

IPVI INSIGHTS

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

**November
2013**



Come Join US For the 2013 IPVI Annual Meeting

IPVI: THE NEXT GENERATION

On: Saturday, November 16th

From: 1:00 to 4:30 pm

At: Naper Boulevard Library

2035 S. Naper Boulevard,

Naperville, IL 60565

Bring a hot or cold appetizer/dish/snack to share. IPVI will supply beverages. No children please. We will present IPVI's current mission, vision, and values, and our structure. Next, we will review last year's activities, examine the past and proposed budget, and thank our volunteers. We will then hold elections (see Page 2). For the remaining time, most importantly, we will discuss ideas on how we can serve you better in the future. We hope to see many of you there.



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2013 IPVI Annual Meeting

Bill Bielawski, IPVI President

All non-profit 501(c)3 organizations must conduct an annual face-to-face meeting each year open to all members. Its purpose is to election officers, approve budgets, change the Constitution/Bylaws, and allow general members to make conduct business.

This year's IPVI annual meeting is Saturday, November 16th from 1:00 to 4:30 pm in Naperville (see page 1).

We ask each family to bring some food to share. And please take home your leftovers. IPVI will supply beverages: coffee, soda, water.

Also, bring your stories and concerns. We will socialize and support each other, as well as conduct business.

As I explained last month, it is long overdue to hand the responsibility for IPVI to a new generation of parents. Parents adept at using YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, smartphones, modern websites, Evites, Enews, blogs, RSS feeds, discussion forums, and so on.

By using social networking, we can support each other much better than we currently do.

I know each of you are struggling to handle the many issues involved in raising a visually impaired child. But, by getting involved with IPVI, you will learn that you are not alone, and you will find comfort and support in the many other families like yours.

Please consider leading *IPVI: THE NEXT GENERATION*. To volunteer as an officer, or in any other capacity, please call me directly at 630-357-8576 or email ipvi@ipvi.org.

MS. VIC'S VOLLEYS
Victoria Juskie, IPVI Treasurer

VOLLEY I

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

Dustin Weeks, East Peoria
Gary and Coleen Schubert, Barrington
Patrick and Michelle Quinn, Chicago
Julie and Jason Tatum, Arlington Heights
Jerry and Theresa Hinck, Wheaton

VOLLEY II

We need volunteers. Below is a list of jobs with which we really could use some help:

1. Computer Savvy Technical Assistance with mass emailing; updating website, Facebook, and the like; downloading past articles for use on the Internet, etc.
2. Activity Planning (Zoo Outing; Fundraising, etc.)
3. Clerical Assistance

If anyone can help, please contact Vicki at 815-355-2098.

VOLLEY III

We are so proud of our member Samantha Smolka. She is now a Northern Illinois University student a/k/a Husky. She writes this following note that is so inspirational:

"I've got accepted into NIU, and I'm attending it in the Fall of '14... You say what now? Is this really happening right now?! I'm going to my dream college in the fall. This must be some dream that I will wake up from. I cannot believe it, I am an actual Northern Illinois Huskie. However, I am going to become a freshman again. But oh well!!!!"

#NIUHuskies #DreamsComeTrue.

Here is to all the people who thought I could do nothing due to my vision issue. Look at me now!! I am going off to NIU and majoring in Special Ed Teaching, along with a double Minor in Math and English!! So do NOT tell me what to do nor say that I can't do cr.p because right NOW I am doing exactly what YOU did or are doing -- Going off to college, and studying what YOU love. To the younger kids, do not let people tell you what you can and can't do. It is your life and live it the way you want to."

Sam is also running track at NIU as well, and why not? We just learned that she was also named USA Paralympics High School Track and Field All American! She was honored for her outstanding performance in the Track and Field Events: 100 meters; 200 meters; Discus; and Javelin. We're so proud of your accomplishments, Samantha. You go, girl!

VOLLEY IV

I told Samantha's mom, Terri, in a note that reading her updates on Sam's accomplishments makes me start to tear up from happiness, and Sam's not even my kid! And that is my point. Because of IPVI we all share a special bond. We root for each other. We pray with and for each other. We care about what's happening. We may be a small community, but we are a strong one. So my tip of the day is to keep reaching out to each other and sharing. We are not alone and the more great stories we hear about our differently abled children, the easier it is for us to work hard supporting those accomplishments.



ASK M@



Hello, everyone. I hope all is well and you are looking forward to indulging in some turkey and mashed potatoes. I can't believe that we're already into November. Golf season has con-

cluded for me. This statement should also be followed with a semicolon and an open parenthesis ;(a/k/a sad face. It was very tough having to walk off the golf bus for the last time after our regional tournament. We had all become such close teammates and friends. At least I was able to leave with an "All Conference" medal, which felt great.

This story, right here, has really opened my eyes to what getting older really is like and how attitudes can change. You see, I'm a perfectionist by nature. However, I hope I can make everyone understand that sometimes perfectionism can be great, but sometimes it can hinder your ability to perform the way you should or make what should be a fun situation not as fun.

Now, if you are like me and are a perfectionist, don't be alarmed! The key is to learn how to control it. I can recall a few years ago playing high school golf but not enjoying it as much as I should. I was trying so hard to play the best I could. I wanted everything perfect. So when things didn't go exactly how I wanted, I would get down. But I finally realized that in golf--like so many things in life--it wouldn't always be perfect. So I'm simply saying, I should have enjoyed every moment a little more. Now, of course, hindsight is 20/20. Hopefully, I can take this, learn from it, and then share it as a valuable lesson.

You see, this senior year so far has been the

most fun I've had on any team or during any year in school I have experienced. I decided at the beginning of this year that I needed to just let go and take in every moment. I followed through on that and have enjoyed the heck out of my team and this golf season.

I hope everyone can see the direct correlation between attitude and enjoyment. This can be taken into every single aspect of life. I did not go into this year with an I-don't-care mentality. Rather, I tried my best every time out; but as we all know with every sport, things don't always go perfectly. Since I knew deep down I gave it 110%, that's all I could do. So I enjoyed playing the sport, whatever the outcome, and had fun, too.

My point to this rant is that life is just too short, so learn to enjoy it. My own favorite saying is "So much to do with just not enough time in the day." I have found that whether you are a student, a parent or anyone else, that something you are currently doing may get you down at times, but you should try to not let that happen. Realize that you never want to look back and regret anything. So with whatever it is you may be doing, be it a job, being in school, playing a sport or anything else, seek out as many good moments in it that you can find. Then keep all of those pleasant memories and hold them close.

Obviously, bad memories can pop up at any time or anywhere, but if you let those dominate the awesome moments, you won't have as much fun as possible.

Trying to go through school with a visual impairment could be considered a poor situation. I could agree that it is not an ideal one. But, hey, remember this. Everyone has an issue whether you see it or not. It can be an eye condition, a hearing issue, a learning disability, an internal medical problem, or maybe even personal family issues. Since everyone

Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments

has something, this should be the exact reason why you cannot let your issue be the cause of a poor school experience. Try not to let it get in the way. Just remember to be yourself; that's who people love. You will also have more fun doing that!

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, I really thought that this would be a great time for this message. I hope everyone can go out and enjoy the day for all the finer things. If that job is tough, be thankful at least it is pulling down a paycheck. If that class is difficult, appreciate it's only going to better you for when you get to take classes you choose because they interest you.

Anyway, everyone, have a great Thanksgiving. I will talk to you when we are on the approach to Santa and presents!



eo -- Legally Blind HS Golfer Sees Success in his Future Despite Odds

IPVI also received a plug at the end of the original Thursday September 1st night broadcast.

Matthew wanted to thank all of those who took

the time to write, call and otherwise express your kind words. Below are a few of the comments we received from our vision community:



This is such an inspiration! Just proves that just because you have a disability, or multiple ones, doesn't mean that you cannot be one of the most brilliant people.

liant people.

This video actually was more touching to me than it usually would have been. Tonight I observed Jake, (my 10 year old) reading full sentences in Braille, something that we have been told over and over that he would never do.

Way to go Jake!! And to all of you, never put limitations on anyone, no matter what you may think their capabilities are!

~ Dawn Wojtowicz
IPVI Board Member

Matt,



I saw your cover story on the WGN news last night and I wanted to thank you for giving us hope.

My 7 year old daughter was diagnosed at birth with bilateral Aniridia. Minutes after birth they told us she was blind. After several appointments with her doctor at North Western in Chicago they confirmed

she wasn't blind. Her vision is now 20/300 and is currently enrolled at a public school in Valparaiso, IN learning Braille as a "just in case". She currently goes to Rileys in Indianapolis, IN. We have never met anyone with her same eye condition so, thank you for the inspiration. Now that she watched you and your story she has more confidence. Thank you for sharing your story.

~ Leanna Alberts

Toys That Bring Joy to Little Girls and Boys:

VIPS Staff Toy Recommendations

Paige Maynard, VIPS Louisville Development Interventionist



I really like the *Color Discover Boxes* by Lakeshore. This toy is a set that consists of four soft boxes in red, yellow, blue and green. Each box comes with a lid and contains soft objects

of its own color. For example, the yellow box contains a banana, a duck, and a yellow ball, while the red box contains a cardinal bird, a red ball, and an apple. This toy would be well suited for your child if he or she has Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) and has a color preference. The toy would also be a great choice if your child has low vision and is learn-

ing to distinguish color or working on container play. I love that this toy can be used to teach so many skills, including spatial concepts (in, out, beside, etc.), color names, scanning an area for a visual target, developing a visually guided reach, and sorting, just to name a few. This set is sold at Lakeshore-learning.com for \$49.99.

I would also recommend the *P.Parum Pum Pum Drum Set* from Target and Target.com. The set is a drum and a container in one that houses other percussion instruments that are great for



little hands. The drum comes with drumsticks shaped like adorable worms, a bells set shaped like a cricket, egg shakers, a butterfly clapper/shaker, and a caterpillar shaped tambourine. I could see a child of almost any age and developmental level enjoying this set, which would mean that it can grow with your child. If your child is a young baby, the set could be used to help him or her learn to locate and distinguish sounds as you sing songs together. As your child grows a little more, you could use the set to encourage him or her to reach for objects that make sound. Even still, the drum makes a great container for learning to take objects out and put them in. The baby pum pum set is also a great buy at Target.com for \$22.99.



For a child who is learning to refine his or her spatial awareness skills or is learning to fit objects together, the *Chicco Little House Magic Bricks* toy is a great buy. Sold exclu-

sively at Target.com, this toy consists of a magnetic board with magnetic blocks. The magnetic blocks fit together easily and pull toward one another, which can minimize frustration as they are less likely to fall down or come apart. The bricks also come with a mailbox, a roof, flower, and people, which will help

your child build pretend play skills. When you and your child build on the magnetic board, you will be helping him or her build better spatial awareness skills as you talk about which part of the board the cat is on or which person is near the window of the house. This toy sells for \$29.79.

Annie Hughes, VIPS Bloomington Teacher of the Visually Impaired/Developmental Interventionist

If you are shopping at Walmart, the *Little Tykes "Tap-a-Time" Drum* for \$12.97 might be a good choice. It has ridges on the sides that make interesting sounds and a built-in holder to keep the drumsticks from getting lost.



Also at Walmart for children who are developmentally ready for some building, *Mega Bloks* for \$17.97 might be just the toy.

At Target, the *Piccolo Carousel Bells* for around \$17.99 are a nice auditory toy. Similar items are two to three times the price in specialized catalogs.



To foster weight-bearing/standing, the *Bright Stars Get Rollin' Activity Table* for \$42.99 at Target has four sides of activities to engage a child.

Angie Paisley, VIPS Louisville Preschool Teacher

My suggestion for a wonderfully fun and functional gift idea is a *PLAY-DOH Breakfast Time Set* that includes waffle maker book mold, bacon & eggs book mold and many more, plus 5 cans of Play-Doh. In the same vein, an-



other excellent gift is *FLOAM*, the type of slime that contains polystyrene beads so that you can shape it and create with it. Not only are you encouraging creativity but you're also strengthening fine motor muscles for future hand writing and developing Pre-Braille tactile skills. You are also encouraging numerous life skills such as cooking, cleaning up after your activity, etc. Using various sculpting tools also help strengthen fine motor muscles. Sculpting toys such as the ones that accompany these sets provide a natural path that encourages the development of language and sensory awareness through play. You're also exposing your child to several aspects of the expanded core curriculum at the same time she or he's having a delightful time!

Margaret Vinsel, Developmental Interventionist, PAL and Two Day Twos Teacher

I heartily recommend the Fisher Price *Laugh & Learn™ Apptivity™ Case for iPad®* devices. This recommendation is for everyone who uses an iPad or is interested in buying an iPad for their toddler. I have discovered a fantastic case for an iPad that protects it from dribbles, drools, and sticky fingers! It costs \$35, although you might find it cheaper on Amazon.com. The iPad fits securely in the case and then it is locked so a child cannot open it. The case also keeps the child from accidentally pushing the Home button and bumping you out of the current app. Find it at Toys 'R Us for \$34.99.



Dixie Miller, VIPS Lexington Teacher of the Visually Impaired



My favorite toy is the *Little Tikes DiscoverSounds® Shape, Sort & Scatter*. There are three modes for babies to learn as they grow! Mode one is just right for infants to learn about shapes and color, mode two is just right for toddlers to

place blocks into their respective shape, and mode three is a race against the clock game that is just right for preschoolers. What a difficult skill it can be to learn how to release an object into a container. DiscoverSounds Shape, Sort & Scatter can help children learn this fundamental skill. This toy will grow with the child as the child develops new skills. Found at Toys 'R Us for \$29.99.

Diane Key, VIPS Louisville Teacher of the Visually Impaired and Preschool Teacher

Tips to Help You Choose the Best Toys

Diane located this article online and thought it had fantastic suggestions.

Reprinted from WonderBaby.org

- **Safety First:** Blind babies tend to mouth their toys longer than sighted babies, so take this into consideration when choosing toys for your child. Sometimes the age restrictions on a toy may not apply to your baby, so be careful.
- **Simple is Best:** Sometimes the best toys are ones that are very simple. Ivan's favorite toys (Ivan is this blogger's son) are his ring, his stacking cups, and his wooden pegs. These are easy for him to manipulate and they are great educational toys. Of course, the simple toys are also the hardest to find!
- **Think Beyond the Visual:** Naturally you'll want to look for toys that make sound, offer interesting textures, or even produce soothing smells. Try to find toys that will entice your child's other senses. If your child does have limited vision, choose high-contrast toys or toys with lights. As far as sounds go, instruments are always a winner!
- **Beware of Representations:** Dolls, stuffed animals, trucks, and other toys that represent other real-life objects can be confusing to a blind child. Be sure to explain that the toy is not a truck, but a toy truck. Don't expect your blind child to play with these toys right away. For example, a little blind girl may take awhile (if ever) to cuddle her plastic "baby" doll because she can't see that it's supposed to represent a baby.

- **Is it Too Loud?:** Maybe it's just me, but most toys are way too loud these days. It's as if toy manufacturers want our kids to grow up hearing impaired! Besides looking for quieter toys when shopping, you can also mute loud toys by placing scotch tape or even duct tape over the toy's speaker. If the tape mutes the toy too much, try poking a hole or two through the tape until you find the perfect volume.
- **Enhance Motor Skills:** Many blind children are delayed in gross and fine motor skills. When choosing a toy for your child, try to find something that will encourage them to move in new ways. Do they have to twist or roll to get to the toy? Does it require fine motor hand manipulation? Find toys that can increase your child's skills but aren't too advanced. You don't want to frustrate your little one!
- **Price:** Don't pay too much for a toy. For one thing, you never know how long your child is really going to be interested in it. Also, if the toy seems really beneficial (but really expensive), you may be able to get a charity, like your local Lion's Club, to cover part or all of the cost. Finally, ask your Early Intervention Program if they have the toy on hand. You may be able to borrow the same toy or something similar through their program.



**Gift-Wrapping
for the Blind
or Visually
Impaired Child:**

**By Paige Maynard, VIPS Louisville
Developmental Interventionist**

Ripping the paper off of Christmas gifts is a thrill for kids and their families alike! I have compiled some gift-wrapping ideas to help make this experience even more stimulating and appropriate for your child.

A child with Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) will have very specific needs when it comes to visually locating his or her gifts under the tree. Wrapping them strategically can help out a lot!

Some ideas include:

- Use a black towel to wrap at least one of your child's gifts. Have your child open this gift first, and then use the towel as a background for finding subsequent gifts. It also may be easier for your child to focus on opening gifts if the Christmas tree is turned off. This will prevent him or her from "light gazing" at the Christmas tree.
- Wrap in solid colored papers. If red is your child's favorite color, finding paper of this color should be a snap. Tissue paper is sold in many different colors. Multiple layers of it can work well as a gift-wrap.
- Use metallic ribbon in your child's favorite color. Ribbon makes a great toy in itself when the day is over (of course in supervised play!).
- Try using dollar store "CVI goodies" as bows. A pinwheel or slinky will be fun on the package now and will make a great toy later.

A child with low vision or who is blind can also benefit from strategic wrapping:

- Smelly and textured stickers may be fun when stuck on packages.
- Place a specific type of bow only on your child's gifts, and possibly designate a certain type of bow for each child in your family so that everyone's gifts feel unique. This way, your child can use his or her hands to find his or her own gifts.
- Consider Braille gift tags. If you need help, your Developmental Interventionist (CI)/Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI) would love to give assistance.
- Bright colored and metallic ribbon and bows on a contrasting color of wrapping paper would be ideal for helping your child see his or her presents. For example, a white paper with a red bow would be easier to spot than a gift wrapped in patterned paper with no bow or a bow that is a similar color as the paper.

Happy Wrapping!!

Reprinted from VISability, Parent's Newsletter, October, November, December 2012, Visually Impaired Preschool Services (VIPS), 1906 Goldsmith Lane, Louisville, KY 40218, 502-636-3207.



Don't forget to pick up your Toys 'R Us Toy Guide for differently-abled kids. This may also help you find toys that your child would like.

MAKING SENSE

Microsoft Accessibility Tech Support: Microsoft is now providing free tech support for accessibility issues relating to operating systems XP, Vista, and Windows 7 and 8. They support Office 2003 and later and Outlook. Agents can assist with accessibility issues relating to screen readers, screen magnifiers and voice recognition. Call 800-936-5900.

BARD Mobile App Now Available: The National Library Service's (NLS) Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) mobile application is now available for the iPhone, iPad, and iPad Touch. You can download it for free in the iTunes app store on your device.

Search for “bardmobile” or “nls” to find it. You must be registered NLS Talking Books subscriber to download the app.

Tour the US Capitol: You can experience a tour of the US Capitol’s Visitors Center’s Exhibition Hall without leaving home. The three-hour audio narration is available in MP3, ZIP or text formats free of charge. To learn more, Visit www.visitthecapitol.gov/plan-visit/visitors-disabilities.

College Scholarships: The Foundation for Sight and Sound is committed to ensuring that students who have vision loss, are deaf or are hard of hearing can live up to their full potential. It is proud to offer nine scholarships to high school seniors who are continuing on to college or a vocational school. For more information, call 631-366-3461, or visit

www.foundationforsightandsound.org

Reprinted from MAKING SENSE, November 2013, Second Sense, Beyond vision loss, 65 East Wacker Place, Suite 1010, Chicago, IL 60601, 312-236-8569, www.second-sense.org.



OVERLAND PARK, Kan. — Overland Park based Sprint is launching an industry first feature on its latest phone. The Kyocera Kona is making it easier for the visually impaired to stay connected on the internet. Sprint said this new phone is the first of its kind, offering verbal translation for internet browsing. The flip phone talks you through every complete action made on the phone.

You type it, the phone says it.

“If you are looking at an internet page, it’s going to

start reading off the website address, then start working its way down the page,” said Sprint Hardware and Interaction Designer Justin Eddings. “It will read some of the labels, the headlines. If you select one of the headlines it will read the body of the text.”

The device was designed specifically with the visually impaired and elderly in mind. Other features include variable speech speed, meaning you choose the rate of text being read, 911 shortcuts and a big keypad. You can also change it from color to black and white.

At Alphapointe, similar software is used on computers to help the visually impaired and the blind. For more than 100 years, the organization continues to serve and employ people who are blind or visually impaired. Director of Education and Rehabilitation Clay Berry said this new phone helps close some gaps.

“Whenever new devices are released and accessible immediately, that’s a game changer for folks, that they have the most current technology and access to it,” said Berry.

Berry said Sprint and Alphapointe have worked together in the past, brainstorming on ways to make things easier and more accessible to the blind.

“It adds to the options that are out there, it’s very exciting, low costs options for folks,” said Berry.

Eddings has been working on the phone for 18 months and said it’s nice to see the hard work appreciated by those who need it.

“It’s very humbling when you see somebody take a device you’ve worked very hard on, they are speechless because of the things that you’ve done,” said Eddings.

Sprint says The Kyocera Kona phone is available at <http://fox4kc.com/2013/09/10/sprint-delivering-industry-first-for-visually-impaired-customers/>

and will available in stores on September 13th.



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 MBSF, 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 MBSF 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.

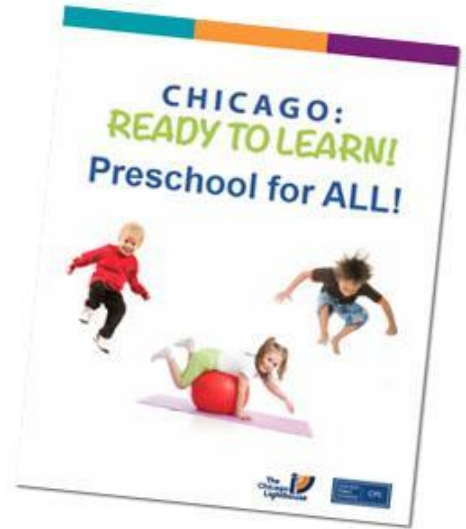
The MBSF is funded completely from tax-deductible donations from individuals, companies and corporations who support IPVI's goals. Any individuals or groups wishing to donate to this fund, please forward your tax-deductible donations to IPVI. Thank you for your continued support of IPVI.



To request a scholarship application, please contact the Scholarship Program Coordinator, Vicki Juskie at: 1-815-355-2098 or vajuskie@aol.com



The Chicago Lighthouse
For People Who Are Blind
or Visually Impaired



We are pleased to announce the opening of a Ready to Learn: Preschool for All at The Chicago Lighthouse in September, 2013!

The Chicago Lighthouse has received a grant from the Chicago Public Schools for children age three to five who live in Chicago Public School districts. This grant will encourage emerging literacy and provide early learning opportunities. The CPS grant covers all expenses, making the program **FREE TO ELIGIBLE FAMILIES!**

The Preschool program will be half-day, five days a week, in the morning and the afternoon, for children ages 3-5 years. Students may enroll in one half-day session, Monday through Friday.

The Chicago Lighthouse Preschool for All offers programs for a total of 40 eligible children residing in Chicago. To be eligible, students must live in neighborhoods with zip codes 60607, 60608, 60612, and 60623 and meet the criterion for admission to our school. Additionally, children who are visually impaired are also eligible if they reside anywhere in Chicago.

The Chicago Lighthouse Preschool for All Program offers an opportunity for both children with and without visual impairments to learn in the same setting. Use of adapted, multi-sensory materials will benefit all students. **Our program will instill sensitivity and a respect for diversity.** All materials, toys and books will be adapted to meet each child's individual needs, whether it is in Braille, large print or regular print.

Also, on site is a therapeutic day school approved by the State Board of Education for children with multiple disabilities including vision impairments. All staff are certified and familiar with working with children from all backgrounds.

Register now; spots are limited to 20 children for each session.

**For more information, call Mary Zabelski at 312.997.3675
or email her at mary.zabelski@chicagolighthouse.org**

www.chicagolighthouse.org/Preschool



GREAT LAKES ADAPTIVE SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Presents:



Youth & Teen Goalball

**Fridays, October 25 through December 6
7:00 — 8:30pm**

**The Bulls Gym at Sachs Recreation Center
455 Lake Cook Rd. Deerfield, IL 60015**

Fee: \$11 each week

***Scholarships are available upon request**

This is for students who are blind or visually impaired who would like to learn how to play this very exciting game! If you would like to participate or are interested in learning more about goalball, please contact:

Nicole Verneuille nverneuille@glasa.org
or call 847-283-0908

GREAT LAKES ADAPTIVE SPORTS ASSOCIATION

400 E. ILLINOIS ROAD



LAKE FOREST, IL 60045

A decorative border of orange pumpkins with green stems and leaves surrounds the central text. The pumpkins are arranged in a rectangular frame, with one row at the top, one at the bottom, and two vertical columns on the left and right sides.

PLAY FOR ALL

LIGHTHOUSE/IPVI FAMILIES

What: A morning of fun for everyone

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

When: Saturday, November 9, 2013

Time: Pre-registered families 9:00am - 1:00pm
General public - 10:00am - 1:00pm

To register or for more information contact:

Mary Zabelski at 312-997-3675

Pre-registration includes:

Free admission for Chicago Lighthouse & IPVI Families
Free shuttle from the Chicago Lighthouse to Navy Pier

(first 50 people only!!)



**The Chicago Lighthouse Vision Rehabilitation Center
222 Waukegan Road
Glenview, Illinois 60025**

wants you to come for movie night!

**The LORAX in audio-description
providing narration during non-dialogue moments**



Friday, November 22, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Ages: grades 1-8; friends are invited, too

Fee: \$5, refreshments included

Based on the classic Dr. Seuss book which was named as a "Teachers' Top 100 Books for Children," The Lorax has a moral message about taking care of the earth. The movie debuted in the #1 spot at the box office. USA Today gave it 4 stars out of 4. The all-star cast includes Danny DeVito, Zac Efron, Betty White, and Taylor Swift.

RSVP Now:

Pam Stern, Manager of Youth and Adult Programs

T: 847.510.2054 or 847.510.6200

pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org



PARENTS' NIGHT

at

**The Chicago Lighthouse North
222 Waukegan Road
Glenview Illinois 60025**

- 3rd Tuesday of each month, from 6:30pm to 8:00pm
- Parents of children ages Birth-6
- Grandparents, other adult family members and friends are welcome
- Child care will be provided

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Just in Time for the Holidays: Choosing Toys for Your Child

Recommendations will be provided by Marla Garstka, Director of Children's Programs North, and other parents. Included will be toys which can be purchased at stores, toys you won't find in stores, and homemade toy ideas. The Chicago Lighthouse North's Toy and Book Lending Library will also be featured.

Tuesday, December 17, 2013

Dr. Joseph Wallach PhD, Clinical Psychologist/Director Bergman Institute for Psychological Support

- Adjusting to your child's diagnosis: working through feelings of grief, anger, guilt, helplessness and isolation.
- How to gain a positive attitude

January 21, 2014

The Doctor is In: Dr. Kara Crumbliss, Director of Low Vision Services at The Chicago Lighthouse

- The role of the Low Vision Optometrist
- Low vision devices
- Various eye conditions will be discussed
- Time for questions

(Continued on following page)

PARENTS' NIGHT

(Continued)

February 18, 2014

How To Be An Effective Advocate For Your Child

A trained Parent Advocate from Family Resource Center On Disabilities (FRCD) will be the presenter. FRCD provides parents of children with disabilities with information, training, assistance and support.

March 18, 2014

Panel of Young Adults

- Parental "Do's and Don'ts"
- Making friends
- Learning to advocate
- Education and career
- Leisure time and recreation



Don't miss these informative, supportive, and bonding evenings!

RSVP TO:

Pam Stern, Manager of Youth and Adult Enrichment Programs

847.510.2054 or 847.510.6200

pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org



**The Chicago Lighthouse Vision Rehabilitation Center
222 Waukegan Road
Glenview, IL 60025**

reminds you that our

Toy and Book Lending Library

has opened and you are welcome to stop in whenever it's convenient for you (Monday–Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm).

On Thursdays, Marla Garstka, a certified teacher of the visually impaired and Director of Children's Programs at The Chicago Lighthouse North, is available for guidance.

We have items you won't find in stores!

Our books come in a variety of formats: large print; Braille, and textured. We provide the opportunity to develop a true love for reading.

Our library includes special multisensory toys, for children with visual impairments. We also have adapted materials specifically for your child, and so much more! Our toys enhance vision, play skills and FUN!

Children may borrow items for up to 3 weeks.

Annual fee of \$50.00; payment plans are available, and there is a limited amount of scholarships.

**To schedule an appointment, please contact:
Pam Stern, Manager of Youth/Adult Enrichment Programs
847.510.2054 or 847.510.6200
pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org**





**The Chicago Lighthouse Vision Rehabilitation Center
222 Waukegan Road Glenview, IL 60025**

**invites you to our library
Monday - Friday, 9:00am - 5:00pm**

Books are available in LARGE PRINT, Braille and audio



**ADULTS
Best Selling Authors**

Dick Francis; Edith Wharton; Ray Bradbury; David Baldacci; Sandra Brown; Jonathan Kellerman; James Patterson; Andrew Greeley; Fern Michaels, and many, many more.

We also have non-fiction selections and a reference corner.

YOUTH

Braille Best Sellers

Meg Cabot; Arnold Lobel (Frog and Toad books); Kate McMullen (Fluffy); Barbara Parks (Junie B. Jones); J.K. Rowling (Harry Potter), etc.



Large Print Collection

"Great Illustrated Classics": 30 titles including, Peter Pan; The Secret Garden, Oliver Twist, etc.

For ages 0-6, come visit our Toy and Book Lending Library

For more information, please contact:

Megan Frankenbach, Hospitality Associate

T: 847.510.6200; megan.frankenbach@chicagolighthouse.org

or Pam Stern, Manager of Youth and Adult Enrichment Programs

T: 847.510.2054; pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org



FREE LOW VISION APPS

iCam is a FREE! low vision magnifier and reader for your iPhone or iPad. It features 5 high-contrast false color modes, as well as black and white, and color. If you struggle with reading, iCam can help magnify printed text. With an optional light, use it in dim lit rooms, restaurants, home, etc. It can be used to read menus, receipts, pill bottles, and virtually anything.

iCam will also read your printed text. It takes a picture and then converts it to spoken text. It uses state of the art OCR technology.

Developed by Clarix, a leader in low vision products, iCam features an easy to use interface. Use iCam whenever you need visual assistance.

Features

- Variable magnification
- Contrast enhancement
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- False colors - Inverse, Yellow/Blue, Yellow/Black, Blue/White, Green/Black
- Full Color mode
- Enhanced Black and White mode
- Optional Light

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One of the fastest **Options** ways to improve the comfort and looks of your home, and save on heating and cooling costs into the bargain, is with the installation of double-pane, energy-efficient vinyl windows. With Armstrong, you have the confidence and assurance of windows crafted by America's top manufacturers. Life at home will be much quieter, too, with reduction of outside noise. With limited lifetime warranties and highly competitive pricing, what more could you ask?

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ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION
OF THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

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

FEATURED SESSION

Overprotection: Its Effects & Implications for Blind Students and their Service Providers



Parents have assumed that academic skill building services in the public school system is a primary focus. Yet, this service can be sabotaged by perspectives that can be damaging

to the child's sense of self. This presentation investigates the importance of emotionally balanced personal dynamics between blind students, their general education teachers and the paraprofessionals who work with these students throughout the school day.

Watch This Session for FREE!

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

IN THE NEWS

The blind and visually impaired are criminally overlooked as technology progresses. There's been a few improvements to how computers behave to help those with visual impairments, but you could easily argue that not enough is being done to improve accessibility. Microsoft must feel the same way as it's adding a number of improvements to its latest browser to address these issues.

Microsoft announced that Internet Explorer 11 will ship with new accessibility features for the blind and visually impaired. Most of these new features take advantage of Windows Narrator to alert visually impaired users of when mistakes are made, or that they're on the right track when typing in a foreign language.

First up, IE11 will now screen readers to alert users

to the following:

- Auto-correct: Internet Explorer auto-corrects misspelled words. For example, if a user types "teh" in English, it will be corrected to "the." IE11 adds a new notification so screen readers can inform users that auto-correct is happening.
- Backspace: As a user types, the screen reader announces each keystroke. However, simply hearing 'backspace' announced is not particularly helpful because it is hard to know what is being deleted. IE11 notifies the screen reader which letter was deleted, so it can be announced.
- Formatting: When reading or writing an email or other Web content, users need to understand the formatting of the message, not just the raw text. IE11 provides more detailed notifications to screen readers, so users can better understand the content they are reading or editing. For example, Microsoft Narrator says "bold" and "end bold" to let the user know that a section of text was emphasized with bold styling. You can try it out for yourself in Microsoft Narrator by enabling Verbose Mode using Caps Lock + A.

The other big change are for those users typing in an East Asian language on an English keyboard. Here's how it works:

Input Method Editors (IMEs) are used to type East Asian languages using a typical English keyboard. For example, using the Japanese IME, a user can type a Japanese character phonetically ("su"), and the IME will display a list of candidates for the corresponding Japanese character (す). With IE11, screen readers can now read the candidate characters to the user.

All the above improvements will be available in Internet Explorer 11, which launches with Windows 8.1 on October 17.

AER Education Brief

Scott Bennett, Partner Relations Analyst, Multibriefs, 972-373-2091

AER Education Brief is a monthly e-newsletter from the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, with highlights from courses and educational programs from past conferences.

Subscribe — it's free!

<http://multibriefs.com/optin.php?AERBVI>

(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



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.

(A.Y.L.P.) Advance Youth Leadership Power Meeting

Tuesday, November 12, 4pm
Friday, November 15, 4:30pm
Thursday, November 21, 4pm
Friday, November 29, 4:30pm

Reaching Our Dreams

Tuesday, November 5, 4pm
Tuesday, November 19, 4pm

The Empowered FE-FE's

Tuesday, November 26, 4pm

The Family Resource Center on Disabilities

A Movement United 2013 TASH Conference

December 11-14, 2013

Hilton Chicago
720 South Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60605

By bringing together research, practice and advocacy, the TASH Conference builds bridges between stakeholders in the field and unites them in advancing inclusive lives for people with significant disabilities. This year's theme draws its inspiration from three challenges facing the disability community today.



\$5,000 WORLD SPORT CHICAGO SCHOLARSHIP

Will you be a Chicago high school junior in the Fall of 2013? Do you have a 2.0 GPA? Have you played an eligible Olympic/Paralympic sport for two seasons in the past three years?

If so, the **World Sport Chicago Scholarship** is for you!



Who is Eligible?

- High school juniors (in the Fall of 2013)
- Students must live in Chicago and attend a Chicago school or be homeschooled in Chicago
- Maintain a 2.0 unweighted G.P.A. or higher
- Participate in an eligible Olympic/Paralympic sport for two seasons in the last three years (see if your sport is eligible at www.wscscholars.org).

Awards

Up to 50 Chicago high school juniors will become WSC Scholars and receive:

- **Chicago Scholars mentoring to help students prepare for the college application process**

WSC Scholars will also be eligible for one of:

- **10 college scholarships worth up to \$5,000** supported by WSC and Chicago Donors

Deadline

December 10, 2013

Visit www.wscscholars.org or call (312) 861-4946.





Are you a teenager who could use a week of fun, outdoor activity and friendship this summer? Would you enjoy the challenge of developing new travel skills and stretching your independence? If so, the Leader Dog Summer Experience was designed with you in mind.

Our Summer Experience combines outdoor camp activities such as kayaking, rock wall climbing and tandem biking with things exclusively Leader Dog—GPS training and the opportunity to try-out the guide dog lifestyle. The combination will help you increase the skills you need to live independently!

The Leader Dog Summer Experience is for boys and girls ages 16 and 17 who are legally blind. The program is completely free including airfare—and everyone receives a free Kaptan PLUS audible pedestrian GPS device to keep.

The **Summer Experience is scheduled for June 21—June 28, 2013** and **applications are due May 1**, so time is of the essence. For more information and to start the application process, go to **www.leaderdog.org/programs/youth** or call our client services department at 888-777-5332.

Regards,

Rachelle Kniffen

Marketing Manager

Leader Dogs for the Blind

1039 S. Rochester Rd. ●

Rochester Hills, MI 48307-3115

Direct (248) 659-5013

Toll Free (888) 777-5332

leaderdog.org



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



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

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

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

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

What does IPVI do?

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

Check one:

☐ Parent/Guardian Membership: \$15 per year.

Child(ren)'s Names: _____

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

My child(ren)'s eye condition: _____

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

☐ Group/Agency Membership \$50 per year.

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

☐ Medical Specialist \$50 per year.

☐ Scholarship Fund \$10.00

☐ Donation: \$_____ (tax deductible)

☐ New Membership

☐ Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Phone: (_____) - _____

Email: _____

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

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**Have questions or need
more information?**

**Call us at
1-815-355-2098**

Illinois Association for Parents of
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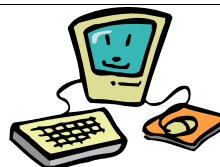
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up-to-date on your dues at the
address on the left or
1-815-355-2098
Email: ipvi@ipvi.org
www.ipvi.org

IPVI CALENDAR

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|------------|
| ▶ 11/9 | Play for All (Lighthouse/IPVI Families) | Chicago |
| ▶ 11/16 | <i>IPVI: THE NEXT GENERATION</i> (Annual Meeting) | Naperville |
| ▶ 11/19, 12/17, | Lighthouse North Parents' Night | Glenview |
| ▶ 1/21, 2/28, 3/18 | | |
| ▶ 11/22 | Lighthouse North Movie "The LORAX" | Glenview |
| ▶ 12/11-14 | A Movement United 2013 TASH Conference | Chicago |

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

**Newsletter Deadline for
DECEMBER is NOVEMBER 15th**



**Check Out
www.ipvi.org**

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