

# IPVI INSIGHTS

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

**Oct./Nov.  
2011**



## CHILDREN'S HARVEST FEST

Please join us for Games, Arts and Crafts,  
Social opportunities, Tastings—Siblings welcome

## LIGHTHOUSE & IPVI FAMILIES WELCOME

**Date:** Saturday, November 12, 2011  
**Time:** 11:00 to 2:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Chicago Lighthouse Development Center  
1850 W. Roosevelt Road  
Chicago, IL 60608

**Sponsored by:**

**The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired**

**Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments  
(IPVI)**

**(Juice boxes, packaged snacks welcome)**

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**Free, Huge  
Assistive Technology Exhibition  
By Bill Bielawski, IPVI President**

In these tough financial times, it is nice to have the opportunity to see all the latest assistive technology for our children for FREE. The 3rd annual Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) Conference is being held:

ATIA 2011 Chicago Conference

November 3 to 5

Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel  
and Convention Center

1551 North Thoreau Drive  
Schaumburg, Illinois 60173

[www.atia.org](http://www.atia.org)

On Thursday and Friday, the exhibit hall is open from 10:15 am to 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. On Saturday, it is open from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. The exhibit hall is open to the public for FREE.

Most of the major manufacturers that make technology that can help our kids in school will be there. You should plan to spend several hours making the rounds. If your child has multiple disabilities, you will need more time.

Older kids would benefit from seeing this equipment up close. Make sure your child’s vision teacher knows about this exhibition. You can just show up at the conference or save time by going to the website [www.atia.org](http://www.atia.org), click on the ATIA 2011 Chicago logo, then click on Free Exhibit Hall Pass. If you have the time and can afford it, it is a great conference. Don’t let this opportunity pass you by. See you there.

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

### **VOLLEY I**

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

No new members have joined during this period.

### **VOLLEY II**

Dear Readers:

The Internet and its power have been impacting our world greatly. As we have indicated in previous issues, the cost savings are immense so we are planning to go green with *Insights* and furnish it via the Internet. Also, by publishing via Internet, we benefit more of our blind readers who can now download it for printing on their Braille equipment or they can have the ability to hear it read to them from their computer software programs. We still have a long way to go but thank you all for your patience. We will continue to tweak the processes. We know it's a long time coming and change isn't always easy. Remember, too, this is an all-volunteer staff trying to provide you with a better product. Kudos to, Joan, who always gets stuck learning new software programs.

In an effort to continue serving our community properly, we realize, we have some loyal readers though who do not have the ability to receive emails. For those few, we need you to contact Vicki at 815-464-6162 with your name so we can flag our "snail mail" readership. Even if you've called in before, please call again for quality control purposes.

## **SHARING THE VISION, PARENT TO PARENT**

Let's have a dialogue. Do you have a question? One of us may have an answer or at least a suggestion. Submit questions and responses for the IPVI Newsletter to Pam Stern, NAPVI Region 3 Representative:

[pamstern3@gmail.com](mailto:pamstern3@gmail.com)

Hello parents,

Please continue to send in news about your child's accomplishments. Articles about other blind or visually impaired individuals are also welcome.

### **This month's question:**

*Securing accommodations for standardized testing can be a real ordeal. Please discuss your stories both positive and frustrating—so that parents and their children learn what to anticipate and how to plan accordingly.*

--

When faced with standardized performance tests, students need to be in mainstream classes to receive instruction, where regular classroom teachers are held responsible for their performance, not the special education teachers. I am a special education teacher and I always try to find times to pull my kids that interfere LEAST with mainstream classes that are tested subjects.

--

My son who is blind, now 16 and in the top 20 percent of his class, was recently denied the right to take the PSAT because of two things: 1) the person at his school's husband died and she resigned her post last spring, without finishing the request to PSAT for Greg's accommoda-

*(Continued on page 5)*

### **VOLLEY III**

It's amazing how time is flying. The school year is underway and many of us are looking at the holidays storming in right at us in a short while. Many plan ahead making preparations early on so that they are not having to run around crazy at the last minute. Which leads me to my tip of the day originally said by Thomas Jefferson:

*“Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today.*

This applies to so many things, like starting Christmas (or other holiday) shopping in October; reading the novel today when you have a report due on in 45 days; beginning to pack for a trip that's more than two weeks away, etc. There are so many things that require extra time and getting a jump on these tasks is important if we want to be successful.

What has that got to do with vision issues one may ask? Well, I'll tell you. If you have a child with a vision problem which may be stable now but which has a possibility of getting worse, I recommend you plan ahead and develop relationships with each kind of eye doctor your child may require. For instance, Matt has Aniridia, an absence of the iris, as well as Nystagmus. We found his condition also is prone to cataracts and glaucoma. Well, not every ophthalmologist is skilled in each of these areas, so we have gathered a team of doctors who specialize in each of his conditions, therefore, we have established rapport with specialists upon whom we can call for assistance when and if needed.

If it's possible, get baseline information to the team you wish to build for your child's future vision needs. Becoming an informed parent about what might affect your child's condition, gives you the ability to know what you could be up against in the future. Don't wait to need them and then try to find them basically is

what I am saying about your team of doctors. Rather have them and not need them. This approach is much easier on your nerves.

I know you might say that there are additional costs involved for which you might not have the money. That's where the planning comes into play. Start saving and putting forth a vision plan. Keep the data in one location. Get and keep copies of your child's medical records. I use 3-ring binders with slide-in sheet protectors for original data that I won't hole-punch and store the sheets in dividers under topics like: O&M Specialist; Vision Doctor; Medical Doctor; Specialists; Dentist, etc. (I also have another binder for school to keep IEP reports by school year, and report cards, awards, etc. This filing system makes it easier if you have to go back and track down dates or other agreements on goals.)

By staying organized and planning ahead, parents find they are better prepared for obstacles we are up against. It won't help us on those days where the only thing that helps is a good cry or a good laugh, depending on the circumstances. However, going to one spot to retrieve your information will avoid some frustration. These behind the scenes steps at least make us feel like we have it together and sometimes, faking it is the best we can do. So, keep your chin up and remember, you can: Give in, Give up, or Give it your all!



*(Continued from page 3) - Sharing the Vision: Parent to Parent*

tions, and 2) PSAT and other national standardized tests such as ACT place a huge, discriminatory burden of proof on schools and parents to prove that the student in question is indeed disabled and needs certain accommodations in order to complete the exam.

PSAT takes over 4 months to approve accommodations for a student with special needs. All diligent attempts to begin the approval process at the beginning of September, when the oversight was identified, failed. Six weeks later, any sighted student in the school could have walked into the counseling office, paid \$13, and been allowed to take the test the next day. I can understand that accommodations can be abused, but a copy of the students IEP, which clearly states the required accommodations and has the power of a legal document, should be sufficient. The fact that 6 weeks is not soon enough to begin the accommodation approval process, when any other student can be approved to take the test in less than 24 hours, is discriminatory.

Oddly enough, the Braille copy of the test arrived the week before the test was to be administered. Approval for the appropriate accommodations however—a scribe to fill in all those little ovals on the test sheet, use of a Braille machine, a reader, and extra time (to account for the huge hunt for information in a Braille version not apparent to those using the printed copy)—was not received. Administering the test without express accommodation approval would call the entire school under review.

Some of the required burdens of proof are not even rational—ACT requires a letter from the student's physician stating

what the student's EDUCATIONAL accommodations should be. I don't know about other disabilities, but for students who are blind, their ophthalmologist only knows what the student can and can't see. He or she is NOT an educational expert. I also know that rumblings about these overly stringent requirements and possible action against PSAT, SAT and ACT have been going on for years.

*My question to all of you is: What is the status of any action pending against these attempted? On what basis is this allowed to continue? Is this a situation calling for a class action law suit from all areas of the disability community?*

I am fully aware that this is a voluntary test, but opportunities for scholarships are closely tied to PSAT scores. We do have approval for the ACT accommodations, but I am sure there are other students who have not been able to get their accommodations approved or who, through situations similar to my son's, through no fault of their own, files too late for those accommodations and thus put their college career, or at least the timing of their college career, in jeopardy. Please let me know what recourse is open to us.

--

As a senior my daughter needed extended time and large print. When she took her A.P. language test, she was placed in a noisy room and given a faulty headset. A big portion of this test was **listening comprehension**. **She lost 13 hours of college credit** due to this, and it could have been avoided had the school made an easy adaptation. Of course, they came up with all kinds of reasons why it was her fault. Later that summer she took the Clepp language test on campus and got

*(Continued on page 6)*

a 99% and 8 hours credit. Later, she needed to take the GRE and she and her disabilities adviser filled out the mounds of paperwork needed. He told her to do it in large print and not on the computer because he said "they always mess that up". She spent 8 hours on this exam and told me she did well. When we got the results she had an 8%! She fought with them for months to re-score the test. They told us "this is your score, we do not make mistakes". I finally had an attorney contact them, and her rescored test was 98%. They refunded her test amount. She began applying to some major universities and guess what....they were sending out the wrong scores! Sometimes parents make excuses for their kids when things go wrong. However, she graduated at the top of her high school class, graduated college in 3 years with a perfect grade point, and is doing well in graduate school. Somehow, I doubt any of these testing problems had anything to do with her.

**Blind Vt. law student sues over test accommodation**

By DAVE GRAM Associated Press, Posted: 07/07/2011 07:39:06 AM PDT

[http://www.mercurynews.com/ci\\_18430159?IADID=Search-www.mercurynews.com-www.mercurynews.com](http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_18430159?IADID=Search-www.mercurynews.com-www.mercurynews.com)

**Legally blind Vt. law student wins 1st big case...her own**

By LISA RATHKE Associated Press, Posted: 08/07/2011 09:57:05 AM PDT

[http://www.mercurynews.com/ci\\_18634629?IADID=Search-www.mercurynews.com-www.mercurynews.com](http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_18634629?IADID=Search-www.mercurynews.com-www.mercurynews.com)

**Blind Test-Takers Win Accommodations**

<http://fairtest.org/blind-test-takers-win-accommodations>

***An Accommodations Guide for Parents and Students with Visual Impairments, American Foundation for the Blind.***

<http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=58&TopicID=264&DocumentID=264&DocumentID=2762>

**Building Assessment Initiatives for Schools: Checklist for Administration of Tests to Students with Visual Impairments**

<http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=58&TopicID=264&DocumentID=264&DocumentID=2763>

**Accessible Tests Department, American Printing House for the Blind**

<http://www.aph.org/tests/>

**Test Access: Making Tests Accessible for Students with Visual Impairments: A Guide for Test Publishers, Test Developers, and State Assessment Personnel** *By Carol B. Allman, Ph.D.*

<http://www.aph.org/tests/access2/access2.html>

**Position Paper: Accommodations for Testing Students with Visual Impairments** *By Carol Allman, Ph.D.*

<http://www.aph.org/tests/accomodations.html>

**Taking the SAT or ACT - FamilyConnect**

There are several types of accommodations available at national test centers to students who are blind or visually impaired.

<http://www.familyconnect.org/parentsite.asp?SectionID=78&TopicID=349&DocumentID=3933>

*(Continued on page 7)*

Next Month's Question

*Let's continue to discuss experiences with Standardized Test accommodations, and for those interested in this topic, please research and ask contacts if more is known about the following: What is the status of any action pending against these testing organizations? Has any attempt to charge them with discrimination been attempted? On what basis is this allowed to continue? Is this a situation calling for a class action law suit from all areas of the disability community?*



**Newsletter entries will be published maintaining the anonymity of all unless otherwise approved.**

## ASK M@



Hi everyone,

Hope everyone is doing well and that, if you are in school, it is going good. I want to talk to you about one of the emails I received this past month in my [ipviaskm@gmail.com](mailto:ipviaskm@gmail.com) account. The questions were more extensive but the main points about them were how do I get around the golf course and how can I play effectively.

First, my number one way of getting around the golf course so effectively is by having a spotter. My spotter can help me in different ways. The first big way would have to be that he can help find my ball after I've hit it. If that wasn't possible, I don't think I could play the sport. He also can help me line up, get distances; and almost as important as finding the ball, he can help me by describing to me what the surroundings of the hole look like and what is out there. For example, saying something like "There is a bunker on the right, water on the left, and the pin is on the back left of the green." That all will let me paint the picture in my head so I can make a good decision on what to do. However, the spotter cannot give any advice such as club selection or on what to do. Which is only fair.

Now, another question was, "I understand you have a spotter, but isn't it hard to see the ball?" My answer to that is "no." The part that I am very fortunate is that I have had to deal with the low vision my entire life. In this case, whatever I see seems perfectly normal. But in the sense of seeing it, I am lucky enough that I can see the ball well enough to play the sport that I love. Well, that is until I hit it in the rough and it's so far buried that, if I had 20/20 vision, I couldn't see it. (If you can't see the ball when standing above it, then the spotter places the ball and tells you where to stand. Then he says, "take your swing.")

So anyways, the main point in all of this today is that I had to go out and get permission from the IHSA to be able to have a spotter assist me while playing in school tournaments. So what I want everyone to try to do is if you have something that you absolutely want to do but something is not letting you do it -- not just low vision but it could be anything -- set your mind to it, and go do it. It may be a little harder because you may have to make special accommodations; but the feeling of success that you get after you have completed what you wanted is so great, you will be looking for more. So the main goal is to go out and strive for success. If you want something bad enough and you set your mind to it, you can do it. **DON'T EVER LET ANYONE TELL YOU NO!**

Now for my quote of the month, which goes along with the theme of striving for success. This quote is by **Willa A. Foster**, and it says:

*"Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives."*

Now what this quote is saying is that in life nothing will just be handed to you. If you want success, you will have to push for it and want it more than anyone else competing for it.

I hope that everyone is ready to go achieve. So until next time, see ya, and let's go succeed!

**M@**



### Education Department Announces Regulations to Improve Outcomes for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and Their Families

The U.S. Department of Education released

the final regulations for the early intervention program under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). These final regulations will help improve services and outcomes for America's infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

Part C is a \$436 million program administered by states that serves infants and toddlers through age 2 with developmental delays or who have diagnosed physical or mental conditions with high probabilities of resulting in developmental delays.

The final Part C regulations incorporate provisions in the 2004 amendments to Part C of the IDEA. Additionally, the final regulations provide states with flexibility in some areas, while ensuring state accountability to improve results and providing needed services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. The regulations focus on measuring and improving outcomes for the approximately 350,000 children served by the Part C program with the goal of ensuring that such children are ready for preschool and kindergarten.

"As everyone who works in education understands, one of the most important things we can offer children is a high-quality early learning experience that prepares them for kindergarten," said U. S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan. "This is true for all children—but it's especially important for infants and toddlers with disabilities to have access to high-quality early intervention services that prepare them to successfully transition to preschool and kindergarten. The Part C regulations will support the Education Department's commitment to the goal of preparing more children with high needs with a strong foundation for success in school and beyond." The Part C regulations are posted on the department's website at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/news.html>. The regulations



should be published in the *Federal Register* in the next couple of weeks.

Today, the department is also releasing a notice of proposed rulemaking to amend the IDEA Part B regulations. Changes are being proposed to the regulations regarding when a state or local educational agency seeks to use a child's or parent's public benefits or insurance (e.g., Medicaid) to pay for Part B services. These proposed amendments to the Part B regulations would ensure the protection of the rights of parents and children and ensure that children with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE) while addressing concerns raised by State educational agencies and local educational agencies regarding the burdens imposed by the current regulation. The Part B notice of proposed rulemaking is posted at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/news.html>. The notice of proposed rulemaking is expected to be published in the Federal Register on the same date as the Part C regulations.



**Super Special Issue on O&M: "Orientation and Mobility and Professional Preparation: Celebrating 50 Years."**

Special issue guest editors Richard G. Long, Ph.D., COMS, professor and associate dean, College of Health and Human Services, Western Michigan University, and Diane L. Fazzi, Ph.D., COMS, professor and associate chair, Division of Special Education and Counseling, coordinator, Orientation and Mobility Specialist Training Program in Visual Impairment and Blindness, California State University, Los Angeles, will moderate a discussion with and among readers of the special issue.

During the week of **October 17-21**, readers are invited to post comments and ask questions about the many critical issues and important trends affecting O&M practice today, using the questions will be answered by the guest editors themselves. Access to the guest editorial on *JVIB Online* will be free during the week of this special event. You will need to be a *JVIB* subscriber, however, to make an online comment.

As the world around us becomes ever more fast-paced and complicated, the practice of imparting O&M instruction to people who are blind or visually impaired becomes all the more challenging. This special event is intended to support important information exchanges among *JVIB's* community of professionals and help practitioners and university instructors and students ask questions of two experts in the forefront of the field about the nature of O&M in a modern fast-paced environment. *JVIB* is your indispensable resource to access the highest-quality research and practice discussions, and CEU opportunities are associated with this and every issue of *JVIB* as well.

Questions about how to participate? Contact Rebecca Burrichter, senior editor, *JVIB*, at [rburrichter@afb.net](mailto:rburrichter@afb.net). To subscribe to *JVIB* for just \$35, go to: <http://www.afb.org/jvibspecial.asp>.



**AFB** American Foundation™  
for the Blind  
Expanding possibilities for people with vision loss

**Orientation and Mobility  
and Professional  
Preparation: A *JVIB*  
Online Special Event!**

The *Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness (JVIB)* is holding a special online elearning event, and you are invited to attend! This special event will coincide with the publication of the **October-November**

# **The Pangere Center for Inherited Retinal Diseases** at The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

**Did you know  
The Pangere Center for  
Inherited Retinal Diseases  
is a premier resource for  
diagnosing and managing  
challenging inherited  
retinal diseases?**



Headed by Dr. Gerald Fishman, repeatedly named one of the Best Doctors in America (Castle Connolly) and among the Top Doctors in Chicago (Chicago Magazine), The Pangere Center for Inherited Retinal Diseases offers unique diagnostic services through the use of leading edge technologies required to evaluate puzzling cases of vision loss.

To learn more about The Pangere Center: [www.chicagolighthouse.org/Pangere](http://www.chicagolighthouse.org/Pangere).  
Schedule an appointment by calling (312) 997-3666.

**The Pangere Center is located at:**

The Chicago Lighthouse  
1850 West Roosevelt Road  
Chicago, IL 60608

**The Chicago Lighthouse**  
Because there is **still** hope.™



**APH/Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Partnership Launched!**



As Dolly herself might phrase it, "The Little Engine That Could"...*did!* This past June, the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) and the Dollywood Foundation announced an exciting partnership to expand Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) to provide young blind and visually impaired children with accessible books.

Today, we are pleased to announce that the **APH/DPIL Partnership** has launched!

The first DPIL audio book files are now available at the site as free downloads to registered National Library Service (NLS) members. Audio books will be added each month until most of the 75 titles in the DPIL collection are available to children and their families.

Beginning in 2012, the Partnership will make available an annual selection of print/braille Imagination Library books free to eligible families and for purchase at low cost to all others (regular funds or Federal Quota funds can be used).

In addition to the audio book files, website visitors will find links to:

- National Library Service to help them register and receive an NLS digital playback device necessary for listening to the APH/DPIL encrypted audio book files
- Louis Database of Accessible Materials
- APH shopping site to see related APH products
- Other national and international sources

for tactile, print/braille, and braille books for children

- Downloadable PDFs with information about emergent literacy and sharing books with a young child with a visual impairment

We're very excited that APH's partnership with DPIL not only expands the number of accessible books for young children, but also connects families to a wide range of resources that will enable them to locate and bring more accessible books into their home.

For more information about our partner, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, visit <http://www.imaginationlibrary.com/> or the official [Facebook page](#).

**Braille Readers Are Leaders Contest  
November 1, 2011 - January 4, 2012**

The National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute, the National Association to Promote the Use of Braille (NAPUB), and the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children (NOPBC) are pleased to announce the 29th annual Braille Readers Are Leaders contest for students grades K-12. This contest encourages children around the country to be proud of their ability to read Braille and continually work to improve their skills. As in previous years students will read as many Braille pages as they can in two months (November 1, 2011, through January 4, 2012) to compete for ribbons, cash prizes, and an all-expenses-paid trip to the 2012 NFB national convention in Dallas, Texas.

For the third year NAPUB and the NFB Jernigan Institute are also offering a contest for mature Braille readers. Adults will compete for cash prizes, national recognition, and bragging rights!

Teams of two to five participants are welcome to compete in both the K-12 and adult contests again this year. Registration begins October 1, 2011. Form your teams, get some interesting reading material, and warm up your fingers! For detailed information about the K-12 and adult contests please visit [www.nfb.org/BRAL](http://www.nfb.org/BRAL).



# IPVI's Matthew Benedict Juskie Scholarship Fund

For students who are blind or visually impaired

Any individual intending to continue his/her education at a college, university or trade school and is interested in being considered for the MBSJF, must meet the following criteria: Illinois resident, blind or visually impaired, undergraduate or graduate student, and an IPVI member.

The candidate's application is processed free of charge. The student must mail or fax a written request to receive a copy of the application from IPVI. Then the student must complete the MBSJF Application Form, provide 3 completed Reference Forms, submit medical records or a letter from the vision specialist confirming the condition, and mail them to IPVI. The applicant may attach a 1-page resume of clubs, offices held, or any other pertinent information concerning his/her activity record.

The IPVI Board of Directors will review all scholarship applications and select the winners. IPVI reserves the right to announce such awards in its newsletters and marketing materials.

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



**To request a scholarship application, please contact the Scholarship Program Coordinator, Vicki Juskie at: 815-464-6162 or [vajuskie@aol.com](mailto:vajuskie@aol.com)**

# \$5,000 WORLD SPORT CHICAGO SCHOLARSHIP

Will you be a Chicago high school junior in the Fall of 2011? 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 2011)
- 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](http://www.wscscholars.org)).

## **Awards**

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

- **Kaplan ACT tutoring**
- **Chicago Scholars mentoring**

WSC Scholars will also be eligible for one of:

- **10 renewable college scholarships worth up to \$5,000 annually (\$20,000 total),** supported by WSC and Chicago Donors

## **Deadline**

**November 16, 2011**

Visit [www.wscscholars.org](http://www.wscscholars.org) or call (312) 861-4946.

**MACARTHUR**  
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

CHICAGO  
SCHOLARS  
DARE TO DREAM. DARE TO ACHIEVE.

**KAPLAN** TEST PREP AND  
ADMISSIONS

CONFERENCES



**Illinois AER Vision Conference**

**February 16-17, 2012**

**Hyatt Regency Woodfield, Schaumburg, IL**

The planning for the 2012 Annual Illinois AER Vision Conference is underway! Our theme this year is "United in Vision". As a professional community we are "United in Vision" to provide services to our students and clients that are cutting edge, researched based, and of premium quality. Amy Lund and the Program Committee will be meeting in September to develop this year's program. We invite you to share your vision, knowledge, expertise and research with all of us by submitting a proposal. "Call for Papers" will be accepted until September 9, 2011.

Registration for exhibitors is now being accepted. If you did not receive the registration form in the mail you may access the information on the website.

Conference registration for attendees will be on our website at the end of September.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [dfinn@thenia.org](mailto:dfinn@thenia.org).

See you in February!

Diane Finn  
Illinois AER Conference Chair

Announcing the First Annual

**enLIGHTen**  
LOW VISION CONFERENCE

**"About Low Vision Today – the U.S. and Around the World"**

**November 2nd - 4th, 2011**  
held at the ATIA 2011 Chicago Conference\*  
Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center, Schaumburg, IL

For more information please contact:

Leah A. Gerlach  
Rehabilitation Counselor - Adaptive Technology Specialist at Deicke House



**Chicago November 2-5, 2011**

Annual conference takes place in Chicago at the Renaissance in Schaumburg. There will be 175+ educational sessions to choose from, plus an exhibit hall of over 100 leading manufacturers, service providers, and non-profit agencies showcasing their products and services. For more information go to [www.atia.org](http://www.atia.org).

## GUILD FOR THE BLIND

**2012 Calendars Are In!:** Our 2012 braille calendar, large print date book, and wall calendar with 20/20 pen are in at our Consumer Product Center. Supplies are limited. Call Brian Hollandsworth at 312-236-8569 or email [brian@guildfortheblind.org](mailto:brian@guildfortheblind.org) to place your orders today!

**Free Screen Reading Software:** NVDA, or Non-Visual Desktop Access, is a free screen-reading software program for your computer. This open source software has been around for some time, but has had significant improvements with its last update in July. David Flament, the Guild's Manager of Adaptive Technology Services, says, "The most recent version of NVDA does a terrific job of reading Yahoo mail and MS Excel spreadsheets." For a review of free screen-reading programs, check out the August issue of American Foundation for the Blind's technology magazine, Access-World, at [www.nvda-project.org](http://www.nvda-project.org).

**Braille Readers are Leaders:** The National Federation of the Blind, along with the National Association to Promote the Use of Braille and the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children, are sponsoring the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Braille Readers are Leaders contest for students K-12. The contest encourages children to be proud of their ability to read braille and to continue to improve their skills. A contest is also available for adult braille readers. Register online at [www.nfb.org/Braille\\_Readers\\_Are\\_Leaders\\_Overview.asp](http://www.nfb.org/Braille_Readers_Are_Leaders_Overview.asp). Paper copies can be obtained by calling 410-659-9314 or email:

[brailereadersareleaders@nfb.org](mailto:brailereadersareleaders@nfb.org).

**Professional Development for TVIs:** The Guild's Opening Doors workshop series for teachers of the visually impaired presents Opening the Apple World on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 pm in our Adaptive Technology Center. David Flament walks you through using the many accessible features of Apple products including Voiceover commands, magnification features, useful apps for students and much more. Opening Doors workshops

offer CPDUs and, if you are an Illinois AER member, your registration fee is free. For full details, visit the Professionals page of our website or contact David Flament at the Guild,

[david@guildfortheblind.org](mailto:david@guildfortheblind.org).

*Reprinted from GUILD BRIEFS October & November 2011, Guild for the Blind, 180 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1700, Chicago, IL 60601-7463, 312-236-8569, [www.guildfortheblind.org](http://www.guildfortheblind.org).*



## TRAINING SESSIONS

### FRCD OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2011 TRAININGS

#### Fall Sessions

(10:00 AM-1:00 PM)

20 E. Jackson Blvd. Room 300  
Chicago, IL 60604

- 10/11 **Procedural Safeguards Phone Training  
Phone Trainings**  
(For your convenience we are holding 1 hour training sessions over the phone)  
(12:00 Noon-1:00 PM)
- 10/12 **IEP Training (en español)**
- 10/19 **Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy  
(Destrezas para una Abogacia Eficaz  
De Parte de los Padres)**
- 10/22 **Six Principles of IDEA**
- 10/27 **Transition to Post-Secondary Part 1  
Phone training (register by 10/26)**
- 10/29 **Transition from Early Intervention to  
Early Childhood**
- 11/1 **Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy**
- 11/2 **Special Education Rights Training  
(en español)**
- 11/3 **Transition to Post-Secondary Part 2  
Phone Training (register by 10/26)**
- 11/5 **IEP Training**
- 11/10 **Accessible Instructional Materials**

**(AIM)/Assistive Technology Phone Training**

11/11 **Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy (Destrezas para una Abogacia Eficaz De Parte de los Padres)**

11/12 **Six Principles of IDEA**

You must register in advance in order to get your materials in the mail.

Please call us at **312-939-3513**

or

You may register online at:

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

To view the training calendar go to **[www.frcd.org](http://www.frcd.org)** and click on Events/Training-Upcoming Events. To register for FRCD's Upcoming Trainings, contact us by phone at 312-939-3513, Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, or drop us an email at [info@frcd.org](mailto:info@frcd.org).

The initiative includes a number of existing Hadley courses focused on business and entrepreneurship as well as six, new, one-lesson "modules" developed over the last year in preparation for this month's launch. They include:

- Market Research
- The Financial Plan
- The Marketing Plan
- The Business Plan
- Business Insurance
- Forms of Ownership

Hadley is embarking upon this program, in part, to address the deplorable employment rate among people who are visually impaired. Although statistics vary somewhat, the most reliable data sources suggest that the under- or unemployment rate of persons who are blind or visually impaired is 70%-80%.

"The Center will fulfill a great need. Self-employment is a very viable avenue to attain meaningful jobs and incomes for those who are visually impaired," says Program Manager Tom Babinszki.

By providing the requisite computer training, along with the relevant Social Security, tax, accounting, legal, marketing, management and communications information, Hadley will prepare students to take a large step towards achieving self-sufficiency. The curriculum content will be made richer through a network of accomplished civic and business leaders who are themselves blind or visually impaired, as well as through access to a comprehensive, online resource center.

The Center is named in honor of long-time Hadley trustee and donor Sandy Forsythe and her husband, Rick, who have offered a significant, three-year, 2-for-1 challenge grant if matched by new contributions to the school.



**The Hadley School for the Blind  
Opens Enrollment for Forsythe  
Center for Entrepreneurship**

On September 19, The Hadley School for the Blind officially opened enrollment for the Forsythe Center for Entrepreneurship. The goal of this new business, entrepreneurship and technology program is to provide individuals who are visually impaired with the knowledge, resources and networking opportunities enabling them to advance in their careers or to successfully launch and grow their own businesses.



“We are honored to support such an important program at Hadley that truly fulfills the school’s mission to promote independent living,” says Forsythe.

The program is also funded by A.G. Cox Charity Trust; Adams Street Partners, LLC; Alliant Credit Union Foundation; Donald P. and Byrd M. Kelly Foundation; Lions Clubs International Foundation; Martin J. and Susan B. Kozak Foundation; The Charles and M.R. Shapiro Foundation; The Helen Brach Foundation; The Siragusa Foundation; The Susquehanna Foundation for the Blind; Union Bank Foundation and a number of individual donors.

The program is designed to be practical, relevant and interactive. Courses are open to anyone who is blind or visually impaired, over age 14 and is serious about starting or growing a business. Coursework is offered free of charge and is mostly online.

“The Center for Entrepreneurship represents one of the many ways that Hadley is evolving to utilize technology to meet our students’ needs. This program will help students worldwide achieve their employment goals,” says President Chuck Young.

For more information about the Forsythe Center for Entrepreneurship, please visit [www.hadley.edu/fce](http://www.hadley.edu/fce).

## MISCELLANEOUS

### SEEDLINGS BRAILLE BOOKS FOR CHILDREN OFFERS HOLIDAY SHOPPING OPPORTUNITIES

Shop Seedlings Braille Books for Children this holiday season for braille books, educational items and one-of-a-kind gifts.

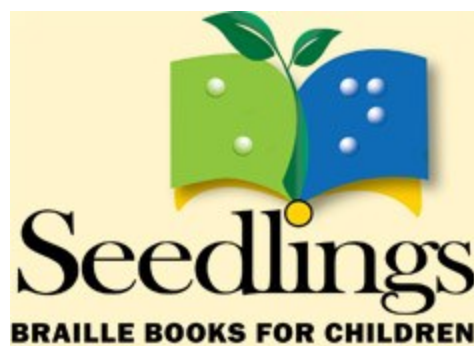
Choose from over 1,100 high-quality, low-cost books in our catalog for your braille reader, age infant to teen. We have a wonderful selection of baby board books, print and braille books and braille only books. These books are great for introducing braille to a visually impaired child and wonderful for blind adults to read with sighted children.

We also offer a unique collection of braille jewelry, t-shirts, sweatshirts, tote bags and other wonderful gift items. For a preview of these items and more, visit us at [www.seedlings.org](http://www.seedlings.org) today!

Seedlings Braille Books for Children is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to increasing the opportunity for literacy by providing high quality children’s literature in braille.

**For more information about Seedlings Braille Books for Children, please visit our website at [www.seedlings.org](http://www.seedlings.org).**

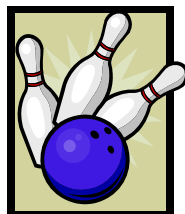
Seedlings Braille Books for Children  
14151 Farmington Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48154  
800-777-8552  
[www.seedlings.org](http://www.seedlings.org)



# Davis Square Park

*Programs for individuals with visual and physical disabilities*

4430 S. Marshfield Chicago, IL 60609



## Special Recreation

2011 Fall Sessions

Sept.19, 2011 - Dec. 4, 2011



### Tuesday

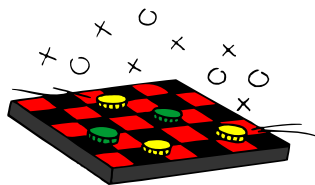
Bowling @ Lawn Lanes 6750 S. Pulaski 3:00 pm-7:00pm

Participants will have to pay for 2 games and shoe rental, BUS provided from Davis Square Park

### Wednesday

Leisure Sports and Recreation: 3:00pm-5:00pm FREE

Adaptive Sports Training: 5:00pm-8:00pm \$5.00 fee



### Thursday

Learn to Swim: McGuane Park Pool, 2901 S. Poplar Ave., 4:00pm-5:00pm \$5.00 fee

Daily Living Skills: McGuane Park, 2901 S. Poplar Ave., 5:00pm-8:00pm \$5.00 fee

### Friday

Social Club: 3:00pm-5:00pm FREE,

Music Training: Friday 5:00pm-7:00pm, \$5.00 fee

### Saturday

Leisure Sports and Recreation: 10:00am-Noon FREE

Judo: Learn the Martial Art of Judo: 12:00-2:00pm, \$10.00 fee

Adaptive Sports Training: 2:00pm-4:00pm



For registration and questions contact:  
Luis Fuentes, Special Recreation Instructor  
(312) 745-3424  
davisspecialrec@yahoo.com  
www.chicagoparkdistrict.com  
(312) 742-PLAY (312) 747-2001 (TTY)



## IPVI

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



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

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

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

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

## What does IPVI do?

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

Check one:

Parent/Guardian Membership: \$15 per year.

Child(ren)'s Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate(s) of my visually impaired child(ren): \_\_\_\_\_

My child(ren)'s eye condition: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Group/Agency Membership \$50 per year.

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

Medical Specialist \$50 per year.

Scholarship Fund \$10.00

Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (tax deductible)

New Membership

Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

IPVI • P.O.Box 2947 • Naperville, IL 60567-2947

**Have questions or need more information?**

**Call us at  
1-877-411-IPVI (4784)**

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

**FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND  
or PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**THE TOP LINE... of your address  
label indicates whether your dues  
are "Paid" or if they are "Due."  
Please send your annual dues in  
each year.**

## **IPVI CALENDAR**

- |              |  |                   |
|--------------|--|-------------------|
| ▶ Nov. 2-4   | <b>enLIGHTen Low Vision Conference</b>     | <b>Chicago</b>    |
| ▶ Nov. 2-5   | <b>ATIA 2011 Chicago</b>                   | <b>Chicago</b>    |
| ▶ Nov. 12    | <b>Children's Harvest Fest</b>             | <b>Chicago</b>    |
| ▶ Feb. 16-17 | <b>Illinois AER Vision Conference 2012</b> | <b>Schaumburg</b> |

Please call  
**1-877-411-IPVI**  
for any questions, concerns,  
or comments that IPVI can  
help you with.

**Newsletter Deadline for  
DECEMBER is NOVEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>**



**Check Out  
[www.ipvi.org](http://www.ipvi.org)**

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