

IPVI INSIGHTS

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

June
2014



IPVI President Announcement

By Lyle Stauder

Please sign up to attend this year's IPVI Member's Only Zoo Outing. We're looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Please note the change in the date to July 12th. Until then, have a terrific summer.

2014 13TH ANNUAL MEMBERS ONLY OUTING

"Finding Other Parents and Families: Helping Each Other"

Imagine (in the mind's eye) a sensory Zoo experience —listening to the animals, smelling the environment, touching real and simulated animals in their habitat....well

Saturday, July 12, 2014 at Brookfield Zoo

is the chance of a lifetime....the only problem? Are you going to be there?

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! Brookfield Zoo is BIG and the choices are many—arrive early and plan on spending the entire day. **Plan to arrive no later than 9:30 a.m.; the Zoo opens at 10 a.m.** Tons of activities are available throughout your day! Your IPVI T-Shirt will be your exclusive passport into all the action....parking (south lot), admission to Zoo, pizza lunch, the Great Bears' Wilderness, the Seven Seas Dolphin Show (with exclusive after show event), Hamill Family Play Zoo, Children's Petting Zoo, etc. Be prepared for weather.

SPEAKER INFO



Mary Zabelski is the Senior Vice President of Educational Services at The Chicago Lighthouse for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired. She has been the School Principal of the Chicago Lighthouse Child Development Center, an Illinois State Board of Education approved therapeutic day school for twenty-five years. She has a Master of Arts in Special Education from Northeastern Illinois and has completed her coursework on her doctorate in Educational Psychology at Northern Illinois University. Previously she taught as a special education teacher, working with stu-

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dents who were blind or visually impaired and multi-disabled.

She is the parent of an adult daughter who is blind. Also, Mary is the recent past-president of the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments, Inc. (NAPVI), and the co-founder of the Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (IPVI).

Become an IPVI member! Dues paying members receive free admission and parking at our Members Only Events — Zoo Outing, Holiday Parties, Picnic, etc. — activities intended to provide social and literacy opportunities for children, parents, teachers, professionals and friends.

If you'd like more information on how to attend the 2014 IPVI Zoo Outing, or how to become a member of the "IPVI Family Network", call **Mary Zabelski at the Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind, 312-666-1331 x3675.**



This RARE & UNIQUE tandem bicycle for 2 is known as "THE BUDDY BIKE". You can research it for yourself on the internet & there is a demonstration & video on how it works & it will have some more detailed pictures so you can get a better idea on what you are looking at! It is just one single bike with 2 seats side by side as opposed to front & back. This way you both can see everything with no one sitting behind you and staring at your back! LOL! It has 2 sets of handle bars; the person that chooses to sit on the left side will have control of the steering and breaks, and your buddy, who will sit on the right, is just the passenger but needs to pedal, so there is some work involved for the passen-

(Continued on page 6)

IPVI's 2014 BROOKFIELD ZOO - MEMBERS-ONLY OUTING Saturday July 12th, 2014 Registration & Payment Form

Attendance is restricted to currently paid members of IPVI. All attendees must pre-register, purchase a 2014 Zoo T-Shirt and show current identification at the Zoo. Attendees may be required to sign Release of Liability & Use of Photographs Form.

Family Name: _____ **Home #** () _____ - _____

address: _____ **city:** _____ **zip code:** _____

e-mail: _____ **Cell #** () _____ - _____

1) **Name:** _____ **Age:** ____ **T-Shirt:** (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg), (XX-lg), (XXX-lg)

2) **Name:** _____ **Age:** ____ **T-Shirt:** (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg), (XX-lg), (XXX-lg)

3) **Name:** _____ **Age:** ____ **T-Shirt:** (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg), (XX-lg), (XXX-lg)

4) **Name:** _____ **Age:** ____ **T-Shirt:** (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg), (XX-lg), (XXX-lg)

5) **Name:** _____ **Age:** ____ **T-Shirt:** (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg), (XX-lg), (XXX-lg)

6) **Name:** _____ **Age:** ____ **T-Shirt:** (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg), (XX-lg), (XXX-lg)

7) **Name:** _____ **Age:** ____ **T-Shirt:** (infant), (small), (med), (large), (X-lg), (XX-lg), (XXX-lg)

The T-Shirt is required & assists Zoo personnel in providing accommodations. Our theme is “Literacy through Experience at Brookfield Zoo”.....ask questions, touch the special exhibits, analyze and enjoy the unique sounds, and textures of the Zoo!

Membership Dues (\$15.00/year)		
Total Number of Zoo Admission T-Shirts @ \$9/person		
Donation to IPVI for (IPVI scholarship) or (Zoo costs)		
TOTAL MONEY (included with this form) payable to IPVI		

REGISTRATION CLOSES ON JUNE 27th, 2014

Mail this form and a check payable to IPVI for your T-Shirts and optional donation to:

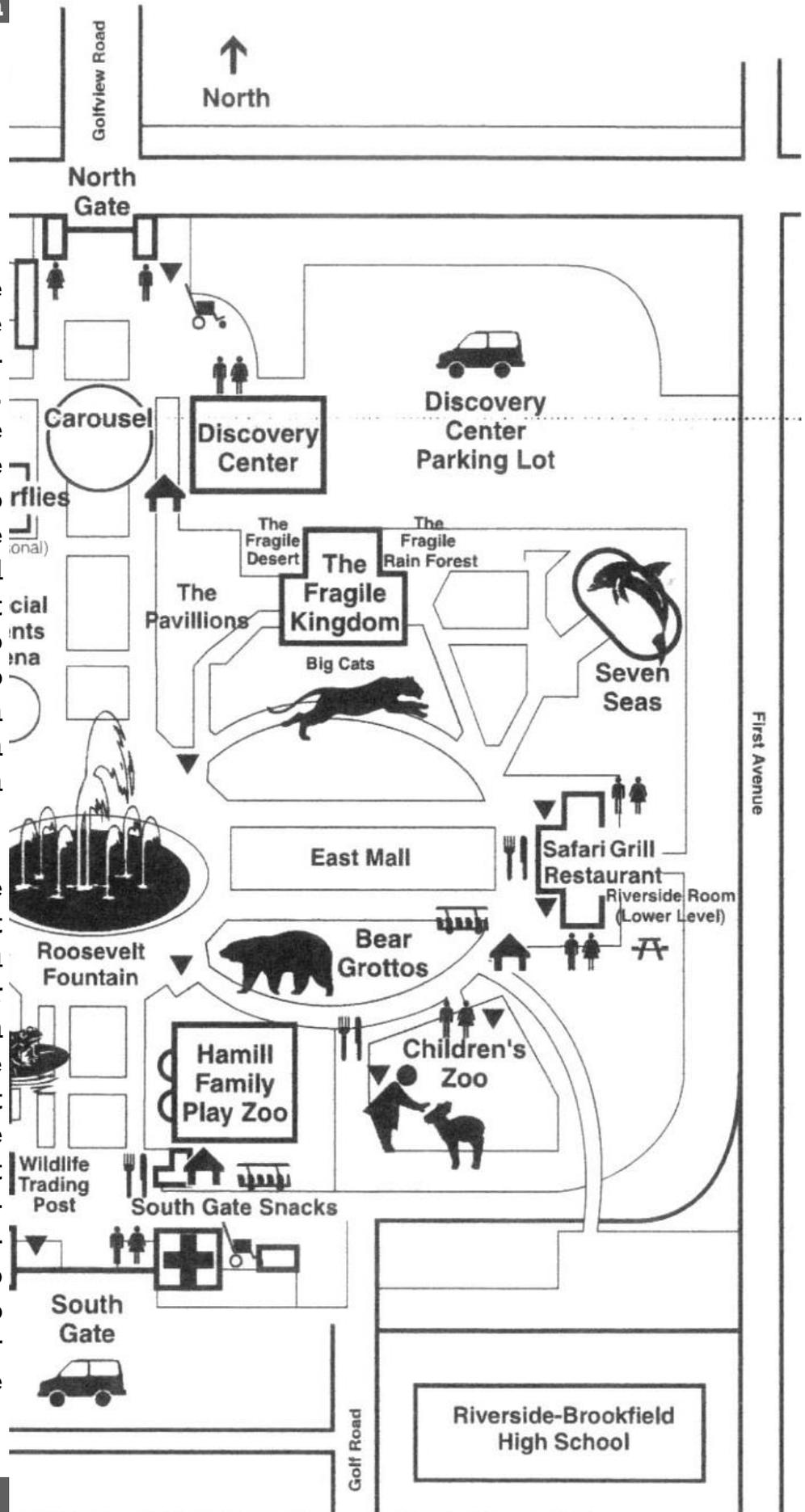
Mary Zabelski
The Chicago Lighthouse
1850 West Roosevelt Road
Chicago, IL 60608-1298



Chicago Zoological Society
Inspiring Conservation Leadership

We are gathering in the Discovery Center. We are to park in the Discovery Center Parking Lot. We need to enter at the SOUTH Entrance, not the main entrance. To get to the South Entrance, take 1st Avenue to Ridgewood Road (the first traffic light south of 31st street). Go west on Ridgewood to Golf Road. Turn right on Golf Road to the South Entrance Parking Booth (See map).

At the South Entrance Parking booth, say that you are with IPVI and you will not have to pay for parking. After the south parking booth, stay to the right and tell the next gate guard that you are with IPVI and they will let you on to the road leading to the Discovery Center parking lot. Come to the Discovery Center to check in and get your shirts and Zoo map. See you all there!



MS. VIC'S VOLLEYS

Victoria Juskie, IPVI Treasurer

VOLLEY I

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

VOLLEY II

I can't express to you the deep-seated emotional response that overcame me as I was driving down the street on May 3, 2014. You see, my son was going to prom. That bouncing baby boy, my wonderful bundle of joy now 18, a senior in high school, was chauffeuring his date to the prom himself in a car lent to him by his dad. It came true, the typical American dream -- a scene right out of a Norman Rockwell painting, right? And there I was, driving down the street when this emotional tidal wave hit me. I began sobbing and sobbing, gulping and gasping for air. I was so glad I was stopped at a streetlight and no one happened to be there because the tears began to pour so fast I couldn't stop them. This wave of emotion had a life of its own.

I realized that first of all, through the grace of our Lord and secondly, through some major medical and technological breakthroughs, my son beat the odds. How grateful I was. All I kept saying is "Thank you, Lord Jesus. You gave him all he needs. He did it." These were the most intense tears of joy I've felt since his birth. (Okay, to be honest, those tears were happy he was born as well as it was over and he was out. Too much info? Sorry, I digress.)

These emotions came on so suddenly. They felt like they were coming from out of nowhere. But when I think back to when Matt was two months old and diagnosed visually impaired, the doctor said Matt probably would never drive. That was a crappy, cold

and rainy day in May in 1996. I remember it like it was yesterday. I sat there at that moment sobbing, with my baby in my arms; and I know I felt the same feeling every one of you parents with a child diagnosed with a disability has felt when your prognosis was delivered -- how unfair. In an instant we are also grieving for the loss of what might have been. However, the doctors aren't always right, I found out. Also, I learned to keep my eye on the prize -- raising a well-adjusted, self-sufficient (as possible) human being who hopefully will find happiness as s/he grows.

So, my tip of the day is never to forget those feelings. Our scars, both emotional and physical, shape us into the people we are today. It makes us realize how fragile and precious life is and that we must always respect it. Besides, scars tell our stories in a way that's very personal.

So, I recommend that once you're over the initial shock and your head stops reeling from the situation, the first thing to do is just take a deep breath because it will get better. This is the beginning of a new and wonderful journey. It is one that most don't choose from the onset. However, I haven't met a parent yet who would trade one minute of the time s/he has had with his/her child of special needs for anything, challenges and all. Our children, each and every one of them, no matter who gave them birth or how they physically appear, with or without issues, are ours. As for how their lives turn out, if we've done our best to get them early intervention when necessary and educate ourselves on the best way to help them help themselves, then their lives, we can only hope, will be successful. The fact that they have parents, who love them, like all of you do, makes them a step ahead of a lot of kids. You care and that means something to everyone whose life you touch. Stay strong

and practice your faith, whatever your beliefs, and then keep working at it because that's what parenting is.

God Bless All of You!

VOLLEY III

Happy Father's Day to all the men who take an active role in helping children grow up right. They need you so don't ever forget it.

Also, thank you, St. Joseph, for all your blessings. (In my faith, he is Jesus' Foster Father and the Patron Saint of all fathers -- natural, foster, step, adoptive or grandfather as well as uncles, coaches, and friends who care and protect children. Praying to him has been incredibly uplifting.)



ASK M@



Happy Summer, Everyone!

I hope everyone is doing well this month. Now, I know I informed everyone last month that this will be my final piece. So, basically I just wanted to end by

thanking all of you instead of writing my usual column.

It has been such an incredible journey being able to write this column these past four years. I still cannot believe that it was that long ago that I started writing **Ask M@**. I really could not have done it without all of you though -- from all of the awesome emails I

have received, to the questions, and to all of the other discussions. I want to thank you for everything that you have taught me as well. I also would like to take this moment to express my gratitude to IPVI for giving me a spot in its monthly Insights. Obviously, if they were not generous enough to do that, none of this would have been possible. So, thank you!

As I conveyed earlier, I cannot believe it has been four years since I started, because that means freshman year was four years ago. What I am getting at is that time passes quickly. I have only a few short months until I am completely moved out of the house, fending for myself at college, and looking to start the journey called "The Rest of My Life." Now, the good news is that I am not as nervous as some may expect; but there is a little anxiety paired with the excitement. So basically to make a long story short, I am very much looking forward to college and being able to take classes that will guide me to my career.

So once again, thank you so much for reading my articles. I have had a great time being able to communicate with all of you; and I am sure my Mom will keep you all posted on my status at Illinois State. Go Red Birds! Thanks again!



M@

(Continued from page 2) - The Buddy Bike

ger! This "BUDDY BIKE" is in excellent condition & now that the warmer weather is approaching, this is a great way to travel and enjoy the outdoors! I am asking \$500 for this bike. It is well worth the investment! If you should have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at 630-460-7155. My name is Michelle.



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

The Supermarket: 9 Tips for Dealing With Questions, Stares, and Rude Comments About Your Blind or Visually Impaired Child

By Anne McComiskey



Many parents have said that some of the most difficult moments of parenting a child who is blind or visually impaired happen at the supermarket. Frequently parents who have grabbed baby to run to the store for a few necessities come home with more than milk. The curious and all too often unthinking comments made in the supermarket check-out line and the hushed queries of children in the produce department can send parents home with a bag full of bruised feelings and sad thoughts.

We all have to go shopping and we have to deal with all the other details of daily life. This dealing with the details of daily life requires that parents of children who are blind or visually impaired deal with random questions, stares, and often rudeness.

Experienced parents have provided some tips and advice for newer parents who suddenly find themselves in this tricky and often hurtful situation.

Some Options

- You could leave your baby at home. Good option when you're in a rush, when a babysitter is available, or when you need alone time. But your child needs the experience of shopping in the supermarket as much as the family needs the food.
- You could ignore curious shoppers. But this option will not increase the public's understanding about children who see differently.
- You could approach the situation as a teacher. State the facts simply and positively. It may be helpful to remember that people are asking questions because they don't understand what they see. They are ignoring or looking away because they have not been told which of their reactions can be the most supportive and helpful, and they hush their children's innocent questions with embarrassed stammering and blistering looks because they don't know what is an appropriate response.

Usually people are not trying to be rude or hurtful. Here are a few tips offered by experienced parents and teachers:

1. Remember that you do not have to be engaged. You can choose to ignore the person or to say that you really cannot talk.
2. Keep your sense of humor. It will keep you sane! "Really! You think there's something wrong with her eyes?????#####**!!!"
3. You do not have to tell the truth! Imagine that! You can tell strangers anything you want. "Yes, she is asleep", "Oh, it's probably gas." "He's 4 months old."
4. You can pretend that you just don't understand the question.
5. You can limit the conversation by ending it. Saying something like, "I appreciate that you're interested but I'm memorizing my verses while I stand in this line" might work.

On those days when you are up to being a teacher, here are some suggestions:

1. Think out the simple "story" about your child's visual situation. Write it down and practice it so that you can repeat it comfortably. (This story is important for your child to hear as well, since she will also need to be able to tell the "story" as she gets older.)
2. Whenever possible, refer to your child using his first name which will help people focus on the idea that you are talking about a child and not about a disability that has a human attached.
3. Finish the brief explanation with a fact about what your baby likes to do or can do. For example: "Timmy has a visual condition that makes his eyes wiggle and he doesn't see some things well. He loves to sing 'When You're Happy and You Know It', and has just started finger painting. Thank you for asking."
4. If people ask more probing questions, suggest that they visit FamilyConnect.org to learn more. Let FamilyConnect wear the teacher's hat when you're too tired to.

Remember that your communication puts you in control, and that it is never okay for someone to treat you rudely or to handle you or your child without your permission.

Whatever you do and however your supermarket experiences go, remember that you'll always get another chance to do it again!

FamilyConnect®
For parents of children with visual impairments

El Supermercado: 9 Consejos para Hacer Frente a las Preguntas, Miradas y Comentarios Impertinentes acerca de su Hijo Ciego o con Discapacidad Visual

Por Anne McComiskey



Muchos padres han dicho que algunos de los momentos más difíciles de la educación de un hijo ciego o con discapacidad visual tienen lugar en el supermercado. Con frecuencia los padres que se acercan con prisa al supermercado con un bebé, para comprar unos pocos artículos de primera necesidad, regresan con algo más que la leche. Los comentarios curiosos, y con demasiada frecuencia irreflexivos, que se realizan en la cola de las cajas del supermercado, y las preguntas en voz baja de los niños en la sección de frutas y verduras, pueden mandar a los padres a casa con una bolsa llena de sentimientos heridos y pensamientos tristes.

Todos tenemos que ir a la compra y debemos afrontar todos los demás detalles de la vida diaria. Este tratamiento de los detalles de la vida diaria requiere que los padres de los niños ciegos o con discapacidad visual se enfrenten a preguntas inesperadas, miradas y a menudo groserías.

Los padres con experiencia han proporcionado algunos consejos y asesoramiento para los nuevos padres, quienes se hallan de pronto en esta situación delicada y a menudo dolorosa.

Algunas Opciones

- Usted puede dejar a su bebé en casa. Buena opción cuando usted tiene prisa, cuando hay una niñera disponible o cuando uno necesita tiempo para sí mismo. Pero su hijo necesita la experiencia de comprar en el supermercado, tanto como la familia necesita los alimentos.
- Usted podría ignorar a los clientes curiosos. Pero esta opción no hará que aumente la comprensión de la gente hacia los niños que ven de un modo distinto.
- Usted podría abordar la situación como si fuera un maestro. Enuncie los hechos de forma sencilla y positiva. Puede ser útil recordar que las personas hacen preguntas porque no entienden lo que ven. Están ignorándoles o apartando la vista porque no se les ha dicho qué reacciones pueden ser más compasivas y útiles, y callan las preguntas inocentes de sus hijos con balbuceos incómodos y miradas rápidas, porque no saben cuál es la respuesta apropiada.

Generalmente las personas no tratan de ser impertinentes u ofensivas. A continuación figuran

algunos consejos brindados por padres y maestros con experiencia:

1. Recuerde que usted no tiene que entablar conversación. Puede decidir ignorar a la persona o decirle que usted realmente no puede hablar.
2. Mantenga su sentido del humor. Le mantendrá cuerdo. "¿De verdad? ¿Usted cree que le pasa algo en los ojos????###**!!"
3. Usted no tiene que decir la verdad. ¡Imagínese! Puede decirle a los desconocidos lo que usted desee. "Sí, ella está dormida", "Ah, probablemente son gases". "El tiene 4 meses".
4. Usted puede fingir que simplemente no entiende la pregunta.
5. Usted puede restringir la conversación finalizándola. Decir algo como: "Le agradezco su interés, pero estoy memorizando mis versos mientras espero en esta cola", podría funcionar.

En aquellos días en los que usted se sienta con ganas de comportarse como un maestro, aquí tiene algunas sugerencias: 1. Elabore una "historia" sencilla acerca del problema visual de su hijo. Escríbala y practíquela hasta que la pueda repetir tranquilamente. (Es importante que su hijo(a) también escuche esta historia, puesto que él(ella) deberá poder contar la "historia" a medida que vaya creciendo).

2. Siempre que sea posible, refiérase a su hijo(a) utilizando su nombre propio, lo que ayudará a la gente a concentrarse en la idea de que usted está hablando acerca de un niño y no de una discapacidad que tiene a una persona pegada.

3. Finalice la breve explicación con un hecho sobre lo que a su bebé le gusta o puede hacer. Por ejemplo: "Timmy tiene un problema visual que hace que sus ojos giren y no ve bien algunas cosas. Le fascina cantar 'When You're Happy and You Know It', y acaba de empezar a pintar con los dedos. Gracias por preguntar". 4. Si la gente le hace más preguntas inquisitivas, sugiérales que visiten la página de FamilyConnect.org, para aprender más acerca del tema. Deje que FamilyConnect les instruya cuando usted esté demasiado cansado.

Recuerde que su comunicación hace que usted tenga el control y que no es correcto que alguien le trate de manera insolente o les maneje a usted o a su hijo(a) sin su permiso.

Haga lo que haga e independientemente de cómo sean sus experiencias en el supermercado, recuerde que usted siempre tendrá otra ocasión para repetir las.

FamilyConnect®
Para padres de niños con discapacidad visual



THE CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATE BOARD

House & Garden Walk

Save the Date

House and Garden Walk
June 25 | 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

 *Stephanie Wehner Design*

Save the Date!

The Chicago Lighthouse Associate Board encourages you to mark your calendars for

~ Wednesday, June 25, 2014 ~

for the 28th Annual House & Garden Walk

Featuring four of the North Shore's most exquisitely designed interiors.

To purchase tickets on-line or to learn more about the event, please visit www.chicagolighthouse.org/

[houseandgarden](http://www.chicagolighthouse.org/houseandgarden)



1850 W Roosevelt Road, Chicago, IL 60608 | www.chicagolighthouse.org



State of Illinois
Pat Quinn, Governor

Department of Human Services
Michelle R.B. Saddler, Secretary

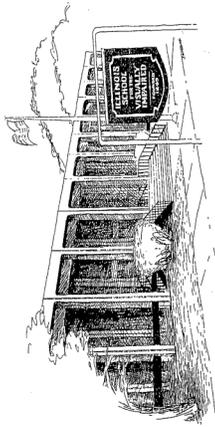
Summer Camp 2014



Is Out of This World!

June 15-21, 2014 Illinois School for the Visually Impaired

658 East State Street
Jacksonville, IL 62650
800-919-5617
217-479-4446 VTTY
www.isvi.net



The vision of the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired is to provide a quality comprehensive education and serve as a statewide resource to students in Illinois with visual impairments assisting them in becoming personally productive and self-sufficient citizens.

The Illinois School for the Visually Impaired (ISVI), established in 1849, is a residential/day school for students who are blind or visually impaired. ISVI provides accredited educational and related services for children from birth to twenty-two years of age.

All educational and social programs are designed to prepare students for successful living as independent, self-supporting citizens.

Programs, activities and employment opportunities in the Illinois Department of Human Services are open and accessible to any individual or group without regard to age, sex, race, sexual orientation, disability, ethnic origin, or religion. The department is an equal opportunity employer and practices affirmative action and reasonable accommodation programs.



To Request ISVI Camp Registration Forms, complete **both** sides of this form. **NOTICE! April 30-LAST DATE Application Packets** will be sent out. **May 20-LAST DATE** camp applications will be accepted by ISVI.

SPACE IS LIMITED SO REGISTER EARLY!

Put an "X" **in the box** to indicate the camp you wish to attend:

- Young Explorers (ages 7-11)** **STEM (ages 11-16)** **Transition (ages 15-19)**

Mail to: Summer Camp-2014- Illinois School for the Visually Impaired, 658 East State Street, Jacksonville, IL 62650

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ - _____ - _____

Parent Name: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ Illinois Zip: _____

•Purpose

The Illinois School for the Visually Impaired (ISVI) camps will bring together students who are blind and visually impaired from schools throughout Illinois for a week-long adventure. Each camp will present an overview of current trends in an area of concentration.

•Where & When?

Three one-week camps will be held June 15-21, 2014. All camps will be held on the ISVI campus in Jacksonville, Illinois, West of Springfield on Interstate 72.

•Who May Attend and Cost?

Students who are visually impaired, ages 7-19, are eligible to attend the camps if they reside in Illinois, do not currently attend ISVI, are not high school graduates, and have appropriate independent living skills. All one-week camps are free to eligible students.

•Transportation?

Statewide transportation to or from the camps will NOT be provided this year. Following a closing program, families are invited to stay for a noon luncheon.

•More Information?

For more information, contact Julie Evans at 217-479-4446 (V/TTY) or send e-mail to Julie.evans@illinois.gov.

Mark your calendar and plan to register early!!



Have fun learning about concepts related to space, astronauts, and our solar system. Make new friends and connect with old ones. First time campers, we can't wait to meet you! Return campers, we miss you so hurry back!

Young Explorers Camp

Ages 7-11
(Space is limited)

Engaging, fun, hands-on activities including science, history, art, music, movement, games and recreation.

**STEM Camp:
Space Camp Shuttle Mission**

Ages 11-16
(Space is limited to 18 campers)

Apply problem solving strategies using math and science skills, integrating technology and engineering to investigate the U.S. Space Program.

Transition to Independence

Ages 15-19
(Space is limited)

Learn and apply Independent Living Skills while learning about nutrition, fitness, technology, recreation, and careers in aeronautics.

Get the latest updates at www.isvi.net



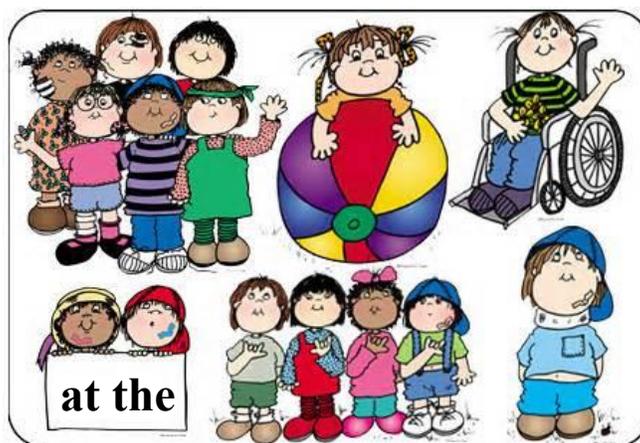
Complete both sides of this form.
April 30-LAST DATE Application Packets will be sent out.
May 20-LAST DATE Camp Applications will be accepted by ISVI.
Space is limited so register early!

Day Phone: () - - - - - Evening Phone: () - - - - -
E-Mail Address: _____
Vision Teacher: _____
School Name: _____
Have you attended an ISVI Camp in the past? **No** **Yes** **Year(s)** _____

**The Chicago Lighthouse
Development Center**

Invites you to the 35th Annual

SPECIAL GAMES



CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE

(located at 1850 W. Roosevelt Road)

From 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2014

A potluck picnic lunch will be served at 11:45 a.m.



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.

Destrezas Para una Abogacía Eficaz de Parte de Los Padres
Wednesday, June 4, 10am-1pm

Six Principles of IDEA: Special Education What You Need to Know
Saturday, June 7, 10am-12pm

Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy
Saturday, June 14, 10am-1pm

Navigating the IEP Process
Saturday, June 21, 10am-1pm

Transition Series: Planning Ahead: Future Finances and Supports
Saturday, June 28, 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



Join ISVI and HVEIO for the 1st annual:

ISVI-P

Illinois Summer Vision Instructional Partnership

Cortical Vision Impairment: Visions of Change

Building Visual Behaviors

Integrating Vision into Daily Routines and Activities

More Typical Visual Functioning

Use of Technology with Students with CVI

Effective Practices

Use of American Printing House for the Blind Materials

Illinois EI and Educator Credit available

IL School for the Visually Impaired

Friday—August 8, 2014

8:30—3:30

Cost: **FREE** (lunch on your own)

We have arranged for a room block for Thursday August 7th at the **Holiday Inn Express** at 2501 Holliday Lane, Jacksonville, IL. You must make your hotel reservation before July 10 to get group rate.

The room block is listed under

ISVI- Andrea Marwah

Room rate is: \$83 + tax

Space for room block is limited, don't delay

217-245-6500

Presenter: **Beth Ramella**

Beth is a teacher certificated in the education of students with visual impairment, a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS) and director of Outreach Services at the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children. Ms. Ramella participated in the two-year, Pennsylvania, collaborative training initiative known as the CVI Mentor Project with Dr. Christine Roman-Lantzy. Dr. Roman-Lantzy and Ms. Ramella have worked collaboratively to develop a model for capacity building for children with CVI at the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children.



State of Illinois
Department of Human Services



For conference and registration information:

Gail.Olson@illinois.gov

Call 217-479-4318

Visit: bit.ly/HVEIOEvents

Sponsored by:



Illinois School for the
Visually Impaired
658 E. State Street
Jacksonville, IL
217-479-4400



HEARING and VISION
EARLY INTERVENTION OUTREACH



EARLY INTERVENTION TRAINING and TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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.

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

Where’s the Crosswalk, and How Do I Align when There’s no Traffic!



Crossings that are not located at corners are challenging to locate unless travelers know to expect them and have a strategy to find them. Alignment is challenging when there is no parallel traffic. Results of research on a novel cue for locating crosswalks and aligning to cross will be reported. The research was conducted at six crossings--three mid-block crossings and three roundabouts. A simple technique for finding crosswalks at unusual locations will be taught.

Watch This Session for FREE!

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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Using Vehicular Sounds for Crossing Decisions: Research Evidence

O&M specialists teach the use of vehicular sounds for making decisions about when it is safe to begin crossing a street and judging the direction of a crosswalk. Both tasks require detecting vehicles and perceiving their motion trajectories. Recent research provides insights into the limited accuracy with which these tasks can be performed when listening to vehicles having either internal combustion engines or hybrid/ electric engines with added sound. Attend this session to learn about the conclusions of the research.

MORE: Same website



More Than Independence: The Contribution of Mobility to Quality of Life in Older Persons

Positive quality of life (QOL) is considered to be an essential component of successful aging. This study examined the contribution mobility makes to the QOL of older people in general and those who have difficulty seeing in particular. Results indicate that mobility makes a major contribution to the QOL of older persons both directly and through satisfaction with functional capacity regardless of visual status. The implications of these findings for accessing wider sources of funding are discussed.

MORE: Same website



Teaching Food Management Skills to Students with Visual Impairments

This presentation will provide an overview of bioptic driving with emphasis on bioptic design, bioptic use during the driving task, advantages vs. limitations, common misconceptions, and a sampling of updates regarding bioptic driving across the USA and abroad.

MORE: Same website



The STAR NET Region VI Workshop Catalog from July, 2014 through December, 2014 is now available on our website at www.swccase.org/starnet. Register soon!

STAR NET Region VI
6020 West 151st Street
Oak Forest, Illinois 60452
708-342-5370

STAR NET | (708) 342-5370 |
starnet@swccase.org |

MAKING SENSE

Emergencies, You and Your Guide Dog:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires hospitals and first responders to modify their practices to ensure that guide dog handlers receive the same care as anyone else. There are important things to remember if you are ever injured and require transport to a medical facility. EMS providers must be prepared to safely transport your service dog with you. EMS may not ask for proof of certification. The dog can only be removed if the dog is out of control or is not housebroken. No regulations exist that specify where a dog should be placed during transport. This will be determined by space considerations and

your medical condition. You can find a quick reference guide for EMS providers on the Guiding Eyes for the Blind website at www.guidingeyes.org.

National Parks Access Pass: The National Park Service is offering a free lifetime access pass for US citizens and permanent residents with disabilities. The pass offers admission to over 2,000 federal recreation sites, national forests, grasslands and other federal lands. Entrance fees, discounted camping, swimming, boat launching and other amenities are also included. To acquire a pass, you must visit a federal park recreation site in person with appropriate documentation of disability. To learn more, visit

www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm.

Goalball for Youth and Teens: The Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association (GLASA) is sponsoring goalball practice for youth and teens at Sachs Recreation Center, 455 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield. For a \$7 fee per practice session, participants will learn to play the exciting game of goalball with all the appropriate equipment included. Practices run from Friday, May 16 through August 22 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. To learn more and to register, contact Nicole Verneuille at 847-283-0908 or nverneuille@glasa.org.

New Hadley Videos: The Hadley School has several new YouTube videos to help you learn some of the basic functions of the iOS operating system for iPhone and iPad. iFocus videos include how to check the weather, send text messages, use the notification center, send emails and many more tasks. To access these videos, visit

www.youtube.com/user/hadleyschool

April Corrections: The correct number to order a talking prescription label from CVS pharmacies is 888-861-4363. In addition, the website to learn about the Audio Description Project is www.acb.org/adp/.

Visually Impaired Awareness Day: The 20th annual Visually Impaired Awareness Day is Wednesday, June 11 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the College of DuPage Student Resource Center North, Room 2000, 425 Fawell Boulevard, Glen Ellyn, Illinois. This event brings people with vision loss, their friends and their families in contact with products and services that can improve quality of life. For more information, contact Pat Byrne at 630-469-2300 or email: Pat_dupagecil@sbcglobal.net.

Disaster Preparedness for Your Guide Dog: Here are several valuable tips from the recent Guide Dogs for the Blind Speakers Series conference call. Purchase or create your own canine first-aid kit that includes items such as scissors, gauze pads, antiseptic wipes, quick stop for broken nails and antibiotic ointment. Other items to include in your emergency kit are an extra leash, boots, absorbent towels, a blanket, collapsible bowls, food and water (make sure to rotate), re-sealable plastic bags, and a favorite chew toy. Include contact names and identification information for you and your dog. This information could be stored on a thumb drive and attached to a key ring or your dog's collar, or you could use an in-case-of-emergency (ICE) app on your phone. Include your dog's name, tattoo or microchip information, vet name and phone number, the number for your guide dog school, and any other instructions for your guide. While it is not required by law, a copy of your guide dog certification is another item to keep handy. You can contact your vet or guide dog school for more suggestions so you can be fully prepared in case of an emergency.

I Just Want to Make a Phone Call: A smart phone isn't for everyone, but trying to find an accessible cell phone that does just the simple things like making a call or sending a text message isn't easy. Odin Mobile has developed a phone that meets just these needs!

The Odin VI has large buttons, offers a large screen, announces input numbers, stores contacts and has alarm settings. The phone also speaks information on the screen, such as menu items, contact names, and text messages. The phone costs \$150 and has plans from \$10 to \$45 per month. All plans include unlimited texting. To learn more, visit www.odinmobile.com or call 855-217-9459.

More About Audio Description: The Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) website has excellent information explaining audio-described television including program availability, the 25 television markets where this service is available, and information on how to file a complaint. To learn more about the rules and regulations networks are required to follow, visit www.fcc.gov/guides/video-description.

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



Funding Opportunities/ Benefits for Children with Disabilities and their Families

Date Posted: 05/02/2014

The Department of Rehabilitation Services-Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind has compiled a list of Funding Opportunities/ Benefits for Children with Disabilities and their Families. Areas include: Government Benefits, Chronic Disabilities/ Disability Specific Funds, Town/Regional Specific Funds, Adaptive

(Continued on page 25)

Oldies but Goodies: The "Established" APH Product Series

Teaching Touch Kit by Lois Harrell helps parents or teachers encourage young children (ages 4 to 7 years) who are blind to become active explorers and readers of tactile graphics. Teaching Touch is written in a style that is accessible to parents and non-professionals to show how learning through touch is different from learning through sight. It emphasizes the need for concept development that's based on a rich background of hands-on exploration of the environment. Various skills that contribute to exploration and appreciation of tactile graphics are addressed in the included booklet. These include tracking, searching, verbal description, and the use of symbols.



The large print and braille editions of the manuals are available as a free-of-charge download - you may print or emboss them as needed using the downloaded files. Visit our downloadable manuals page: www.aph.org/manuals/index.html. The "Moving on to Pages" activity guidebook and the accompanying "Busy Sheets" tactile worksheets must be purchased as part of the kit.

There are 16 tactile worksheets included with this kit. They range from very simple shape tracing and line tracking activities to more complex activities that require the ability to locate a tactile symbol within an array of different symbols and textures. The tactile graphics provided use three different production methods on three types of paper to allow exposure to a variety of graphics.

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.

We Want "Your Two Cents" About APH Products!

After you've used an APH product for a while, we'd like to know what you think! What did you like? What could be improved? Submit product feedback using our handy [online feedback form](#). Your feedback will be passed on to the product developer or other appropriate APH staff. We'll use YOUR opinions when we evaluate our products.



Give us your two cents today!



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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IPVI

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

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708-655-2747

(Continued from page 22) - Funding Opportunities

Equipment & Assistive Technology Devices, and Wish Granting Organizations. To receive the full list with complete details, please contact Gail Feld at Gail.Feld@CT.gov. She will be happy to forward you a copy.

Contact: Gail Feld
Phone: (860) 602-4232
Email: Gail.Feld@ct.gov





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

- | | | |
|-----------|---|----------------|
| ▶ 6/15-21 | ISVI Summer Camp 2014 | Jacksonville |
| ▶ 6/16-27 | NFB Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning Program (BELL) | Chicago |
| 7/21-25 | | Normal |
| ▶ 6/25 | TCL 28 th Annual House and Garden Walk | Chicago |
| ▶ 7/12 | 2014 13 th Annual Members Only Zoo Outing | Brookfield |
| ▶ 7/17 | AccessChicago | Chicago |
| ▶ 7/27 | TCL Development Center Special Games | Chicago |
| ▶ 8/8 | ISVI-P Illinois Summer Vision Instructional Partnership | Jacksonville |
| ▶ 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
JUNE 2014 is MAY 15th**



**Check Out
www.ipvi.org**

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