

IPVI INSIGHTS

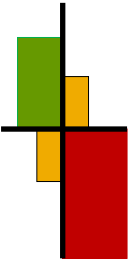


Connecting & Supporting Families Whose Children are Visually Impaired, Including Those with Additional Disabilities

SEPTEMBER 2018

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Filiberto Almendarez III



Parents. I would like to relate a process in life that we may over look for our child(ren). It's called Work. Yes. As in having a job, working in the work force, getting out in the world. It's not easy and I am aware that Blindness/Visual Impairment is usually secondary to other challenges. But, if, this has crossed your mind, there are many opportunities for your child. Some sponsored by companies and others by grant programs. Sometimes there are more positions available then applicants. Plus, working is rewarding and an important part of life. Not only are you financially compensated, you gain growth, responsibility, it's good for health and well-being, socializing, helps build confidence and self-esteem and in an unusual way-Happiness. Who better to train another child/teenager than your own. Our children are constantly coming up with new ways to do things. They are the true innovators. The real creator of new techniques. They live it. Also, parents, you are the foundation of that.

You had to figure out new ways to teach, new ways to communicate, ways to secure their safety, ways to ensure their health via doctors, medications and even the right foods and mostly ensuring them that everything would be okay, despite not having immediate answers. It's true, "Necessity is the mother (or child) of invention". For us, it's not a thought. It's a way of life. So, yes to working and living a full life as much as possible.

P.S. As for my son, he's turning fourteen and I am excited, but not sure if he shares the same mutual feeling about working. I say with a smile, I can only try.

Good Luck and take care!



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wikiHow to do anything...

How to Get a Job when You Are Blind or Visually Impaired

Three Parts:

- Linking Up With Employers
- Realizing Your Potential
- Keeping Up Your Spirits

Finding a job can be difficult for anyone. This may be especially true for the blind and visually impaired however. Because a lot of work assumes people have the functioning use of their eyes, the job market can appear inaccessible to anyone who suffers from a visual impairment. However, between advances in technology and a host of supporting organizations, you'll have plenty of help along the way if you want to seek employment.

To read more of this very helpful article go to:

<https://www.wikihow.com/Get-a-Job-when-You-Are-Blind-or-Visually-Impaired>





PLAY FOR ALL

CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE *and* IPVI FAMILIES

A morning of fun for everyone

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

Saturday, November 10, 2018

Pre-registered families 9:00 - 1:00

General public 10:00 - 1:00+

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

Pre-registration includes:

**Free admission for Chicago Lighthouse & IPVI Families
Free shuttle from the Chicago Lighthouse to Navy Pier**

First 50 people only!!!

If leaving from Chicago Lighthouse, please arrive at 8:30am.



To the Mother Whose Life Isn't Taking the Path She Expected

By Gina Rice

The path of a special needs parent is hard, but you need to choose happiness. You feel countless emotions, each and every one of them, and at some point you have to choose: Will you be a victim or a victor? READ MORE at:

www.wonderbaby.org/articles/special-needs-path



Feelif: The Accessible Tactile for Kids Who Are Visually Impaired

By Amber Bobnar

Feelif is a tactile tablet that is able to combine native features of the Samsung tablet, like vibrations and the built-in screenreader, with a tactile surface to create a whole new learning experience. READ MORE at:

www.wonderbaby.org/articles/feelif



Fall Sensory Art Projects for Visually Impaired Kids

By Amber Bobnar

Choose from five wonderfully crafty art projects adapted for blind children that celebrate fall! Make prints and wreaths with apples and leaves, create your own tree, or decorate pumpkins! READ MORE at:

www.wonderbaby.org/holiday-crafts-and-ideas



7 Accessible Halloween Activities From Sensory Sun

By Amber Bobnar

Sensory Sun provides activities, curriculum and resources for families with kids who are blind or visually impaired, and their Halloween posts are really a treat! READ MORE at:

www.wonderbaby.org/articles/accessible-halloween-activities-from-sensory-sun

New Prevent Blindness Data Shows More than 30,000 Sports-Related Eye Injuries in One Year Alone

Prevent Blindness Declares September as Sports Eye Safety Awareness Month, Provides Tips on Best Ways to Protect Vision While Playing Sports

CHICAGO (Aug. 21, 2018) – New annual data from Prevent Blindness, the nation’s oldest eye health non-profit organization, shows that there were more than 33,000 Americans treated for sports-related eye injuries last year. More eye injuries occur from water and pool activities than any other sport with basketball as the second highest cause. Prevent Blindness has declared September as Sports Eye Safety Awareness Month to help educate the public on the need to protect vision while playing sports activities.

A recent study, “Epidemiology of Sports-Related Eye Injuries in the United States,” found that patients with primary sports-related ocular trauma were most commonly male. And, the proportion of injuries resulting in impaired vision was highest for those injuries associated with paintball (10.2 percent), shooting an air gun (8.2 percent), racket sports (5.8 percent), and soccer (5.7 percent).

The newly published study, “Trends in US Emergency Department Visits for Pediatric Acute Ocular Injury” found that although there was a decline in the rate of overall ocular injuries in the study period (2006-2014), there were increases during the study in injuries related to sports (12.8 percent) and household/domestic activities (20.7 percent).

Eye injuries from any sport may include infection, corneal abrasions, fracture of the eye socket, swollen or detached retinas or a traumatic cataract. Eye injuries from water sports may include eye infections and irritations, and scratches or trauma from other swimmers.

As part of September’s Sports Eye Safety Awareness month, Prevent Blindness provides tips on buying sports eye protectors:

- Always consult an eye care professional to get the best eye protection for your sport and lifestyle
- If you wear prescription glasses, ask your eye doctor to fit you for prescription eye protection. If you're a monocular athlete (a person with only one eye that sees well), ask your eye doctor what sports you can safely participate in.
- Do not buy eye protection without lenses. Only "lensed" protectors are recommended 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 your eyes can be very dangerous and cause serious injury.
- Fogging of the lenses can be a problem when you're active. Some eye protection options are available with anti-fog coating. Others have side vents for additional ventilation. Try on different types to determine which is most comfortable for you.
- Check the packaging to see if the eye protector you select has been tested for sports use. Also check to see that the eye protector is made of polycarbonate material. Polycarbonate eye protection is the most impact resistant.

- Sports eye protection should be padded or cushioned along the brow and bridge of the nose. Padding will prevent the eye guards from cutting your skin.
- Try on the eye protector to determine if it's the right size. Adjust the strap and make sure it's not too tight or too loose. Consult your eye care professional to ensure it has a comfortable, safe fit.

“Wearing eye protection should be part of any athlete’s routine, just as putting on equipment like shin guards, gloves, or a helmet are,” said Jeff Todd, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness. “Eye accidents happen so quickly, but the effects can be painful and last a lifetime. Consulting an eye care professional can protect healthy eyesight without compromising on performance.”

Liberty Sport and Prevent Blindness are partnering for the annual “September is Sports Eye Injury Prevention Awareness Month” program. The program provides printed materials to assist eye care professionals in educating consumers on the importance of eye safety during sports. To request a free kit, please contact Angela Gerber, Liberty Sport, at (973) 882-0986 x972 or agerber@libertysport.com.

For more information on sports eye injury prevention or contact lens safety, please call Prevent Blindness at (800) 331-2020, or visit www.preventblindness.org/sports-eye-safety.



Seedlings Braille Books for Children's Fall 2018 Newsletter



Study: Key to Happiness? Learn braille!



Who's happier: an individual who's totally blind and reads braille, or a person who has some vision but doesn't read braille?

It's the totally blind individual who reads braille.

That's the finding of a new study on the link between braille reading and well-being.

"It's a little bit counterintuitive," admits Arielle Michal Silverman, Ph.D., one of the study's two authors and a former Seedlings' kid.

But the survey of 443 legally blind adults found that braille literacy is key to life satisfaction for blind individuals regardless of what age they become blind or how much residual vision they have left.

Silverman, founder of Disability Wisdom Consulting in Silver Spring, Maryland, conducted the study because of her experience being born blind and learning braille as a child. Some of her partially sighted friends weren't offered braille, even though they were legally entitled to it.

As an adult, Silverman learned that some schools don't teach braille to partially sighted children for many reasons including misconceptions that it's a last resort or that technology has replaced it. "That made me really sad," she said. "For me, braille was such a joyous thing."

Silverman remembers getting books for pleasure reading from Seedlings. "They helped me be a motivated reader because I had a lot of choices," she said.

Silverman, 33, regularly uses braille for work. Braille hasn't been replaced by technology; rather, it's helped her to use technology, she said. It came in handy recently for a speech she gave. "I wanted to read it word for word," she said. Without braille, that - and much more - would not have been possible.

"Knowing braille from a young age has given me the literacy skills to follow my professional and personal dreams," Silverman said.

IRA Donations Could Reduce Your Tax Burden



Because of the new higher standard deduction going into effect for tax year 2018, you might want to consider donating directly to charities from your IRAs

to reduce your taxable income.

The standard deduction for 2018 is \$24,000 for a married couple and \$12,000 for a single individual.

Your donation must come directly from your IRA custodian to the charity to qualify for the reduced income on your tax return.

It is a good idea to contact your financial institution by early December to allow the needed time to process your request.

As always, check with your tax advisor to see if this would benefit you.

Seedlings Braille Books for Children is a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

800-777-8552 | info@seedlings.org | www.seedlings.org



Family Resource Center on Disabilities

Parent Training and Information Center



The Illinois Life Span Program of The Arc of Illinois Lunchtime Webinar - The Community & Residential Services Authority and How They Can Help!

September 11 at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please register for The Illinois Life Span Program of The Arc of Illinois Lunchtime Webinar:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3313964721511243779>

Due to the complexity of Illinois' human service system restrictions, children with severe emotional disabilities are often at risk of being under-served or ignored. The Community and Residential Services Authority (CRSA) helps Illinois families and agencies when their youth with mental health needs are denied access to a recommended plan of care. CRSA is dedicated to aiding the best possible outcomes for at-risk children while at the same time assisting the Illinois legislature in creating responsible legislation to address gaps in the children's social services systems.

Illinois is the only state in the nation whose legislature had the foresight to create an agency like CRSA. For nearly 31 years, CRSA has helped thousands of Illinois families with children who have emotional and behavioral issues successfully address the complex service challenges facing them.

There will be no CEU's provided for the webinar.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Request for Reasonable Accommodations Should be Made in Advance.



Illinois Health Care Coverage Options and Benefits for People with Disabilities Conference

September 13, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Agenda:

Information Center/Family Voices of Illinois

8:45 - 10:15 a.m.

Understanding SSI, SSDI, Medicare and Medicaid

presented by Sherri Schneider, Family Benefit Solutions

10:30 - 11:15 a.m.

"Family Advocacy" presented by Greg McClure, Parent, Advocate and Educator, Bleeding Disorders Community

11:15 a.m. - Noon

"Update on Class Action Lawsuits and Children with Special Needs" presented by Robert H. Farley, Jr., Attorney at Law

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

"National Update on ACA and Medicaid" presented by Julie Ward, Deputy Executive Officer for Public Policy, The Arc of the United States

2:15 - 2:45 p.m.

"Private Health Insurance" presented by Anthony Simonetta, Strategic Partner Private Health Insurance

2:45 - 3:30 p.m.

"Health Choice Illinois" presented by Kristin Hartsaw, Director of Training and Technical Assistance, DuPage Federation on Human Services reform.

**FREE CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION + LDA
MEMBERSHIP FOR PARENTS**

Parent scholarships for membership AND conference: from Dr. Janet Lerner Memorial Membership Fund.

Free parking, Free PD hour Verification, Continental breakfast included

10101 South Roberts Road, Suite 205, Palos Hills, IL 60465 | 708-430-7532

Proactive Parenting Approach for Positive Results

November 29, 2018
CPS Garfield Park
2651 W Washington Blvd
Chicago IL 60612



About This Workshop

Learn about proactive parenting techniques that will help you fulfill children's emotional needs that foster good behavior and minimize power struggles. Recognize that all behaviors are trying to tell us something. Children misbehave for a reason. As we become better equipped, we can address these behaviors in a more strategic, positive way and see more positive results!

**Family Resource Center on Disabilities |
(312)939-3513 |
info@frcd.org | www.frcd.org**



Learning Disabilities Association of IL 2018 Conference

October 27, 2018

UNIVERSITY CENTER OF LAKE COUNTY
1200 University Center Drive, Grayslake, IL 60030 | 847-665-4000

TO REGISTER ONLINE Go To: <http://ldainninois.org/event/learning-disabilities-association-of-illinois-2018-conference/>

IPVI

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BY ALL THESE
lovely tokens
SEPTEMBER
days are here,
WITH SUMMER'S BEST
of weather
AND AUTUMN'S
best of cheer.



helen hunt jackson





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: \$20 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 \$20/year.

Medical Specialist \$50 per year.

Scholarship Fund \$10.00

Donation: \$ _____ (tax deductible)

New Membership

Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) - _____

Email: _____

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

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

Have questions or need more information?

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

**Illinois Association for Parents of
Children with Visual Impairments**
P. O. Box 316634
Chicago, IL 60631

IPVI CALENDAR

- | | | |
|----------------|--|------------------|
| ▶ September 11 | Illinois Life Span Program of the Arc of IL | Webinar |
| ▶ September 13 | IL Health Care Coverage Options...Conference | Alsip |
| ▶ October 27 | Learning Disabilities Assoc. of IL Conference | Grayslake |
| November 10 | TCL & IPVI “PLAY FOR ALL” | Chicago |
| ▶ November 29 | Proactive Parenting Approach for Positive Results | Chicago |

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

**Newsletter Deadline for
October 2018 is September 15, 2018**



**Check Out
www.ipvi.org**

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