

IPVI INSIGHTS

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

September
2013

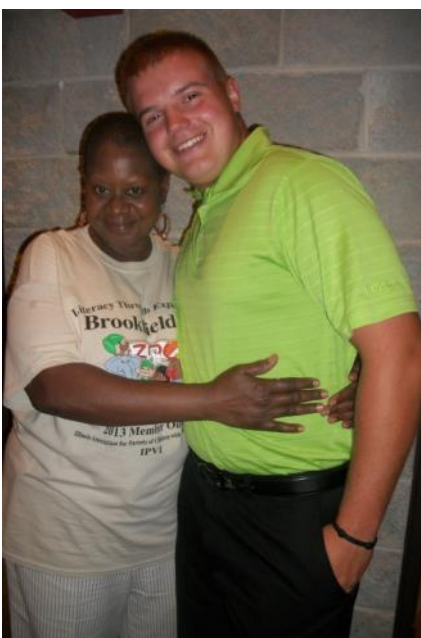


BROOKFIELD ZOO MEMBERS ONLY OUTING

7-20-13

IPVI and its members would like to give a great big thank you to The Chicago Zoological Society, Diane Wehrmeister, the zoo's docents, dolphin trainers, parking lot personnel, and lunch staff. The Brookfield outing this year was incredible. We had 103 attendees on an extremely mild, sunny day. Our lunch was fantastic and this extra dolphin show was unique. We went up in three small groups so all of our families could be up close. We appreciate all of you so much for attending.

Mr. Frank Davis of the 100% Foundation was unable to attend but his lovely wife and family shared in our experience. Again, we express our deep appreciation to them for providing the tickets, lunch, and parking. We also wish to express our gratitude to our vendor, The World of Tees. Gloria Udell and Gail Patterson the the Chicago Lighthouse did an exceptional job at handling the behind the scenes t-shirt ordering and distribution as usual. We appreciate them immensely. We missed you Mary because you had to attend another function, but all of your other work prior to the outing really helped it run smoothly. Joan Bielawski also gets a loud shout out for all the computer database updating and newsletter writing she does.



During our lunch, we had a never-ending pizza buffet as usual. Our keynote speaker was Matthew Juskie. He spoke about the importance of parental involvement throughout a child's school career to ensure the child is successful no matter the vision or medical issues faced.

Our extra raffle at lunch had the following talking items: 3 watches, 2 clocks and a calculator which were won by Liliana Vujic, Cortez Huntley, Martese Jackson, Paige Rodriguea, and Angela Juskie (who donated it back for another family to win). We also collected \$164 in the split the pot raffle and the Vujic family won \$82. They so graciously donated these monies back to IPVI. Thank you all for having participated in such a wonderful way.

Our families spent the rest of the afternoon looking at the various exhibits and animals. Thanks again to all of our IPVI members who joined us this day, and we hope to see you again each year on the third Saturday in July.

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IPVI Needs New Officers

Bill Bielawski, IPVI President

We will hold elections at our annual meeting in November (time and place to be announced). The five officers (all must be parent members) make up the Board of Directors.

The **President** is the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Board of Directors, presides at all meetings, and has general supervision and direction of all corporate affairs.

The **Operations Vice President** supports volunteers doing Fundraising, Audit, Membership, Nominating, Networking, and Publicity.

The **Services Vice President** supports volunteers doing Program Planning, Newsletter, Public Information, Scholarship, Representatives, and Training.

The **Treasurer** collects and receives all monies and deposits them in a bank, pays all bills, prepares financial statements, prepares the annual budget, bills and issues receipts for dues.

The **Secretary** keeps the minutes, is custodian of the corporate records and the seal of the corporation, presents a written report of the previous year's work at the annual meeting, issues all general notices, takes charge of all correspondence, files an annual report with the Secretary of State, supplies the bank with the names of the new Officers each year, and files any other reports legally required.

These officers meet by phone, usually once per month, but no less than once per quarter.

Please consider being an officer. To volunteer as an officer or any other committee, please call me at 630-357-8576.

All of us at the Dolphin Show!



MS. VIC'S VOLLEYS

Victoria Juskie, IPVI Treasurer

VOLLEY I

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

No new members have joined this period.

VOLLEY II

On Page 70 of the Reader's Digest July 2013 issue, there was an interesting blurb about Helen Keller. This was included in a column called POP! Digest – Weird - **5 People You Didn't Know Had FBI Files** written by Beth Dreher and edited by Alison Caporimo. In Ms. Keller's section it read:

"Helen Keller, the first deaf and blind person to receive a bachelor's degree, attracted FBI attention for most of the early 20th century. As a socialist, an outspoken critic of President Woodrow Wilson, a birth control supporter and a founding member of the American Civil Liberties Union, Keller was considered a radical at the time."

The other four characters in the article were Steve Jobs, Jackie Robinson, Charlie Chaplin, and Walt Disney.

I found this fascinating that one of America's most inspiring people, a woman who was deaf and blind, had the government worried. Helen's company in this article puts her higher in my esteem as well. Only in America can such heights be reached because we truly do live in a country based on the belief that all men are created equal.

So my tip of the day is to dream big for your visually impaired child just the way you do for any of your other children and expect this child to succeed. Why? Because he/she can

do extraordinary things if empowered. New parents, get the child into Early Intervention. At age 3 the State of Illinois steps in to commence IEP's based on the needs of your child, which continues through 12th Grade. Remember there are no one-size-fits-all solutions to the issues your child may have, so your team must work together to assist him/her. As a parent, remember you're the most experienced teacher of your child. You know what he or she can do better than the others. Let your voice be heard, but also learn to listen to experts. They also may have ideas that can help you. The ultimate goal is to educate your child in the most conducive environment to her/his learning. If the parents take on a can-do attitude while respectfully suggesting tips you've learned, the team from the school should be able to work out a plan best suited for your child.

I know it's hard work fellow parents. I can't tell you how many times I pulled my hair out trying different approaches, but I kept trying until something worked. That's what Annie Sullivan did for Helen and that's what we parents do for our kids. And who knows? Maybe your child will succeed so well that he becomes an inspiration to those around him and creates a following strong enough to get noticed. Heck, he may even make a name for himself in the history books. Just saying, it can happen. Just ask Helen or Annie. :D



THANK YOU MEMBERS

Our dear members, thanks again for responding to the request for membership dues as well as the other donations sent. We appreciate every dollar donated, and you can be assured it is used to benefit our members in the most judicious manner. We awarded three

scholarships this year for \$1,500. We also donated to the Comets Beep Baseball Team, and held numerous parent training meetings in conjunction with the Lighthouse. All of this is because of your generous help in funding our efforts. We can't do it without you. God bless you and your families.



LIONS CLUB NEWS



IPVI would like to thank Tom Crohurst of the Palos Lions Club, together with the 16 members present at the Thursday, July 17, 2013 Silverlake Country Club meeting. Matthew Juskie extends his appreciation for the opportunity to speak to you about his vision challenges and triumphs and the wonderful services he received from the Chicago Lighthouse.

We at IPVI also extend heartfelt thanks for the \$500 donation. God bless all of you for volunteering your time to help others through the many fundraising projects the Lions Clubs oversee.

Yes You Can! How to encourage your blind child without pushing too hard



"Devastated."

I hear that word a lot. "When we first discovered our son was blind we were devastated..."

I understand that. I've experienced it myself. But it's funny how, now over two years after the so-called devastation, it's so hard to imagine that I ever felt that way. My son, Ivan, just seems so perfect and so full of potential and possibilities.

But there certainly was a time when all I could think about were all the things Ivan would not be able to do as a blind child. He'll never blow bubbles, fly a kite, or watch Sesame Street. Probably because coloring was always a favorite activity for me as a child, I kept returning to the thought that he would never color in a coloring book. How could a blind child possibly have fun with colors?

Eventually I realized that I was really stuck in the world of can't, so I began trying to think more positively. I started to say to myself, "Ivan can do anything he wants to do!" He can color, fly a kite, go to the movies, play sports, and whatever else he puts his mind to!

This is a much better attitude, but it also has a dangerous down side that I almost got caught up in. It's hard to remember that it's possible to be too positive. Not only will Ivan definitely face limitations, I also risked pushing him into activities just for the sake of proving that my blind child can do all that a sighted child can.

I suddenly pictured myself forcing Ivan to play soccer or color in that coloring book just because that's what all the "normal" kids are doing. It made me shudder.

I didn't want to foster the attitude that Ivan can do things simply because I desperately need him to. I see this with parents of blind children every day: They push their child to fit in or to participate in activities that don't interest them simply for the benefit of the parent. I think it's very important to remember:

My child will do what he wants to do because he wants to do it or because it benefits him in some way.

Now I try to be more realistic in my expectations of Ivan. With coloring, for example, I still think that this is something Ivan can do, but now I think about how we can make the activity as entertaining and beneficial for him as possible.

Activities like coloring and painting are good for Ivan because they strengthen his hands, encourage grasp, and facilitate wrist rotation. They're fun because there are more elements to coloring and painting than just the visual; crayons and paints, for example, have a distinct smell and feel.

Also, since Ivan is blind, we can experiment with different ways to make coloring and painting exciting for him: We can finger paint with pudding, then eat our art; we can draw with scented markers; we can place sandpaper under our drawing paper so that the crayon marks are raised; or we can make art with strings, buttons, curled lengths of paper, and other three-dimensional objects. Whatever we do, it will be beneficial because we will explore Ivan's other senses while encouraging him to participate in those "normal" childhood activities. And most importantly, it will be fun because we'll only do it if Ivan finds it enjoyable.

I do believe that Ivan can do almost anything and that nearly any activity presents some sort of learning opportunity. The only way Ivan will learn about the world is through interacting with it. Of course, Ivan may not be interested in art at all - he may be more of an action kind of guy, and that's fine, too. We won't discourage him from running or riding a bike any more than we would discourage him from playing with paints and crayons!

Remember that your child is a child first. Don't think of your child as a blind or handicapped child. Their disability is an integral part of who they are but does not define who they are as a person. Some kids like to draw and others don't; some kids like to run and others don't. Let your child explore the world in their own unique way, encourage this exploration, but don't push them into activities just because it will make you feel better about their disability!



ASK M@



Hey, everyone. Welcome to another edition of Insights Ask M@. Hope everyone is doing well. I know all you parents out there are just giddy because school is back in session, and we kids are out of your hair.

For this month, I have a topic that is meaningful to me -- I mean, all these topics are, but this one is for sure, and I think it will definitely really help the parents and their children. What I want to talk to you about is when a child has a disability, such as a visual impairment, this really shouldn't mean that they need to be treated like royalty. Now I know that's a little vague terminology so I will explain. I personally have known many kids in high school who have a disability -- not a vision impairment -- but other various physical disabilities. At this point in my life though, I am not friends with some of these individuals. The reason for this has everything to do with a disability but not the one on their IEP's. As insensitive as this sounds, it's not what you think. It's their attitude that causes others to steer clear of them.

Ever since some of the kids with issues were in diapers, their parents treated them differently than other children. They put them on this platform above everybody else, almost making them and their entire families believe that they are better than others and they can do no wrong. The parents over compensated for the child's disability. This is a mistake because, in other words, they've absolutely spoiled them. By spoiled I mean that one was babied too long. The child expects other kids to treat them as their parents did, and this causes many social issues when they get older. They appear to have a cockiness like

they're in command and everything must be their way because they've been given their way too often and never learned the word "no" or to be polite.

Now how does this relate? Well, basically sometimes when a family is hit with the horrible news that their child has been diagnosed with a visual impairment or other disability, it is hard for them to deal with it. The only suggestion I can be sure of making is to just treat this kid like any other. Assist them where needed, but help them while they're young to learn how to be self-sufficient as possible and to self-advocate. This will be huge down the road...TRUST ME. I have been told I am a good self-advocate for what I need, and it makes things so much easier. However, I don't expect people to do things for me just because I have a vision issue. I do my best to do for myself. I don't act like people owe me something since I've had a tougher time of it. When I ask for help, I do it respectfully.

Now going back to the cockiness, when you do these things early on, make sure, if nothing else, you teach the kid that, yes, they have a vision issue or other problem, but by no means should that stop them from trying to do things for themselves. They must learn as soon as possible that they should never feel sorry for themselves, even though it is natural to want to. The key to realize is that life will always be full of obstacles, and their issue is just another obstacle that may take some work to get over. Help them realize that they can do it. As with any tough time, teach them that they must just keep fighting through it. While at it, remind them always to be humble. Ask for help but don't be demanding or disrespectful to others.

If you remember these simple things, huge success will come, and trust me, people WILL notice and respect you for that. I hope this can help anyone going through these difficult in-

stances; and as always, if you ever need any advice or help with anything, vision related or not, drop me an email at ipvi-askm@gmail.com. All the emails come to my phone, so obviously as a teenager, the response time should be relatively quick. So once again I hope everyone has been well, and good luck to those at the start of this first quarter of school!

M@



MAKING SENSE

For Parents, Students, and Teachers of the Visually Impaired: An Apple for Your Student. This is a comprehensive class designed especially for parents, students, and TVIs scheduled on Saturday, September 28 from 9:30am to 3:30pm. This hands-on workshop walks you through many of the features of an iPad, including using VoiceOver, learning gestures, researching and managing apps, connecting Bluetooth devices, and working with documents. This workshop is free for parents and students who are accompanied by a parent or paid TVI. Fee for TVIs is \$25 with accompanying CPDUs available. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to get the most from an iPad in the classroom environment! To register, call David Flament at 312-236-8560 or email david.flament@second-sense.org.

Judo without Limits: Harness your inner strength while having fun in a safe and comfortable environment! Sensei Brett Wolf provides judo instruction at the first recognized Paralympic Training Center in Chicago. Training is one-on-one and customized for

children and adults of all needs and abilities. Classes are held at 4:45pm on Saturdays at The Drucker Center, 1535 N. Dayton Street, Chicago. For more information, visit www.brettwolfjudo.com.

History of Disability in America: "Everybody: An Artifact History of Disability in America" is a new online exhibit by the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. The compilation of photographs of people and objects in this exhibit explore themes of identity, stereotypes, laws, legislation, home and daily life. The exhibit offers well described photos and accompanying text to make it an interesting visit for all. This online exhibit is accessible with screen-reading software and has the capability of enlarging photos for easier viewing. To see the exhibit, visit <http://everybody.si.edu>.

FAQ on the ADA: The ADA National Network has released a new booklet called "The Americans with Disabilities Act Questions and Answers." This helpful booklet is full of the most asked questions about the ADA. A wide range of topics are covered including public accommodation provisions, state and local government responsibilities, employment issues and more. To obtain a booklet, call 800-514-0301 or visit adata.org.

Braille Advent Calendar: Kampmann GmbH of Germany is offering a braille advent calendar picturing a festively decorated, candle lit Christmas tree in a valley with a moon lit sky. The doors of the calendar are labeled in braille. Place your orders by September 30. To order, email info@kampmann-international.com.

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





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.

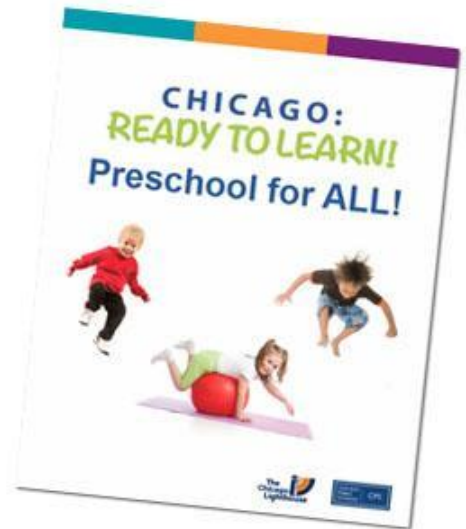
The MBSJF is funded completely from tax-deductible donations from individuals, companies and corporations who support IPVI's goals. Any individuals or groups wishing to donate to this fund, please forward your tax-deductible donations to IPVI. Thank you for your continued support of IPVI.



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



The Chicago Lighthouse
For People Who Are Blind
or Visually Impaired



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.chicagolighthouse.org/Preschool



The Chicago Lighthouse Vision Rehabilitation Center
proudly presents

DR. STUART RICHER, OD, PhD, FAAO

Please join us for this fascinating and educational lecture series to learn about the impact of nutrition on eye health

There is no charge for this lecture series, however an **RSVP** is requested to
Pam Stern, Manager of Youth and Senior Programs
847.510.2054
pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org

Tuesday, September 10, 2013 4:00-5:00 pm

Astaxanthin and Eye Care

This carotenoid found in Sockeye salmon, allows them to swim upstream against the current. A small dietary dose may offer great promise to patients of all ages. Dr. Richer discusses the new research studies coming out of Asia.



The Chicago Lighthouse Vision Rehabilitation Center
proudly offers
Young Professionals



at
222 Waukegan Road
Glenview, Illinois 60025
monthly, day and time to be determined;
please let me know your availability

For more information contact:

Pam Stern, Manager of Youth/Adult Enrichment Programs
847.510.2054
pam.stern@chicagolighthouse.org

FRCD



Family Resource Center on Disabilities
Providing parents of children with disabilities with information, training, assistance, and support.

REGISTER FOR YOUR FREE PARENT WORKSHOP TODAY!

Space is limited; registration is mandatory. Please visit www.frcd.org or call 312-939-3513 for registration and workshop location.

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

Tuesday, September 3, 4pm
Friday, September 6, 4:30pm

Reaching Our Dreams
Tuesday, September 10, 4pm

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

Tuesday, September 17, 4pm
Thursday, September 19, 4pm

The Empowered FE-FE's
Friday, September 20, 4:30pm

Reaching Our Dreams
Tuesday, September 24, 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 information, resources, support and training.

1-312-939-3513 | info@frcd.org |
www.frcd.org
20 East Jackson Blvd., Room 300
Chicago, IL 60604



THE VOLUNTEER ADVOCACY TRAINING PROJECT

Presented By
Family Resource Center on Disabilities in collaboration with the Roosevelt University Mansfield Institute for Social Justice and Transformation

The Volunteer Advocacy Training Project is a training program for individuals who are willing to become advocates for families as they navigate their way through the world of special education.

Requirements:

- Willing to attend all sessions
- Willing to shadow an advocate at an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meeting
- Willing to advocate for a minimum of four families of children with disabilities

Training will cover:

- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- State law (Part 226)
- The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Section 504
- Advocacy

All trainings and materials are free. The Volunteer Advocacy Project is six sessions long. Homework is required and must be completed prior to each session. Participants must have access to a computer



SAVE THE DATE!

To: Individuals with Disabilities, Students, Family Members, Educators, and others in the Community

From: The Planning Committee for the Empowering disABILITIES Resource Expo of the Sauk Valley

Empowering disABILITIES Resource Expo

Sponsored by: Sauk Valley Community College's Office of Student Activities, Illinois Division of Rehabilitation Services, Northwestern Illinois Center for Independent Living, The Serve Illinois Inclusion Team, and other area businesses/organizations.

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

11:30am-7:00pm

Sauk Valley Community College

Dixon, Illinois

The **2013 Empowering disABILITIES Resource Expo** will provide education to the community in regards to disability awareness, highlight abilities of individuals with disabilities, and promote access for individuals with disabilities.

The Expo is a family friendly event open to all members of the community!!

JOIN US!!!

What can you expect to see at the Expo?

Informational Tables and Exhibitors highlighting resources available to individuals with disabilities. Various demonstrations, art exhibits, and performances by individuals with disabilities.

For More Information about the Expo:

Contact Jessica Edwards at (815) 625-8885 or Jessica.L.Edwards@illinois.gov

with internet for the purposes of completing homework.

The training will be in the fall of 2013 from 10:00am to 4:00pm. The dates are: Oct. 5th, Oct. 19th Nov. 2nd, Nov. 16th, Nov. 30th, Dec. 7th, 2013.

Training will be held in the Chicago Downtown Area. More information regarding the location will be given upon acceptance into the program. The deadline for all application submissions is Friday, Sept. 20 at 5:00 p.m. For more information contact Paula Wills at 312-939-3513 or paula.wills@frcd.org.

**Download Your Volunteer Parent
Advocacy Training Application Today at
www.frcd.org/news/vatp**



Please join us on Monday, October 2, 2013 for an afternoon of golf at the Prevent Blindness America Swing Fore Sight Golf Outing. The afternoon kicks off with lunch and a putting contest, followed by a 1 p.m. shotgun start and concludes with dinner and award presentations. Enjoy an afternoon of golf at the prestigious Inverness Golf Club, while supporting the sight-saving programs and services of Prevent Blindness America.

Right here in Illinois, Prevent Blindness America staff and volunteers educate children, adults and seniors and advocate for important eye health and safety issues. Because healthy vision is so important to us and so many Americans, we ask you to golf, sponsor or donate in support of the golf outing and the work of Prevent Blindness America.

If you have any questions or would like additional information please contact Danielle Schultz at (312) 363-6022 or dschultz@preventblindness.org.



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.



Parent Advocacy Training

What you need to know: IDEA Law
How to advocate for your child

Training for parents who

- Have children with a disability who will enter or are currently in grades K-12
- Want the most appropriate education services for their child with special needs
- Want to know their rights as a parent in today's education system
- Need a refresher course on the skills needed to get your child what is needed to succeed
- Want to go into their IEP meeting more prepared

Training for professionals who ...

- Want to know what parents' rights are
- Want to service their clients correctly

"This session has been submitted for approval of EI credit to The Illinois Early Intervention Training in the area of working with families. Credential hours TBD."

RSVP today (space is limited):
Sally Tannenbaum
sallyt@uchicago.edu
773-702-8182

To guarantee accommodations, requests must be made 3 weeks prior to the event.

When:

Saturday, September 21st

Time:

9:00am to 12:00pm

Location:

**University of Chicago-Goldblatt Pavilion
860 E. 59th St. Room H103
Chicago**

Meter street parking is available. There is also a parking garage on Maryland and 58th Street. The entrance to the Goldblatt Pavilion is located on 59th Street.

Please contact Sally Tannenbaum at 773-702-8182 with any questions regarding getting to and parking at the U of C medical campus.

Costs for this course is:

Book \$20
"From Emotions to Advocacy"



HEARING and VISION
EARLY INTERVENTION OUTREACH
125 S. Webster Ave.
Jacksonville, IL 62650

EARLY INTERVENTION TRAINING and TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE





Parent Advocacy Training

What you need to know: IDEA Law
How to advocate for your child

Training for parents who ...

- Have children with a disability who will enter or are currently in grades K-12
- Want the most appropriate education services for their child with special needs
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- Need a refresher course on the skills needed to get your child what is needed to succeed
- Want to go into their IEP meeting more prepared

Training for professionals who ...

- Want to know what parents' rights are
- Want to service their clients correctly

"The Illinois Early Intervention Training Program has approved this event for 3.0 hours of EI credential credit in the area of working with families."

When:

Saturday, September 28th

Time:

9:00am to 3:00pm

Location:

**Child's Voice School
180 Hansen Court
Wood Dale, IL**

Costs for the course is:

Book \$20

Lunch \$8

Check payable to IL Hands & Voices



RSVP today (space is limited):
Rollen Cooper
rcooper@childsvoice.org
630-595-8200 x 130

To guarantee accommodations, requests must be made 3 weeks prior to the event.



www.isrc.us



HEARING and VISION
EARLY INTERVENTION OUTREACH
125 S. Webster Ave.
Jacksonville, IL 62650

EARLY INTERVENTION TRAINING and TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



Family Resource Center on Disabilities

Back To School!

Support Group Meeting

For Parents and Caregivers of Youths and Young Adults with Disabilities



For parents of children with disabilities, back to school means back to IEP meetings, back to transition questions that need answers, and back to advocating for appropriate services for our children. Join us at the first Family Resource Center on Disabilities' Support Group Meeting to collaborate with other parents or caregivers of children with disabilities about issues surrounding our children's academic success and transition needs.

Saturday, September 21, 2013

2:00pm to 4:00pm

Chicago Park District-Washington Park Field House

5531 South King Drive

Chicago, IL 60637

773-256-1248

To sign up please contact:

Family Resource Center on Disabilities

11 E. Adams Suite 1002

Chicago, IL 60603

Lynn Betts or Paula Wills

312-939-3513

or sign up online at

<http://www.frcd.org/news/supportgroup>

Pre-Registration is Required

Lunch Provided

Children, youth and young adults with disabilities are welcome with their parents or caregivers.



This project is funded through the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs.

An Illinois State Board of Education approved Professional Development Provider.



13th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

*Celebrating the Past
Embracing the Future*

October 2-4, 2013

Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL

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2013 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

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No Labels, No Limits!



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Save the Date! Annual Meeting 2013

APH Annual Meeting, "The Universe at Our Fingertips, STEMulating Products for Life,"
October 17 – 19, 2013
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky!

Annual Meeting Hotel Registration Now Available

The Hyatt Regency is offering special rates to attendees of the 2013 APH Annual Meeting. Single and double occupancy rooms are \$135, triple occupancy is \$145, and quadruple occupancy is available for \$155.

You can make your reservations online here: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/APH2013>

Reservations are best made online, however, if additional reservation assistance is needed, please call 1-888-421-1442.



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.



LARIX LOW VISION IN THE NEWS

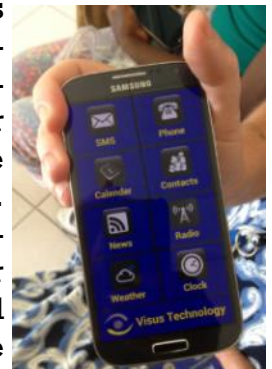


Low Vision In The News is a collection of the latest hand picked news articles from our staff about low vision. They range from technology advances to human interest stories.

Visually Impaired Students Test Technology of the Future

Boston tech start-up developing
groundbreaking technology for the blind

NEWTON, MA — For the past two weeks, a Boston-based tech start-up, Visus Technology, Inc., with help from the Verizon Innovation Program., has been testing a potentially life-altering interactive wireless system with a group of severely visually impaired students attending a summer enrichment program at the Carroll Center for the Blind. This technology, which is expected to soon be ready for public use, will allow blind and visually impaired people to recognize faces, determine colors, and navigate their travel with the help of wireless technology.



A group of students attending a summer enrichment program at the Carroll Center for the Blind has been introduced to the cutting edge technology known as the Visus Visual Assist System, a hands-free, assistive aid developed by Visus Technology, Inc. The solution takes advantage of Verizon's 4G LTE network, and has been developed in collabora-

(Continued on page 23)

Save the Date

Conferences for Parents of Children with Hearing Loss

Don't miss this opportunity to gather with other parents of children with hearing loss, network, share, and get the latest information from knowledgeable experts on topics of interest to you!



For more information contact:

Andrea Marwah
Andrea.Marwah@illinois.gov
708-409-8800 x 244



Parents:
Financial assistance may be available to help with travel, lodging and/or child-care costs.

Professionals:
CPDU and EI credits are available.

Separe La Fecha

Conferencia Para Padres Que Tienen Hijos Con Pérdida de Audición

¡No pierda la oportunidad de reunirse con otros padres que tienen hijos con pérdida de audición, conozca, comparta y obtenga la información más reciente de expertos bien informados en tópicos de su interés!

¡GRATIS!

Para más información comuníquese con:

Andrea Marwah
Andrea.Marwah@illinois.gov



Padres:
Puede haber disponible ayuda financiera para ayudarlo con los gastos del viaje, alojamiento y guardería o cuidado de niños.

Profesionales:
Hay disponibles CPDU y créditos EI.

(Continued from page 20) - Visually Impaired Students Test Technology...

tion with Verizon’s Innovation Center in Waltham.

Visus Technology’s Visual Assist System is the first wireless mobile system that provides access to a wide assortment of assistive applications, allowing visually impaired people to become more fully engaged and integrated into the classroom, workplace and society.

“Over the past two weeks, these kids have impacted the future of technology as we prepare for product launch,” according to Stephen J. McCormack, PhD the Chairman and CEO of Visus Technology, Inc.

The students, who were introduced to the technology in the first week of the summer program, demonstrated their new skills at their graduation held Thursday, July 18 at the Carroll Center. While the music function was immediately popular among the students, they quickly found that the color recognition program would be helpful in coordinating wardrobe choices and object recognition could distinguish household objects such as a container of ketchup versus the mustard.

“I can recognize some colors,” one visually impaired student said as he held a phone’s camera up to the tee-shirt he was wearing,” but this lets me know exactly what colors are on my shirt. It’s not just blue – it also has yellow lettering.” Another student laughed when his phone announced that the shirt he had selected to wear that day was ‘magenta.’ “I don’t even know what that color is,” he noted.

“Visus technology, in combination with the Verizon Wireless network, could completely change the lives of the visually impaired,” Dr. McCormack explained. “The meaning of the word ‘visus’ is the power of sight and we are truly on the path toward recreating that experience for people without vision.

Beginning last Monday (July 8) students at the Carroll Center for the Blind were introduced to the Visus platform using Verizon’s 4G LTE network on Samsung Galaxy S4 smartphones, provided by Samsung. Like most students their age, they were well acquainted with smartphone technology and quickly adapted to the assistive applications that were systematically added onto their phones. The response was resoundingly positive from these enthusiastic young people.

“I have seen few solutions that have the potential for changing the lives of those who are blind or visually impaired as Visus Technology’s,” said Brian Charlson, Carroll Center’s director of technology. “While it does not restore vision, it can provide many of the advantages of sight including color identification, facial recognition and the reading of print all around us. To do all of this and much more in a single solution is truly unique.”

While these students were the first to try out the new system, Carroll Center for the Blind President Joseph F. Abely noted that the applications within the Visus Visual Assist System would have wide appeal among the visually impaired population.

“More than 60 percent of the blind population are people over the age of 60,” he explained. “I would imagine they would love to have this technology in their hands. The Carroll Center for the Blind is all about giving newly blind people the confidence and the tools they need to regain their independence, so they can return to their community or the work place. The Visus Technology Visual Assist System is a groundbreaking step in that process.”

About the Carroll Center for the Blind

The Carroll Center for the Blind in Newton, MA serves the needs of blind and visually-impaired persons by providing rehabilitation, skills training, and educational opportunities to achieve independence, self-sufficiency,

and self-fulfillment and by educating the public regarding the potential of persons who are blind and visually-impaired. For more information, please visit: www.carroll.org.

About Visus Technology, Inc.

Visus is focused on the way visually impaired people will communicate, interact and 'see' through the Visus Visual Assist System. The company's mission is to enhance life and benefit the integration of visually impaired people into society. Visus' proprietary system provides a powerful technology to answer the essential needs of the visually impaired.

For more information, please visit the Visus website at www.visustech.com Visus and the Visus Visual Assist System are trademarks of Visus Technology, Inc.

About the Verizon Innovation Program

Verizon established its Innovation Program to encourage collaboration and help advance the 4G LTE ecosystem. The company's LTE Innovation Center on Waltham, MA and its Innovation Center in San Francisco, CA, were created to inspire, enable and develop non-traditional devices, services and applications that take advantage of Verizon Wireless' industry-leading wireless networks. Through the Innovation Program, Verizon seeks to expand the possibilities of 4G LTE by working with diverse companies, from start-ups to established players, in industries representing a broad range of verticals.

For More Information

Boston Globe Article – Software helps the blind see — via smartphones

Verizon article – Visually Impaired Students in Boston Test Innovative Technology

New Data Shows Basketball, Water Sports as Leading Causes of Sports-related Eye Injuries

- Selecting the Right Sports Eye Protection Today can Keep Eyes Healthy in the Future -

CHICAGO (Aug. 27, 2013) – Every year, close to 6,000 Americans suffer an eye injury related to playing basketball, according to estimates by Prevent Blindness America. In fact, The Coalition to Prevent Sports Eye Injuries reports that 1 in 10 college basketball players will sustain an eye injury.

In addition, eye injuries from water sports and activities were the second most-reported sports-related eye injury. These include swimming, surfing, scuba diving, and water skiing/tubing. The use of guns, including air, gas, spring, and BB, caused the most eye injuries in those ages 14 and younger.

Eye injuries from any sport can include infection, corneal abrasions, blunt trauma, inflamed iris, fracture of the eye socket, swollen or detached retinas or even a traumatic cataract. And in some cases, a significant eye injury can cause permanent vision loss.

Because most eye injuries can be avoided by wearing proper eye protection, Prevent Blindness America has dedicated September as Sports Eye Safety Awareness Month to educate the public on the best ways to keep eyes safe to stay in the game. The group has put together guidelines to help consumers find the best eye protection including:

Those who wear prescription glasses should ask their eye doctor to be fitted with prescription eye protection.

- Monocular athletes (those with only one eye that sees well), should consult with an

eye doctor to determine which sports are safe to participate in. Monocular athletes should always wear sports eye protection.

- Sports protective eyewear should be labeled as ASTM F803 approved. Check the packaging to ensure that the eye protector selected has been tested for sports use.
- Make sure the lenses either stay in place or pop outward in the event of an accident. Lenses that pop in against the eyes can be very dangerous.
- Fogging of the lenses can be a problem. Some types of protective eyewear are available with anti-fog coating. Others have side vents for additional ventilation. Try on different types to determine which is most comfortable.
- Sports eye protection should be padded or cushioned along the brow and bridge of the nose. Padding will prevent the eye protection from cutting the skin.
- Try on the eye protector to determine if it's the right size before purchasing. Adjust the strap and make sure it's not too tight or too loose.
- All athletes should get an eye exam from an eye care professional. An expert may be able to detect a vision problem and improve performance in addition to saving sight later in life
- As part of the Sports Eye Safety Awareness Month initiatives, PBA has also joined with The Coalition to Prevent Sports Eye Injuries and Liberty Sport to provide eye care professionals with free information and materials through the "September is Sports Eye Injury Prevention Awareness Month" campaign.

"An eye injury can happen in a moment but have an effect that lasts a lifetime," said Hugh R. Parry, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness America. "We encourage adults and children to take steps today to find the right sports eye protection to protect their vision and consistently make their eye safety a prior-

ity every time they enter the game."

For more information on sports eye injury prevention and information on sport-specific eye protection recommendations, please call Prevent Blindness America at (800) 331-2020, or visit preventblindness.org/sports-eye-safety. For more information about Sports Eye Injury Prevention Awareness Month or to request a kit, please contact John Minnick, Liberty Sport at 973-882-0986, ext. 977 or jminnick@libertysport.com.



APH NEWS

TADPOLE: Soft Snap Puzzles (8-pack) - ON SALE: \$75.00 (sale ends September 30, 2013)

The Soft Snap Puzzles are useful with both the TADPOLE and ToAD activities. Each smooth-top puzzle is an image taken from Tasha Tadpole's Puzzle Book, affixed to a firm, yet spongy material, perfect for youngsters to snap together. Many children who are tactually defensive will be able to use the Soft Snap Puzzles. Each puzzle is made of six, large pieces housed within a sponge frame. They are great for assessment or practice on the following concepts:

- parts of a whole, visual closure, shape discrimination, eye hand coordination, figure ground discrimination, Scanning, object identification, cross of the midline plane

Images and activities found in TADPOLE are reinforced by the Soft Snap Puzzles. Some images included are:

- Spoon, Cup, Banana, Face, Toothbrush, Ball, Bowl, Apple

The background colors of these images vary. Each package contains 8 different, randomly-selected Soft Snap Puzzles. Since there are more than 20 different images, not every image is represented in each pack of puzzles. Get several packs to ensure a wide range of images. www.aph.org.



IPVI

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

1-815-355-2098 • Email: ipvi@ipvi.org • 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

OPERATIONS VP

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

SERVICES VP

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

TREASURER

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

SECRETARY

Dawn Wojtowicz
9188 161st Place
Orland Hills, IL 60487
708-590-6447
deeder0477@aol.com

NAPVI REGION 3 REPRESENTATIVE

Pam Stern
1912 Mission Hills Lane
Northbrook, IL 60062
847-217-7590
pamstern3@gmail.com

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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

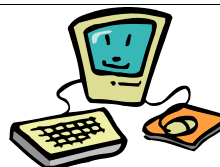
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up-to-date on your dues at the
address on the left or
1-815-355-2098
Email: ipvi@ipvi.org
www.ipvi.org

IPVI CALENDAR

▶ 9/10	Lighthouse North Educational Lecture Series	Glenview
▶ September	TCL—Chicago: Ready to Learn! Preschool for ALL!	Chicago
▶ 9/21	FRCD Back to School Support Group Meeting	Chicago
▶ 9/21	Parent Advocacy Training	Chicago
▶ 9/28	Parent Advocacy Training	Wood Dale
▶ 10/2	Disabilities 2013 EXPO	Dixon
▶ 10/2	PBA Swing Fore Sight	Las Vegas
▶ 10/2-4	Sharing a Vision 2013 Conference	Springfield
▶ 10/11-13	ICB Annual Convention	Springfield
▶ 10/17-19	APH Annual Meeting	Louisville, KY
▶ 10/24-25	9th Annual Illinois Statewide Transition Conference	Effingham
▶ 10/25-27	NFB of Illinois 2013 State Convention	Bloomington
▶ 11/2	South of Eighty	Jacksonville
▶ 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
OCTOBER is SEPTEMBER 10th**



**Check Out
www.ipvi.org**

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