services office for a list of available local scholarships besides those that you look for over the Internet. Begin to gather the necessary paperwork. Write a checklist out for each application so that you know what to include and not forget. Also, a lot of the applications have different due dates, too, so put them in your calendar so you can spread out the work to ensure you'll make those deadlines.

Each family's finances are different. Some may not need to worry at all about paying for their child's tuition. Others, however, may need to work overtime while their students have part-time jobs. They may also have had to save for years, as well as take out loans to

make it happen. Whatever your financial position, realize there are many opportunities out there for your family to receive a scholarship or other college funding. Just take some time to research them. Getting a scholarship for some students can make the difference between going and not going to college, so it is definitely worth the effort.

So my tip of the day for parents who have children who are visually impaired, blind or have another condition, do not assume because your child has a disability that s/he won't go to college. Make plans that s/he will just as you might for any other child of yours. Have those types of expectations and you'll be amazed at how well your child lives up to them. Prepare for the future and believe in the power of planning. Stretch your ideals for this child and teach your child to believe in his/her own abilities. In the end, whatever your child's chosen profession will be, you'll have done what you can to make those dreams come true.

Good luck to all you future collegians!



ASK M@



Greetings, everyone! Hope all is well with each of you, and that you are getting prepared for this lovely summer break that cannot come soon enough. I never would have guessed that I would actually be looking forward to graduation. Don't get me wrong, I had an incredible

time during my high school experience; but I also realize that there is a huge world ahead, and I am pretty excited about exploring it. The idea of college sounds fun just from the atmosphere, as well as also knowing that all the classes will be helping me improve my future.

Now the future is always fun to look forward to, but let's change gears and talk about the present. I understand many of you may be in high school or are looking towards high school soon. This may be scary or it may not be, but one thing I can promise is that each year should be getting better and better. Making your way up the ranks to upper classman status is an exciting journey. However, when you become that upper classman, you start receiving more responsibilities. For some of you, this may be a part-time job as one is able to work in many different places once the 16th birthday rolls around. This could be in sophomore year for some. As far away as it seems, it is wise to begin planning for college. This means that, just because you receive a paycheck with a dollar number is exciting, one must dedicate oneself to a pre-set percentage for savings. It is what I have done for the almost two and a half years that I have been working. I can attest to the statement that it seems as if you lost half the money you just made when you put it in savings, but you know you haven't. It is very difficult, but realize that we are not all fortunate enough to have parents that can pay for our entire tuition. If, let's say, that they will pay for the tuition, I highly doubt they will be willing to fund wild college student spending habits. I realize you are sitting there asking what will I possibly be purchasing? Food is included and I am stuck on campus. Well, you are wrong. What about those nights that your friends want to grab a pizza and a movie, are those included in the tuition? HA! I don't think so. Understand college is not the easiest academically, and you will want to have nights where you get out

of the dorm and want to unwind. The last thing you want to do at 18 years old is not have any money for that and think that a shiny plastic card is a means and good outlet to have fun. A credit card is a terrible idea because it will let you have fun tonight, and the next night and this entire month...but when the end of the month comes and that credit card bill is eighty dollars or more, the fun ends because now you're worse off than when you had no money. Now, you have negative money plus interest. Dare I say the "D" word...you now have DEBT!

The point to this whole story is high school part-time jobs are great, but you cannot be out there making a nickel but spending a dime. It must be opposite. Saving is key to long-term success. If you work enough, you will be putting a lot in the bank as well as having fun with friends without the guilt. You also will own some nice things soon and that sounds like a blast to me.

In closing, I must bring about some sad news. As everyone is aware, in a few short weeks I will be graduating. In going along with what I said, I will be making sure my work schedule ramps up to get ready for college. I will be swamped with preparing for the journey ahead. This is why I must inform you that next month's column will be the last Ask M@, at least for a while. I am dedicated to pulling down solid grades in college and am just unsure on how life will be. This is why Ask M@ will be put on hold until I can get settled at Illinois State. Thank you for the last four years of being able to be a small part of your lives. What you've given me is immeasurable.

I hope everyone enjoys the last of your school year, as I know I will. And for the parents... well, enjoy this last bit of freedom while the kids are at school. Look forward to talking to you next month, until then, "Sayonara."

M@

Discussing Blindness with Sighted Peers

By Emily Coleman

Recently, my ten-year-old daughter's class read the story of Louis Braille in their reading textbook. Naturally, being a teacher of the visually impaired, and a parent of a blind child, I really wanted to talk to her class. Luckily, my daughter didn't mind that her brother would inevitably come up. She asked her teacher if I could come in, and her teacher willingly agreed...seemingly excited to have me as a guest.

My first question to this fourth grade class was, "Does anybody here know somebody who is blind?" Most of the twenty or so kids raised their hands. I then said, "Please put your hand down if you're thinking of Eddie." All but two kids put down their hands...no surprise there. One legitimately did have a grandfather who was blind, and one girl knew somebody who spoke sign language...common mistake, as we all know.



I then asked the kids, "What are some things that blind people can't do?" I heard all kinds of remarks and to each one I had a rebuttal. My point was to teach them that there really are no barriers when it comes to blindness, and that it truly is only a physical difference. This is when I had to describe a little about Eddie, and why his actions are not related to blindness, but instead to autism.

Some may think this is an unnecessary lesson, to distinguish between disabilities, but I wholeheartedly disagree. If Eddie's peers grow up thinking all people who are blind throw public tantrums, have significant developmental delays, and swing their canes wildly in the air...well, that paints an unfair picture for every other person who is visually impaired. The correlation may not matter now, but someday it might matter a lot. It also gave us a chance to discuss that people who are blind can have other disabilities as well.



The highlight for me was of course talking about the braille cell, showing off a brailier, bringing up a picture of an eye on my iPad, and explaining a little bit about a cane. Actually, it was all a highlight. I love talking about blindness and informing people of all ages. It matters to me on a very personal level, because I happen to love somebody who is blind an awful lot.

The day after my visit, I received a stack of thank you notes; two are displayed in this posting. It was awesome to feel so appreciated, and to see so many cards displaying accurate braille, drawings of people who are blind, and even detailed brailier graphics. To my surprise, I was asked to come back next week and talk to another class. I'm sure you already know that I cannot wait.

The Visually Impaired and Blind Child: 12 Preparation Tips for Your Initial School Meeting

By Patricia M Brown

Your child may have been receiving Early Intervention services for his/her first three years of life or may be newly visually impaired or blind; whatever the case you will want to maximize your initial contact with your school district and new team members. An informed and prepared team approach with consistent open communication will help to optimize your child's overall inclusion in his/her educational setting. Parent advocacy is essential and should not be your forte', then seek support from a family member or person that is a strong advocate. Be sure to emphasize your child's individualized low vision or blindness curriculum accommodations, school/classroom environmental modifications and specialized services and materials to assure inclusion and a meaningful educational experience for your visually impaired or blind child.

Here are some simple tips to get the ball rolling even before your child actually starts his/her school year.

INITIAL SCHOOL CONTACT:

1. Contact your school district in advance (preferably 6 months to a year).
2. Schedule a visit and introduce your child and yourself to school representatives.
3. Consider attending your first visit along with a family member or advocate that is familiar with your child's specific visual diagnosis, developmental progress and special services received to date.
4. Be sure to bring along a pen/pad to jot down important information.
5. Identify specific Child Study Team or school team members responsible for addressing and coordinating the educational assessments and specific services for your child.
6. Obtain contact numbers for Child Study Team/school representatives responsible for coordinating services for your child including: school address, phone/FAX numbers, e-mail addresses and official school website.
7. Be sure to identify the best time of the day to contact Child Study Team/school personnel.

REPORTS: Provide your school district with your child's most up-to-date medical, Pediatric Ophthalmologist (eye-health report), Pediatric Optometrist (low vision evaluation), early intervention and developmental reports. Be prepared to advocate for your child's specific visual/low vision or blindness/educational needs. Share Early Intervention summaries that specifically pinpoint your child's areas of strengths and developmental needs. Be prepared to discuss specific low vision techniques, materials and strategies that have assisted in optimizing your child's developmental progress in the home setting.

8. Eye Reports and low vision evaluations should include your child's specific visual diagnosis,

visual acuity and visual fields. Specific recommendations might include: glasses, sunglasses, low vision devices, glare sensitivity, patching, visual training, lighting, contrast or any other specific recommendations or considerations as recommended by your eye professional.

9. Early Intervention program reports: Provide up-to-date Family Service Plan (I.F.S.P.) summaries and reports including specialized therapy (Speech, Occupational or Physical Therapy), Social Worker and Assistive Technology reports in addition to any other relative information through Early Intervention.
10. A Functional Vision Assessment written by your Certified Teacher of the Blind and Partially Sighted should be up-to-date and include: recent functional vision testing, developmental/educational strategies to optimize low vision/blindness skills, specialized material accommodations, environmental modifications, contrast along with color and lighting recommendations that have been successful in maximizing your child's residual or low vision in the home and alternative Early Intervention setting. Your Functional Vision Assessment should also include things to avoid such as: bright/direct light for light sensitivity, avoidance of blinking lights due to any history of seizure activity or any other consideration as noted by your Pediatric Ophthalmologist (eye doctor), Pediatric Optometrist (low vision doctor) or Teacher of the Blind. Your child's functional vision skills must be re-assessed once he enters his/her educational setting in order to appropriately re-evaluate low vision/blindness educational needs, address environmental modification, curriculum accommodations, safety issues and adaptive material needs in his/her new educational setting.
11. Assistive Technology reports and recommendations should include: current assistive devices, adaptive resources (accessibility switches), software used in the home setting and assessment needs for future devices and resources for the school setting.
12. An Orientation & Mobility Report should be provided and outline current travel techniques, methods and materials being taught and encouraged during mobility lessons. This report should also present an outline of skills and techniques that your child has mastered to date along with an outline of skills your child is currently developing.

Patricia Brown, M.Ed., as the owner of <http://www.braillethis.com>, has worked over 30 years in the field of special education, learning disabilities and blind & partially sighted. Visit her website for more information on print to Braille Literary and Nemeth transcription services, Braille adaptations of toddler books and Braille interlining services.

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Patricia_M_Brown

Article Source: <http://EzineArticles.com/7527863>





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



Friends of Prevent Blindness,

Every year, Prevent Blindness advocates to Congress and the Administration in support of the federal programs to promote a lifetime of healthy vision. But we couldn't do it without your help. Please go to

**[https://secure2.convio.net/pba/site/Advocacy?
cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=235](https://secure2.convio.net/pba/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=235)**

to contact your Members of Congress in support of these programs.

The federal government works to prevent vision loss and eye disorders largely through programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB). Investments in these programs support activities like developing a public health infrastructure to promote and ensure a continuum of vision and eye health care for children, conducting surveillance of the rates of vision impairment and eye disease, and performing research and pilot programs to develop effective prevention and early detection interventions.

By sending a message to your Members of Congress, you amplify the work of Prevent Blindness and others in the vision community to ensure that the funding available to these programs is enough to allow them to do this important work.

Thank you for being a voice for vision!

Alison Manson

Director of Government Affairs

Prevent Blindness

T 312.363.6037

C 703.624.1223

amanson@preventblindness.org

www.preventblindness.org

Apply for The Michael J. McGowan Leadership Scholarship Award

The **Michael J. McGowan Leadership Scholarship Award** was established in 2008 on behalf of the National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation (NOAH) to recognize leadership and empower young people with albinism.

NOAH will award one scholarship annually to a NOAH member with albinism residing in the U.S. or Canada who is enrolled in an undergraduate program at an institution of higher education in the U.S. or Canada. The intent is to enhance educational opportunities for students with albinism while celebrating dedication and outstanding leadership qualities similar to those exhibited by NOAH's current and past leaders.

The 2014 scholarship award will be \$3,000.

Applications require both an **online component** as well as documents sent via email or regular mail.

1. **Online: Complete the application** which includes your personal statement of 500 words or less and a certification which contains an electronic signature.
2. Send these documents via email or regular mail:
 - ⇒ An eye report documenting a diagnosis of albinism
 - ⇒ At least two (2) letters of recommendation from non-family members
 - ⇒ Your academic transcript (including SAT/ACT scores, if applicable)
 - ⇒ A letter of acceptance to or proof of enrollment at an institution of higher learning
 - ⇒ Email scanned documents to: info@albinism.org

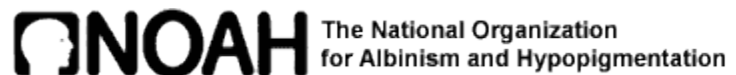
Send regular mail to: NOAH McGowan Scholarship PO Box 959 East Hampstead, NH 03826-0959

Fax: 1-800-648-2310

Online applications must be submitted by and all supporting documents for the 2014 McGowan Scholarship must be **POSTMARKED by May 1, 2014**. NOAH will not consider you for the scholarship if you fail to complete the online application (including the personal statement and certification) or if you fail to submit all of the supporting documents.

Phone: (800) 473-2310

Email: scholarship@albinism.org





Topics of interest will include:

- ▶ Asthma
- ▶ Diabetes
- ▶ Epilepsy
- ▶ Autism
- ▶ Learning disabilities
- ▶ Leukemia
- ▶ Obesity
- ▶ ADHD
- ▶ Down Syndrome
- ▶ Cerebral Palsy
- ▶ Anxiety
- ▶ Cystic Fibrosis
- ▶ Vision deficits
- ▶ Hearing deficits
- ▶ Tourettes Syndrome
- ▶ Allergies
- ▶ Muscular Dystrophy
- ▶ Multiple Sclerosis
- ▶ Speech/Language Developmental delays

Why Attend

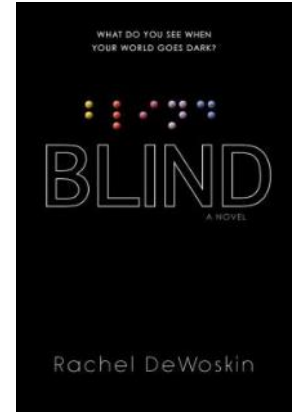
All attendees will have a unique opportunity to network with an amazing selection of preferred vendors dedicated to offering products and services specific to special needs families.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to receive the most recent information on treatments and resources for many health related domains from experts in their field including:

- ▶ Disability funding/entitlements
- ▶ Educational entitlement
- ▶ Summer camps
- ▶ Extra-curricular activities
- ▶ Therapists
- ▶ Counseling services
- ▶ Attorneys
- ▶ Financial planners
- ▶ Mobility adaptations companies
- ▶ Advocacy groups
- ▶ Educational entities
- ▶ Special education co-ops
- ▶ Health care professionals
- ▶ Hospitals
- ▶ Clinics
- ▶ Pharmaceutical companies
- ▶ Security companies
- ▶ Caregivers
- ▶ Toys
- ▶ Insurance companies
- ▶ Group Homes
- ▶ Holistic/Alternative treatments
- ▶ Medical ID Jewelry



Seeing
WHAT'S
Possible
Annual Dinner 2014



THURSDAY MAY 22, 2014

Benefit For The Chicago Lighthouse

Rachel DeWoskin, prize-winning novelist who recently authored *Blind* along with several other highly acclaimed books, will keynote the 2014 Seeing What's Possible Dinner for The Chicago Lighthouse on Thursday evening, May 22nd.

This very special event, which will feature the magical sounds of the Stanley Paul Orchestra, will take place from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the elegant Four Seasons Hotel, 120 E. Delaware. All dinner proceeds will benefit The Lighthouse's world-class programs assisting individuals who are blind or visually impaired.



Hailed as one of the city's most gifted novelists, Ms. DeWoskin also teaches fiction writing at The University of Chicago. Her newest work, *Blind*, describes the courageous journey undertaken by a teenager who loses her sight following a freak accident. As part of her extensive research for the book, which is due out later this summer, Ms. DeWoskin spent a good deal of time at The Lighthouse, learning Braille and interviewing program participants.



In addition, the gala will honor distinguished attorney and longtime Lighthouse board member Frank Chanen. Mr. Chanen, who also served as board chair, will receive the agency's prestigious Beacon of Light Award for his tireless efforts on behalf of the blind and visually impaired community. Among his innumerable accomplishments was co-chairing a successful fundraising campaign that enabled The Lighthouse to physically expand its space so it could grow its critical services.

Serving as Honorary Dinner Chairs are Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Congressman Danny K. Davis. The 2014 Dinner Chairman is Lighthouse board member and prominent Chicagoan, Anida Johnson "Cookie" Cohen.

Tickets for the event are \$500 or \$350 (price point determines seating). For more information, including how to purchase a dinner table and sponsorship opportunities, please call 312-997-3668 or email events@chicagolighthouse.org



WIN BIG BUCKS!

Visually Impaired Preschool Services (VIPS)
is giving away up to \$10,000

- Tickets are \$100 each. Only 200 tickets will be sold.
- Drawing to be held on Sunday, June 1st at the VIPS Tennis Tournament
 - Need not be present to win.
- If the maximum # of tickets are not sold, winner will split the pot.

Encourage your friends and family members to pitch in together!

Go to www.vips.org or call 502-636-3207 to purchase your chances.



VIPS empowers families by providing education excellence to young children with visual impairments in order to build a strong foundation for reaching their highest potential.



VisionWalk
A CURE IS IN SIGHT

9th Annual Chicagoland VisionWalk

We hope you can join us for this free event to kick off our 9th Annual VisionWalk.

Who: All Team Captains, individual walkers, their friends, family and colleagues. We would also like to welcome anyone who has not participated previously who wants to learn more about the event.

Why: Over 10 million Americans are affected by blinding retinal diseases such as macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa, and Usher Syndrome. The Foundation Fighting Blindness is working to find treatments and cures for these devastating diseases. The Foundation Fighting Blindness funds leading-edge research in areas such as genetics, gene therapy, transplantation, artificial retinal implants, and pharmaceutical and nutritional therapies.

Contact: For more information on VisionWalk, go to www.visionwalk.org.

Join us at the Walk!

9th Annual Chicagoland VisionWalk
Sunday, June 8, 2014
Busse Woods, Grove #5

FOUNDATION
FIGHTING
BLINDNESS

Foundation Fighting Blindness

7168 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 100
Columbia, MD 21046
800-683-5555

www.FightBlindness.org





State of Illinois
Pat Quinn, Governor

Department of Human Services
Michelle R.B. Saddler, Secretary

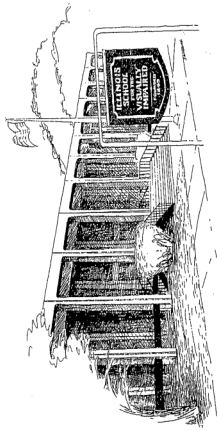
Summer Camp 2014



Is Out of This World!

June 15-21, 2014 Illinois School for the Visually Impaired

658 East State Street
Jacksonville, IL 62650
800-919-5617
217-479-4446 VTTY
www.isvi.net



The vision of the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired is to provide a quality comprehensive education and serve as a statewide resource to students in Illinois with visual impairments assisting them in becoming personally productive and self-sufficient citizens.

The **Illinois School for the Visually Impaired (ISVI)**, established in 1849, is a residential/day school for students who are blind or visually impaired. ISVI provides accredited educational and related services for children from birth to twenty-two years of age.

All educational and social programs are designed to prepare students for successful living as independent, self-supporting citizens.

Programs, activities and employment opportunities in the Illinois Department of Human Services are open and accessible to any individual or group without regard to age, sex, race, sexual orientation, disability, ethnic origin, or religion. The department is an equal opportunity employer and practices affirmative action and reasonable accommodation programs.



To Request ISVI Camp Registration Forms, complete **both** sides of this form. **NOTICE! April 30-LAST DATE Application Packets** will be sent out. **May 20-LAST DATE** camp applications will be accepted by ISVI.

SPACE IS LIMITED SO REGISTER EARLY!

Put an "X" **in the box** to indicate the camp you wish to attend:

- Young Explorers (ages 7-11)** **STEM (ages 11-16)** **Transition (ages 15-19)**

Mail to: Summer Camp-2014- Illinois School for the Visually Impaired, 658 East State Street, Jacksonville, IL 62650

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ - _____ - _____

Parent Name: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ Illinois Zip: _____

•Purpose

The Illinois School for the Visually Impaired (ISVI) camps will bring together students who are blind and visually impaired from schools throughout Illinois for a week-long adventure. Each camp will present an overview of current trends in an area of concentration.

•Where & When?

Three one-week camps will be held June 15-21, 2014. All camps will be held on the ISVI campus in Jacksonville, Illinois, West of Springfield on Interstate 72.

•Who May Attend and Cost?

Students who are visually impaired, ages 7-19, are eligible to attend the camps if they reside in Illinois, do not currently attend ISVI, are not high school graduates, and have appropriate independent living skills. All one-week camps are free to eligible students.

•Transportation?

Statewide transportation to or from the camps will NOT be provided this year. Following a closing program, families are invited to stay for a noon luncheon.

•More Information?

For more information, contact Julie Evans at 217-479-4446 (V/TTY) or send e-mail to Julie.evans@illinois.gov.

Mark your calendar and plan to register early!!



Have fun learning about concepts related to space, astronauts, and our solar system. Make new friends and connect with old ones. First time campers, we can't wait to meet you! Return campers, we miss you so hurry back!

Young Explorers Camp

Ages 7-11
(Space is limited)

Engaging, fun, hands-on activities including science, history, art, music, movement, games and recreation.

**STEM Camp:
Space Camp Shuttle Mission**

Ages 11-16
(Space is limited to 18 campers)

Apply problem solving strategies using math and science skills, integrating technology and engineering to investigate the U.S. Space Program.

Transition to Independence

Ages 15-19
(Space is limited)

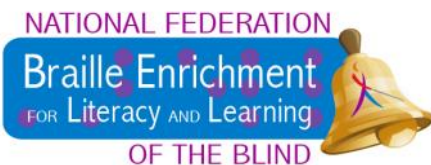
Learn and apply Independent Living Skills while learning about nutrition, fitness, technology, recreation, and careers in aeronautics.

Get the latest updates at www.isvi.net



Complete both sides of this form.
April 30-LAST DATE Application Packets will be sent out.
May 20-LAST DATE Camp Applications will be accepted by ISVI.
Space is limited so register early!

Day Phone: () - - - Evening Phone: () - - -
E-Mail Address: _____
Vision Teacher: _____
School Name: _____
Have you attended an ISVI Camp in the past? **No** **Yes** **Year(s)** _____



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

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

When: Monday- Friday, June 16- June 27, 2014
Monday/Wednesday/Friday Times: 8:30-3:30
Tuesday/Thursday Times: 8:30-4:30

Cost: \$50

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

Apply at: <https://nfb.org/bell-program> after March 15, 2014



The National Federation of the Blind is excited to offer its Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning Program, BELL, this summer in Illinois. This opportunity will be a weeklong residential program on Illinois State University's campus.

Where: Illinois State University Campus, Normal, IL

When: July 21- July 25, 2014

Who: Blind child/Parent pairs

Cost: \$50

The children will explore and learn new Braille and blindness skills.

A Parent session will run parallel with the student portion. Information on allowing for independence, community resources and child advocacy and much more will be covered.

Apply at: <https://nfb.org/bell-program> after March 15, 2014



REGISTER FOR YOUR FREE PARENT WORKSHOP TODAY!

Space is limited; registration is mandatory Please visit www.frcd.org or call 312-939-3513 for registration and workshop location.

**Six Principles of IDEA: Special Education
What You Need to Know**
Saturday, May 3, 10am-1pm

Seis Principios de IDEA
Wednesday, May 7, 10am-12pm

Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy
Saturday, May 10, 10am-1pm

Navigating the IEP Process
Saturday, May 17, 10am-1pm

**Transition Series: Getting Ready For
Work While in School**
Saturday, May 31, 10am-1pm

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

Save the Date

The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities is excited to announce that



will return to Navy Pier on
Free and Open to the Public
July 17, 2014
Navy Pier, Festival Hall A
10am-5pm

AccessChicago is the perfect event for people with disabilities of all ages!

Test products, services and connect with community organizations to learn about available disability-related social services.

- Take part in various adaptive sports and recreational demonstrations.
- Learn about legal rights of people with disabilities.
- Participate in a free health screening.
- Great family event! Fun activities for children!

New This Year!

- Attendees can sign up online in advance via Eventbrite! Go to www.eventbrite.com/e/accesschicago-tickets-10022356137 to sign up for *AccessChicago* early to avoid lines, enter raffles, sign up for MOPD news alerts mailing lists, and more!
- Exhibitors can now sell products and services at *AccessChicago*!



City of Chicago
Rahm Emanuel, Mayor

Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities
Karen Tamley, Commissioner

Summer Camp 2014

CHRISTIAN RECORD

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

Imagine what it's like for a blind child to attend one of our National Camps for Blind Children. Fun and adventure provide motivation, recreation, and education -- free of charge to the blind.

Summer camps span North America, with canoeing, archery (yes, with balloons on the targets), horsemanship, tandem bicycling, talent programs, and much, much more. About a dozen camps will serve hundreds of blind campers this year. There is a registered nurse on duty the whole week for injuries and to dispense medications. Transportation will be provided.

The camps are FREE to blind and legally blind persons, except for a nonrefundable processing fee of \$35.

The one-week camps are the highlight of the year for campers, young and old. They appreciate making new friends and learning practical skills in an environment that encourages independence, wholesome activity, and high moral values.

TIMBER RIDGE (June 22-29)



Ages: 9 - 65
1674 Timber Ridge Rd
Spencer IN 47460
Camp Coordinator: Dan Theis
☎ (260)854-2390

Registration Closes: May 22, 2014



Applications can be downloaded at christianrecord.org.
Requirements are also on the application.



FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS

- SAVE THE DATE -

Artistry of Wine Perfect Pairings of Food & Wine

Benefitting the Foundation Fighting Blindness

Thursday, June 26, 2014
6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Green Acres Country Club
916 Dundee Road
Northbrook, IL 60062-2706

You're invited!

Join us in raising a glass to celebrate great wine, delicious food and good friends, all while supporting the important work of the Foundation Fighting Blindness. Come enjoy a spectacular array of unique food and wine pairings artfully presented by some of Chicagoland's finest chefs. We also invite you to participate in our silent auction featuring items from our generous in-kind supporters.

For tickets and sponsorship information, contact Amanda Clayton at (847) 680-0100 or AClayton@FightBlindness.org

Event Co-Chairs:

- Joel & Barbara Stone

Honorary Chair:

- Bruce Grieve

Wine Committee:

- George & Marietta Abraham
- Jim & Lesley Anixter
- David & Priscilla Baum
- Ted & Marlene Beck
- Daniel & Harriet Crane
- Edward & Sherry Fox
- Stuart & Ellen Goldin
- Jim & Judy Hoke
- Ronald & Caryl Kushner
- Michael & Judy Lavin
- Buzzy Lippman & Wendy Rubin
- Jim & Barb Marland
- Keith & Denise Morton
- David & Karen Sager
- Brian & Carolyn Schroeder
- Bruce & Jan Shapiro
- Joel & Cheryl Siegel
- Larry & Miriam Silverman
- David & Yvette Stone
- Michael Stone
- Russell & Shelly Stone
- Herb & Karen Wander
- Robert & Gail Wertheimer



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Watch hours of captivating speaker recordings on the AER Knowledge Center.

FEATURED SESSION

They Call Me an Expert-But I'm Not an Expert! - How to See Yourself as the Expert You Really Are!



As vision professionals, we need to be able to advocate for the individuals we work with, and as a profession, we need to be better advocates for our field. This presentation will discuss the "whys," and how to become more confident in what you know, along with simple techniques to begin to build your expertise! As Christopher Robin once said, "You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."

<http://aerbvi.sclivelearningcenter.com/index.aspx>

Watch This Session for FREE!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Employment Models for Persons with TBI and Vision Loss

There are a growing number of incidences of persons with both brain injury and vision loss. Many of these individuals are from among working age adults, and there is growing concern from vocational rehabilitation counselors serving persons who are blind on how to address employment with this difficult to place population.

MORE: Same website



Making a Molehill Out of a Mountain of Paperwork

Today we are inundated with paperwork. Most of us are trying to accomplish this in an itinerant position. As itinerants we do not always have access to a computer, so learn how to use Dropbox to access your paperwork from any computer, and in combination with Docs To Go from your phone or iPad. Please bring your iPhones, android phones, laptops and/or iPads.

MORE: Same website



When Crisis Strikes! Emergency Planning for Guide Dog Teams & Emergency Personnel

This presentation will address teaching guide dog clients to form a plan for their guide dogs when faced with a medical emergency. Attendees will receive emergency planning reference material.

MORE: Same website

California Deaf-Blind
Services

announces
new articles by

David Brown
Gloria Rodriguez-Gil
Julie Maier

Greetings from CDBS in
San Francisco!

Here are our new articles for Spring 2014:

- *What Does "Follow the Child" Mean?*
- *Tablet Computers and Apps as Informal Assessment Tools*
- *Capacity or Deficit? The Lens We Use to View Students Does Make a Difference*

Read them now at » <http://www.cadbs.org/newsletter/resources-spring-2014/>

MAKING SENSE

New Snow Video Magnifier: Mattingly Low Vision has introduced the new Snow Video Magnifier, which offers a wide variety of features for the low-vision user. This small video magnifier has a 4.3-inch viewing screen, magnification from 2X to 16X, intelligent design that remembers your last viewing setting and much more. The Snow is lightweight (only 7.2 ounces), has a 3.5-hour battery life and is affordable. Call Brian Hollandsworth at 312-236-8569 for a personal demonstration and to learn more.

Perkins Braille Repair: The Selective Doctor has been repairing Perkins braille machines since 1992 and can bring your braille machine back to life!

A \$60 flat labor fee, plus parts and postage insurance (\$70 for electric models) is charged for each unit. Turnaround time is approximately one week. To learn more, call 410-668-1143 or email brailierrepar@yahoo.com.

Talking Prescription Labels at CVS Pharmacies: The ScriptTalk talking prescription labels are now available at CVS for home delivered orders through their online pharmacy, **CVS.com**. The talking labels and listening device from Envision America are free to people with vision loss. To order a prescription talking label, customers should first call CVS at 888-607-4287. For general questions about the free ScriptTalk listening device, call 800-890-1180.

Audio Description Project: There has been

lots of talk on our Tech Exchange lately about audio description for television and movies. The Audio Description Project is a great website for understanding audio description, where to find it and what venues include it. The site also includes a listing of all commercial DVDs with audio description. To learn more, visit www.adp.org.

Blind Sport Podcast: Blind Sport Podcast has lots of interesting audio podcasts on a wide variety of sports topics, including wrestling, swimming, archery, running, and much more! The goal of this podcast is to build a community to share tips and help others start or improve their sport. Check it out at www.blindsportpodcast.com.

It's All About Music: Thanks to Flying Blind, LLC, for making us aware of some music apps the people with low vision to make music reading easier. Lunar Tabs is an accessible screen reader-friendly, guitar tab reader to help anyone learn to play the guitar. Lastly, Talking Tuner is a free app that can help anyone tune any instrument and tell you if your note is flat or sharp and by what percentage. All of these are available in iOS, with the Music Zoom also available for Android.

Reprinted from MAKING SENSE, April 2014, *Second Sense, Beyond vision loss*, 65 East Wacker Place, Suite 1010, Chicago, IL 60601, 312-236-8569, www.second-sense.org.



APH NEWS

APH Spring Fever Sale



Load up a world of savings on selected APH products with **APH's Spring Fever Sale 2014**, April 1–June 30. As always, first come, first served.

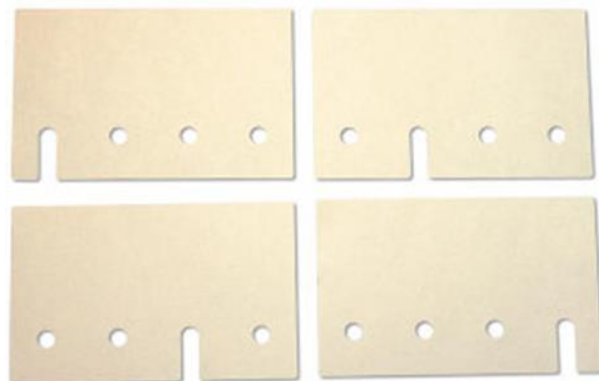
NEW! Quick Pick Cards, Blank (set of 50)

[1-03577-00](tel:1-03577-00) — \$7.00

Related Products: Quick Pick Games

Braille Contractions: [1-03576-00](tel:1-03576-00) — \$68.00

Counting: [1-03574-00](tel:1-03574-00) — \$32.00



Math:

Addition: 1-03570-00 — \$35.00

Subtraction: 1-03571-00 — \$35.00

Multiplication: 1-03572-00 — \$35.00

Division: 1-03573-00 — \$35.00

The new Quick Pick Blank Cards Set includes fifty game cards that can be customized for use with other APH Quick Pick games. Each card can be brailled with a question and four multiple-choice answers. The correct answer can be placed randomly in one of the four positions.

The Quick Pick educational game series provides a unique play format for students who are visually impaired and blind. Each Quick Pick title consists of a set of cards packaged in a durable plastic case and includes a wooden tool. Each game card presents a question or other challenge with four possible answers. The student reads the card while it is still in the case.

To play, the player chooses an answer by inserting the wooden tool in one of four holes in the front of the case. If the answer is correct, the card will slide out. If incorrect, the card will not pull out, and the player should try again. The object is to "Quick Pick" as many cards as possible on the first try.

Great New Service for Braille-Reading Parents

The APH Partners Print/Braille Book Program, a program related to our partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, has added a great new service. **If you are a parent of a child age five years or younger and you are a braille reader, you are eligible to receive six free print/braille children's books per year!**

To be eligible for this program:

- You -or- your child must meet the definition of blindness
- Your child must be age 5 or under
- Both you and your child must reside in the U.S. or its outlying areas (American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands)

Applications for the books will be accepted on a first come/first served basis. All others will be placed on the program's waiting list. Find out more about this exciting program today!



Oldies but Goodies: The "Established" APH Product Series: **READING STANDS**

APH offers several different reading stands. These reading stands differ in material, size, and in function to allow you to choose the one that fits your needs the best.

Are you looking for a reading stand that is light-weight, portable, and inexpensive? The **GrandStand: Portable Reading Easel** is waterproof, colorful, durable, and weighs only 2 1/3 lbs. This reading stand is easy to lift, carry, and lock into position. It folds up when not in use and the top surface measures only 15 x 14 1/2 inches. The adjustable shelf may be raised and lowered to accommodate the height of the reader. It does include two clips for holding book pages open that can be placed in any position.



The larger **Desk Top Reading Stand** has a reading surface that measures 23 3/4 x 18 inches. This reading stand is made of durable white plastic. It is portable and holds reading material at a proper position for low vision users. It features a bookshelf that runs the width of the stand, attached adjustable page clamps, a built-in carrying handle, and five tilt angles.



The **Shafer Reading Stand** is an adjustable, heavy-duty self-supporting stand for large print publications. It has a tripod base with a 42-inch shaft and a 4-joint, adjustable swivel arm/book rack that attaches to it. The book rack measures 16 x 11 1/2 inches. The swivel arm can be locked at any height along the shaft, and the book rack can be rotated or tilted in many different positions. This book stand features all-metal construction, except for nonslip rubber feet and is APH's most versatile stand that can be used while sitting or standing. Watch a **student-made video** in which reading and performing music is made easier with the Shafer Reading Stand.

And finally, although it isn't an Oldie, we feel certain that you'll agree the new **ReadWrite Stand** is a Goodie. This bright blue stand can be used by students and adults with visual impairments for both reading and writing tasks. The ReadWrite Stand measures 18 x 14 1/8 inches and has a metal apparatus mounted on the back that accommodates three additional angles apart from the resting angle of five degrees. It weighs approximately 2 1/2 lbs. and has two built-in handles for portability. Its solid, sturdy surface accommodates both reading and writing tasks. It features a low-profile clip that secures reading/writing materials to the stand during use. An LED book light is provided and can be positioned by the user along the upper edge of the reading stand.



If you have any suggestions for other products you would like to see highlighted in this monthly feature, please send your comments to Monica Turner at mmtturner@aph.org.

Social Media Spotlight

Do you use Twitter? We tweet and retweet assistive technology news, accessibility information, tips, APH news and products, and much more! Even if you don't use Twitter, you can still see what we've posted by going to our Twitter page: <http://www.twitter.com/APHfortheBlind>. And if you do use Twitter, please be sure to follow us!

"Like" APH at Our Facebook Page!



We invite you to visit our Facebook page and "Like" us! You can find APH at these social media sites: Twitter, Google+, YouTube, Flickr, and at our blog, Fred's Head from APH.



NEW! Permanent Fine Point Marker

5-pack: [1-07913-01](#) -- \$7.50

Not available with Quota funds.

Pens for users with low vision. These bold line Fine Point Markers make handwriting easy to read. Bold black felt-tip marker with permanent ink provides high contrast against light-colored backgrounds. Markers are AP nontoxic certified and contain 100% postconsumer recycled materials.



Note: This is a permanent marker and may bleed through a single sheet of paper. We recommend placing several sheets of paper underneath the sheet on which you are writing or writing on top of a blotting pad or clipboard.

Related Products

APH carries a variety of bold line paper and notebooks. Please visit our shopping site at http://shop.aph.org/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/Home_10001_11051 for more information.

IPVI

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**THIS PUBLICATION IS SUPPORTED
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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
1-815-355-2098**

**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
www.ipvi.org

IPVI CALENDAR

- | | | |
|-----------|--|--------------------|
| ▶ 5/3 | Illinois Special Needs Expo | St. Charles |
| ▶ 5/22 | Seeing What's Possible Dinner | Chicago |
| ▶ 6/8 | 9th Annual Chicagoland VisionWalk (FFB) | Chicago |
| ▶ 6/16-27 | NFB Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning Program (BELL) | Chicago |
| 7/21-25 | | Normal |
| ▶ 6/22-29 | Summer Camp 2014 at Timber Ridge | Spencer, IN |
| ▶ 6/26 | FFB Artistry of Wine | Northbrook |
| ▶ 7/17 | AccessChicago | Chicago |

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

**Newsletter Deadline for
JUNE 2014 is MAY 15th**



**Check Out
www.ipvi.org**

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