

# IPVI INSIGHTS

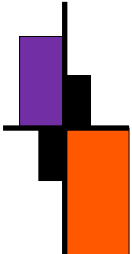
*Connecting & Supporting Families Whose Children are Visually Impaired, Including Those with Additional Disabilities*

**October  
2016**



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Filiberto Almendarez III



The Paralympic was exciting. Their Motto is truly felt, "Spirit in motion". Always moving forward and never giving up. This year's Paralympic had a 163 Countries participating. The United States placed in 4th with 115 Medals. 40 Gold medals, 44 Silver and 31 Bronze. China was in 1st place with 239 Medals followed by Great Britain with 147 and Ukraine in 3rd with 117. Team USA competed in 25 Sports with 280 Athletes in 283 Events. Of the sports, several involved visual impairments. They included Goalball, Judo, Track and Field, Cycling, Equestrian, Football 5 A Side, Sailing, Swimming and Triathlon. In reference to Goalball, 14 countries with 119 athletes in 2 events participated. The USA Men's won Silver and the Women won Bronze. The last time this occurred was 12 years ago in 2004. Judo had various divisions. The USA won a Bronze in the Women's +70kg division and in the Men's -90kg division. Great job USA. Congratulations to our talented Athletes and Thank You for setting/continuing the stage for more to follow. If, you have a Paralympic story, please reach out and relate. Also, it's amazing what one can accomplish by trying while having fun. Again, find your interest and work at it. Who knows how far you may go. Everyone is not perfect at everything, so search your heart for your passion. As I stated before, "You only fail, when you fail to TRY!"

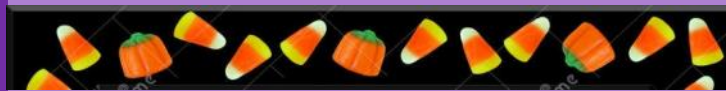
Go for the Gold future Champions!





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**MEMORIES OF  
HEIDI MUSSER**

Prepared for: IPVI Insights - Issue October 2016

***I AM WANTED! I AM NEEDED!***

Over the past few weeks, I have become acquainted with a world that I had no idea existed. I also had no idea that I would play such an important role within that world. It is the world of seniors at Alden North Shore Rehabilitation and Health Care Center in Skokie, where my father Frederick Musser was transferred from Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge on August 31.

I am in demand for playing popular and patriotic songs on the piano. Songs from the past that are anchored in the mind of individuals, who are in their 70ties, 80ties, 90ties and even one female resident, who will celebrate her 100th birthday on November 30, 2016.

Before I start playing, numerous individuals generally declare: "I can't sing. I don't know how." However, it happened a few times that the ones claiming that they cannot sing, start singing within one minute of my playing and then, sing *unaware* that they sing the loudest, and continue singing solo after I stopped playing a song.

I have played at a few occasions and now I am enjoying popularity! When I walk in the hallway or dining room with my mother, many approach me: "Heidi, when are you playing again?"

Recently, when we were waiting in front of the elevator to return home for the evening,

*(Continued on page 4)*



## **PLAY FOR ALL**

### **CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE *and* IPVI FAMILIES**

**A morning of fun for everyone**

**The Chicago Children's Museum at Navy Pier  
700 E. Grand Avenue, Suite 127  
Chicago, IL 60611**

**Saturday, November 12, 2016**

**Pre-registered families 9:00 - 1:00**

**General public 10:00 - 1:00+**

**To register or for more information, please contact:  
Gail Patterson at the Chicago Lighthouse -  
(312) 997-3695**

**Pre-registration includes:  
Free admission for Chicago Lighthouse &  
IPVI Families  
Free shuttle from the Chicago Lighthouse to  
Navy Pier**

**(first 50 people only!!!)**



(Continued from page 2) - Memories of Heidi Musser

Kevin, whose mother is Irish and loves Irish songs stopped us and said: "I take Heidi by the hand and you, Erika, please push my Mom's wheelchair, and let us sit outside for a little while." I had no choice but to say: "OK".

When sitting at a round-table outside in fresh air, Kevin took my right hand and asked me to hold his Mom's right hand that felt somewhat cold. He asked me to send his love via me to her. She and I sang together the Irish Lullaby "Over In Killarney Many Years Ago..." Somehow, I felt the smile of his mother, who is 88 years old and raised seven children.

Among Alden's residents, I am not considered a secondary citizen, because I am blind. Nobody cares as long as I am their friend, play the piano and help them to unlock songs within them from way back.

I feel I have found a new path in life. Maybe I can do what medical experts cannot do? I was *unready* in my heart for such a life's path before my father became seriously ill. Thank you so very much Opa -- that's what we all call him within our family -- for directing me towards the Light through your pain and suffering. I LOVE YOU so dearly!

\* \* \*

Please write me:

hmusser@msn.com

It is a warm, uplifting story that has readers laugh one minute and wipe away tears the next. It is about a 10-year old boy, who was born with a facial difference; he was home schooled until he started fifth grade when things surprisingly change.

This book is recommended for middle grade and young adult readers. Don't wait until the holidays. Order it now: [www.seedlings.org](http://www.seedlings.org)

Erika A. Musser (Heidi's Mom)



Teaching Visually Impaired Children by Virginia E. Bishop

This book is 'so comprehensive in scope and complete in detail that it would be the most likely one I could recommend' (from the foreword by Dr. Natalie C. Barraga).

There is a new chapter on the prenatal and early postnatal development of the visual system, and another entire chapter on gifted children who are also visually impaired- information not usually available in other textbooks.



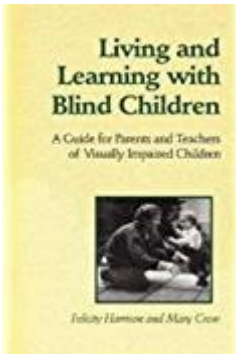
Debra Bonde from Seedlings Braille Book for Children surprised me with the excellent news via e-mail that the book "WONDER" by R. J. Palacio is now available in UEB Braille (4 Volumes).



I'm Starting to Walk - I can use a cane!: introducing orientation...

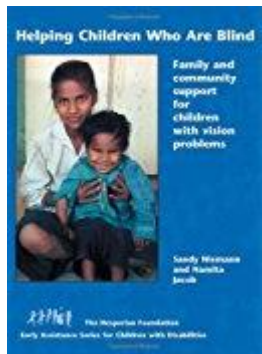
This booklet describes techniques used by the author to introduce orientation and mobility (O&M) skills to very young children who are blind or have low vision. Skills covered include guiding, independent trav-

el skills, early introduction of the long cane and the promotion of independence.



Living and Learning with Blind Children: A Guide for Parents and Teachers of the Visually Impaired  
By Felicity Harrison

Blind and visually impaired children experience the world in unique ways. To help them learn and develop, parents and teachers need to understand how such children relate to their environment.



Helping Children Who Are Blind by Sandy Niemann

Children develop faster during their first five years than at any other stage in their life. And while children who are not visually impaired learn to move around, communicate, and understand the world naturally as they interact with people and things they see, children who are blind need extra help learning how to rely on their other senses - hearing, touch, smell, and taste - to explore, learn and interact with the world around them.

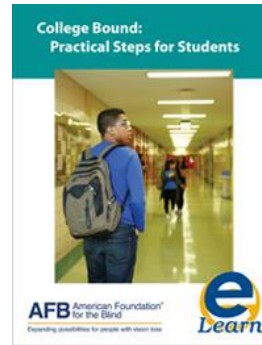
## FAMILY CONNECT WEBSITE

### College Bound: Practical Steps for Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

Date Posted: 9/14/16

Transitioning to college and work is often a challenge for students who are blind or visually impaired. Success in college requires more than just academic knowledge. Too often students arrive on campus lacking the basic

skills they need to be successful. This 2-part webinar, College Bound: Practical Steps for Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired, provides teachers and service providers suggestions for preparing their students for the transition to college and work.



It is presented by AFB staff members **Neva Fairchild**, National Independent Living & Employment Specialist, who is blind and has served as a vocational counselor for college students, and **Ike Presley**, National Project Manager, who has low vision and is a former teacher of the visually impaired. Neva and Ike discuss the following topics:

#### Part 1:

- Organizational skills
- Time Management skills
- Social skills
- Independent Living skills
- Orientation and Mobility skills
- Self-advocacy skills
- Access Technology skills

#### Part 2:

- Study skills
- Accommodations and leveraging the Disability Services Office
- Employment skills

This 2.5 hour webinar has been approved for continuing education credit by ACVREP and can be purchased for \$49 from the AFB Store at [www.afb.org/store](http://www.afb.org/store). The webinar is pre-recorded and will be available to you for a full year to access when it is most convenient.

There is no specific date and time you need to be available.

Order this informative webinar today!

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## Paralympics and Our Newly Motivated Children

By Shannon Carollo



Parents, I know you are as impressed with the Paralympic athletes as I am! Absolutely remarkable displays of power, speed, strength, agility, resolve, and grit: unequivocal athleticism. I watched them, just as I watched the Olympic athletes, and felt a surge of adrenaline...like I needed to pick up a set of boxing gloves and release my inner athlete. I realize that's because these individuals are champions, whether or not they have a disability, and champions inspire us to get in the game. My hope is your children and my children watched this year's games and/or listened to the audio descriptions and are inspired to take up a sport, exert their bodies, and gain strength.

While I stated the athletes are champions regardless of disabilities, the fact that the Paralympians do have disabilities hits close to home in our community. And though I've heard a handful of Paralympic athletes state they wish to simply enjoy their sport and not

be put on a pedestal, I daresay our children with visual impairments need to see skilled athletes who pursued their hobbies into excellence. They need to see it and we're watching; we're celebrating the Rio achievements of blind athletes; and we're allowing our children to be motivated to get in the game!

Now that our kiddos are motivated, here's what to do:

- Read FamilyConnect's blog post, Why and How to Include Your Child Who Is Blind or Visually Impaired in Sports.
- Consider joining the United States Association of Blind Athletes; your child can meet locals with visual impairments who have similar interests and can participate in sports camps, clinics, and tournaments.
- Take it from this poignant article on Huffington Post, How Not to Cheer at Your Kid's Games. This is a fantastic article about chilling out on the sidelines and allowing our children to enjoy sports.

So, thanks Paralympians for your dedication to your sport; we want in!

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Please contact IPVI to see if you are up-to-date on your dues at  
1-773-882-1331  
Email: [ipvi@ipvi.org](mailto:ipvi@ipvi.org)  
[www.ipvi.org](http://www.ipvi.org)



*Shared by cmellor on April 27, 2016*

### **Helping a blind child to understand the senses at the farm**

Farm animals are a perennial favorite with young children, and feature prominently in games, learning activities and early literature. *Read more at*

*<http://www.wonderbaby.org/resources/helping-blind-child-understand-senses-farm>*



*By Kimberly Schildbach*

### **Make Your Own Comparing Bag**

Parents, teachers and therapists! Are you looking for ways for your blind child or student to experience tactual exploration in a safe, confined space? Then let me show you how to make your own "Comparing Bag" to explore various textures and shapes for under \$10 using tactually interesting objects found at your local hardware store. *Read more at* <http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/comparing-bag>



*By Judith Carter*

### **When My School Gave Up on My Special Needs Son**

Here's a truth I'm sure you will agree with: Raising a child, any child, is hard. Kids don't come with instruction manuals and we parents are often left wondering if we made the right decisions. Throw significant special needs into the mix and things just get that much harder. *Read more at* <http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/when-our-school-gave-up-on-my-special-needs-son>



*By Amber Bobnar*

### **My Baby Is Blind... What Do I Do?**

When your baby is diagnosed with a visual impairment you may feel lost at first. Like many parents, you've probably never known anyone who was blind and blindness wasn't anything you've ever really spent much time thinking about. *Read more at* <http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/my-baby-is-blind>

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

APH NEWS

**Adults Jamming to the Joy Player!**

The Joy Player is a personal electronic device that allows individuals with visual and multiple impairments to access music and audio books. The Joy Player differs from other music playing devices on the commercial market and from the National Library Service's Digital Talking Book Player because it is designed to accommodate individuals who are developing fine motor skills, have limited mobility, or cognitive disability in addition to a visual impairment.



Recently, APH visited Zoom Group, a local service provider for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Watch as team members learn to operate The Joy Player for the first time!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyqLZFWqmOY>

**NEW! Video Mag HD: \$499.00 + shipping**

**A robust, kid-friendly handheld video magnifier**

American Printing House for the Blind and Freedom Scientific have partnered to develop the Video Mag HD, a durable, handheld high definition video magnifier available using Federal Quota funds! <http://www.aph.org/news/>



**NEW! Little Paths: Large Print and UEB braille: \$149.00**

"There are paths"... begins this simple tactile book with more than 10 diverse textures for the young child to trace with is fingers. Set against a black background, the colorful paths are easily seen and felt. The print/braille text, contracted Unified English Braille (UEB), tells the story of rough, rugged paths, paths that zig and zag, and paths like waves. Some paths climb mountains, some lead nowhere, and others offer choices..." And then there is the path of life, the most beautiful path of all." <http://www.aph.org/news/>







## 2016 Summer Lunch and Learn Webinars NOW Available on Demand?

Did you miss this summer's Lunch and Learn Webinars or you know of a friend, family member or co-worker that could benefit from the information shared? You can now view them on in demand.



### Lekotek and the Power of Therapeutic Play

Lekotek is a nonprofit organization that works with children and families with special needs. This organization conducts therapeutic play sessions, family support groups, and education for the special needs community; parents and professionals. This program with focus on Lekotek services and how its services can benefit parents. Supporting Materials:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-kggh8tldiQ2FNGLtveeD76tvBtJsP0posN1zhp6Q4A/edit?usp=sharing>



### Seizure Recognition and First Aid Presentation

This free educational program is designed to inform the general public about epilepsy and seizure disorders. Professional public health educators will cover seizure recognition and first aid, seizures and safety, epilepsy treatment, and how to assist someone having a seizure while providing appropriate first aid techniques. Supporting Material:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qc1k78eu\\_02FyYwv6EjHIXFcDM5FedQjH7x-xt-L1Nk/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qc1k78eu_02FyYwv6EjHIXFcDM5FedQjH7x-xt-L1Nk/edit?usp=sharing)



### ADHD Special Education Webinar Series

**The Impact of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD):** Oct 19, 2016 at 12:00 PM CDT  
Register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/77579718460040964>

**Accommodations for Students with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD):** Oct. 26, 2016 at 12:00 PM CDT. Register at:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7218526210330535938>

**School Behavior and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD):** Nov. 2, 2016 at 12:00 PM CDT. Register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/321628418873185540>

**IPVI**

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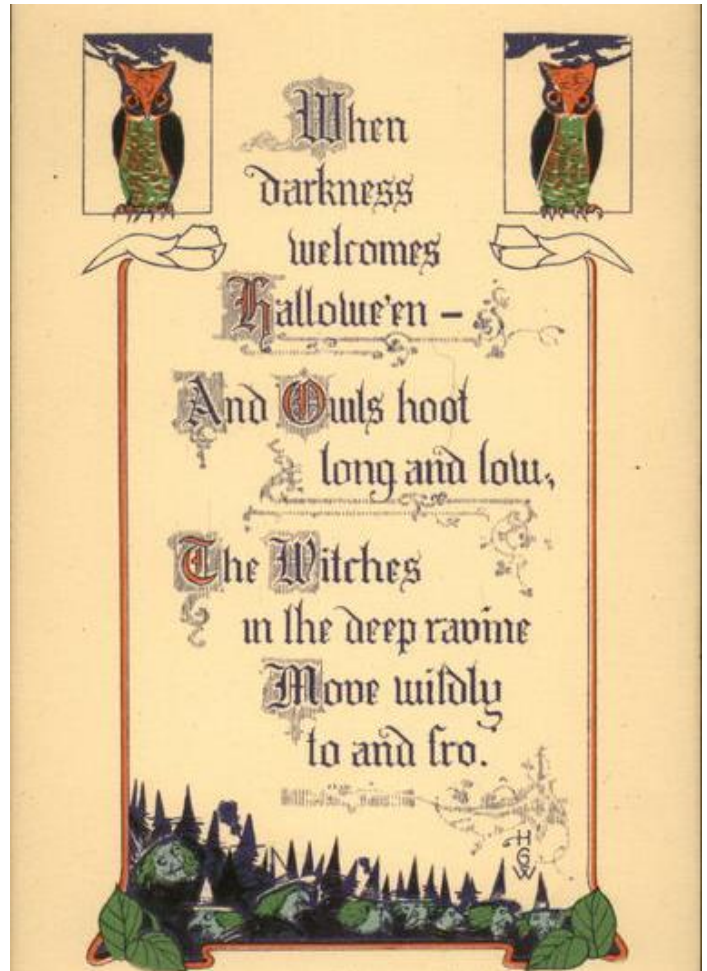
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**SPANISH TRANSLATOR**

Noelia Gamino





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

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

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

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

## What does IPVI do?

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

Check one:

Parent/Guardian Membership: \$15 per year.

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

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

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

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

Group/Agency Membership \$50 per year.

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

Medical Specialist \$50 per year.

Scholarship Fund \$10.00

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

New Membership

Renewal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Have questions or need more information?**

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

**Illinois Association for Parents of  
Children with Visual Impairments  
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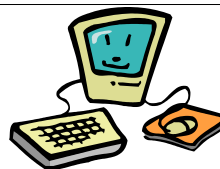
## **IPVI CALENDAR**

► **11/12**    **PLAY FOR ALL** - Chicago Lighthouse and IPVI

Chicago

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

**Newsletter Deadline for  
November is October 15**



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

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