

# IPVI INSIGHTS

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

October  
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.



**Inside This Issue:**

2013 IPVI Annual Meeting	1
<b>IPVI: THE NEXT GENERATION</b>	2
Ms. Vic's Volleys	3
Ask M@	4
AER Knowledge Center	4
Play for All: Lighthouse/IPVI Families	6
IPVI's MBJ Scholarship Fund	7
Crawling & Climbing	8
Beginner's Guide to Echolocation	9
Author BIO	11
Lighthouse North Movie Night (Spider Man)	12
Lighthouse Jazz Night	13
Parents' Night at Lighthouse North	14
Start the School Year Off Right (Lighthouse)	16
Lighthouse North Spooktacular Halloween Fun House	17
Lighthouse North "Equip for Equality"	18
Lighthouse North Toy & Book Lending Library	19
Lighthouse North Lending Library Adults/Youth	20
Seedlings Braille Books/Children's 2014 Catalog	21
Clarix Epic Portability Portix Magnifier	22
Lighthouse Guild International	23
FRCD Free Parent Workshops	24
FRCD Parent Training/Affecting Legislative Change	24
ICB Annual Convention	25
9th Annual IL Statewide Transition Conference	25
NFB State Convention	25
2013 TASH Conference	26
<b>MAKING SENSE</b>	26
New HD Pebble Magnifier	26
Achilles of Chicago	26
Museum of Science & Industry...	26
The Eye Specialists Center	27
IPVI Board of Directors	28
IPVI Membership Dues	28
IPVI Calendar of Events	29

**IPVI: THE NEXT GENERATION**

*Bill Bielawski, IPVI President*

IPVI needs a new generation of leaders. Rich Zabelski and I have been with IPVI since its inception in 1985, 28 years ago. Young parents, with young children who are visually impaired, need the most support and can provide the best support to each other. IPVI needs to be reinvigorated with young energy and ideas.

My wife Joan and I, and Rich and Mary Zabelski, will still volunteer for IPVI and will be available to mentor and support when asked.

Vicki Juskie (treasurer) has served for many years, and Dawn Wojtowicz (secretary) has served for several years, and they will remain on the Board.

We need three parents to fill the top leadership spots of President, and the two Vice Presidents. Last month, I briefly described the responsibilities of the five officers of IPVI.

If you are wary about stepping right into the Board, you can offer to help in many other ways. With many volunteers, a lot is easily accomplished. With few volunteers, little can get done.

Volunteering for IPVI certainly helped me and Joan raise our daughter, Jennifer. We have met hundreds of other parents and their children and teachers. Rich, Mary, Joan, and I could tell you many, many stories of the good things IPVI has accomplished over the years. Help yourself by helping others.

**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](mailto: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:

**Pam Berman**, Chicago

**VOLLEY II**

This past week, my husband and son built a sub-woofer speaker box from scratch. Matt has taken an interest in mixing music as well as really getting into stereo equipment speakers and how they work (which is too well if you ask me, as my gutters and pictures vibrate, but I digress). Ken sketched out some plans for the speaker they wanted to have housed in this box. Then at the local hardware store, they got the wood, screws, wire and miscellaneous items needed. They then set to work cutting the wood, using templates to cut holes and everything. They even put batting in it that I had on hand. Matt also traveled to the fabric store for speaker cover material. In the end, their finished product worked well and looks very nice.

The point of this story is to let you know that even if your child has low or no vision, learning how things work should play a great big role in one's life. If your child expresses an interest and you want to help him or her pursue it further, teach them the process of how to make something from start to finish. Explain verbally and vibrantly what you're doing so they can partake in the experience. Let them touch the tools, the materials, and be a part of the planning process. Let them feel corners, the straight and curved lines, etc. This gives them spatial understanding as well as a clearer insight into how things are made and how they work. As we've all learned, af-

ter making something with your own hands, it also gives one such a sense of pride.

So my tip of the day is to think out of the box with your differently abled child. Their interests may vary, but anything you can do to give them real-life experience and understanding of how things work is a bonus. It's amazing the reaction you'll receive. It doesn't have to be with wood either. It could be by baking, sewing, painting, etc. Seeing Matt working with his dad and using a saw on the wood under his guidance to make a perfectly symmetrical box with a round circle cut into it was plain cool. After it was complete, it no longer was an unknown factor of "How do you do make a speaker?" He learned the process from start to finish. Yes, parents, I know this took a lot of time, but if we don't spend time with them when they're young and enthusiastic, when will we? All too soon, friends become their focus and we're left behind. So spend some of your time with them having fun and doing artsy, crafty things. It leaves you with great memories and allows them to have hands-on learning experiences.

Also, if you've come up with some neat ideas, please share them with us so we may be able to try them with our children. You never know, we may learn something in the process, too. :D



## ASK M@



Hello, everyone. I hope all is going well this month for you. I can't believe that fall is upon us!

This time I have one big point that I would like to talk about, and it is all about how our ide-

as on what we want to do change over time. Maybe when you were younger, you wanted to be a fireman or baseball player. However, now you're older, you're looking into architecture or accounting.

Jeffrey R. Anderson author of *The Nature of Things - Navigating Everyday Life with Grace* said:

*"We often think that there is just one way to look at things - the way we always have. In fact, there are an infinite number of ways to look at most everything. An open mind allows for a multitude of perspectives from which to choose in any given moment. That suppleness of mind allows for true choice, and opens us to a whole new realm of possibility."*

So I believe this means we should explore things that interest us and allow ourselves the chance to change our minds or to figure out in the first place, what it is we really wish to do with our future.

Some of you may be like me, preparing for life after high school. I am lucky enough to know that I definitely would like to go into business. However, so many kids don't know what they want to do. This is why I am offering the idea that while going through high school and even in junior high, to keep an open mind. Get involved in as many clubs and activities as you can. You will never know what interests you until you get yourself exposed to it.

As you may have heard, you definitely want to do something you love for a living because if you have a job you hate, it will be hard to be or stay good at it.

So to recap, going through all levels of school, keep an open mind to find what you want to do and, as important, get involved in clubs. I look forward to talking to you next month. Have a great one!!!!

M@



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

### FEATURED SESSION

[Motor Development with Children with Visual Impairments: Research to Practice](#)

The purpose of this research was to determine if visual impairment level, age or gender affects motor skill development. To examine these issues, the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) sponsored our research to assess 124 children 6-12 years with and without visual impairments and blindness on their motor skills using the Test of Gross Motor Development (TGMD).

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

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

[Addressing the Essential Knowledge and Skills for Preschool Student Visual Impairments](#)

The purpose of this presentation is to report preliminary results of a study investigating the ways in which the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) is addressed in preschool classrooms for students with visual impairments. The kindergarten readiness skills of all students are receiving increased attention due to school accountability and high-stakes testing at the elementary level.

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

---

### IN THE NEWS

---

#### [Use Sequester Hits Special Education Like a Ton of Bricks](#)

##### **USA Today**

Since the first day of class for most schools in Michigan last week, Marcie Lipsitt's phone has been ringing nonstop with parents distraught about cuts to their children's special education services. A new round of special education cuts were taking hold, prompted by a 5% reduction in federal funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), said Lipsitt, a long-time advocate for disabled children and co-chair of the Michigan Alliance for Special Education.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/09/10/sequester-hits-special-education/2793001/>

#### [Blind People Are Granted Gun Permits in Iowa](#)

##### **NY Times**

Iowa law enforcement officials are debating the wisdom of granting gun permits to blind people. The Des Moines Register reports that Iowa law doesn't allow sheriffs to deny a permit to carry a gun in public based on physical ability.

[http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2013/09/09/us/ap-us-arming-the-blind.html?smid=tw-share&\\_r=1&](http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2013/09/09/us/ap-us-arming-the-blind.html?smid=tw-share&_r=1&)

#### [Disability Employment Rate Continues to Fall](#)

##### **Life Health Pro**

The U.S. job market seemed to get a little easier for people with no disability in August and harder for people with a disability. The Bureau of Labor Statistics says the unemployment rate for adults with disabilities increased to 14.1 percent in August, up from 13.9 percent a year earlier.

<http://www.lifehealthpro.com/2013/09/09/disability-employment-rate-continues-to-fall#.Ui9PGQYpwNo.twitter>

#### [Soul to Sole: Shoes That See for the Blind](#)

##### **TED**

A haunting black-and-white video screened during the TED Fellows talks depicted people speaking into a device and then walking — at first taking halting steps, then more confident strides. As the video unfolds, the camera zooms in on the faces of the walkers — revealing that they are blind.

<http://blog.ted.com/2013/03/03/soul-to-sole-eye-surgeon-anthony-vipin-das-has-developed-shoes-that-see-for-the-blind/>

#### **AER Education Brief**

Scott Bennett, Partner Relations Analyst, Multi-briefs, 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>





## 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!!)**



# 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](mailto:vajuskie@aol.com)**

## Crawling & Climbing

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

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

### The Benefits of Crawling



While it is common for children who are blind to bypass crawling it is also common for them to achieve this milestone with a period of intensive intervention, and it is considered important for several reasons. A significant period of crawling is thought to have extra benefits for children with severe visual impairments because it:

- Increases upper body strength and shoulder girdle stability for critical VI and O&M skills later (e.g., operating Braille, keyboards, and other equipment, using various types of doors independently, and using mobility devices and long canes effectively).
- Provides exposure to everyday textures and surfaces, thereby increasing tactile tolerance and discrimination.
- Provides weight bearing across the palms for improved grasp and manipulation of objects. This is important for pre-Braille, Braille, and other early literacy skills, as well.

Also, experience crawling up and down steps and single depth changes (e.g., curbs, landscape timbers, etc.) provides hands-on tactile, kinesthetic, and spatial experiences with vertical space, resulting in greater understanding and confidence when asked to walk up and down the same. In addition, teaching crawling up and down simple steps (with close supervision) often provides the child with the safest method of negotiating them independently.

### Why I Love to Crawl & Climb! (as explained by Gus)

Hey! I'm Gus and I am 17 months old. I'm here to tell you about my new discovery... stairs! You should see me zip up and down. Mom stays right beside me and makes sure I do it safely. At first, I didn't have a clue about what they were like, since I can see only a little bit of sunshine, but she showed them to me every day. I sat on the wood floor at the bottom of the stairs, while she sat on the first step beside me. We played a game of crawling in and out of her lap. A couple of days later she was placing my favorite Elmo toy on the step, and I went right after it since I was beginning to feel brave. Pretty soon I figured out how to climb up two steps on my hands and feet. Wowiee! This was fun – a whole new world to explore!

I heard Mom say, "Yikes!" and I knew she was planning to watch me very carefully now that I had it figured out. When I try to stand up on the stairs she reminds me to go back to my hands and feet (or hands and knees.) Such a clever gal! She also showed me how to go down the steps feet first on my





tummy. I tell you, she gets smarter every day! She even knows to block the stairs with her body when we're playing "climb the mountain" so I can only go up and down the first 2 or 3 steps. Best of all, she or Dad always puts up that baby gate to keep me off the stairs altogether when they cannot be right with me.

Dad and I do other climbing games during our "tumble time" before dinner. We wrestle and roll all over the floor, and I climb on and off of him. Sometimes he helps me climb up on the couch for a tickle game, or climb down (feet first-tummy down) to stand and "hop on pop!" It's really fun to climb over a lumpy obstacle course of couch cushions and Dad. Mom helps with this part. I can't wait 'til spring time when Dad says we'll explore the front steps. And, guess what! I heard him and Mom talking about putting a little climber in the back yard this summer. Well, wait a sec! I guess now I'm a little climber, too!

### **The Benefits of Climbing**

- Increases tactile tolerance and discrimination skills.
- Increases upper body strength.
- Provides spatial concepts of steps and stairs through hands-on exploration.
- Increases understanding and confidence in preparation for negotiating steps in walking.
- Provides the safest method of independent (supervised) negotiation of steps and stairs, prior to the onset of stable walking up and down the same.



## **Beginner's Guide to Echolocation**

*Learning to SEE with your EARS*

[www.humanecholocation.com](http://www.humanecholocation.com)

BOOK SYNOPSIS  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
Tim Johnson  
[tim.johnson81@gmail.com](mailto:tim.johnson81@gmail.com)  
617-510-7203

*The Beginner's Guide to Echolocation for the Blind and Visually Impaired*, by Tim Johnson, is the first book of its kind and at the cusp of a scientific revolution for blind mobility. This guidebook outlines echolocation in six segments that help clarify what it means to echolocate, realize the benefits of using echolocation and how easy it is to learn, as well as put echolocation into practice with easy-to-follow, step-by-step lessons.

Imagine being able to "see" without using sight; this is possible by identifying the shape of objects based on the frequencies they reflect. Your brain already has the capacity to do this; it's simply a matter of knowing how to implement it. This book demonstrates the simplicity of echolocation through a scientific journey of actionable lessons that refine a person's natural capability of the skill.

Echolocation is a fundamentally simple skill that many blind people use daily to navigate and understand their environment. This skill is sometimes misunderstood, but Johnson demystifies echolocation in a way that anyone can understand with simple exercises, examples and lessons to begin a successful practice of active echolocation.

With sensitization and applied practice of this skill, it's possible for people with visual impairments to become increasingly independent, supplementing their existing forms of orientation and mobility with the intrinsic environmental awareness that echolocation can provide. Understanding the simplicity of this skill will provide a foundation for more practitioners to begin experimenting with this perceptual mobility tool.

Echolocation is simple science that can be easily understood and put into practice in a very short time. After this book, the reader will have an entirely new perspective on their surroundings, and a whole new confidence level in their life.

*The Beginner's Guide to Echolocation for the Blind and Visually Impaired* is available in audiobook, Kindle, paperback, large print or accessible ebook formats. More information about the book and author: <http://www.HumanEcholocation.com>

### Reviews:

**Barnes and Noble Review:** "I'm not visually impaired, but the possibility of this sense of perception is absolutely captivating. I'm hoping to hear more about this skill in the future."

**Brighter Nights Review:** "The author, Tim Johnson, gives a high level overview of what echolocation for humans is, the difference between active and passive echolocation, and how it works. He touches on all aspects; from the philosophical use of echolocation, and the mechanics of sound, to basic techniques for getting started."

**Ears are Eyes Amazon Review:** "When I read "Beginner's Guide to Echolocation for the Blind and Visually Impaired: Learning to See With Your Ears" by Tim Johnson, I found myself remembering those early days of O & M Lessons and smiling. While learning to navigate the world without sight was frustrating and terrifying, there were also some really fun times. This book was a refresher for me in many ways but it also introduced new skills and concepts."

**COMS-KH Amazon Review:** "As a Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist working with children and adults I see the practical implications of the authors' writing. I appreciated the attention to the senses beyond the 'basic 5' as well as the many 'exercises' or 'lessons' they provide. The authors' also provide simple diagrams that could be easily converted to tactile graphics and/or

enlarged for a person with low vision. I will recommend this book to my colleagues, students, and families for a foundational understanding of echolocation.”

**Center Roof Review:** “I recommend this book for anyone, blind or sighted. Even if you are not interested in learning echolocation, it is still a fascinating read for anyone who enjoys learning something new.”

**Beginner’s Guide to Echolocation**  
*Learning to SEE with your EARS*  
[www.humanecholocation.com](http://www.humanecholocation.com)

**AUTHOR BIO**

As a sighted person, Tim Johnson knows that his ability to echolocate might never equal that of a blind person; however, he has dedicated his time to learning the concepts, intricacies and applications of echolocation to self-publish a simple, scientific breakdown of the skill. In his book, *The Beginner’s Guide to Echolocation for the Blind and Visually Impaired*, Johnson teaches the audience that the ability to echolocate is something we all possess, even the sighted.

In 2007, Johnson’s interest in echolocation was sparked by the late Mr. Ben Underwood, a boy with no eyes and yet the remarkable ability to identify objects like fire hydrants, basketball hoops and even tell the difference between a coffee mug and a stapler on a desk.

Johnson’s passion for life transfers into everything that he does; he enjoys helping all people realize their dreams and accomplish their most aggressive goals. Johnson believes that no one should settle for anything less than remarkable.

20 years of martial arts experience has given him the opportunity to work with people and help them understand their true potential and gain the confidence they need to grow into ambitious, independent people. Johnson’s approach to echolocation stems from his background in engineering which produced an analytical, fact-based exploration of the subject.

Johnson encourages the understanding of fundamental concepts in order to gain a complete knowledge of a subject. He explores more of this idea in his blog: <http://learnecholocation.blogspot.com/>

“Our innate curiosity and motivation to improve ourselves is what makes us human and what will always drive us to new heights,” Johnson said. “It’s this idea that inspired me to write the book.”

Johnson graduated from Northeastern University in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. He currently resides in Maine with his wife and twin boys. He has self-published a variety of martial arts books, as well as a bilingual children’s book series to promote language development.

Johnson is open to and available for interviews. Please call 617-510-7203 or email [tim@humanecholocation.com](mailto:tim@humanecholocation.com) for more information.



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

heroically announces



**Movie Night**  
Friday, October 18, 2013  
6:15pm-8:45pm

**THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN**  
in audio-description for those who are blind or have low vision



**Ages: middle school through high school  
Refreshments will be served  
Fee: \$5 per person**

**RSVP to:  
Pam Stern, Manager of Youth and Adult Enrichment Programs  
847.510.2054 or 847.510.6200  
[pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org)**



*Back by popular demand!*

**Lisa Hilton and Nikki George are back for**

# Lighthouse Jazz Night

*with Very Special Guest Wayne Percy,  
from Boston just for this event!*

Proceeds of the evening will directly support  
The Chicago Lighthouse's Birth-to-Three Early Intervention Program,  
providing in home services and therapy to infants and toddlers  
who are blind or visually impaired.

**Monday, October 21, 2013 – 6pm-8pm**  
Green Mill Jazz Club | 4802 N. Broadway | Chicago, IL 60640  
[www.greenmilljazz.com](http://www.greenmilljazz.com)

Advance tickets are \$40  
Tickets at the door are \$50 (open seating)

No one under 21 years of age will be admitted.  
Tickets include light appetizers and dessert.

Purchase tickets online or over the phone by calling David DeBoer at 312.666.1331 ext 3668.

For more information, email [events@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:events@chicagolighthouse.org)





## **PARENTS' NIGHT**

at

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

- 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, October 22, 2013**

#### **Learn about your Rights and Responsibilities**

Gina Musielski, Family Resource Specialist, STAR NET

(**S**upport and **T**echnical **A**ssistance **R**egional **NET**work) will discuss:

- The Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) for ages 0-36 months, Part C of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Transitioning out of Part C and into Part B, the ***Individualized Education Program*** (IEP)

### **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

*(Continued on following page)*

# **PARENTS' NIGHT**

(Continued)

## **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

## **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](mailto:pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org)

## Start the School Year Off Right

### Learn to be an Advocate for your Child!

The Family Resource Center on Disabilities will provide information on ways to support your child both in the community and in the school system.

Date: Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

Time: 6:00 p.m. - dinner, 6:30 p.m. - presentation

Topic: "Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy"

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

**Please RSVP to Mary Zabelski at 312-997-3675  
By Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>**

**(Dinner & Child Care Provided—Siblings welcome!!)**



**The Chicago Lighthouse Vision Rehabilitation Center  
presents  
Spooktacular Halloween Fun House!**



**Costume parade, theme rooms, crafts, tricks and treats  
*ghoul-ore!***

**All ages are invited!**

**Sunday, October 28  
3:00pm - 5:00pm  
222 Waukegan Road  
Glenview, Illinois 60025**

**Please RSVP:  
Pam Stern, Manager Youth/Senior Programs  
847.510.2054  
[pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org)**





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

gladly announces that on

**Wednesday, October 30, 2013, from 10:30am - 12:00pm  
at 20 N. Michigan, Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60602**

**Equip for Equality will be hosting a meeting to discuss legal issues impacting persons with vision impairments or blindness in Illinois. The purpose of the meeting is to solicit input from the blind/visually impaired community on what issues are important, in order to provide guidance to EFE on case acceptance and proactive initiatives. Barry Taylor and Amy Peterson will participate on behalf of Equip for Equality. This meeting is open to the public, and all interested persons are encouraged to attend.**



**Please RSVP quickly to:**

**Pam Stern, Manager of Youth & Adult Enrichment Programs**

**T: 847.510.2054 or 847.510.6200**

**[pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org)**

**Van transportation is available on a 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> serve basis.  
A nominal fee of \$15 per person will cover fuel and parking.**





**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!**

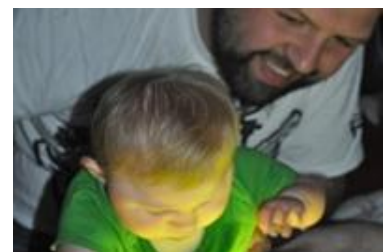
**Our books come in a variety of formats: large print; Braille, and textured. We provide the opportunity to develop a true love for reading.**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:megan.frankenbach@chicagolighthouse.org)**

**or Pam Stern, Manager of Youth and Adult Enrichment Programs**

**T: 847.510.2054; [pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org)**

**Seedlings Braille Books for Children’s 2014 Catalog is Available  
with 50 New Book Titles and a New Braille Puzzle!**

Seedlings is very excited to announce that their 2014 Catalog is now available and 50 new book titles have been added along with a new braille puzzle!

The new book list includes everything from "Animal Noises" (a Print-Braille-&Picture Book for toddlers) to "Hunger Games Book 2: Catching Fire" (a 500+ page braille fiction book for young adults). The new books are listed on their website at **www.seedlings.org** and are ready to be ordered today!

Seedlings is also featuring a chunky shapes puzzle with braille by Melissa & Doug for just \$9.00. Children can learn their shapes by playing with these fun, chunky puzzle pieces and by reading the names of the shapes that are printed on the board in print and in braille. The uncontracted braille is laser-cut into the wood! Visit their website at **www.seedlings.org** and click on the "What's New" section!

If you would like to receive a print copy of the 2014 Seedlings catalog in the mail, please send your name and address to: [info@seedlings.org](mailto:info@seedlings.org) or call: 800-777-8552, or you can download the textfile version from their website at: **www.seedlings.org**

ALSO . . .

**2013 Book Angel Program ... Register Now!**



Seedlings' Book Angel Program is open to visually-impaired children who live in the US and Canada, and through this program each child can receive 2 free Seedlings books each year (you list 4 books from our catalog and we will send 2 of them.)

If you haven't registered yet in 2013, please visit Seedlings' website at: **www.seedlings.org/special.php** and click on "Book Angel Program."

Seedlings Braille Books for Children is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing the opportunity for literacy by providing high-quality, low-cost children's literature in braille. Volunteers, grants and donations make it possible for us to offer our books at a fraction of the production costs, and prices have not been raised for over 25 years!

**Seedlings Braille Books for Children  
14151 Farmington Road  
Livonia, MI 48154  
1-800-777-8552(phone/fax) • [info@seedlings.org](mailto:info@seedlings.org)  
[www.seedlings.org](http://www.seedlings.org)**



## Epic Portability Portix Magnifier

So you've seen the Portix, heard it's features and maybe even seen one. What you haven't seen or heard is how it stacks up to the competition.

Portix is unique. It's epic portability is unmatched in such a small package. I'm sure you have seen smaller handheld magnifiers, but nothing like a laptop size portable magnifier. It is the perfect companion for the any active lifestyle. How many of use travel or take our laptop with us. Portix is well suited to fit into any on the go lifestyle. It is small enough to carry, yet big enough to feel like a desktop magnifier with all of its features and it's 10.4" LCD screen.



For More Information go to <http://www.clarixusa.com/index.php/products/portix>



<http://www.clarixusa.com/>

2385 Cimarron Dr., Santa Clara, CA 95051  
<http://www.clarixusa.com>  
408-409-7333  
fax: 408-625-7183

**The Jewish Guild Healthcare and the NY Lighthouse have announced their merger between both organizations to become Lighthouse Guild International.**

I am pleased to share some exciting news with you: the Guild has reached an agreement to join forces with the Lighthouse and become Lighthouse Guild International.

As two of the most well respected vision organizations in the world, together we will offer the broadest array and most comprehensive scope of services currently available to individuals who are blind or visually impaired. This partnership will serve as a model for vision and health organizations around the world.

There are no plans to close any facilities or eliminate any programs. While the corporate name on our buildings will change, our focus will remain on expanding and enhancing the scope of our services and programs.

Alan Morse will serve as President and Chief Executive Officer, and Mark G. Ackermann, the Lighthouse's current President & CEO will be Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President. James M. Dubin, the Guild's current chairman, will be Chairman of Lighthouse Guild and Joseph A. Ripp, current Chair of the Lighthouse will serve as Vice-Chairman. We will manage Lighthouse Guild International with a team of executives from both organizations.

Lighthouse Guild International will be a full integration of programs and services, a process that we expect to be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2014. I am committed to providing as much information to you as soon as possible as the process unfolds. You

can also direct questions to [mergerinfo@guildhealth.org](mailto:mergerinfo@guildhealth.org)

Your help and support will be critical as we begin an exciting new chapter in our long history. I thank you for your continuing contributions to our success.

Alan R. Morse, JD, PhD  
President and CEO

Submitted by Pam Stern, NAPVI Region 3 Regional Representative.

**SAVE THE DATE: TOWN HALL MEETING**

*Attention Families of CPS Students with Disabilities!*

- Please attend a special education town hall where you can:
- Testify about your child's experiences in CPS Special Education
- Learn about resources to help advocate for your child's IEP
- Meet other students, families, and allies!



Saturday, October 19, 10 am to 1 pm  
(10-12 town hall, 12-1 resource fair)  
Access Living, 115 W. Chicago Avenue,  
Chicago, IL

Contact: Rod Estvan  
(312) 640-2149 or [restvan@accessliving.org](mailto:restvan@accessliving.org)

Sponsoring Organizations: Access Living, Family Resource Center on Disabilities, and Equip for Equality, Family Support Network, Illinois, Illinois Life Span Project of the Arc



**FRCD**



**REGISTER FOR YOUR FREE PARENT WORKSHOP TODAY!**

Space is limited; registration is mandatory Please visit [www.frcd.org](http://www.frcd.org) or call 312-939-3513 for registration and workshop location.

**Reaching Our Dreams**  
Tuesday, October 8, 4pm

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

Tuesday, October 15, 4pm  
Thursday, October 17, 4pm

**The Empowered FE-FE's**  
Friday, October 18, 4:30pm

**Reaching Our Dreams**  
Tuesday, October 22, 4pm

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

Thursday, October 24, 7am

**Stepping Stones of Transition**

Friday, October 25, 7am  
Tuesday, October 29, 4pm

-----  
**The Family Resource Center on Disabilities (FRCD) offers parents of children with disabilities birth to 21 years old, their helpers, relatives, professionals, and interested community members no-cost training and workshops, telephone and e-mail assistance, and resources to help claim their role as the child's most effective and significant advocate.**

**You are invited to contact FRCD for infor-**

mation, resources, support and training.

**1-312-939-3513 | [info@frcd.org](mailto:info@frcd.org) | [www.frcd.org](http://www.frcd.org)  
20 East Jackson Blvd., Room 300  
Chicago, IL 60604**

**Parent Training About Affecting Legislative Change**

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandates the services children with disabilities receive from the school system. IDEA will be reauthorized soon; it is critical that parents voice their concerns to legislators so students with disabilities can receive better services.



The University of Illinois at Chicago is offering free training for parents of students with disabilities. Parents who participate in this training will be able to:

1. Participate in the legislative process to change special education policy.
2. Become more comfortable speaking to legislators and sharing concerns.

The training will be held on:

Oct. 22nd from 9:30am to 12:30pm  
Oct. 29th from 9:30am to 12:30pm  
1640 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago, IL

*\*\*You must attend both training sessions\*\**

To register for the training, please contact Meghan Burke at: [meghanbm@uic.edu](mailto:meghanbm@uic.edu) or 312-413-5557.

The training is FREE. Parents will be reimbursed for their attendance and will receive food at the training.



Illinois Council of the Blind

## ICB Annual Convention

The ICB Annual Convention happens every fall.

Please **SAVE THE DATES** and plan on joining us for the 2013 convention, being held October 11-13, 2013, once again at the Crowne Plaza hotel, Springfield, Illinois.

Meanwhile, if you have suggestions regarding the convention, please either contact our office at 217-523-4967, or e-mail us at [icb@icbonline.org](mailto:icb@icbonline.org).

### 9th Annual Illinois Statewide Transition Conference:

October 24-25, 2013

Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham, Illinois

The 9th Annual Transition Conference titled "Stepping Stones of Transition", for high school aged students and young adults with disabilities, their family members and teachers, vocational professionals, caregivers, health care professionals, college students pursuing careers in special education and community.



### NFB State Convention

*Determine Your Future Self*

On October 25th, 26th, and 27th, 2013, enthusiastic Federationists will assemble in Bloomington to renew our dedication in the pursuit of security, equality, and opportunity for all blind people.

The state convention of an NFB affiliate represents, in most cases, an annual opportunity for Federationists and other interested people throughout a state to assemble. These conventions generally feature substantive blindness-related programming, deliberations on state and local policy matters, administration of internal organizational business, special exhibits of interest to members, and more. Like the National Convention of the NFB, state conventions allow members from local chapters across a particular state to gather, reunion-style, to renew old acquaintances and meet new friends. The mix of formal and casual events work together to create an event that most look forward to attending every year. A few of our affiliates hold

two conventions each year. Each affiliate's convention is slightly different, reflecting the local traditions, practices, and cultural flavors of the state. Without exception, though, you can be sure that a state convention of the NFB promises to be the highlight of the affiliate's year. Plan to attend the NFB affiliate convention this year!

### 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.



### MAKING SENSE

**New HD Pebble Magnifier:** Second Sense's Consumer Product Center has just received the new HD portable video magnifier and this is one you can't appreciate until you try it out! This new magnifier has a 4.3" screen, 1.25X to 13.5X magnification capacity, 28 color schemes and freeze frame with image save capability. It also has a talking clock and cal-

endar! Brian Hollandsworth is available to demonstrate this great new hand-held magnifier—just stop in or give him a call at 312-236-8569 for your one-on-one consultation.

**Achilles of Chicago:** Interested in running? This international organization is partnering with the Northwestern running club to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in mainstream athletics. Membership is free and running sessions are every Sunday at 9:00 am at Ohio Street Beach. Volunteers will run or walk along at your pace. Interested athletes can email [achilles.chicago@gmail.com](mailto:achilles.chicago@gmail.com) or call Alex at 530-386-4607.

**Museum of Science and Industry Experiential Exhibits:** One of Chicago's most popular museums has several experiential exhibits for people of all ages. Listen to what 1.5 million volts of electricity sounds like, or what 80 mph winds of a tornado feels like in the Science Storms exhibit. Hear the real time beat of your heart in the Giant Heart-Project. Discover how taste and smell combine to make flavors at the Candy Shop in the Taste Buddies exhibit. Many other exhibits offer similar experiences involving all your senses. For more information, call Meredith Black at the Museum of Science and Industry, 773-753-7058.

*Reprinted from MAKING SENSE, October 2013, Second Sense, Beyond vision loss, 65 East Wacker Place, Suite 1010, Chicago, IL 60601, 312-236-8569, [www.second-sense.org](http://www.second-sense.org).*



**IPVI**

**P.O. Box 2947, Naperville, IL 60567-2947**

1-815-355-2098 • Email: [ipvi@ipvi.org](mailto:ipvi@ipvi.org) • [www.ipvi.org](http://www.ipvi.org)



**Jonathan Buka, MD**  
**Alexander J. Khammar, MD**  
**Benjamin H. Ticho, MD**  
**Karl E. Ticho, MD**

10436 Southwest Highway  
Chicago Ridge, IL 60415  
708.423.4070

600 Ravinia Place  
Orland Park, IL 60462  
708.873.0088

40 S. Clay - 118E  
Hinsdale, IL 60521  
630.323.4202

**PRESIDENT**

Bill Bielawski  
421 Applegate Court  
Naperville, IL 60565  
(630) 357-8576  
[wjbielawski@ipvi.org](mailto:wjbielawski@ipvi.org)

**OPERATIONS VP**

Rich Zabelski  
6153 N. Nettleton Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60631  
(773) 774-4742  
[richzabelski@ameritech.net](mailto:richzabelski@ameritech.net)

**SERVICES VP**

Judy Metoyer  
221 S. Princeton  
Itasca, IL 60143  
(630) 414-0825  
[metoyer.j@sbcglobal.net](mailto:metoyer.j@sbcglobal.net)

**TREASURER**

Vicki Juskie  
21170 Deerpath Road  
Frankfort, IL 60423  
(815) 464-6162  
[vajuskie@aol.com](mailto:vajuskie@aol.com)

**SECRETARY**

Dawn Wojtowicz  
9188 161<sup>st</sup> Place  
Orland Hills, IL 60487  
708-590-6447  
[deeder0477@aol.com](mailto:deeder0477@aol.com)

**NAPVI REGION 3 REPRESENTATIVE**

Pam Stern  
1912 Mission Hills Lane  
Northbrook, IL 60062  
847-217-7590  
[pamstern3@gmail.com](mailto:pamstern3@gmail.com)

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

**Have questions or need more information?**

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



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

Please contact IPVI to see if you are  
up-to-date on your dues at the  
address on the left or  
1-815-355-2098  
Email: [ipvi@ipvi.org](mailto:ipvi@ipvi.org)  
[www.ipvi.org](http://www.ipvi.org)

## IPVI CALENDAR

▶ 10/11-13	ICB Annual Convention	Springfield
▶ 10/17-19	APH Annual Meeting	Louisville, KY
▶ 10/18	Lighthouse North Movie Night	Glenview
▶ 10/19	Attention Families of CPS Students with Disabilities!	Chicago
▶ 10/21	Lighthouse Jazz Night	Chicago
▶ 10/22	Lighthouse North Parents' Night	Glenview
▶ 10/23	Start the School Year Off Right (Lighthouse/FRCD)	Chicago
▶ 10/24-25	9th Annual Illinois Statewide Transition Conference	Effingham
▶ 10/25-27	NFB of Illinois 2013 State Convention	Bloomington
▶ 10/28	Lighthouse North Spooktacular Halloween Fun House!	Glenview
▶ 10/30	Lighthouse North Equip for Equality	Chicago
▶ 11/9	Play for All (Lighthouse/IPVI Families)	Chicago
▶ 11/16	<i>IPVI: THE NEXT GENERATION</i> (Annual Meeting)	Naperville
▶ 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  
NOVEMBER is OCTOBER 15<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...