

IPVI INSIGHTS

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

**September
2014**



IPVI President Announcement

By Lyle Stauder, President

Hi, everyone. This month's IPVI event is the Bowling Fundraiser on 9/20/14. Please make sure to call Vicki at 815-355-2098 or Dawn at 708-337-4933 by 9/17/14 to reserve your spot. It's only \$35 per person and includes a pizza buffet with soft drinks, Scotch Doubles Bowling, and shoes. We will have a Split-the-Pot Raffle as well as a Silent Auction. This is the first fundraiser we have had in four years so please help us make it successful.

If you can't come, any donations you can personally make or those which you can gather from local businesses such as gift baskets or gift cards, as well as any cash donations will be greatly appreciated. Please call Vicki for coordination of delivery of these donated items no later than 9/17/14.

Looking forward to seeing you there. Thanks for your help!



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**BROOKFIELD ZOO MEMBERS ONLY
OUTING - 7-12-14**



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 as always. We had 165 attendees on a great day! Our lunch was fantastic and the extra dolphin show was unique. We appreciate all of you so much for attending.

Mr. Frank Davis of the 100% Foundation, his 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 of the Chicago Lighthouse did an exceptional job at handling the behind the scenes t-shirt ordering and distribution as usual. We appreciate them immensely. Thanks to Joan Bielawski for helping to keep things running smoothly and keeping up with the newsletters.

During our lunch, we had a never-ending pizza buffet. Our keynote speaker was Mary Zabelski, long time IPVI officer and staunch advocate for children, who runs the Educational Services at The Chicago Lighthouse, including the new, blended Preschool and the Development Center for Blind, Multi-disabled Children from 5-22 yrs. She spoke about parent involvement and the importance of mentoring each other to help with educational and developmental activities for our children, always looking for what "our children CAN do and not what they can't do".



HELP THE BLIND

IPVI BOWLING FUNDRAISER



WHERE: Orland Bowl, 8601 W. 159th Street, Orland Park, IL 60462

WHEN: September 20, 2014, starting at 9:15 p.m. until 11:30 p.m.

WHAT: Dinner includes Pizza Buffet, Soft Drinks, Two Hours of Scotch Doubles Bowling, and Shoes

COST: \$35/person

Please call for Reservations by 9/17/14:

Vicki Juskie at 815-355-2098 or Dawn Wojtowicz at 708-337-4933

We will also have a Silent Auction and a Split-the-Pot Raffle. Cash Bar available, as well. Tell your family and friends to come out for a great time while helping a worthy cause!

If you can't come and still want to help, please donate either a cash donation or gift card/basket for the silent auction. IPVI is a 501(3)© non-profit which helps Blind and Visually Impaired children since 1986. Mailing address: IPVI, 21170 Deerpath Rd., Frankfort, IL 60423 Thanks for all your help! God Bless You! See you soon on 9/20/14.



MS. VIC'S VOLLEYS
Victoria Juskie, IPVI Treasurer

VOLLEY I

No new members have joined our organization this month.

VOLLEY II

Did you ever think about the perks of having a child who was visually impaired? Okay, I bet you're thinking I'm nuts right about now, but let me explain. When my low vision child was growing up, I made a point of asking for preferential seating, the closer -- the better. I found out that many organizations set aside seats just for this purpose. What that usually meant was that we could purchase up to four tickets to sit up front because of my child's issue. We saw some wonderful plays, The Blue Man Group, the circus and several concerts right up close and personal that way for which I have my son to thank.

Later on I would learn in retrospect of another blessing for families with children who have low or no vision. I bet if you put those children into a paddleboat on a body of water, they most likely won't be staring into their phones, texting someone. Am I right? They would enjoy the sensory feelings that are occurring -- like the wind on their faces, the sounds of the pedals in the water, and the birds chirping. They'd talk to you and listen when you describe what you see. That's what you should expect of any child, right? That is one of the precious parts of an outing like this.

So pardon my rant, while I tell you about what happened on a recent weekend when my 13-year old daughter's softball tournament in St. Charles ended. The group went to a beautiful park on the Fox River for a picnic, concert, and lapel pin exchange. At the end of the festivities, I thought it would be a great idea to take the girls out paddle boating on the river, peddling and enjoying the scenery. However, what startled me was that I had to tell several of them to stop texting and to look around. Here was some

breathhtakingly beautiful scenery and they were fixated and looking down into a four-inch gadget. I wouldn't have minded so much if it was being used as a camera, but to be texting made it seem like the effort I was making was pointless. I guess what really irked me, too, was the fact that I was the only parent who would get into the boat and take them peddling. We found out that at least one adult was required for each boat that sat four. We had nine girls, so that meant three boat rides, and there was only one of me. Fortunately, I was able finally to convince the 20-year old coach to take a set of girls out so I only had to make two trips of 20 minutes each. And let me tell you, I got my cardio in that day with all the pedaling. It was fun but I still couldn't believe just how hooked on electronics kids are today.

So my tip of the day is to learn to appreciate the little blessings special needs children bring. Try to learn to be grateful for the intrinsically beautiful ways they see the world, even if it's only with their hearts. There is an innocence that just seems to last longer. This may be because we as parents have greater control over their environment. However, I realize that looking at the world through their eyes can be a blessing in disguise for us as well as be very satisfying and enlightening. Sometimes this makes the world a better place and, boy, can we use that especially with all the violence and bullying that occurs.

So let their spark be that beacon of hope that makes us continue to go forward even though the way is harder, more demanding, and many times more lonely. I just want to remind you though that you're not alone. IPVI and its volunteers are here for all of you. Call and talk to us if ever you need to, and thanks again for every parent who hangs in there and keeps on plugging along. Your efforts do make a difference, especially in the lives of the children we encounter.





IPVI's Matthew Benedict Juskie Scholarship Fund

For students who are blind or visually impaired

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

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

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

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



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

Wearing the Proper Eye Protection While Playing Sports Today Can Help Prevent Injury, Save Sight for Years to Come

CHICAGO (Aug. 14, 2014) – Every year, thousands of Americans suffer an eye injury related to playing sports according to new data from Prevent Blindness. To help educate the public on the importance of proper eye protection while playing sports, Prevent Blindness has declared September as Sports Eye Safety Awareness Month.

Eye injuries can range from corneal abrasions, 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. For individuals with vision issues, especially those who can only see clearly or have limited vision through one eye, proper eye protection is even more essential.

When Ari Rosenthal was five years old, he was diagnosed with amblyopia, or more commonly known as lazy eye. In Ari's case his right eye was significantly farsighted. The imbalance led his brain to significantly favor the stronger, left eye. If left untreated, the result would have been permanent vision loss in the right eye.



Unfortunately, one day while playing dodge ball, a ball accidentally struck Ari directly on his stronger left eye, causing multiple corneal abrasions.

“When the ball hit me I opened my eye and couldn't see. I was scared. I thought I might have permanent vision loss in that eye. How could I do the things I wanted to do? How could I be myself? It was very frightening,” explained Ari.

During Ari's recovery, his stronger left eye was patched. The strain was too much for his weaker right eye and he couldn't read or do homework. Now fully recovered Ari wants to do more to help others understand the importance of protecting their vision.

He also realizes how quickly accidents can happen and why eye protection is critical when playing sports.

Today at age 16, Ari is now an active, athletic student and has joined the wrestling team at his high school. He makes a point to always wear eye protection during any sporting activity.

“By taking the simple step of consistently wearing the proper eye protection today, we can help protect our vision for a lifetime,” said Hugh R. Parry, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness. “Today, there are different styles to choose from for any sport, including some that offer UV protection. We encourage everyone to consult their eye care professional for the best advice on how to protect their eyes from injury.”

Prevent Blindness has once again 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.

For more information on sports eye injury prevention and information on sport-specific eye protection recommendations, please call Prevent Blindness 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.

Best regards,

Sarah Hecker

Director, Media Relations

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Transition Begins with a Vision

*By Terri McLaughlin, Transition Specialist -
Parent Training and Information Center (FCSN)*



What do you want to be or do as an adult? For many teens the typical response is, “I have no idea”. If a VISION for the future is essential to the Transition planning process; what can you do to help?

A Transition Portfolio might help you to illustrate the future you wish to create. Or if you have already defined your hopes and dreams, you might want to illustrate them visually in a Transition Portfolio.

In her recent book, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor shares her thoughts on the importance of an individual’s vision. “Experience has taught me that you cannot

value dreams according to the odds of their coming true. Their real value is in stirring within us the will to aspire.” This is the essence of a vision.

To create a Transition Portfolio, take a 3-ring binder with plastic sleeves. Find images that represent the experiences, feelings, people and possessions you want to be part of your life. Have fun! Use photographs, magazine cutouts, pictures from the Internet—whatever inspires you. Include not only pictures, but anything that speaks to you or about you. Include not only words and images that best show who you are, your ideal future, and your interests to inspire positive emotions within you. Consider including a picture of yourself in your book; one that was taken in a happy moment. Or use a ‘caricature’ or something visual that reflects YOU.

There are also a number of Web 2.0 apps that teachers are using with students to help them to create digital portfolios: The Google Sites/

Digital Portfolio Tutoreal Series at www.mscomputerteacher.com/google-sites-and-digital-portfolios.html. You can find more information on digital portfolio apps on www.teachthought.com/technology/8-educational-apps-to-create-digital-portfolios.

You can use your Transition Portfolio to depict preferences and interests in all areas of your life experience. It can be your best school work, your favorite teacher or coach, summer camp, a church or community event. Be selective about what you place in your Transition Portfolio, but be creative too! Do you see music, art, theater in your future? Include video, YouTube, CD or PowerPoint to share at your IEP meeting. The Portfolio affords you the opportunity for self-awareness and self-reflection. Don't remove the pictures or images from your Transition Portfolio that represent the goals you've reached. IMAGINE and VISUALIZE your dreams. Your accomplishments are powerful reminders of what you have deliberately achieved or attracted to your life and journey.

- Look at your Transition Portfolio often.
- Read the motivating words out loud.
- See yourself living in that job or community.
- Feel yourself in the future you have designed.
- Recognize your accomplishments.
- Identify the changes you have seen and felt.
- Celebrate your life!

Transition Portfolio - Inspiration

As you explore and grow, your dreams may change and the portfolio will be a record of your experience, to document this personal Transition journey from year to year. Your Transition Portfolio is a voyage of growth and achievements on your individual passage from school into adulthood. Follow your

hopes and dreams; keep them stirring within you!

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FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Informing, Educating, Empowering Families

MAKING SENSE

Free Currency Reader: The Bureau of Engraving and Printing is beginning the rollout of the US currency reader in two phases. In partnership with the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, NLS patrons can pre-order a free currency reader beginning September 2, 2014 by calling 888-NLS-READ (888-657-7323). Starting January 2, 2015, currency readers will be widely available to US citizens or people legally residing in the US who are blind or visually impaired. If you are not an NLS patron, you must submit an application signed by a competent authority who can certify your eligibility. For more information, including applications, FAQs, brochures and print and braille guides for using the currency reader, visit www.bep.gov and click on the iBill reader link.

New eBook for Children: [Reach for the Stars](#) is a new interactive eBook to help children with vision loss better understand the universe. The book was inspired by the Hubble telescope image of Doradus Nebula, a new star forming region, to encourage children that science is within their reach with technology. The 90-page book has vivid images, graphics and videos that can be accessed with the accessibility features of the iPad and re-

(Continued on page 14)



"Can't" Is Still Part of My Vocabulary

By Emily Coleman

As a parent of a child who is blind, and as a teacher of the visually impaired, I try hard every day to disprove myths about blindness. I talk tirelessly to educators, peers, and other parents about all of the things people who are visually impaired CAN do, which is pretty much everything. I encourage all of my students to be independent, and push my son, too. However, I still keep saying that ugly word... "can't."

This weekend, I spent time working with students who are visually impaired, and introducing them to a variety of recreational opportunities including using the tandem bikes pictured here from the NW Association for Blind Athletes. The camp was for children who lived in our region, ages 9-13. My son happens to fit that demographic, and yet I didn't feel comfortable having him attend.

It isn't the visual impairment that kept him home, but his additional disabilities. He does have an orthopedic impairment, which makes physical activities challenging. He also has Autism, and is prone to outbursts. A recreational camp just sounded like it would be too much for him.

Even though he didn't attend, I still talked about him a lot. I explained to the other parents that I also had a child who was blind, but that he wasn't prepared for this kind of camp. I went on to explain his multiple disabilities, and even after the introduction found myself bringing Eddie up frequently.

I heard myself saying, "Eddie can't play beep kickball." "He can't ride a tandem bike." "He can't understand board games." "He can't sing along with karaoke." By the end of the weekend, I was beginning to see a pattern, and a little bit of disappointment in myself.

I don't regret not having him attend. I truly feel he wasn't ready for this type of event. However, that doesn't mean he can't be ready someday. I need to rephrase all of those icky "can't" statements and instead say things like...

"He can ride a tandem bike...if it's adapted for him."

"He can play board games...if he is taught in a meaningful way."



“He can play beep kickball...if I provide support as needed.”

Recreation is so important for our children who are visually impaired. They don't always find hobbies and sports on their own, and we may have to lead them to it. The kids I taught at camp this weekend picked everything up fast, and it's just going to take more time for Eddie. I do know that just because something takes time, certainly doesn't mean he “can't” do it. I also know that I can help him find a way.

Corkscrew or Scrambler? Labeling Matters for My Child Who is Blind

By Emily Coleman

When you find yourself raising a child who is blind, you learn almost immediately how important it is to talk to your baby. Children with visual impairments need language constantly to explain their world around them. We learn to label every sound that stands out and everything our child touches. For somebody that talks a lot (like me), this was a pretty easy undertaking...which came quite naturally.

Then, for some of us (again like me), we learn that our child who is blind has an additional disability. One that makes them upset when they get too much information, or confused when language becomes too complex. At that time, we are told not to provide too much language. Use less words...short sentences...lose the adjectives...get to the point, etc.

To this day, I'm regularly providing labels, but also being mindful of keeping it short. Sometimes, I think I keep it too short. For example, I tend to call every kind of juice simply, “juice.” This becomes problematic when helping my son find his own preferences. Personally, I like apple juice, but not typically tomato juice...unless it is that special morning beverage some grown-ups (like me) occasionally enjoy. Overall, if someone offers me juice, my first question is “What kind?”

Yesterday, we were at an amusement park, and I kept finding myself giving choices that were too vague. “Eddie do you want to go swimming?” was asked, and he immediately said yes. Then, I stumbled over asking if he wanted the wave pool or the lazy river. This became hard because we simply referred to both as “swimming” while he was doing them.



Later, I asked if he wanted “more ride.” Again, he said yes, but I didn't know if he wanted more “Scrambler” or “Corkscrew” or “Log Ride” or “Carousel.” Each ride was different, and I found I was calling them all “ride.”

As you can see in this picture, he really enjoyed the “Scrambler.” However, earlier he wasn't a big fan of getting soaked on the log ride because it was a chilly day. More information provided to him through labels would have been really helpful when asking if he wanted “more ride.”

We spent the day stumbling over phrases like, “the one with the up and down horses,” “the one with the water,” and “the one that went upside down.” I felt like I was providing titles for “Friends” episodes, which were always called, “The one with the_____.” I’m thinking that providing him with labels while he was riding would have been much easier. This is a park we visit every year, and I won’t make that mistake again...I hope.

Today, I’m working on simply labeling better at home. I’ll start with providing types of cereal instead of calling them all “cereal.” I’m sure he’d rather have his favorite Panda Puffs over Grape Nuts. I know I would! Sometimes I make those judgment calls for him, but he is perfectly able to do that for himself. It’s just another step on the path to independence.

It’s Back to School for My Child Who is Blind

By Emily Coleman

Due to the chaos that surrounds back-to-school for all children, Eddie gets a bit of a jump start. Yesterday, about a week before school starts, he began attending for half-days to get reacquainted with school. He’s done this before, and it hasn’t always gone well.

Some years, if we even mention school, Eddie protests verbally and physically. When I started talking about school last week, he simply said, “No.” One word pretty much wrapped up his thoughts on the topic.



When he woke up yesterday, we were unsure how he would greet the day. Of course we talked about school the night before, and the days leading up to this moment. I think it would’ve been a huge mistake to “spring” it on him. He always needs time to wrap his brain around a major transition.

Lucky for us, we awoke to him singing in his room, which is always a good sign. When reminding him about school, he didn’t get upset. He sang through breakfast, through getting dressed, and even as we headed out the door. Once we reached his classroom, Eddie shocked us both.

With prompting, he said “Hi” to his familiar classroom aide, and then quickly said, “Bye” on his own. I asked, “Bye, Mrs. K” or “Bye, Mom and Dad?” Eddie’s response was an immediate, “Bye, Dad.” We are dismissed regularly by our daughters without special needs, but for Eddie, this hadn’t happened on the first day of school.

We’ve worked on “hi” and “bye” for a while, but these aren’t priorities for him, likely due to him being autistic. This time, he said “bye” with no prompting and with great deliberation and initiation on his part. He was ready for us to hit the road.

As I type this, I can’t help tearing up a little because I almost depend on him depending on me. This year, as he starts 3rd grade, he’s starting to show me that he is growing up. My desire for him to be independent, is now a desire for him, too. For that alone, I am really proud.

We walked out of that classroom confident in our son, and in the year ahead. Thanks to his simple sentence, "Bye, Dad," I know he's ready. If he's ready to move forward, then I can be, too.

It's Back-to-School Time Again: Resources for Parents of Blind Children

By Scott Truax



Across the nation children are returning to school in large numbers. Alabama leads the nation with a start date of August 5th, but others will follow with almost everyone back by the end of the Labor Day Weekend. This is a good time to remind you of the information available to you through the American Foundation for the Blind and its resources such as FamilyConnect.

Technology is a vital component of the skills every child who is blind or visually impaired needs to learn. How do you learn what is new, what is working, and what to avoid? **AFB's Access-World® Magazine** is a free monthly publication that comes to you by e-mail. Register now so you can start receiving it and take a look at the **July issue that featured back to school articles**.

FamilyConnect has many articles that can help you negotiate the school year:

- ▶ [Preparing for the first day of public school as a student who is blind or has low vision](#)
- ▶ [Managing classroom work and homework as a visually impaired student](#)
- ▶ [Helping your blind child learn how to make friends](#)
- ▶ [Ideas for adapting P.E. classes and sports for students with visual impairments](#)
- ▶ [Helping your grade schooler develop literacy skills](#)
- ▶ [Fun Activities for Teaching Magnifier Use](#)
- ▶ [Reading and Making Tactile Books with Your Child](#)

And much more: explore the **Education** and **Grade Schoolers** areas of FamilyConnect for other helpful resources.

Be sure to familiarize yourself with the **Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC)**. The ECC is your guide to making sure that your child has her needs met as a student with a visual impairment. It

is important to learn about the elements involved in the expanded core curriculum and make sure that it is being taught and practiced both at school and at home.



For Parents of Children with Visual Impairments

REGISTER FOR YOUR FREE PARENT WORKSHOP TODAY!



Illinois State Board of Education

Gery J. Chico, Chairman
Dr. Christopher Koch, State Superintendent

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

Six Principles of IDEA

Thursday, September 4, 10am-1pm

Navigating the IEP Process

Thursday, September 11, 6-8pm

The What, The Why, and The How of a Response to Intervention (RTI) Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Overview for Families

Monday, September 15, 6-8pm

El ¿qué?, ¿por qué? Y ¿cómo? de “respuesta a la intervención” (RTI) / Sistema de apoyo multi-nivelado (MTSS): Resumen para Familias

Monday, September 15, 6-8pm

The What, The Why, and The How of a Response to Intervention (RTI) Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Overview for Families

Wednesday, September 17, 6-8pm

Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy

Thursday, September 18, 10am-1pm

Especialista de Apoyo de IEP Entrenamiento Parte 1

Tuesday, September 23, 10am-1pm

The What, The Why, and The How of a Response to Intervention (RTI) Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Overview for Families

Wednesday, September 24, 6-8pm

Transition Series: Adult Life: Effective Partnerships

Thursday, September 25, 6-8pm

The What, The Why, and The How of a Response to Intervention (RTI) Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Overview for Families

Thursday, September 25, 6-8pm

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

Join Family Resource Center on Disabilities Parent Training and Information Center and Illinois RtI Network for this FREE informational session for parents of children who struggle with reading, math, or behavior. **Parents who pre-register and attend the entire event will receive a \$20 WalMart gift card. (one per couple.)**

Got Transition's New Home

Got Transition has a new home at the National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health. Check out their website for information and strategies for health care professionals' youth and families on the transition from pediatric to adult health care.

Visit www.gottransition.org.

New Resource: Family Policy Compliance Office

The Family Policy Compliance Office (FPCO) administers two federal laws that provide parents and students with certain privacy rights: the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA). The new FPCO website provides resources and information regarding FERPA and PPRA including links to the regulations, guidance documents, policy letters, topic briefs, webinars, videos and a robust list of frequently asked questions.

Visit familypolicy.ed.gov.

Student Data Collection

The U.S. Department of Education recently announced new guidance for schools and districts on how to keep parents and students better informed about what student data is collected and how it is used. In the guidance issued by the Department's Privacy Technical Assistance Center, schools and districts are urged to be proactive in communicating how they use student data. Information should be available to answer common questions before they are asked.

[Read Guidance for Schools Issued on How to Keep Parents Better Informed on the Data](#)

[They Collect on Students for more information.](#)

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 at 1-312-939-3513
info@frcd.org
www.frcd.org**

11 E. Adams St. Suite 1002, Chicago, IL 60603

(Continued from page 8) - Making Sense

freshable braille displays. Interactive features include varied pitch tones in the left or right ear representing a star's brightness or temperature. The book also offers closed captioning for children with hearing loss. The free eBook will be available in Apple's App Store soon.

Reprinted from MAKING SENSE, September 2014, Second Sense, Beyond vision loss, 65 East Wacker Place, Suite 1010, Chicago, IL 60601, 312-236-8569, www.second-sense.org.





FLAIR

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Dress to the Nines on 9/9

The Chicago Lighthouse cordially invites you and your guests to celebrate **FLAIR 2014**.

Tuesday, September 9th, 2014

The Fairmont Hotel
200 N. Columbus Drive | Chicago

11:00 am Reception
11:45 am Luncheon & Fashion Show

Exclusive Fall Fashions
provided by Frances Heffernan Boutique, Winnetka

Master of Ceremonies: Bill Zwecker
Columnist, Chicago Sun-Times

NINE-9 NINE-9 NINE-9 NINE-9 NINE-9 NINE-9 NINE-9 NINE-9 NINE-9 NINE-9 NINE-9 NINE-9 NINE-9 NINE-9 NINE-9

2014 Honoree



Entertainment Reporter, Fox 32 News

VONITA D. REESCER inherited her sense of style from her loving grandmother. A Chicago native, her interest in Business and Administration led to positions with Continental Bank, and then to CAN where she met her partner and best friend of 41 years, Dick Miller. The Echols Hotel School took her to the Whitehall and Tremont Hotels and a hospitality career. She founded VDR & Associates in 2004, and then served as President of The Service Club of Chicago from 2012 through 2013. Throughout, her commitment to service has been profound. When she signs on to a cause, the Rolodex opens, the friends' phones ring, and there is no rest until the event is a success! She harnesses her connections and contacts — all for the purpose of making other's lives better. The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired is proud to honor Vonita for her commitment to our community.

RAFFLE PRIZES

1. Hair consultation, plus cut and color with world renowned Anthony Cristiano.
2. \$500 Frances Heffernan gift certificate, including a consultation with the owner.
3. A customized facial, skin care treatment, make up application, and beauty products from Jane Zappala of Jane Skin Care Studio
4. Fabulous jewelry from Judith Ripka.

BLAST OFF TO SPACE CAMP!



The 2014 sessions for SCI-VIS (Space Camp for Interested Visually Impaired Students) will be held Sept. 20 – Sept. 25, 2014 (travel home 9/26/2014 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Students throughout the world are invited to attend this very special program. Space Camp will gather academically oriented visually impaired students. Braille, large print, low vision devices, CCTV's, refreshable braille displays, and synthetic speech, among others are available during this special week to allow a better experience for children with visual impairments.



children with visual impairments.

The word "camp" truly understates the **EXPERIENCE** of Space Camp. Students live in a simulated space station called Habitat 1. They have the opportunity to practice their leadership and teamwork abilities as they prepare for two Space Shuttle missions.

While preparing for a "role" (Shuttle Pilot, Communications Officer in Mission Control, Space Station Scientist, and many others), students learn about the history of manned space flight, shuttle and space station basics, and water survival. Simultaneously, they experience lunar gravity (1/6 Earth gravity), the 5DF (degrees of freedom) chair, and the Zero G wall. The students participate in building a lunar colony. They also build and fly their own rocket! They will tour Rocket Park, the world's most comprehensive collection of rocketry. At night the Spacedome Theater features space and science films, such as "Blue Planet" and "The Dream is Alive" which were filmed in space by astronauts, projected on a 67-foot dome screen. And more, and more, and more...

Space Camp is open to students from 4th grade (age 10) through high school. There are four separate programs available, including Aviation Challenge (Mach I-III), Space Academy, Advanced Academy, and Space Camp. Each program costs \$700.

Space Camp, Space Academy, and Advanced Academy focus on space travel. Another exciting part of Space Camp is the Aviation Challenge Program. Aviation Challenge (AC) introduces students to the total experience of military jet pilot training. Students learn the basics of flying, propulsion systems, navigation, high performance maneuvering, and more. Students fly simulators, practice taking off and landing on aircraft carriers, and participate in search and rescue missions. They also learn and practice the basics of land and water survival. WOW! There is a lot to do in Aviation Challenge.

Grant for Space Camp available - Yes, rocket science can be a lot of fun! Space Camp 2014 will be from Sept. 20 to Sept. 25, 2014 (travel home 9/26/2014.) It will again be a week full of fun, action and exciting activities. AER IL will sponsor the camp fee for one student and assist with travel expenses for a chaperone. Please view the Space Camp flier and the Scholarship application or call Andy Heim at 309-264-8895 for more details.

Space Camp 2014 Info - PDF

Space Camp 2014 Application - Word

Space Camp 2014 Application - PDF

For more information contact

Andy Heim at:

Magnified Vision

P.O. Box 5454

Morton, IL 61550

Phone: (888) 567-8766

Email: info@magnifiedvision.net



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

FEATURED SESSION

Do-it-on-a-dime: Affordably Meeting Adapted Daily Living Supply Needs



With many budgets shrinking, of both the blind and visually impaired population and those agencies who serve them, we all have to become creative with our spending. Our "Bargain Bandits" will show how teaching bargaining skills, shopping at discount stores, and purchasing products locally, can loosen the tightest of budgets.

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

Watch This Session for FREE!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



[iTools for iTinerant Teachers](#)

Tired of lugging around student files? Wish your mobile office didn't weigh a ton? Wouldn't it be nice to have information at your fingertips? Come and learn how an iPad or iPhone can help organize student information, track progress on goals, and enable you to work smarter not harder.

MORE: Same website



[Guidance on Making Prescription Container Labels Accessible to People With Vision Loss: A Multi-Year Effort](#)

AFB has been concerned with the accessibility of RX labels for many years. Best practices have recently been published by the US Access Board. Learn the facts, get the information you and your constituents need. Make everyone aware that people who cannot read an RX label now have accessible options.

MORE: Same website



[Online Resources to Help Students With Visual Impairments Get Involved in Physical Activity and Stay Healthy](#)

Teachers and parents need easy-to-access resources to help them instruct, inspire, and encourage individuals who have visual impairments, and often additional disabilities, to maintain a healthy and physically fit lifestyle. The good news is that there are many resources available online from USDA, NIH, WHO, AFB, NFB, APH, USABA, Camp Abilities, and others.

MORE: Same website

Summer Challenge to END BLINDNESS

Allison Corona is one for the history books...

Having spent her life without functional vision, she used a cane to navigate from an early age, and was frustrated that her lack of sight was what people first saw, not who she was. As a college student, Allison was hampered by her fears – afraid to stay after class or attend events at night because of her lack of sight. Eventually, she just dropped out.

But everything changed for Allison about one year ago. She was selected for a Foundation-funded gene therapy clinical trial. After receiving this promising treatment, Allison could see!



Help us achieve more research breakthroughs like this by **making a gift to our 2014 Summer Challenge.**

Today, Allison is back in college, confidently moving toward her dreams. Just imagine what it must have been like for this young woman to be able to see – for the first time! It truly must have felt like a miracle.

But you and I know it's not really a miracle – it's the result of many years of hard work, investing in the world's best researchers.

I know you understand that there are millions more like Allison out there anxiously waiting for treatments. That's why we are aggressively moving forward, with more clinical trials underway than at any point in our history. **And we need your help to do it!**

Please donate today. And when you make your gift, remember that it will be matched \$2 to \$1. If every member donates to our Summer Challenge, imagine what we can make happen!



With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill".

William T. Schmidt
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. With the Foundation supporting more clinical trials than ever before, we need to grow the number of visionary people supporting research. **Please become our newest by donating today.** Every gift, no matter the size, really makes a difference. And when you donate today, you will **triple your impact through our \$2 to \$1 Summer Challenge Match.**

Free print/braille books for Kids 0-6 years old with visual impairments

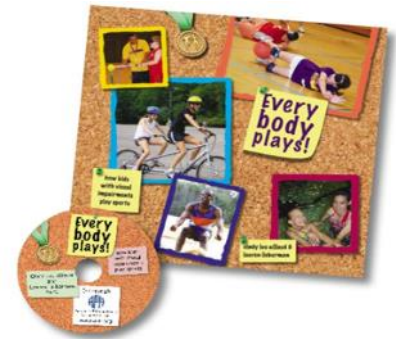
Hello.

Last week while I was in Rochester, MN for the World Series of beep baseball, I met a woman who is involved in next year's World Series in Rochester, NY. As it turns out, she's a professor, founder of Camp Abilities in NY, and an author of several books.

She mentioned that her book, "Everybody plays: How children with visual impairments play sports" was available to children with visual impairments free of charge through APH.

You may already know about this free book program but in case you didn't, I think it would be wonderful to let our families know about this opportunity for their children ages 0-6 to receive 6 free print/braille books each year. The program is also good for parents/guardians who are B/VI and have a child 0-6 years old. More details, as well as the application, can be found at:

<http://www.aph.org/dolly-partons-imagination-library/>;
<http://www.aph.org/dolly-partons-imagination-library/apply.html>



<http://www.aph.org/dolly-partons-imagination-library/>

Also, dozens of titles are available for free download to listen with a NLS digital playback device:
<http://www.aph.org/dolly-partons-imagination-library/download-now.html>.

P.S. The woman I met is Lauren Lieberman, PhD (<http://www.brockport.edu/pes/faculty/lieberman.html>). She's involved in NAPVI and mentioned next year's conference at the CLH in our conversation!

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www.chicagolighthouse.org/north



APH NEWS

New! Source for Refreshabraille 18 Leather Case

Executive Products has designed a nice form fitting case to hold APH's Refreshabraille 18. Protect your valuable investment with this snugly fitting leather carrying case with straps.

The case lets you operate the Refreshabaille while standing or walking or for use on a surface like a tabletop. You can connect the charger while the unit is still in the case, and the case contains a storage area where you may hold additional small items.



The original **RollBusters** are foam rings that keep your monocular from rolling away and provide some protection from impact. Place one ring around each end of your own monocular. The rings friction-fit to the monocular and have flat surfaces on their outside edges so that the monocular is prevented from rolling. RollBusters come in a set of five pairs, with four different sizes. The sizes of the inside diameters are: triangles – 25 mm; squares – 28 mm; pentagons – 30 mm; and hexagons – 40 mm (there are two pairs of the 30 mm size).



RollBuster II mini-bags also provide some impact protection and keep monoculars in reach during classroom activities, while protecting them from rolling. The RollBusterII comes in two kid-friendly styles. The mini-duffel bag fits monoculars up to 4 inches in length and up to 1 1/2 inches in diameter. The mini-backpack fits monoculars up to 5 inches in length and up to 1 3/4 inches in diameter or a monocular which is oval or irregular in shape. The bag has a strip of extra hook and loop material stitched to its underside to allow attachment to a flat surface. The RollBuster II is included as a part of the Envision I kit, which is a training program that uses stories and activities about Emmy the Emu (pictured on the front of the RollBuster II) and other high interest characters to teach students to use distance optical devices.



Note: Monoculars are not included with the original RollBusters or the RollBuster II.

If you have any suggestions for other products you would like to see highlighted in this monthly feature, please send your comments to Monica Turner at mmtturner@aph.org.

APH Sizzlin' Summer Savings Sale

Load up a world of savings on selected APH products with APH's Sizzlin' Summer Savings Sale 2014, July 1—September 30. As always, first come, first served.

www.aph.org/products/sizzle.html





Physicians

Benjamin H Ticho, MD - Pediatric ROP & Adult Ophthalmology
Jonathan S Buka, MD - Ophthalmology-Glaucoma & Lasik Surgeon
Alexander J Khammar, MD - Pediatric ROP Ophthalmology
Karl Ticho, MD – Ophthalmology
E. Michael Cassidy, MD - Ophthalmology
Roshni A Vasaiwala, MD – Cornea Specialist
Hassan A Shah, MD – Oculofacial Plastic, Orbital and Ophthalmic Surgery
Megan Allen, OD – Optometrist
Birva K Shah, OD – Optometrist

Visit our Locations

10436 Southwest Hwy., Chicago Ridge, IL 60415
P: 708-423-4070 F: 708-423-4216

600 Ravinia Ave., Orland Park, IL 60462
P: 708-873-0088 F: 708-873-5224

333 Chestnut Street, Suite 104, Hinsdale, IL 60521
P: 630-323-4202 F: 630-323-6588

7001 W Archer Ave., Chicago, IL 60638
P: 708-423-4070 F: 708-423-4216

801 Mac Arthur Blvd. Ste. 302, Munster, IN 46321
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HILTON/PERKINS
PROGRAM AND (IN PART) FROM A
GRANT FROM THE FAMILY RE-
SOURCE CENTER ON DISABILITIES**



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

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

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

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

What does IPVI do?

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

Check one:

Parent/Guardian Membership: \$15 per year.

Child(ren)'s Names: _____

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

My child(ren)'s eye condition: _____

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

Group/Agency Membership \$50 per year.

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

Medical Specialist \$50 per year.

Scholarship Fund \$10.00

Donation: \$ _____ (tax deductible)

New Membership

Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) - _____

Email: _____

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

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

Have questions or need more information?

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

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
www.ipvi.org

IPVI CALENDAR

- ▶ 9/9 **TCL: FLAIR - Dress to the Nines on 9/9** **Chicago**
- ▶ 9/20 **IPVI Bowling Fundraiser** **Orland Park**
- ▶ 9/20-25 **Space Camp** **Huntsville, AL**

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

**Newsletter Deadline for
OCTOBER 2014 is SEPTEMBER 15th**



**Check Out
www.ipvi.org**

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