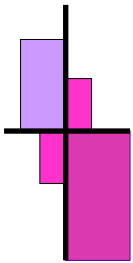


IPVI INSIGHTS

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

**May
2017**



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Filiberto Almendarez III

Family! What a beautiful, wonderful word with enormous meaning. Although it is defined as a group of people who are related to each other, it is far greater than its definition. Like branches on a tree, families grow in different directions, yet the roots remain as ONE. My family, who I am thankful for, allows me to realize our different directions, but always staying together. Together is where I want to be. From the joy with my first born to down-hearted when going through challenges that I can only offer support. I affectionately say of my family, "We may not have it all together, but together we have it all". I have learned, as I try to teach my children about life, they are teaching me what life is all about.

In addition, my extended family is always there too. My IPVI Family, from agreeing on direction to disagreeing on direction. To sharing information and education to sharing their experiences with their child/children, which I truly treasure. Plus, IPVI families share the spirit to keep trying to do better for our children.

The inner strength of:

*"If a child cannot learn in the way we teach,
We must teach in a way, the child can learn."*

Enjoy your Family, take care and I close with a Disney quote of Winnie the Pooh and Piglet:

*"Any day spent with you is my favorite day,
So, today is my New favorite day!"*

Final Note:

July is quickly approaching. As always, I look forward to seeing everyone at the annual IPVI Brookfield Zoo Outing. Save the date, Saturday July 15, 2017. Come and say hello, eat and enjoy all the events together.

MEMORIES OF HEIDI MUSSER

Prepared for: IPVI Insights - Issue May 2017

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WHY NOT?

On April 7, 2017, I participated in the 1650 Yard Freestyle Swim (1 Mile Swim - 66 pool lengths) at the Illinois Masters State Swimming Meet, held at the RecPlex Aquatic Center at Pleasant Prairie, WI, as a proud member of the Buehler Blue Marlins Swim Team in Palatine, IL.

I was the only "disabled" swimmer participating. Hardly anyone knew that I was "disabled". Nobody cared and nobody applauded. That was GREAT! I was accepted like everyone else. I received a ribbon for 10th place in my age group (50-54). It took me nearly 50 years to prove that as a totally blind individual I was like everyone else!

The next day, my mother competed in the 50 meter breast stroke in the 75-79 age group. She received a 2nd place medal, which she immediately placed around my neck. Deep in her heart she felt that I did so much more than she! She is fully aware that without me, she would never have been so active with swim work-outs. She confided in me that she felt an inner need to thank me! As my mother, she helped me to "escape" from the negative societal expectations from educators in respect to my capabilities as a totally blind individual; vice versa, I did pretty much the same for her: instead of waiting around during my swim work-outs, she trained too and as a result, she was able to compete as a senior swimmer.

With this article, I would like to hold up a

(Continued on page 6)





2017 IPVI Members' Outing

"Literacy through Experience at Brookfield Zoo"

Imagine (in the mind's eye) a sensory Zoo experience - listening to the animals, smelling the environment, touching real and simulated animals in their habitat.....well

Saturday, July 15, 2017 at Brookfield Zoo

is the chance of a lifetime.....the only problem? Are you going to be there?

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! Brookfield Zoo is BIG and the choices are many—arrive early and plan on spending the entire day. **Plan to arrive at 9:30am, the Zoo opens at 10am.** Tons of activities are available throughout your day! Your IPVI T-Shirt will be your exclusive passport into all the action.....into the Zoo, the new **Great Bears' Wilderness, the Seven Seas Dolphin Show (with exclusive after show event), and Hamill Family Play Zoo!** Sensory experiences abound!!

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

Our luncheon, at the Discovery Ballroom, will include pizza, drinks, and a chance to meet other parents with children of all disabilities. Guest Speaker will be announced in June's Newsletter.

Become an IPVI member! Dues paying members receive free admission and parking at our Members' Only Events — Zoo Outing, Holiday Parties, Picnic, etc. — activities intended to provide social and literacy opportunities for children, parents, teachers, professionals and friends.

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

If you'd like more information on how to attend the 2017 IPVI Zoo Outing, or on how to become a member of the "IPVI Family Network", call **Mary Zabelski at (773) 882-1331.** The registration form is on the following page.



Mail Registration & Payment by June 30th to

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



**2017 BROOKFIELD ZOO - IPVI MEMBERS' ONLY OUTING
Saturday July 15th Registration & Payment Form**

Attendance is restricted to current (paid) members of IPVI**. All attendees must pre-register, purchase a 2017 Zoo T-Shirt and show current identification at the Zoo. Attendees may be required to sign Release of Liability & Use of Photographs Form. Registration is limited to one family per IPVI family membership - parents and their children. **EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS AND TEACHERS ARE REQUIRED TO PURCHASE SEPARATE IPVI MEMBERSHIPS.**

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

Address: _____ city/zip: _____

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

- 1) MEMBER: _____ Age: _____ T-Shirt: (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg)
- 2) SPOUSE: _____ Age: _____ T-Shirt: (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg)
- 3) CHILD: _____ Age: _____ T-Shirt: (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg)
- 4) CHILD: _____ Age: _____ T-Shirt: (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg)
- 5) CHILD: _____ Age: _____ T-Shirt: (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg)
- 6) CHILD: _____ Age: _____ T-Shirt: (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg)

Admission to the "2017 IPVI Members' Only Event" includes parking (enter far South lot), buffet lunch, admission into Zoo, Dolphin Show and Hamill Family Play Area. The T-Shirt is required and identifies your participation and assists Zoo personnel in providing accommodations.

Membership Dues (\$15.00/year per family	
Total Number of Zoo Admission T-Shirts @ \$12/person	
Additional Tax Deductible Donation to IPVI	
TOTAL MONEY INCLUDED - PAYABLE TO IPVI	

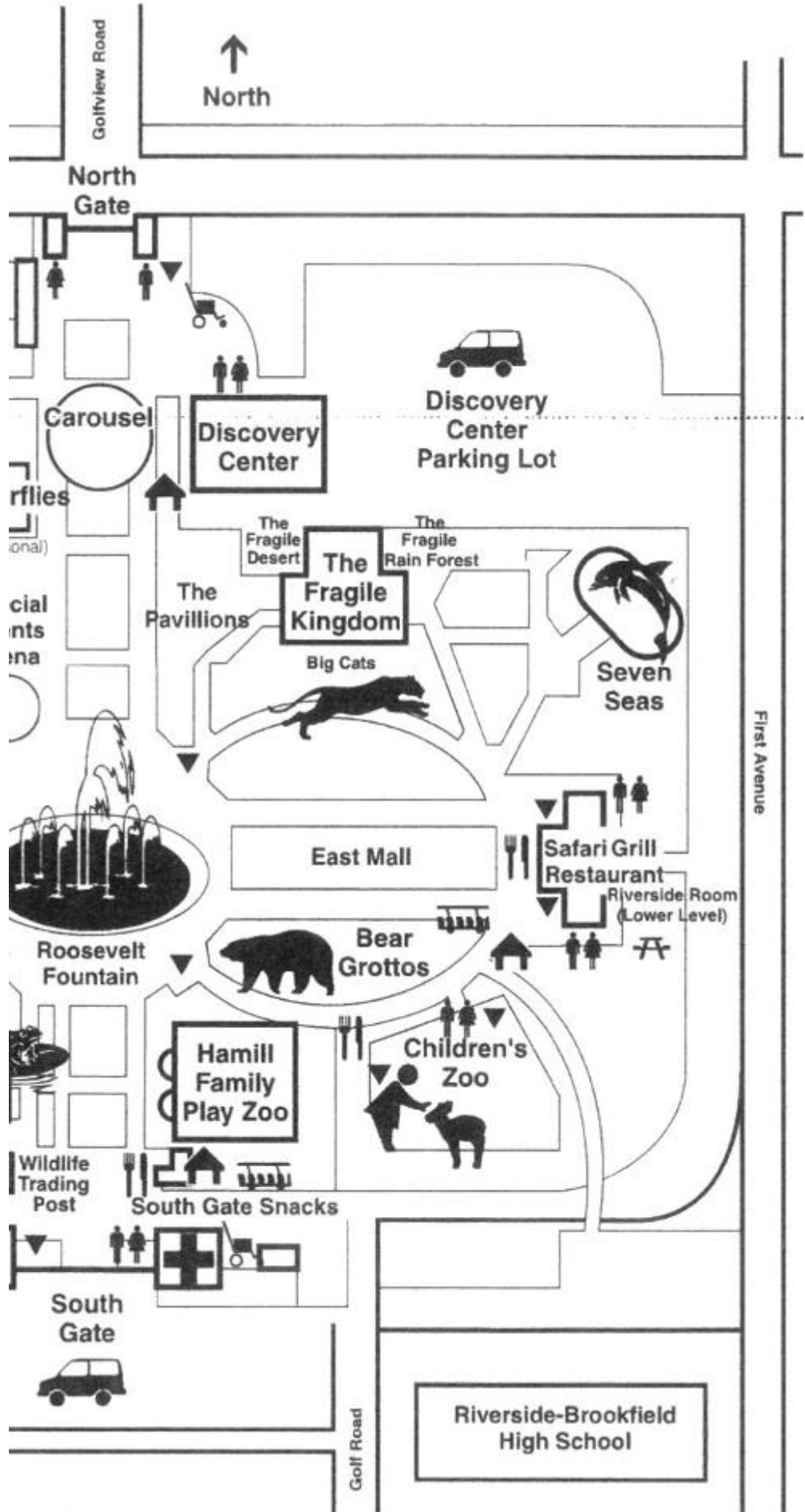
REGISTRATION CLOSSES ON JUNE 30th, 2017

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



We are gathering in the Discovery Center. We are to park in the Discovery Center Parking Lot. We need to enter at the SOUTH Entrance, not the main entrance. To get to the South Entrance, take 1st Avenue to Ridgewood Road (the first traffic light south of 31st street). Go west on Ridgewood to Golf Road. Turn right on Golf Road to the South Entrance Parking Booth (See map).

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



(Continued from page 2) - Memories of Heidi Musser

mirror to IPVI readers to become aware how strongly societal views and values are impressed upon the individuals by living in the American society. Most of us live our lives by not following our inner promptings -- the promptings of our heart and feelings.

For Saturday morning, September 9, I invite friends of IPVI to come down to Ohio Street Beach to cheer me on for the 2.5 kilometer Big Shoulder Swim in Lake Michigan. I will participate with a guide swimming next to me, who will shout directions: Right! Left! We will not be connected in any way; we will not use a tether. In September 2013, I did the same race. My time was 1:08:50; I did not come in last. Eighteen swimmers clocked after me.

I practice at the Leaning Tower YMCA in Niles. How wonderful it would be if you would join me sometimes!

My coach Don Alsen, a member of the Buehler Blue Marlins Swim Team, and my dear friend Barry Dayton, a member of the Gray Sharks Swim Team, deserve deep thanks. They make swim training a lot of fun. Without them, I would not be where I am!

* * *

Please contact me:
hmusser@msn.com
773-774-7741



Enjoying a back stroke swim at the Leaning Tower YMCA, when I was about 2 1/2 years old - please notice the LTY Conqueror emblem on my little bathing suit.

SUMMER CAMPS

Illinois School for the Visually Impaired (ISVI) Summer Camp Program

June 18-24, 2017

- Three one-week camps will be held during the month of June.
- All camps will be held on the ISVI campus in Jacksonville, Illinois, which is located west of Springfield on Interstate 72.

2017 ISVI Summer Camps are scheduled for June 18-24, 2017.

<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=87761>

Blind Service Association

Summer/Day Camps and After-school Programs

In June and July, Blind Service Association sponsors a six-week program open to blind and visual-

(Continued on page 8)



WE ARE LOOKING FOR OUR MEMBERS TO SEND SOME FEEDBACK ON OUR ARTICLES INCLUDED IN THE NEWSLETTERS. It would be great to know if they helped or what you would like to have included.



Auditory processing and why blind children may be sensitive to sounds

Shared by cmellor

<http://www.throughscarlettseyes.com/scarlett-beloved-ear-defenders/>

It's not at all usual for visually impaired kids to react negatively to certain sounds. Find out why and what to do about it. **READ MORE** at: **WonderBaby.org**



Crawling and Climbing for Blind Babies

By Susan Shier Lowry, M.Ed., COMS, CTVI

Crawling and climbing are two very important developmental milestones for babies and children who are blind. Some babies may skip these steps or reach them later than their typically developing peers, but there are many ways you can encourage crawling and climbing. **READ MORE** at: **WonderBaby.org**



Learning Advocacy When You Have Low Vision

By L. Penny Rosenblum, Ph.D.

L. Penny Rosenblum is a TVI, a parent and student advocate, and has a vision impairment. She writes about what it was like learning to advocate for herself as a child and how to teach these skills to your own children. **READ MORE** at: **WonderBaby.org**



8 Creative and Unique Ideas for Decorating a Blind Child's Room

By Amber Bobnar

Use tactile elements, interesting fabrics and textures, sounds and lights to create the perfect unique space for your blind or visually impaired child. **READ MORE** at: **WonderBaby.org**



Assessing Visual Abilities in Children With Cerebral Palsy

By Amber Bobnar

Is it important to take vision into account when assessing the needs of children with cerebral palsy? You can help make that happen! **READ MORE** at: **WonderBaby.org**

FAMILY CONNECT WEBSITE

Repetitive Behaviors in Blind Children: What Are They?

Families of some children with visual impairments may find that their children repeatedly behave or act in ways that can be confusing to sighted observers. Several terms used to describe these behaviors include stereotypical behaviors, mannerisms, self-stimulatory behaviors, and "blindisms." Regardless of what the behavior is called, it's important to understand why it's happening and what you can do about it. **READ MORE** at: **FamilyConnect.org**

Delayed Communication Development in Children Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired: A Guide for Parents

Parents are often concerned if their child who is blind is not talking yet. This series of articles will discuss how speech and language development occurs and how families of visually impaired children can support language development. **READ MORE** at: **FamilyConnect.org**

(Continued from page 6) - Summer Camps

ly impaired students aged 11 to 18. Pathways includes training in daily living skills, such as cooking, house cleaning, shopping, cane travel and money management. Kids also enjoy sports and recreation and field trips to various cultural sites. They'll play baseball, go swimming, take tandem bike rides, learn yoga, and go on a boat ride. Headed by a rehabilitation teacher, the program runs from 9:00 in the morning until 1:30 in the afternoon, five days a week.

<http://www.blindserviceassociation.org>

Camp Lions of Illinois

In Northern Illinois - Camp Henry Horner, Ingleside, Illinois

Host site for Youth Session 1 For Both Blind/Low vision and/or Deaf/HoH Youth

Campers can take advantage of Wooster Lake for swimming, paddleboat's, fishing, Canoeing, and a beach party! Camp Lions Henry Horner also offers walking trails, challenging teams sports games, high rope courses, rock wall climbs, zip line, arts & crafts, a swimming pool, campfires & S' mores! There are new experiences to challenge and please everyone with lots of time to make new friends! **Only 50 campers accepted!**

In Central Illinois - East Bay Camp, Hudson, Illinois

Host site for Youth Session 2 Deaf Week "AND Youth Week 3 Vision Week"

Located on the northeast end of Lake Bloomington, this site offers canoeing, pontoon boat rides, archery, team challenge courses, nature crafts, cookouts around the fire, a dance and so much fun it is hard to imagine. Top it off with a beach party and camp talent show and you have it all! Sleeping accommodations are provided in five cabins with modern bathrooms & showers. Cabins are not accessible for wheelchair usage. **Maximum of 50 beds available!**

In Southern Illinois - Camp Manitowa, in Benton, Illinois

Host Camp for Youth Session 4 welcoming both Blind/Low Vision and Deaf/HoH

This campsite is in the heart of the Rend Lake recreational area. Water sports, fishing, high ropes challenges, ga-ga ball, basketball, beep & baseball, archery, swimming, boating, tubing, fishing, arts & crafts, cookouts & s' mores, and talent night to top it off! Plus time to relax and talk with new friends under the shade of a tree. Campers have the opportunity to stay in cabins or possibly in Yurts (a type of tent with lattice supports on the inside, they are cool!). Showers and washrooms are in separate buildings. The cabins & Yurts are arranged so that male and female campers are in small clusters slightly separate of each other. **50 beds is our limit.**

www.lionsofillinoisfoundation.org/services/campions/campinfo.htm

IPVI

P.O. Box 316634, Chicago, IL 60631

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

PRESIDENT

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

OPERATIONS VP

Joan Bielawski
(Temporary)

SERVICES VP

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

TREASURER

Filiberto Almendarez III
(Temporary)

SECRETARY

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

SPANISH TRANSLATOR

Noelia Gamino
708-655-2747

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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

Cup of Tea

Here is a gift
for Mother's Day.
I'll try my best
in every way.
but when you get
upset with me,
relax and have
a cup of tea.



Wishing you the
very best this
Mother's Day!



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

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

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

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

What does IPVI do?

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

Check one:

Parent/Guardian Membership: \$15 per year.

Child(ren)'s Names: _____

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

My child(ren)'s eye condition: _____

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

Group/Agency Membership \$50 per year.

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

Medical Specialist \$50 per year.

Scholarship Fund \$10.00

Donation: \$ _____ (tax deductible)

New Membership

Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) - _____

Email: _____

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

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

Have questions or need more information?

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

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

IPVI CALENDAR

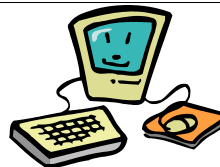
July 15

Annual Brookfield Zoo Trip

Brookfield

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

**Newsletter Deadline for
June 2017 is May 15**



**Check Out
www.ipvi.org**

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