

IPVI INSIGHTS

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

**April
2014**



IPVI President Announcement

By Lyle Stauder

We are looking forward to a wonderful 2014. We are looking forward to having a great Brookfield Zoo Outing on the third Saturday of July and our first fundraiser in four years at Orland Bowl at 8601 W. 159th St., Orland Park, IL 708.532.8868 on Saturday, September 20, 2014 at 9:30 p.m.

Please sign up for a fun-filled night of Scotch Double Bowling. We will have a pizza buffet dinner with soft drinks and dessert. There is also a Cash Bar. There will be a Split-the-Pot raffle as well as a silent auction. The signup fee is \$35 per person with six people to a lane. The fee includes two hours of bowling with shoes. Call Vicki at 815.355.2098 for reservations. We will have more details in later issues of *Insights*. Also, if we have anyone who wishes to come for dinner only, the charge is \$18.

In planning this fundraiser, we're asking for all of our readership to try to come to support IPVI. Also, we'd like everyone to try to get local businesses to donate either a basket for the silent auction or other prizes for the raffle. Anything you can provide will be greatly appreciated. Call Vicki for coordination of delivery of the prizes gathered. This plans to be a great time. So thank you everyone ahead of time for helping make this a successful outing.

Lastly, IPVI is in serious need of donated website design and upgrade services. If anyone can find some time to help us, we can really use your help. Again, please contact Ms. Juskie if you can lend some assistance.

Have a great month and I'll talk to you soon.

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**Former Lighthouse President
James Kesteloot Receives
Prestigious Migel Award for
Contributions to Blindness
Field**

Citing his “outstanding achievements in the fields of blindness and low vision,” The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) presented former Lighthouse President and current board member James Kesteloot with the prestigious Migel Medal during a special ceremony held in New York City recently.

The Migel Medal, which represents the highest honor in the blindness field, was given to Mr. Kesteloot by Carl R. Augusto, AFB president and CEO. Also joining in the celebration was Mr. Kesteloot’s wife, Barb.



MS. VIC'S VOLLEYS

Victoria Juskie, IPVI Treasurer

VOLLEY I

Since our last publication, no new members have joined this month.

VOLLEY II

Being a parent of a visually impaired or blind child can have its ups and downs. The ups have to do with a wonderful, fun-loving bundle of joy you are holding and raising. The downs are all the issues of low or no vision, other possible medical concerns, and therapies about to be undertaken. You are not alone in this endeavor even though low vision/blindness is a rare occurrence. Besides your family and friends, you have IPVI, and we're your sounding board and source of information.

So as you go through this journey, remember to treat your child growing up like any other child. That means, most likely you'll teach him or her to tie shoes; eat with a spoon, fork and knife; use the toilet; perform personal hygiene and other chores; learn how to take "no" for an answer, and all those other thousands of things children learn. The difference is it takes longer. You become more verbal and descriptive as well as creative. You have to have more patience. You're mad that no one gave you a rulebook. What's up with that? Oh, yeah. No parent gets a rulebook. Guidelines, suggestions, and how-to parenting books are theories that work for some and not others whether or not you have a special needs child. No one size fits all. Sometimes you'll just have to wing it. Other times, you listen to all the advice, follow some of it, and ignore other parts of it. All you can do is try your best and don't sweat the small stuff.

As your child's first, best, most loyal and fier-

**SHARING THE VISION,
PARENT TO PARENT**

Let's have a dialogue. Do you have a question? One of us may have an answer or at least a suggestion.

Submit questions and responses for the IPVI Newsletter to:

Pam Stern
NAPVI Region 3 Representative
pamstern3@gmail.com

QUESTION

Which Expanded Core Curriculum Subjects are taught to your child and included in his/her IEP goals? Which skills would you prioritize as most beneficial for your child?

Expanded Core Curriculum Subjects and Skills

The following are the subjects and skills that stud for a description of Expanded Core Curriculum, please go to the following address:

<http://www.familyconnect.org/parentsite.aspx?FolderID=23&TopicID=382>

● **Compensatory academics**—critical skills that students need to be successful in school, such as concept development, organizational skills, speaking and listening, and communication skills such as braille or print reading and writing.

● **Orientation and mobility**—skills to orient children who are visually impaired to their surroundings and travel

(Continued on page 4)

est advocate, also remember your manners. You're going to meet a lot of professional people and their words can be intimidating, harsh as well as devastating; and unfortunately, most aren't versed in soft-pedaling the bad news. It sounds like they're reading the prognosis out loud from a textbook. When you hear the news, it's kind of like getting clotheslined or hit in the solar plexus with a bat -- you choose. They're both terrible scenarios. So take the high road for the sake of your child and try not to lash out at the doctors or therapists or teachers or the IEP team. They're part of a lineup that's going to help you get through the long haul. At the early stages of receiving news your child has special needs, you don't think about the specifics of how to get through the first 18 years. You just know you have to get through them and it's going to be a lot harder than originally thought because no matter what, kids are a lot of work, period. Now add what comes next in our world, and POW!!!!, you just got clocked.

Lots of time you lash out at the team members because you're mad about what's happening and you can't do any more than you have. Yet, you feel like it's never enough. Remember, those people are on your side. Those with experience in the low/no vision world do anticipate issues you've never thought of and will suggest approaches and tactics to take. However, if you think there's a different way, you can (1) get another opinion; (2) express your opinion calmly and politely, being specific about what your goals are for the child and how you feel they could be done, and (3) suggest pushing the new approach back for a little while so you can get more information about it. I strongly suggest threatening them with lawsuits or physically won't get you very far or help your child.

Try to keep your emotions in check until you leave their offices, if possible. In any case, take Kleenex. You're going to need it.

skills to enable them to move independently and safely in the environment, such as:

- ◆ human guide techniques (also known as sighted guide)
 - ◆ using standard and adaptive canes
 - ◆ recognizing cues and landmarks
 - ◆ moving through space by walking or using a wheelchair
 - ◆ requesting assistance
- **Social interaction**—skills needed to respond appropriately and participate actively in social situations, such as:
 - ◆ shaking hands
 - ◆ turning toward others when speaking or being spoken to
 - ◆ using language to make a request, decline assistance, or express a need
 - ◆ expressing emotion and affection appropriately
 - ◆ participating appropriately in conversations in various situations
 - **Independent living**—skills needed to function as independently as possible in school and at home, including personal grooming, time management, cooking, cleaning, clothing care, and money management.
 - **Recreation and leisure**—skills to ensure students' enjoyment of physical and leisure-time activities, including
 - ◆ making choices about how to spend leisure time
 - ◆ actively participating in physical and social recreational activities
 - ◆ trying new leisure activities
 - ◆ following rules in games and activities at an appropriate level
 - ◆ maintaining safety during leisure activities
 - **Sensory efficiency**—skills that

Also, if possible, make sure you take a second set of ears with you to each appointment. Make notes. If English is not your first language, bring an interpreter and, in any case, ask for a written diagnosis that can be translated for you. Use the Internet to look up information about your child's condition. If there are terms you don't understand, look those up, too. Soon, you'll become an expert at discussing your child's issues.

So in the meantime, my tip of the day is to accept the following that:

God can turn:

- A Mess into a Message
- A Test into Testimony
- A Trial into Triumph
- A Victim into a Victory

These words are so inspiring. Whenever we are faced with the trials and tribulations that we can't handle on our own, before we go to bed we should give them to God and ask for his help. He's up all night any way. This way you can sleep and in the morning, you get to try again. As a parent like you in similar shoes I remember the adage: "I am too positive to be doubtful; too optimistic to be fearful, and to determined to be defeated." There is nothing stopping our faith from helping us if we give it a chance. You're not alone so don't you forget it; and that's not an April Fool's joke. 😊

VOLLEY III

Please send in your membership dues of \$15 as well. Thank you again for your loyal support.



help students use the senses, including any functional vision, hearing, touch, smell (olfactory) and taste (gustatory). Examples of sensory efficiency skills your child may learn include:

- ◆ using optical aids
- ◆ using augmentative and alternative communication devices
- ◆ using touch and vision to identify personal items
- ◆ using sense of smell to know when nearing the school cafeteria

- **Use of technology**—skills to use devices such as computers or other electronic equipment that make it easier to function effectively in school, at home, and in the workplace.

- **Career education**—skills that enable students who are visually impaired to move toward working as an adult, including
 - ◆ exploring and expressing preferences about work roles
 - ◆ assuming work responsibilities at home and school
 - ◆ understanding concepts of reward for work
 - ◆ participating in job experience
 - ◆ learning about jobs and adult work roles at a developmentally appropriate level

- **Self-determination**—skills to enable students to become effective advocates for themselves based on their own needs and goals.

Newsletter entries will be published maintaining the anonymity of all unless otherwise approved.

ASK M@



Happy Spring to All! Hope everyone is doing well this April. I know I am just ready for summer already. Anyways, we could get off on a tangent about that, but let's get right down to business. This month I have received a question that I thought would be a very good topic to cover.

The question was, "With a visual impairment, it is hard to pick up on some people's facial expressions within a conversation. How do I combat this?" My answer to this question is, "I understand the struggle because I deal with that as well. It is a very difficult thing to overcome. It sometimes is an inevitable issue. As we all know there are some things with a visual impairment that just can't be changed; however, I would like to suggest some ideas that may be able to aid in this difficult situation".

One of the things that you could do is to try getting a little closer to the person with whom you are talking. With this, you must be careful to not get too close, obviously, making the conversation awkward and uncomfortable, but yet close enough so you're not yelling across the room. This will be a big help in a lot of scenarios.

Now let's play the "What if" game. What if you are in a conversation and someone asks why you're standing so close and you did not realize how close you were? I would suggest being straightforward and right up front, explaining that you have a little difficulty in seeing facial expressions and you were trying not to miss anything in the conversation. This will explain the situation. Then you can apologize and back up a little bit. As long as you are

dealing with someone who is not a complete jerk, s/he will completely understand and tailor the conversation. What I mean by that is s/he will try not to make as many gestures and expressions.

Hypothetically speaking, if this person is a jerk and makes a big deal about it, don't let it bother you. It is one of those things that we of the visually impaired can learn to deal with. There are always those jerks out there, and we just get through it.

I hope this will help in your future conversation endeavors. Questions like these are always welcome, and I look forward to talking to you next month, so keep sending in your topics.



M@

FAMILY CONNECT WEBSITE

Take a Short 10 Minute FamilyConnect Survey and Enter to Win a Prize! Winners can pick one. Win prizes such as:

- ▶ **\$25 iTunes Card** good for music, books, or applications
- ▶ **Books from AFB Press**
 1. Reach Out and Teach by Dr. Kay Ferrell
 2. College Bound: A Guide for Students with Visual Impairments by Dr. Ellen Trief and Raquel Feeney, M.A.
 3. Tactile Strategies for Children Who Have Visual Impairments and Multiple Disabilities

ties, by Deborah Chen, Ph.D., and June E. Downing, Ph.D.

4. A Parents' Guide to Special Education for Children with Visual Impairments, edited by Susan LaVenture

- ▶ **AFB Webinars** (one hour in length and watch on your schedule)
 1. iPad and Communication for Students with Visual and Multiple Disabilities
 2. Reinforcing Braille Literacy Using the iPad
 3. Creating Tactile Overlays for the iPad and Tablet Devices

[http://www.familyconnect.org/
community.aspx?Type=
Headlines&AnnouncementID=1684](http://www.familyconnect.org/community.aspx?Type=Headlines&AnnouncementID=1684)

2014 Young Described Film Critic Contest (YDFC)

The **Sixth Annual YDFC contest**, presented by the American Council of the Blind's (ACB) **Audio Description Project**, is under way, and this year we're hoping that even more students get involved in reviewing described films! Young people with a visual impairment have a chance to win prizes for themselves, recognition for their schools, and a chance to hold the awesome title "Young Described Film Critic of the Year!" Check out the **YDFC entry form** at

[http://equalaccess.wufoo.com/forms/
young-described-film-critic-ydfc-entry-
form/](http://equalaccess.wufoo.com/forms/young-described-film-critic-ydfc-entry-form/)

Spread the word!

Contact: Bill Stark

Phone: (800) 237-6213 ext. 201

Email: bstark@dcmp.org

Eddie's Struggles with Braille

by Emily Coleman

Over the past few years that I've been writing for FamilyConnect, I've brought up the topic of braille multiple times. It is a constant in my life. Due to Eddie's visual impairment, he simply can't access print. For him to read independently, he has to learn braille. The problem is, and has been for quite some time, that Eddie simply hasn't been that interested in Braille.

Since infancy, we have provided him with braille throughout his environment. Household items were labeled in braille, he had a plethora of braille books, and because I'm a teacher of the visually impaired, he is able to witness me writing braille frequently. We purchased a braille for him early on, and hoped that like our sighted children, simple exposure would build interest.

Eddie is slightly intrigued by the concept of Braille. When we read to him, he seeks out the braille on the page. I think he understands that reading = braille and that books = braille. He likes to be read to, which does allow him to access literature through audio books, but as far as the actual learning goes...he has not been impressed.

We tried the traditional approach, used with most early readers, and he'd get easily frustrated. We tried different types of brailers, great options with audio feedback, but the novelty wore off fast. We'd get excited to see him engaged, but couldn't get him beyond the curiosity phase, which didn't last long. He simply wasn't ready for such equipment or strategies. None of it MEANT anything to him.

In a constant search for a new strategy, I recently attended a braille workshop by Dr. Diane Wormsley. She teaches an educational ap-

proach that builds on what a child's interests are...not on what we think their interests should be. Rightfully so, she calls it a "meaning-centered" approach.

When I left the class, it was the first time in months that I could easily picture Eddie reading. I could see a path, paved by his favorite things, that led directly to literacy. The first step was to pick two of his favorite words, and through collaboration with colleagues and Diane, I chose "alright" and "yee haw." Two of many positive words that he loves to say and enjoys to hear.

I went straight home and told Eddie we were going to play a "game." I had flashcards with the two words, and we practiced tracking the braille. Every time he slid his hands over the word I would say it in a funny or highly positive way. He was in hysterics, and eagerly did a few cards with me, sometimes even saying the word himself. It was the first time I had ever seen Eddie truly enjoy a braille lesson.

Later that night, I was walking Eddie to bed and he said, "Yee haw!" In response, I asked, "What was that other word you read?" He quickly said, "Alright!" I didn't ask about the other word in the "game" or simply "the other word." I asked for the word that he READ...and he responded correctly. I like to think this was a first step towards actively processing literacy.

Of course, he won't learn braille overnight...but I now can see a way. I never had any doubt that he could read, but I doubted how he would get there. Between myself and Eddie's fantastic teacher of the visually impaired, he is going to read braille.



Seeking Electronic Health Record (EHR) Accessibility Information

NFB is currently investigating accessibility features available within Electronic Health Record (EHR) software.

If you work in the healthcare industry or are a student preparing for a career in the healthcare industry and encounter EHRs regularly at your job or as a part of your studies, NFB needs to hear from you. In an effort to understand how members are affected by the influx of EHRs, NFB is gathering data from members whose job duties or coursework involve entering, reviewing, and / or retrieving data within EHRs. EHRs in question may include Epic, Allscripts, Cerner, eClinical-Works, NextGen and other software companies' products.

Please call Valerie Yingling, paralegal, at 410-659-9314 x 2440 to share your EHR experiences, both positive and negative.



Landmark Legislation to Provide Improved Education for Students with Visual and Hearing Impairments Introduced into U.S. House

The Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act to provide special education for every child who is blind, visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing

Washington (February 14, 2014)—The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) announced

today the introduction of H.R. 4040—the Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act, the most comprehensive special education legislation for students with visual or hearing disabilities to date.

"Right now, our schools are not prepared to help children who are visually impaired or hearing impaired develop to their fullest potential, and we are determined to change that," said Paul Schroeder, vice president of programs and policy at AFB. "H.R. 4040 would provide vital resources and establish requirements to help students with visual or hearing impairments excel in the classroom, at home, and in their communities."

The legislation would ensure:

- Every child who is deaf and every child who is blind, regardless of whether they have additional disabilities, will be properly counted and served
- Each of a child's unique learning needs will be properly evaluated
- States will engage in strategic planning to be sure that they can in fact meet each child's specialized needs
- The U.S. Department of Education will do its part to hold states and schools accountable
- Students who are deaf will be served by qualified personnel
- Students who are blind will receive state-of-the-art services and skills supported through a new major national collaborative initiative addressing their unique learning needs

Introduced by Reps. Matt Cartwright (D-PA), Mark Takano (D-CA) and Steve Stockman (R-TX), H.R. 4040 combines into one bill two pieces of formerly draft-only legislation, the Anne Sullivan Macy Act, named for Helen Keller's beloved teacher and advocated by a broad coalition of national, regional and community-

based organizations representing vision loss; and the Alice Cogswell Act, named for the first deaf girl to be educated in a school for the deaf in the United States and advocated by America's leading deafness and hard of hearing organizational voices.

"Children with visual impairments or hearing impairments are slipping through the cracks and not receiving the specialized services and support needed to thrive in the classroom," said Mark Richert, director of public policy at AFB. "It's been almost 40 years since the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was enacted; we're not going to wait another 40 years before the needs of blind and deaf students are met in our schools."

AFB is urging everyone to contact their member of the U.S. House of Representatives to ask them to cosponsor H.R. 4040. Doing so will help ensure that the nation's special education system is worthy of the enormous potential of every child who is blind, visually impaired, deaf, or hard of hearing. To locate your representative, visit the [House of Representative's contact page](#) and enter in your zip code.

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About the Anne Sullivan Macy Act

The Anne Sullivan Macy Act was initially drafted by the American Foundation for the Blind. On June 27, 2013, the anniversary of Helen Keller's birth, AFB held a national call-in day, wherein hundreds of phone calls, emails, and texts poured in from across the nation, from parents, professionals, and people with disabilities, to the U.S. Congress with a simple message: Our special education system's promise of a truly appropriate education for students who are blind or visually impaired, and students who are deaf or hard of hearing, can only be kept if we commit now to meeting each of our students' unique learning needs. As result, the most comprehensive legislation to enhance and reform the country's special education system for students with vision loss and students with hearing loss is now underway.

Contact:

Adrianna Montague-Devaud, AFB Communications
212-502-7615 | amontague@afb.net



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

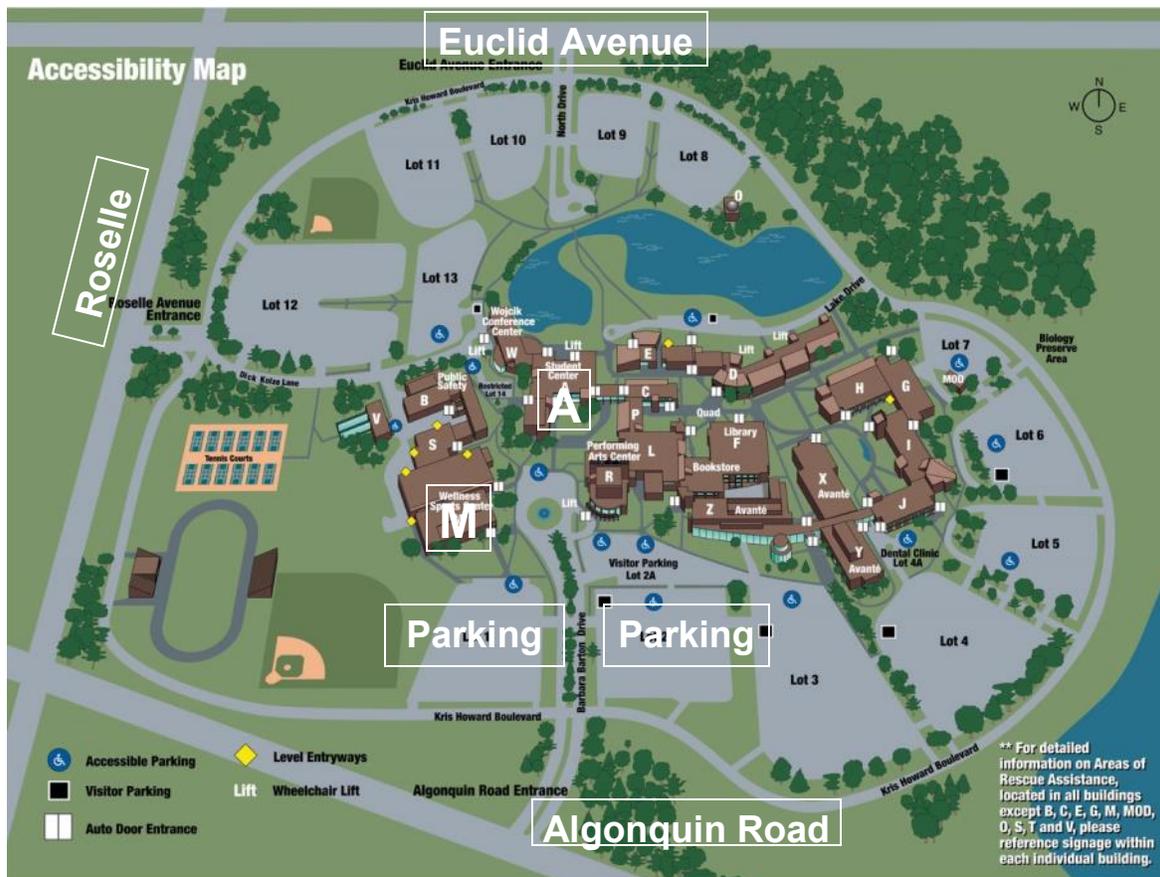
PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE

A Journey from Elementary School to Employment for
Individuals with Visual Impairments

Friday, April 4, 2014
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Harper College
Bldg. A, Room A-238
1200 W. Algonquin Road
Palatine, Illinois

COST: NO FEE
Continental breakfast and pizza lunch provided



Harper College

Building A is located off the Algonquin Road entrance to Harper. Follow the drive up to either handicapped parking in front of Building A (or Building M), or general parking in Lots 1 or 2.

Conference Details



8:00 am - Check in

8:30 - 9:30 am - Session 1: Steve Baskis

Blind Endeavors

9:40 am - 11:50 am Session 2a: The Guiding Eyes: Michael Meteyer

Transitioning... What about a dog?

10:05 am - Session 2b: Panel of Students with Visual Impairments

College and the Real World, Hear our Experiences

12:00 pm - Announcements & Lunch

1:00 pm - Session 4: Bryan Moles

iOS7 Accessibility Features, Hear What's New

Registration Information

(Please register by: Friday, March 28, 2014)

Please specify the following:

- Student (grade level), parent, teacher, other
- Format preference: Large print, Braille
- E-mail address
- Mailing address
- Phone number
- Need for CPDU's or CEU's

Contact:

Laura Huyser: laurahuyser@sd54.org

(847) 357-5055

Fax (847) 357-5007

Handouts for conference just prior to conference day

<http://sd54.org/pathways/>



Please contact us regarding disability services.



Apply for The Michael J. McGowan Leadership Scholarship Award

The **Michael J. McGowan Leadership Scholarship Award** was established in 2008 on behalf of the National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation (NOAH) to recognize leadership and empower young people with albinism.

NOAH will award one scholarship annually to a NOAH member with albinism residing in the U.S. or Canada who is enrolled in an undergraduate program at an institution of higher education in the U.S. or Canada. The intent is to enhance educational opportunities for students with albinism while celebrating dedication and outstanding leadership qualities similar to those exhibited by NOAH's current and past leaders.

The 2014 scholarship award will be \$3,000.

Applications require both an **online component** as well as documents sent via email or regular mail.

1. **Online: Complete the application** which includes your personal statement of 500 words or less and a certification which contains an electronic signature.
2. Send these documents via email or regular mail:
 - ⇒ An eye report documenting a diagnosis of albinism
 - ⇒ At least two (2) letters of recommendation from non-family members
 - ⇒ Your academic transcript (including SAT/ACT scores, if applicable)
 - ⇒ A letter of acceptance to or proof of enrollment at an institution of higher learning
 - ⇒ Email scanned documents to: info@albinism.org

Send regular mail to: NOAH McGowan Scholarship PO Box 959 East Hampstead, NH 03826-0959

Fax: 1-800-648-2310

Online applications must be submitted by and all supporting documents for the 2014 McGowan Scholarship must be **POSTMARKED by May 1, 2014**. NOAH will not consider you for the scholarship if you fail to complete the online application (including the personal statement and certification) or if you fail to submit all of the supporting documents.

Phone: (800) 473-2310

Email: scholarship@albinism.org





Topics of interest will include:

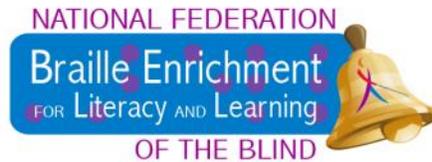
- ▶ Asthma
- ▶ Diabetes
- ▶ Epilepsy
- ▶ Autism
- ▶ Learning disabilities
- ▶ Leukemia
- ▶ Obesity
- ▶ ADHD
- ▶ Down Syndrome
- ▶ Cerebral Palsy
- ▶ Anxiety
- ▶ Cystic Fibrosis
- ▶ Vision deficits
- ▶ Hearing deficits
- ▶ Tourettes Syndrome
- ▶ Allergies
- ▶ Muscular Dystrophy
- ▶ Multiple Sclerosis
- ▶ Speech/Language Developmental delays

Why Attend

All attendees will have a unique opportunity to network with an amazing selection of preferred vendors dedicated to offering products and services specific to special needs families.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to receive the most recent information on treatments and resources for many health related domains from experts in their field including:

- ▶ Disability funding/entitlements
- ▶ Educational entitlement
- ▶ Summer camps
- ▶ Extra-curricular activities
- ▶ Therapists
- ▶ Counseling services
- ▶ Attorneys
- ▶ Financial planners
- ▶ Mobility adaptations companies
- ▶ Advocacy groups
- ▶ Educational entities
- ▶ Special education co-ops
- ▶ Health care professionals
- ▶ Hospitals
- ▶ Clinics
- ▶ Pharmaceutical companies
- ▶ Security companies
- ▶ Caregivers
- ▶ Toys
- ▶ Insurance companies
- ▶ Group Homes
- ▶ Holistic/Alternative treatments
- ▶ Medical ID Jewelry



The National Federation of the Blind is excited to offer its Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning Program, BELL, this summer in Illinois. This is a great opportunity for Braille skills to be addressed in a fun and new environment.

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

When: Monday- Friday, June 16- June 27, 2014
Monday/Wednesday/Friday Times: 8:30-3:30
Tuesday/Thursday Times: 8:30-4:30

Cost: \$50

We will explore and learn new Braille and blindness skills. As a group, field trips will be taken twice a week to utilize and improve mobility skills.

Apply at: <https://nfb.org/bell-program> after March 15, 2014



The National Federation of the Blind is excited to offer its Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning Program, BELL, this summer in Illinois. This opportunity will be a weeklong residential program on Illinois State University's campus.

Where: Illinois State University Campus, Normal, IL

When: July 21- July 25, 2014

Who: Blind child/Parent pairs

Cost: \$50

The children will explore and learn new Braille and blindness skills.

A Parent session will run parallel with the student portion. Information on allowing for independence, community resources and child advocacy and much more will be covered.

Apply at: <https://nfb.org/bell-program> after March 15, 2014



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.

Navegando el Proceso del IEP
Wednesday, April 2, 10am-12pm

Six Principles of IDEA
Saturday, April 5, 10am-1pm

Navigating the IEP Process
Saturday, April 12, 10am-1pm

Transition Series: Moving On: Life in the Community
Saturday, April 26, 10am-1pm

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

Save the Date

The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities is excited to announce that



will return to Navy Pier on
Free and Open to the Public
July 17, 2014
Navy Pier, Festival Hall A
10am-5pm

AccessChicago is the perfect event for people with disabilities of all ages!

Test products, services and connect with community organizations to learn about available disability-related social services.

- Take part in various adaptive sports and recreational demonstrations.
- Learn about legal rights of people with disabilities.
- Participate in a free health screening.
- Great family event! Fun activities for children!

New This Year!

- Attendees can sign up online in advance via Eventbrite! Go to www.eventbrite.com/e/accesschicago-tickets-10022356137 to sign up for *AccessChicago* early to avoid lines, enter raffles, sign up for MOPD news alerts mailing lists, and more!
- Exhibitors can now sell products and services at *AccessChicago*!



City of Chicago
Rahm Emanuel, Mayor

Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities
Karen Tamley, Commissioner



Are you a teenager who could use a week of fun, outdoor activity and friendship this summer? Would you enjoy the challenge of developing new travel skills and stretching your independence? If so, the Leader Dog Summer Experience was designed with you in mind.

Our Summer Experience combines outdoor camp activities such as kayaking, rock wall climbing and tandem biking with things exclusively Leader Dog—GPS training and the opportunity to try-out the guide dog lifestyle. The combination will help you increase the skills you need to live independently!

The Leader Dog Summer Experience is for boys and girls ages 16 and 17 who are legally blind. The program is completely free including airfare—and everyone receives a free Kaptan PLUS audible pedestrian GPS device to keep.

The **Summer Experience is scheduled for June 21—June 28, 2013** and **applications are due May 1**, so time is of the essence. For more information and to start the application process, go to **www.leaderdog.org/programs/youth** or call our client services department at 888-777-5332.

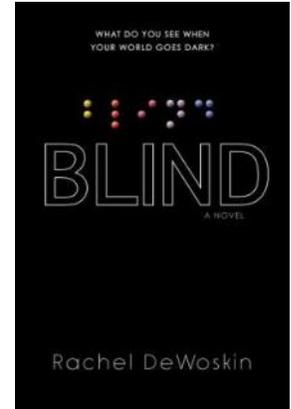
Regards,

Rachelle Kniffen
Marketing Manager
Leader Dogs for the Blind
1039 S. Rochester Rd. ●
Rochester Hills, MI 48307-3115
Direct (248) 659-5013
Toll Free (888) 777-5332
leaderdog.org





Seeing
WHAT'S
Possible
Annual Dinner 2014



THURSDAY MAY 22, 2014

Benefit For The Chicago Lighthouse

Rachel DeWoskin, prize-winning novelist who recently authored *Blind* along with several other highly acclaimed books, will keynote the 2014 Seeing What's Possible Dinner for The Chicago Lighthouse on Thursday evening, May 22nd.

This very special event, which will feature the magical sounds of the Stanley Paul Orchestra, will take place from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the elegant Four Seasons Hotel, 120 E. Delaware. All dinner proceeds will benefit The Lighthouse's world-class programs assisting individuals who are blind or visually impaired.



Hailed as one of the city's most gifted novelists, Ms. DeWoskin also teaches fiction writing at The University of Chicago. Her newest work, *Blind*, describes the courageous journey undertaken by a teenager who loses her sight following a freak accident. As part of her extensive research for the book, which is due out later this summer, Ms. DeWoskin spent a good deal of time at The Lighthouse, learning Braille and interviewing program participants.



In addition, the gala will honor distinguished attorney and longtime Lighthouse board member Frank Chanen. Mr. Chanen, who also served as board chair, will receive the agency's prestigious Beacon of Light Award for his tireless efforts on behalf of the blind and visually impaired community. Among his innumerable accomplishments was co-chairing a successful fundraising campaign that enabled The Lighthouse to physically expand its space so it could grow its critical services.

Serving as Honorary Dinner Chairs are Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Congressman Danny K. Davis. The 2014 Dinner Chairman is Lighthouse board member and prominent Chicagoan, Anida Johnson "Cookie" Cohen.

Tickets for the event are \$500 or \$350 (price point determines seating). For more information, including how to purchase a dinner table and sponsorship opportunities, please call 312-997-3668 or email events@chicagolighthouse.org

Summer Camp 2014

CHRISTIAN RECORD

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

Imagine what it's like for a blind child to attend one of our National Camps for Blind Children. Fun and adventure provide motivation, recreation, and education -- free of charge to the blind.

Summer camps span North America, with canoeing, archery (yes, with balloons on the targets), horsemanship, tandem bicycling, talent programs, and much, much more. About a dozen camps will serve hundreds of blind campers this year. There is a registered nurse on duty the whole week for injuries and to dispense medications. Transportation will be provided.

The camps are FREE to blind and legally blind persons, except for a nonrefundable processing fee of \$35.

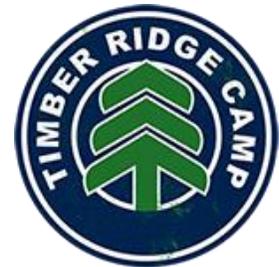
The one-week camps are the highlight of the year for campers, young and old. They appreciate making new friends and learning practical skills in an environment that encourages independence, wholesome activity, and high moral values.

TIMBER RIDGE (June 22-29)



Ages: 9 - 65
1674 Timber Ridge Rd
Spencer IN 47460
Camp Coordinator: Dan Theis
☎ (260)854-2390

Registration Closes: May 22, 2014



Applications can be downloaded at christianrecord.org.
Requirements are also on the application.





WIN BIG BUCKS!

**Visually Impaired Preschool Services (VIPS)
is giving away up to \$10,000**

- Tickets are \$100 each. Only 200 tickets will be sold.
- Drawing to be held on Sunday, June 1st at the VIPS Tennis Tournament
 - Need not be present to win.
- If the maximum # of tickets are not sold, winner will split the pot.

Encourage your friends and family members to pitch in together!

Go to www.vips.org or call 502-636-3207 to purchase your chances.



VIPS empowers families by providing education excellence to young children with visual impairments in order to build a strong foundation for reaching their highest potential.



FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS

- SAVE THE DATE -

Artistry of Wine Perfect Pairings of Food & Wine

Benefitting the Foundation Fighting Blindness

Thursday, June 26, 2014
6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Green Acres Country Club
916 Dundee Road
Northbrook, IL 60062-2706

You're invited!

Join us in raising a glass to celebrate great wine, delicious food and good friends, all while supporting the important work of the Foundation Fighting Blindness. Come enjoy a spectacular array of unique food and wine pairings artfully presented by some of Chicagoland's finest chefs. We also invite you to participate in our silent auction featuring items from our generous in-kind supporters.

For tickets and sponsorship information, contact Amanda Clayton at (847) 680-0100 or AClayton@FightBlindness.org

Event Co-Chairs:

- Joel & Barbara Stone

Honorary Chair:

- Bruce Grieve

Wine Committee:

- George & Marietta Abraham
- Jim & Lesley Anixter
- David & Priscilla Baum
- Ted & Marlene Beck
- Daniel & Harriet Crane
- Edward & Sherry Fox
- Stuart & Ellen Goldin
- Jim & Judy Hoke
- Ronald & Caryl Kushner
- Michael & Judy Lavin
- Buzzy Lippman & Wendy Rubin
- Jim & Barb Marland
- Keith & Denise Morton
- David & Karen Sager
- Brian & Carolyn Schroeder
- Bruce & Jan Shapiro
- Joel & Cheryl Siegel
- Larry & Miriam Silverman
- David & Yvette Stone
- Michael Stone
- Russell & Shelly Stone
- Herb & Karen Wander
- Robert & Gail Wertheimer



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

FEATURED SESSION

Gaining Client Compliance in 10 Simple Steps



This session will provide 10 simple steps that a GDMI or O&M instructor could utilize to gain client compliance with training techniques. It will also cover key aspects of our profession, such as how to achieve "buy in" to food rewarding dogs and ways to encourage follow through with cane techniques, and will provide suggestions on how to empower clients and make them feel appreciated even when difficult decisions such as dog changes or being sent home without a dog occur.

Watch This Session for FREE!

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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Organization Skills for Successful Street Crossings and Urban Travel in the US for Students Who Are Completely Blind

This presentation will focus on techniques and strategies found to be effective when teaching students who are totally blind to become successful and efficient independent street crossers and urban travelers. Participants will be shown a step-by-step process for students who are completely blind to teach them to become accurate and successful street crossers.

MORE: Same website



LIGHTS, CAMERA, NOW WHAT? How to Prepare a Video Assessment for a Guide Dog Applicant

Have you ever been asked to assist with a video for a guide dog applicant? In this workshop the Guide Dog Foundation's Consumer Services staff will answer the questions: "What do we want to see in a video?" "How can I shoot this video?"; and, "How do I get this video back to you?" Attendees will be given several examples of how to shoot that perfect video using cameras and cell phones.

MORE: Same website



The Evolution of Guide Dog Harness and Handle Design: Trainers, Clients and Dogs

This session will examine the evolution of harness design, with a focus on ergonomic concerns and solutions. General design and specific custom modifications will be discussed by Dave Chabot, who makes harnesses for the majority of the U.S. schools, and Lukas Franck, who has been involved in handle design for many years. Canine health and comfort will also be addressed.

MORE: Same website

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

Lyle Stauder
41 Groton
Springfield, IL 62702
(217) 787-9728
astauder@springnet1.com

OPERATIONS VP

Vacant

SERVICES VP

Mary Zabelski
6153 N. Nettleton Avenue
Chicago, IL 60631
(773) 774-4742
Mary.zabelski@chicagolighthouse.org

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

SPANISH TRANSLATOR

Noelia Gamino
708-655-2747

**THIS PUBLICATION IS SUPPORTED
(IN PART) BY THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION FOR
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VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS (NAPVI)
HILTON/PERKINS
PROGRAM AND (IN PART) FROM A
GRANT FROM THE FAMILY RE-
SOURCE CENTER ON DISABILITIES**



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

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

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

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

What does IPVI do?

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

Check one:

Parent/Guardian Membership: \$15 per year.

Child(ren)'s Names: _____

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

My child(ren)'s eye condition: _____

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

Group/Agency Membership \$50 per year.

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

Medical Specialist \$50 per year.

Scholarship Fund \$10.00

Donation: \$ _____ (tax deductible)

New Membership

Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) - _____

Email: _____

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

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

**Have questions or need
more information?**

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

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

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

IPVI CALENDAR

- | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| ▶ 4/4 | Pathways to the Future | Palatine |
| ▶ 5/3 | Illinois Special Needs Expo | St. Charles |
| ▶ 5/22 | Seeing What's Possible Dinner | Chicago |
| ▶ 6/16-27 | NFB Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning Program (BELL) | Chicago |
| 7/21-25 | | Normal |
| ▶ 6/21-28 | LeaderDogs Summer Experience | Michigan |
| ▶ 6/22-29 | Summer Camp 2014 at Timber Ridge | Spencer, IN |
| ▶ 6/26 | FFB Artistry of Wine | Northbrook |
| ▶ 7/17 | AccessChicago | Chicago |

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

**Newsletter Deadline for
MAY 2014 is APRIL 15th**



**Check Out
www.ipvi.org**

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