

# IPVI INSIGHTS



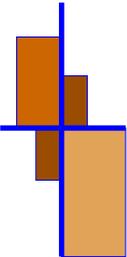
*Connecting & Supporting Families Whose Children are Visually Impaired, Including Those with Additional Disabilities*

**August 2019**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Filiberto Almendarez III

2019 Brookfield Zoo Outing



WOW! What an event. Not even the Hot weather could stop us. It was so hot. I was not expecting a large turn out, which was understandable. But I should know not to underestimate IPVI families. Thank you for coming out with your child (ren) and celebrating together and making the event amazing. I truly enjoy conversing and sharing joyful tears. Keep hoping and moving forward.

Also, I would like to thank Commissioner Dennis Deer for being our guest speaker. His kind words and support are deeply appreciated. Thank you Commissioner Deer. Another, thank you goes to Frank Davis who took us through some IPVI history. From where we were to where we are now. Thank you, Frank. Especially for your endless support. Additionally, I can not thank enough all the volunteers, donors, the Chicago Lighthouse, the Brookfield Zoo staff and all who contributed. In order to organize an event like this it takes a lot of organizing and many helpful hands to make this possible. Thank You!

Lastly, I would like to thank Lilianna. Our surprise special guest, who sang her heart out and silenced everyone in the room. She captured our hearts and peacefully soothed all our struggles with her angelic voice. In fact, you could hear a pin drop, since no one made a sound. Not even our children. It was a breathtaking performance. Thank you, Lilianna!

Again, thank you and I am grateful to be a part of the IPVI family. We are a tree with branches growing in all directions, but the roots remain the same. We live diverse lives, but always come back home and eat, laugh and rejoice together.

Stay cool and take care!



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**PICTURES FROM ZOO OUTING**



Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments



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Frank Davis



Lilianna sings beautifully





## IATP Statewide Conference And Expo

Presented by

Illinois Assistive Technology  
Program

**WHEN:** Friday 9/13/19 - 8:00 TO 5:30, Saturday 9/14/19 - 8:00 TO 3:30

**WHERE:** Crowne Plaza • 3000 South Dirksen Parkway - Springfield, IL 62703

Discover The Possibilities Assistive Technology in  
EDUCATION \* EMPLOYMENT \* COMMUNITY LIVING  
CEUs WILL BE OFFERED

Expo Free And Open To The Public  
FRIDAY 11:30 - 5:30 SATURDAY 9:00 - 3:30  
Explore And Try The Latest Assistive Technology  
Free Makers Day On Saturday At 2:30  
Create Devices To Take Home

Register by August 15, 2019



"Stepping  
Stones of  
Transi-  
tion" in-  
vites par-  
ticipants

**Registration for the 15th Annual Illinois  
Statewide Transition Conference on October  
17-18, 2019, at The Gateway Center in  
Collinsville, Illinois.**

to imagine the possibilities for students with disabilities in the areas of independent living, education and training, employment, community integration, health care and self-advocacy. It features

- 64 breakout sessions
- 80+ speakers
- CE, CPDU, CRC credits available upon request

The conference is aimed at transition-aged youth, parents, caretakers, vocational professionals, healthcare professionals, educators, college students pursuing careers in special education and community advocates. Participants will come away with valuable tools, resources and contacts to put transition-aged youth with disabilities on the path to success and achieving their dreams.

***Register early! Registration for this conference will close on September 13 or when we reach 600 attendees, whichever comes first***



**August is Declared Children’s Eye Health and Safety Month by Prevent Blindness and the National Optometric Association**

***-National Non-profit Groups Join Together to Educate Public on the Importance of Healthy Vision for Kids-***

**CHICAGO (July 22, 2019)** – Across the country, many children are beginning a new school year and healthy vision will be critical to a successful academic year. As a child grows, an untreated eye disease or condition becomes more difficult to correct. These can worsen and lead to other serious problems as well as affect reading ability, focus, behavior, personality and social adjustment in school. Vision problems that can affect children include Amblyopia, (“lazy eye”), Strabismus, (“crossed eyes”), and the most common forms of refractive error: myopia (nearsightedness) and hyperopia (farsightedness).

For the second year in a row, **Prevent Blindness** and the **National Optometric Association** (NOA) are teaming up to declare August as Children’s Eye Health and Safety Awareness Month to educate parents and caregivers on the steps that should be taken to ensure that students are provided with the best opportunity to have a successful school year through healthy vision.

To help educate parents and in celebration of its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the **National Center for Children’s Vision and Eye Health at Prevent Blindness** is offering the newly revised **“Guide to Vision Health for Your Newborn, Infant, and Toddler.”** This no-cost comprehensive resource offers information on a variety of topics, including common milestones for visual development, how to help your baby’s vision to develop, warning signs of possible vision problems, and more. The earlier a vision disorder can be identified and treated, the stronger start to learning and development a child will have.

A child may be at higher risk of developing a vision problem if

- ▶ He or she was born prematurely (less than 32 weeks completed gestation.)
- ▶ Has a family history of vision disorders, such as childhood cataract, amblyopia (may also be called lazy eye), misaligned eyes, eye tumors, or wore glasses before first grade.
- ▶ Has had an eye injury (problems resulting from childhood eye injuries may develop much later in life.)
- ▶ Has been diagnosed with a problem that could affect his or her physical, mental and/or, emotional development.

“By diagnosing and treating vision problems early, we can actually help prevent vision loss later in life,” said Dr. Sherrol A. Reynolds, president of the NOA, associate professor at Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry, and volunteer member of the Prevent Blindness Scientific Advisory Committee. “Vision is so instrumental in how a child develops, that by ensuring all of our children have access to quality eye care services, we are helping build a brighter future.

Prevent Blindness partner, **OCuSOFT® Inc.**, a privately-held eye and skin care company dedicated to innovation in eyelid hygiene and ocular health, will make a donation to Prevent Blindness in support of Children’s Eye Health and Safety Awareness Month.

To download a copy of the *Guide to Vision Health for Your Newborn, Infant, and Toddler* or for more information on **children’s eye health and safety**, the NCCVEH, or financial assistance programs, please call Prevent Blindness at (800) 331-2020 or visit [preventblindness.org](http://preventblindness.org).

### About Prevent Blindness

Founded in 1908, Prevent Blindness is the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness and saving sight. Focused on promoting a continuum of vision care, Prevent Blindness touches the lives of millions of people each year through public and professional education, advocacy, certified vision screening and training, community and patient service programs and research. These services are made possible through the generous support of the American public. Together with a network of affiliates, Prevent Blindness is committed to eliminating preventable blindness in America. For more information, or to make a contribution to the sight-saving fund, call 1-800-331-2020. Or, visit us on the Web at [preventblindness.org](http://preventblindness.org) or [facebook.com/preventblindness](https://www.facebook.com/preventblindness).

### About the National Optometric Association

The National Optometric Association (NOA) was founded in 1969 in Richmond, Virginia, as a not-for-profit corporation. The NOA is comprised primarily of minority optometrists from throughout the United States. The recruitment of minority students into the schools and colleges of optometry and their placement into appropriate practice settings upon graduation are two priorities of the NOA. Coincident with these priorities is the underlying purpose of the NOA — advancing the visual health of minority populations through the delivery of effective and efficient eye and vision care services to the minority community, a shared priority with Prevent Blindness. The NOA is committed to reducing visual impairment and blindness by increasing awareness, education, community outreach and screenings in urban areas, and partnership with the Prevent Blindness network of affiliates. More information about the NOA is available online at: <http://www.nationaloptometricassociation.com/>

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*Just like people, the  
Sunflower needs the dirt to  
keep grounded and stable so  
it can reach for the sun and  
lightness.*

*We all have the power to  
grow from darkness into light.*





# 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.
- Holds fun outings adapted for children with visual impairments at 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- 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.
- 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**

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## **IPVI CALENDAR**

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

**Newsletter Deadline for  
September 2019 is August 15, 2019**



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

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