

# IPVI INSIGHTS

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

**November  
2015**



## **PLAY FOR ALL LIGHTHOUSE/IPVI FAMILIES**

- What:** A morning of fun for everyone
- Where:** Chicago Children's Museum at Navy Pier  
700 E. Grand Ave., Suite 127  
Chicago, IL 60611
- When:** Saturday, November 14, 2015
- Time:** Pre-registered families 9:00am - 1:00pm  
General public 10:00am - 1:00pm

**To register or for more information contact:**

**Gail Patterson at the Lighthouse 312-997-3675**

**Pre-registration includes:**

**Free admission for Chicago Lighthouse & IPVI Families  
Free shuttle from the Chicago Lighthouse to Navy Pier  
(first 50 people only!!!)**



*Happy Thanksgiving*

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*Happy Thanksgiving*



# Thanksgiving

There’s bounty on the table  
my friends have drawn near  
We’re gathered together  
to all give thanks here

Outside the wind blows  
and leaves scatter ‘round  
But inside this shelter  
sweet love is abound

There’s so many blessings  
everyday comes our way  
Let us always give thanks  
for this Thanksgiving Day

Happy Thanksgiving!

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**MS. VIC'S VOLLEYS**

*Victoria Juskie, IPVI Treasurer*

**MS. VIC VOLLEYS**

**VOLLEY I**

No new members have joined us this month.

**VOLLEY II**

Due to an editing glitch, please note that the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph of my 10-1-15 Ms. Vic Volleys contained a sentence missing a word. It should have read: "Once you have children, you have to make decisions about the future. I don't care how many children you have or if any have disabilities or challenges or not, make out your **will(s)**." We apologize for this oversight.

**VOLLEY III**

As I ran for the airplane whose takeoff I was only minutes away from missing, I began thinking to myself, "What will I write about this month?" Well, the thing that came to mind was gratitude, the perfect topic for the month of November and Thanksgiving. I am grateful for many things. At that exact moment it was that I had the ability to run through the airport fast enough to board the plane. (Ok, this was a stretch as I was shoeless at that point trying to ensure I'd make that last boarding call; but still, I am extremely appreciative for my physical abilities and for all the opportunities life has provided me.)

In this vein, many people who know me are aware that I have lived in our world of low vision for 19 years now. In those early days before my son could talk, I walked through life in a fog. I was devastated that my child's vision was not typical. I was unhappy that his medical issues would cause long consternation, not knowing that it would take 12 years before we

were in the clear medically from potential kidney cancer typically involved in his condition. I really didn't know where to turn. The funny thing here that I still look back at and think about is the crossroads I was at when my first child was born.

Since my husband and I started our business in 1988, we had put in exhaustive hours making it successful with our partner. Some nights we never went to bed because there were deadlines to meet and we couldn't miss them, considering we were a service company, boasting about "*Service You Can Count On.*" We were at our largest and busiest point in our corporate history. We had expanded so much we were awaiting our new offices to be completed. After 10 years in business, we decided it was time to start a family. My goal after six weeks of maternity leave was to come back to work full time with my mom helping by caring for our child while I was going to work out of my new corner office with a window -- a goal I had had since I was 10. Well, things didn't go according to that plan. I never ended up occupying that corner office. In fact, I stepped back from my duties at the company completely and began caring for him full time as within the first weeks of his birth, he was diagnosed as possibly blind.

Talk about throwing my world for a loop. My husband and I still tear up whenever we remember that horrible rainy day our son was diagnosed. We were told he wouldn't be able to read newspaper print, he wouldn't drive a car, and kidney tumors had a 3 out of 4 chance of being developed. Imagine sitting there listening to this diagnosis, which in my short-sighted (pun intended) world, felt like my son would never be able to support himself and, therefore, probably not marry and have a family. As I was crying, I thought I'd not be a grandmother because if you have afflictions like these, how could you bring another dependent into the world? Ah, how selfish and

naïve could I be?

Well, I'm glad to say that my fears have been assuaged. My son was blessed with better vision than originally predicted; he did not develop kidney tumors; and because of our involvement in IPVI and the Chicago Lighthouse, my family was able to cope sufficiently enough to thrive.

This reminds me what Rumi, a 13<sup>th</sup> century scholar and poet, once said:

*"The wound is the place where the Light enters you."*

He noted that nothing could be closer to the truth. Out of suffering have emerged the strongest souls; and the most powerful characters in this great world are seared with scars. See your scars as a sign of "YES! I MADE IT! I survived and I have my scars to prove it! And now I have a chance to grow even stronger.

So my tip of the day is to not lose complete hope when you come home from the doctor's diagnosis about your child. You'll cry. You'll curse. You'll be devastated and ask "why?" After this, I want you to then take a deep breathe, realize that you are not alone, and that help is out there. Become proactive. Research all you can about your child's eye condition. Keep good notes about that and your doctor's visits. Ask the doctors about early intervention. Contact the Lighthouse, Spectrios Institute, Easter Seals, the Lion's club or any other type of agency for any other conditions your child might have that might be able to help. Then set up all the therapy sessions for early intervention for your child's condition(s) so that you as parents can learn to help your child understand the world that s/he can't see well. Most importantly do not give up hope. Doctors only tell you a prognosis that they have typically learned from books, which are not all set in concrete. Every child

is different and through your prayers and early intervention, many of those scenarios can be improved. Then in 15 to 20 years, it may be you writing to us telling us about the blessings you're thankful for. Now that is something I'm looking forward to reading.

In closing, I am grateful to my Lord for all he has given us and to IPVI and the others for helping weather the storms. Happy Thanksgiving to you and all of your family, loved ones, and friends.



**I SURVIVED**



*A Friendly Reminder*

Please be advised that as of 9/1/15, IPVI will be changing its P.O. Box to the following address:

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

We will put in change of address notice in at the post office so it will forward any mail coming in to the old box. Please call 815.355.2098 if you have any questions.



# 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](mailto:vajuskie@aol.com)**

## THE NEW “LOL SQUARED BRAL Contest” IS HERE!

### LAND OF LINCOLN/LAND OF LAKES BRAILLE READERS ARE LEADERS CONTEST FOR KIDS

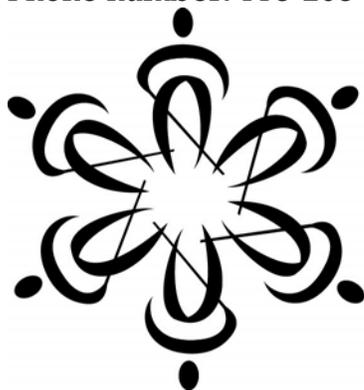
The National Federations of the Blind of Illinois & Minnesota have joined together to offer an annual Illinois/Minnesota Braille Readers Are Leaders contest for kids, grades K-12. Contestants compete to read the most Braille pages, going against other kids in similar grades at school. The contest runs for slightly over 7 weeks, encouraging kids to be proud of their Braille reading ability and to work to improve their skills -- while possibly winning prizes in the process.

A thumbnail sketch of the contest:

- A certifying official (parent, teacher, etc.) should fill out and submit a registration form. This can be done as early as November 1, 2015, and as late as January 22, 2016.
- Kids enter in one of five grade categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, & 9-12.
- Record Braille pages read between December 1, 2015, and January 22, 2016, on a reading log.
- The certifying official should submit the reading log form by February 1, 2016.
- Prizes in each grade category are: first, \$25; second, \$15; third, \$10.
- To get the complete contest rules, registration form, and the reading log form, visit the website, <http://www.nfbfillinois.org>, then go to link “LOL Squared BRAL Contest.”
- Submit the registration form and the reading log as E-mail attachments to [ibralcontest@gmail.com](mailto:ibralcontest@gmail.com).

If you have questions, contact:

Deborah Stein  
E-mail: [ibralcontest@gmail.com](mailto:ibralcontest@gmail.com)  
Phone number: 773-203-1394



NATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF THE BLIND

*Live the life you want.*



**Toys that Encourage Skill Development**

Ashley Emmons, O&M/TVI/Kids Town Preschool Teacher, VIPS-Louisville

Seek a Boo® by Mindware is a great game to play with your little ones to work on memory skills, vocabulary skills, concept development, and visual efficiency skills. Age: 18 months and up.



Little Tikes Talk-To-Me® Sets: Soccer, Baseball, and Basketball are great interactive games for the children to work on orientation, sound localization skills, and gross motor skills.



Age: 18 months and up.

Ruff's House Teaching Tactile Set® by Learning Resources is a great game for pre-braille learners to increase tactile skills, social skills, matching skills, etc. Textures used include



smooth, silky, scratchy, bumpy, ridges, etc. Age: 3 years and up.

**Making Things Happen with Lights!**

Annie Hughes, TVI, VIPS-Indiana



Many children with visual impairment have very low vision, but are not totally blind. They respond very enthusiastically to toys with lights. This year I have selected some toys that will "light up" their play!

Another lighted toy for children who are very young or have multiple impairments is the Baby Einstein Baby Neptune Ocean Orchestra Musical Turtle®. This toy provides opportunities for your child to explore instrument sounds that are combined to create classical music from Beethoven, Vivaldi, and Mozart. Colorful lights dance along to the music, and there are two ways to play with this toy, so the play can change as your child grows.



Kids love trucks because trucks and things that move are always fun. One fun choice is the CAT Lighting Load Machine®, a motorized truck with lights and sounds. The translucent "load" in the bed of the

truck lights up when you press the big red button, and then it rolls along the floor allowing a low vision child to follow the movement, and then find the toy and do it again!

And who wouldn't want light-up drums?

**Funflashingleds.com** has a cut *Light-Up Toy Drum®* that has been featured on **wonderbaby.org**, an excellent website for parents. It has a strap if your child is ready to march while he is drumming.



is also a great toy for when your child is playing with sighted peers, as all children love making colorful pictures that shine in the dark.

All of these toys are very engaging to young children of different developmental ages who respond to light. As a parent, we always want to find toys that our children absolutely love! We also need to think about what our children need to learn, because children learn through play. In addition to electronic toys that light up, sing and dance, and “do something when kids push a button,” make sure your child has a variety of different kinds of toys and materials with which to play and experiment. If the only toys he/she has are “push-button” toys, your child may become very good at pushing buttons, but may not have opportunities to develop important hand skills, concepts, and later, imaginary play. Remember to use favorite toys to foster language and movement, and when the play is finished, help your child participate in cleaning-up and putting away his/her toys.



Another drum to consider is the VTech KidiBeats *Drum Set* for very young children. This toy will reward their taps and slaps with hands or drum sticks.

The Fisher-Price *Light-Up Lion Stacker®* is the newest version of the classic “star spindle.” When the child places the four textured star shapes onto the spindle, he/she is rewarded by lights and sounds. Because the stars are four different colors and sizes and are translucent, this provides opportunities to teach concepts, and the stars can also be used on a light box such as the APH Mini-Lite Box. The Lion Stacker plays on of seven songs when the lion is placed on top, or when the child discovers the button that activates the music.



### ***A Pre-Braille Must***

*Dixie Miller, TVI and Developmental Interventionist,  
VIPS-Central Kentucky*

If you have a child who is going to be a Braille reader in the future, this fun children’s book is a must have: Usborne’s *Baby’s Very First Touchy-feely Fingertrail Play Book*. This book provides different textured trails for your child to discover with her hands. It is great for teaching a child to use her fingers to explore and understand differences of textures by tracing the textured path.



If your child is older and developing some higher-level hand skills and you no longer have to worry about choking hazards, *Lite Bright®* toys might be a good choice. Lite Bright has a number of options and is available in many stores. This



### Santa's Little Helper

Staci Maynard, TVI (in training), PAL, Kids Town Preschool  
Teacher, VIPS-Louisville

It's that time again: time to begin thinking about Christmas shopping and what you can get for those people who have everything and for those who do not want anything. The ideas that follow are in no way all-inclusive or guaranteed to be hits. You know the personalities and preferences of the children in your life better than I. However, they may serve to give you some ideas for the types of gifts a particular child might enjoy.



If a child is artistic or enjoys sensory play, he may like products such as Crayola's *Outdoor Colorfoam*®. Sidewalk chalk and bath foam are similar options that can also develop creativity and be used for prewriting/writing activities.

If a child enjoys building or if you desire to increase a child's sensory integration, *pipSquigz*® and *Squigz*® might be the gift for you. *pipSquigz*, designed for younger children six months and older, are



textures, suction toys that are brightly colored and make a rattling sound. They are also safe for using as teethers. *Squigz* are a larger set of these similar toys that will suction together to make any number of cool creations.



The *LeapFrog Scribble and Write*® is a useful learning toy for children who are going to be print readers and writers. It allows them to trace the lights on the screen to practice forming letters and numbers.



We also like to use *Crayola Pip-Squeaks Skinnies*® markers for practicing writing in the classroom; you might like to purchase some for home use as well.

If a child in your life is an auditory learner, he or she may enjoy *LeapFrog's My Pal Scout*® (green) or *My Pal Violet*® (purple) stuffed dogs. These toys have over 40 learning songs and 15 activities, which can be used for learning words, feelings, counting, and more. They can also be programmed to use the child's name and favorite things. Scout and Violet are appropriate for six months and older. Another favorite in our classroom is the *LeapFrog Fridge Phonics Magnetic Letter Set*®, which has a letter sound song for each individual letter. Braille alphabet stickers can be put on each letter to increase braille letter awareness as well.



They can also be programmed to use the child's name and favorite things. Scout and Violet are appropriate for six months and older. Another favorite in our classroom is the *LeapFrog Fridge Phonics Magnetic Letter Set*®, which has a letter sound song for each individual letter. Braille alphabet stickers can be put on each letter to increase braille letter awareness as well.



*Learning Resources Smart Snacks Counting Fun Fruit Bowl*® is a good activity for counting, fine motor, introduction to fractions, and learning about healthy eating. It also has a puzzle aspect to it as children figure out how the sections of fruit fit together. *Hide N Squeak Eggs*® by Tomy, can be used for shape/color matching, one-to-one correspondence, and imaginative play. The chicks in the eggs also make a fun squeak sound.





Another toy for building similar skills is *Learning Resources Smart Snacks Stack & Count Layer Cake*®. The cakes grow in size from one to ten.

A light box is always a fun toy, especially for children with cerebral visual impairment or low vision. You can find a number inexpensive toys, plates, cups, etc. that are brightly colored and transparent for use on a light box. I also really like *Rainbow Soundblocks*® by *Wonderworld*. These transparent colored blocks are filled with different kinds of beads that produce different sounds.



Finally, here are a few ideas for encouraging gross motor play among children who are blind or visually impaired. The *VTech Move and Crawl Ball*® is a brightly colored musical and light-up ball that

teaches about numbers and animals. It is useful for tactile stimulation and building visual awareness, attending, and tracking. The ball will roll itself, which may encourage children to move in order to find it. *The Prince Lionheart Wheely Bug*®, which comes in several animal designs, is a good riding toy for building balance and gross motor skills.



If you have an active older preschooler to buy for, consider purchasing a goal (or two) and a ball with sound to introduce the child to goalball, a

popular sport in the blind and visually impaired community. One possible option is the *Fisher-Price Super Sounds Soccer Goal*®, which has the added motivation of making a fun sound whenever a goal is made. **Maxiaids.com** also has balls with beepers or bells, such as the *Reizen Spiral Mini Ball with Bells*®. Rules for how to play goalball can be found online or you can ask a teacher for the basics.



### Paging Dr. Barbie

Ashley Buren, VIPS Mom and Preschool Instructional Assistant, VIPS-Louisville



How perfect is a Barbie who is an eye doctor? The *Barbie Careers Playset*® collection includes eye doctor, vet, teacher and babysitter. The Eye Doctor set comes with a Barbie doll complete with her own glasses and doctor's lab coat, a tiny patient, examination chair, eye chart and several pairs of glasses. What fun for a little girl who wears glasses!

*VIPS Teacher's Holiday Gift Recommendations, reprinted from VISability, July/August/September 2015. Visually Impaired Preschool Services (VIPS), 1906 Goldsmith Lane, Louisville, KY 40218, 1-888-636-8477, [info@vips.org](mailto:info@vips.org), [www.vips.org](http://www.vips.org).*



FROM FAMILYCONNECT WEBSITE

## Oodles of Resources for Equipping Your Teenager Who Is Blind or Visually Impaired for Successful Employment

by *Shannon Carollo*



Because sometimes you just want to say words like “oodles” to lighten the mood. And the rest of the time you aim to finish laundry, serve a tasty- enough meal, and supply your teenager with information and resources to succeed as a future employee who is

blind or visually impaired. While FamilyConnect can't help you wash and fold, and can't whip up and serve foodstuff, we will gladly hand you a list of 5 employment resources for you to work through alongside your adolescent.

Open the links below and explore with your teen. It will be time and energy well spent; I promise.

1. Encourage your teenager to investigate AFB CareerConnect's [What Do You Want to be When You Grow Up?](#) section. She'll find a collection of articles, accessible videos, and tools designed to inform teens with visual impairments about valuable college and work-related topics such as “Funding Your Education”, “Do Employers Care if You Have Blue Hair”, and “Technology: The Tool that Equalizes”.
2. Your high schooler can take full advantage of CareerConnect's virtual career exploration and job-seeking skills training course, the [Job Seeker's Toolkit](#). Did I mention it's accessible and free of charge?
3. As your growing child identifies her career interests, she will undoubtedly grapple with questions such as, “How does someone with a visual impairment access this particular career field?” The good news is that you, parent, don't have to have all the answers. Get your teen in touch with an individual who is also visually impaired and working in the field of interest. Have your daughter post her questions on the [AFB Work Life Message Boards](#) and urge her to [seek a CareerConnect mentor](#).
4. This post has a heavy emphasis on training your teen to obtain a job; I don't want to neglect the topic of succeeding on the job. Peruse FamilyConnect's [Success at Work for Young People with Visual Impairments](#) article which outlines the framework for maintaining and advancing in employment.
5. We recognize parents as the most valuable teachers; hence, you may want to access and glean from the [CareerConnect Lesson Plans](#) section. Gain insight and ideas for empowering your teen with leadership skills, problem solving techniques, money management, stress management, and assertiveness training. Might I add, you'll find a new lesson plan series entitled: [Using FamilyConnect to Prepare Your Teen for Transition](#).

**Thank you, parents, for investing in your children.** When you encounter particular challenges or frustrations, reach out to the members of this rich community via the [FamilyConnect message boards](#). We want to serve and encourage you through your journey. Hey, we'll also supply the resources.

## From Intolerable to Indispensable: Learning to Love my White Cane

by Courtney Taylor-Abbott



I have not always loved my white cane. I'm twenty eight now and don't like to be out of the house without my cane, even if I'm not using it. It gives me a sense of security and independence that I really don't like to be without. But it was not always that way. Not at all.

When I was a little girl, I hated my cane. It was "useless!" "Stupid!" "So annoying!" It was, in my young eyes, the symbol of everything that made me different.

My teachers tried to get me to like it. They used every tactic they could think of. They tried forcing me to use it. They tried introducing me to other people who were cane users. They tried suggesting I decorate it with stickers to make it seem more fun. But I saw through all their little tricks.

When I was in about the fifth grade, my TVI tried a new idea. "Why don't you name it?" she suggested. "How about Candy Cane? Or Sugar Cane?" "No way," I said. "I don't like those names. I'll name it Hurra."

"Hurra?"

"Yeah. Hurra. Like Hurricane. Then everyone will know how bad it is."

My cane was the object of my anxiety, my frustration, my all-out embarrassment about being blatantly, conspicuously blind. When I walked down the hallway in middle school and another student yelled "Here comes the

girl with the stick!" I blamed my cane. When a little girl at the mall asked me about my cane and her mother dragged her away in fear before I had a chance to answer, I blamed my cane. If I didn't have to use this thing, people would be nicer. It was the cane's fault, plain and simple.

But things began to change as I grew. Slowly, very slowly, I began to realize that my cane actually helped me. I began to pay attention to things that happened when I went out and chose to leave my cane at home. In line at the grocery store with my mom when I was a teenager, the woman at the register said to me, "Your eyes are weird. Are you cross-eyed or just daydreaming?"

"Um, I'm blind."

Another time when at a store with a friend, the cashier tried to give me change for the purchase I had made. She didn't know I couldn't see her. She stood there with the change in her hand, waiting. I stood there with my hand out, waiting. It was awkward and uncomfortable and I left feeling frustrated with her and with myself.

Little moments like these made me realize how helpful my cane was, even just for identification purposes.

When I was about sixteen, a few friends and I went to a show in our high school auditorium. When the show was over, I turned to find my friends, to look for an elbow to hold on to as we walked out. But no one was there. My friends had left, and our row of seats was completely empty. Anxiety caught in my throat. I was confused. It was dark and the sounds of teenagers squealing and chatting echoed around me, making me disoriented and unsure where to go. This was my high school, the building I spent tons of time in and thought I knew like the back of my hand. But some-

how, the dark and the noise and my own emotions made it all seem a lot harder.

That evening may have been the first time I was grateful that my parents made me bring my cane along. I reached under my chair, unfolded it, and began to find my way down the row, up the steps and out of the auditorium. I navigated through the hallway in a sea of unfamiliar teenagers to the entrance, and then went out to the parking lot to wait for my ride.

At the time I was too caught up in the teenage social implications of my friends leaving without me to think about the situation in any other way. But although I didn't realize it then, that evening was a little step I took toward finding independence with my white cane.

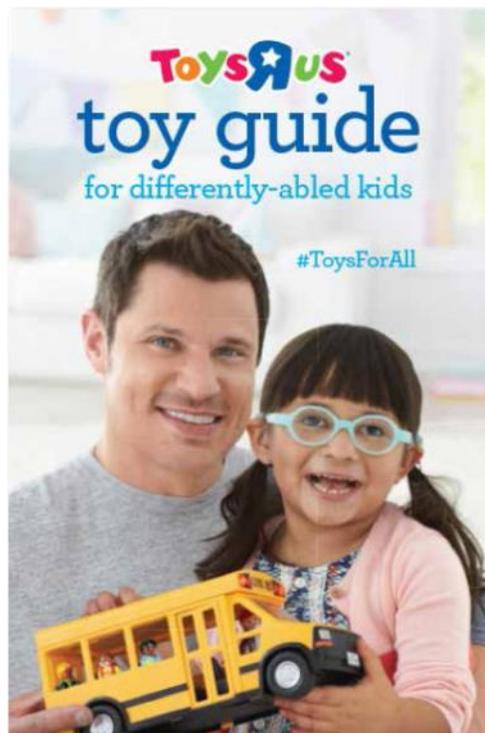
I'm not sure how I went from begrudgingly using my cane only when it was necessary to having two well-worn canes hanging right by the door on my coat rack at home. I think I started liking myself a bit more. I think I started finding confidence in the ability to get around without holding onto someone else's arm. I think I stopped blaming my cane for the ignorance and fear I met with in the world, and instead began to think that maybe, just maybe, using my cane confidently could help to break down some of that ignorance and fear. And I think it has. Confidence seems to breed open-mindedness and acceptance, and when I am not anxious about my cane, others seem less anxious as well.

Now I walk my children to daycare in the mornings and my two-year-old yells out, "Don't forget the cane, Mommy!" Before I get a chance to grab it, he unfolds the cane and starts to walk around the house, swinging it back and forth across the floor. In these moments I feel pride. I feel awe. I feel glad that I have not chosen to hide my cane from my life, glad that I have taught my children that this is what is natural and good. I am glad that my

son is already grasping that the cane is a necessary part of our day, to get us where we need to go safely. I am touched that he wants to emulate my behavior, by doing the one thing that has dredged up so many different feelings for me over the years. I admit that on some days, those feelings of embarrassment or frustration still try to peek through. But they are won over by gratitude, by self-assurance, and by a sense of independence I will never trade.

Today my husband and I get ready to go run a few errands together. As I sling my purse over my shoulder, he passes me my cane.

"Here's Hurra," he says. And I grin.



A helpful resource for finding gifts for children with many different disabilities. Go online at <http://www.toysrus.com/shop/index.jsp?categoryId=3261680> or stop in at your local Toys 'R' Us store.

## Nearby Explorer Online: Free Talking Accessible Android GPS App for the Blind

Nearby Explorer Online contains many of the features of Nearby Explorer; it is a GPS app designed for use by people who are blind. Nearby Explorer uses online maps, so a data connection is required.

Nearby Explorer lets the user select from different location related options giving the user preference regarding announcements as you move. These include typical items like street names, address, nearby places, as well as the distance and direction. All announcements are optional, always available, and the information is shown on the main screen.



The user can also create favorites, name them, and share them back to the Google Places Service so others can benefit from the places marked and identified.

Nearby Explorer Online includes a transit feature that provides detailed mass transit schedules for many metropolitan areas in the U. S. and Canada. When you open the Transit menu, Nearby Explorer Online shows a list of all the transit stops near your current location and tells the distance and direction to each stop. It also provides the user with the time and travel direction of the next bus or train serving that stop. The user may follow any of the trips through their entire route as Nearby Explorer provides the user with the time, location, and direction of each stop along the trip.

The "Geobeam" feature lets allows the user to point their device and receive audio, haptic, and verbal feedback about points of interest. The haptic feedback allows the user to focus on a point and follow the vibration feedback to the marked location. Warning: there could be obstacles between the user and the desired location that Nearby Explorer cannot know about.

Nearby Explorer allows the user to virtually move to any area and explore the road network, search, or use the transit maps for that area.

The online version of Nearby Explorer contains no onboard map data, so there are no licensing fees to pay. Therefore, it is free to you. While this is potentially very useful as a tool everywhere, the online version does require a device with a network connection to use. The original Nearby Explorer is still available and APH plans to continue supporting and developing the original version. The original includes detailed NAVTEQ map data for the United States and Canada that is downloaded to your device, so it does not require a network connection.

For complete details about Nearby Explorer Online, see [http://tech.aph.org/neo\\_info.htm](http://tech.aph.org/neo_info.htm)

To install, see <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.aph.nearbyonline>

## Visual Brailier App – Updated

Visual Brailier has recently been updated to support iOS 9. Now users can once again email their brf documents straight from the app.

Visual Brailier is the simplest braille editor! It's a braillewriter for your iPad and it has a place in every braille transcriber's toolbox. It displays a traditional six-dot keyboard and simulated braille on your iPad screen. You can edit and save your work, which makes Visual Brailier perfect to use for on-the-go practice for NLS certification exercises. Visual Brailier supports any code you wish to use, because it makes no assumptions about what you are writing. Use it to help learn new codes, such as Unified English Braille (UEB), and to record your progress.



For transcribers who are blind, Visual Brailier also works with Bluetooth refreshable braille displays with keyboards, such as APH's Refreshabraille 18.

Visual Brailier can be downloaded for free from the [Apple App Store](#).

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## REVISED! Parents and Their Infants with Visual Impairments (PAIVI), 2nd Edition Kit

7-96149-00 — \$42.00

**PAIVI: Booklet Set with CD: Learning Together and Getting Ready for Preschool**

7-96148-00 — \$18.00

Parents and Their Infants with Visual Impairments (PAIVI), 2nd Edition Kit

PAIVI, written by Deborah Chen, Gail Calvello, and Clare Taylor Friedman, is an updated version of the original Parents and Visually Impaired Infants (PAVII).

This set of materials is designed to help parents and teachers of infants who are visually impaired become involved as primary members of the intervention team.

The original materials (PAVII) were created as a part of a 3-year project of the Blind Babies Foundation with support from the U.S. Department of Education.

### **New PAIVI Practitioners Manual Includes**

- Parent Assessment of Needs (PAN): An ecological inventory that helps parents to identify and prioritize home-based goals and objectives for their infants, which may be identified as outcomes on the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).
- Parent Observation Protocol (POP): This section encourages parent observation of self and

child through video and identifies teaching strategies to facilitate early learning experiences.

- **PAIVI Assessment Guides:** When appropriate, very young children may be assessed on their functional use of vision, hearing, communication, and on their interaction with objects using PAIVI screening checklists.
- **The Art of Home Visiting:** A resource for teachers certified in visual impairments, early childhood special educators, public health nurses, and others who work with families in their homes.
- **CD-ROM** contains a BRF and an HTML file of the manual and PDF files of the assessment forms.

### PAIVI Parent Booklets (included in kit, also sold separately)

- ***Learning Together: A Parent Guide to Socially Based Routines for Very Young Children with Visual Impairments:*** This booklet offers strategies for parents to embed learning opportunities within everyday activities such as mealtime, bathtime, bedtime, playtime, storytime, and going out.
- ***Getting Ready for Preschool: A Parent Guide to Transition:*** This booklet discusses moving from early intervention to preschool services.
- **CD-ROM** contains a BRF and an HTML file of each booklet.

PAIVI materials are available as a complete kit or as a set of parent booklets only.

**Age Range:** Birth to 3 years.

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### NEW! Braille DateBook 2016

1-07899-16 — \$79.00

#### Optional Item

**Additional Filler Paper and Tabs:** 1-07897-00 — \$11.00

#### Replacement Items

**Calendar Pages, 2016:** 1-07898-16 — \$18.00

**Braille DateBook 2-Ring Binder:** 25-070-001 — \$23.60

#### Related Product

**Brailleable Labels and Sheets: Small Label Pack: 2 lines, 15 cells, 10 sheets:** 1-08872-00 — \$13.00

Keep track of appointments, addresses, family schedules, class assignments, and more with the Braille DateBook from APH. Use it at your desk or on the go; it is sturdy, compact, and fits in a



backpack or brief case.

## **Binder**

The Braille DateBook is housed in a small, rugged binder. The binder opens from the top to make it easier to use when you are in narrow spaces. The binder holds one hundred pages, including the calendar and other tabbed pages. Its hook/loop fastener keeps all materials together and gives added protection to brailled pages.

The binder includes a slate pocket that is on the inside of the front cover. This pocket will hold many types of nineteen to twenty-two cell slates, including APH's 19-cell, 6-line Slate and 4 x 6 Interpoint Slate. Note: A slate is not included with the Braille DateBook. The pocket on the inside spine of the binder includes an APH Saddle-Shaped Stylus.

## **Calendar**

The tabbed calendar pages are made of durable yellow plastic. Organize your appointments by braille on the included filler paper and placing the filler sheets behind the calendar pages. Note that you will need to buy a new calendar for each year.

## **Filler Paper**

The included filler paper pack contains 250 sheets of punched, 4 x 6 inch braille paper. You can purchase replacement filler paper/tab packs from APH or you can use standard 4 x 6 inch file cards that you hole punch yourself. Eight lines of braille will fit on one page.

## **Blank Tabs**

Blank tabs are packaged with the filler paper. The tab pack includes three sets of bottom tab sheets and one set of side tab sheets.

Use tabs to create sections such as addresses, family schedules, financial transactions, emergency contacts, medical information, travel itineraries, shopping lists, or to do lists. Tabs are made of plastic and will not hold braille, but you can label them with Dymo® tape or other labeling material, such as APH's Braille Labels and Sheets.

## **Included Tips Pamphlet**

The Braille DateBook includes a pamphlet in braille and print that contains numerous suggestions on setting up the DateBook to meet your needs.



REGISTER FOR YOUR FREE PARENT WORKSHOP TODAY!



Illinois State Board of Education

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

FRCD's hour long Lunch and Learn Webinars focus on specific aspects of the special education system in Illinois. All webinars are free.

**Six Principles of IDEA**

Saturday, November 7, 10am-1pm

**Navigating the IEP Process**

Saturday, November 14, 12pm-1pm

**Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy**

Saturday, November 21, 10am-1pm

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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](mailto:info@frcd.org) |  
[www.frcd.org](http://www.frcd.org)  
20 East Jackson Blvd., Room 300  
Chicago, IL 60604

*11th Annual Night of the Stars*

Presented by Chicagoland Autism Connection



**Save the Date!**

Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015  
6-11 p.m.

**Chicagoland Autism Connection**  
presents

*11th Annual Night of the Stars*

*Family and Friends Dinner Dance*  
Hilton Oak Lawn  
9333 S. Cicero Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60453

Tickets: Adults: \$50, Children 17 &  
Under: \$35, Persons with autism: \$35,  
table of 10: \$450

ATTIRE (Dress)

*Entertainment: CAC Success Stories*  
*\*Raffle \*Silent Auction \*Music*  
*\*Dinner*

Need more info? Call 773-329-0375 or  
visit our website

**FRCD**



**Family Resource Center on Disabilities**  
Providing parents of children with disabilities with information, training, assistance, and support.



**Illinois TASH Chapter**

## Learn to Navigate the Illinois Special Education System

A free special education training for parents of children with disabilities and special education advocates

*TASH is an international organization that unites advocates, pushes for legislation, and promotes systems change at the local and state levels to develop an inclusive society for all.*

Knowledge is power. Learn about the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) which is the law that protects students with disabilities in the special education system. As a parent, you are your child's best advocate and an equal member of the IEP team. The more you know about IDEA, the better equipped you are to advocate for your child's right to a free appropriate public education.

The Illinois TASH Chapter will host a one hour panel discussion about the current state of special education in Illinois followed prior to the special education training for parents and special education advocates.

**Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015**

1:00 PM-4:00PM

Roosevelt Branch, Chicago Public Library

1101 W. Taylor St. Chicago, IL

**Register online at <https://specialeducationtraining.eventbrite.com>  
or email [illinoistash@gmail.com](mailto:illinoistash@gmail.com)**

Children, youth and young adults with disabilities are welcome with their parents or caregiver.

## The 13th Annual Summit for Youth with Disabilities

*Presented by Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities*



This is a FREE informational and resource event for youth with disabilities (14 and Over), especially targeting those receiving Social

Security Benefits (SSI/SSDI).

Gain valuable knowledge and assistance regarding Employment, Special Work Incentives offered by SSA for SSI/SSDI recipients and educational and recreational resources to promote independent living.

**Save the Date!**  
**November 21, 2015**

### **MOPD**

Central West Field Office  
2102 West Ogden Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60612

### **Agenda**

**Registration/Breakfast:** 8:30 a.m.

**Presentations:** 9:30 a.m. until 12 p.m.

**Wrap-Up Session:** 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

All Parents/Guardians, Educators, Vocational Professionals, and Service Providers are Welcome!

**TO REGISTER: Contact 312/746-5743 (Voice) ♦ 312/746-5713 (TTY) ♦ 312/746-5787 or 312/746-5749 (Fax)**

Requests for Reasonable Accommodations should be made by November 9, 2015



As part of our celebration, we want to hear from individuals with disabilities, teachers, researchers, and other IDEA stakeholders about the personal impact this legislation has had.

### **What do inclusion, equity, and opportunity look like for you?**

We want to hear from children and youth with disabilities, teachers, parents, researchers, and other IDEA stakeholders about the impact this legislation has had. Please share your art, photographs, and writing with us for possible use during the upcoming 40th Anniversary events.

You may submit your documents and personal stories up to November 8th.

Please share your art, photographs, poetry, and written stories with us for possible use during an event in Washington DC to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of IDEA.

You may submit your documents and stories through November 6th, 2015 on our 40th Anniversary website,

**<https://www.osep-meeting.org/ideaanniversary/>**

Please send any questions to

**[IDEAanniversary@air.org](mailto:IDEAanniversary@air.org)**



**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  
P: 219-836-7990 F: 219-873-0175

## IPVI

P.O. Box 316634, Chicago, IL 60631

1-815-355-2098 • Email: [ipvi@ipvi.org](mailto:ipvi@ipvi.org) • [www.ipvi.org](http://www.ipvi.org)



I would like to introduce you to a wonderful website, **WonderBaby.org**.

This website was started by Amber Bobnar when her son, Ivan, was diagnosed with **Leber's Congenital Amaurosis (LCA)**, and later on with **Joubert Syndrome** and **Landau Kleffner Syndrome**.

In 2011 WonderBaby teamed up with Perkins in order to provide more features and support for families through the internet.

Under the Parenting section there is:

### Advice for Parents

- Adoption
- Advocacy
- Conferences & Fundraising
- Helpful Organizations
- Parenting
- Support

The articles on this website are the best I've read, for all ages of children and many topics that parents would be interested in. Please view this site and you won't be disappointed.

Joan Bielawski, Editor, IPVI Insights

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### SPANISH TRANSLATOR

Noelia Gamino  
708-655-2747



# 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 316634 • Chicago, IL 60631

**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 316634  
Chicago, IL 60631

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](mailto:ipvi@ipvi.org)  
[www.ipvi.org](http://www.ipvi.org)

## IPVI CALENDAR

- ▶ 11/7 **Chicagoland Autism Connection "11th Annual Night of the Stars** **Chicago**
- ▶ 11/7 **FRCD/TASH Learn to Navigate the Illinois Special Education System** **Chicago**
- ▶ 11/14 **Chicago Children's Museum Trip at Navy Pier** **Chicago**
- ▶ 11/21 **The 13th Annual Summit for Youth with Disabilities** **Chicago**

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

**Newsletter Deadline for  
DECEMBER 2015 is NOVEMBER 15**



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

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