

IPVI INSIGHTS

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

**October
2014**



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Lyle Stauder, President

IPVI would like to thank all of its donors, volunteers, and participants who attended our Bowling for Braille fundraiser. It was a very wonderful evening with 36 raffle prizes, 14 silent auction items and a bountiful pizza buffet with soda and desserts as well as two hours of Scotch Doubles bowling.

The most coveted silent auction prize was four Blackhawk tickets and a Stanley Cup popcorn maker that was won by Nikki Myers. We've got a few of the photos from the evening shown here. To view the other pictures, please go to our Facebook page -- Illinois Parents of the Visually Impaired -- to see them.

We'd like to give a big shout out to Dawn Wojtowicz and Vicki Juskie for all their efforts in putting together this party for 60 people, gathering all the donor prizes and preparing the raffle prizes and silent auction items. Thank you for all of your efforts, ladies. They are greatly appreciated.

WE'D ALSO LIKE TO SPECIFICALLY THANK ALL OF OUR GENEROUS DONORS. WE ALSO ASK THAT OUR READERS CONTINUE TO PATRONIZE THE WONDERFUL BUSINESSES INCLUDED IN THIS LIST:

Marcus Theatres Corporation
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At the Office
T.G.I.F.
Essence Suites
Chicago White Sox
Essence Suites of Orland Park



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**THANK YOU ALSO TO THESE
ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS. GOD BLESS
ALL OF YOU:**

Southwest Laser and Medspa
Buca di Beppo
Ungaro's Les Spa
Haunted Trails
Four Winds Casino
Associated Orthodontists
Great Clips
Sports Clips

PRIVATE DONORS:

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Julie Burke
Lisa Fiene
Jody Kelly
Patricia Connolly
Jennifer Vogl
Michelle Uher
Tommy Psaltakis
Dawn Wojtowicz
Carol Hall
Barbara Wojtowicz
Karen Dundek
Vicki and Ken Juskie

**THANK YOU ALSO TO THESE
ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS.
GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU:**

Nicole Hradek
Angela Juskie
Ryan Juskie
MacCauley Juskie
Ken Juskie

(Continued on page 4)

MS. VIC'S VOLLEYS

Victoria Juskie, IPVI Treasurer

VOLLEY I

No new members have joined our organization this month.

VOLLEY II

Parents of college bound students with low vision, I want to recommend that you make sure your student registers with the special needs department of the college early, even if s/he feels they would not necessarily have anything to offer them. Make sure you register because once you're in the system at a college, you're in it for the entire time you're at that school in most instances; i.e. you don't have to re-register every year. So if you have any vision changes, then you're able to get the additional assistance you may need at that point without delays.

I bring this up because when my son, Matt, went with his dad to ISU for preview week, they had an action-packed morning with lots of walking and information gathering. They were done an hour and a half before the scheduled meeting with the special needs counselor, and Matt suggested that he'd be okay, and he didn't really want to see her. Now he has lower than normal vision that improved from legally blind as a child to about 150/20 nowadays. He faired pretty well during high school utilizing mostly regular print books by choice, using his iPad for enlarging outside reading materials somewhat whenever necessary.

Well, Ken told him, "Let's go register with that department anyway because that's what we had planned to do." After a month of school, Matt has admitted he was really glad he went and felt that he would have had serious trouble keeping up if he hadn't. You see ISU's

Special Needs Department offered E-text, a program that works well with the iPad (and other devices). The students provide them with their schedules and the department downloads whatever books, assignments, and worksheets will be used that semester onto the students' own devices. You have to drop off the device to them anywhere from a week to two before classes begin, and they take care of the rest. Then the student can enlarge the print to whatever size fits his/her needs.

So my tip of the day is to counsel your son or daughter to not let ego get in the way of success. We know they don't want to be "different," but this is a case of "it is better to have it and not need it, than to need it and not have it," with regard to special needs services. I know every student's vision is different, with some completely sightless; but they all want the same thing -- to be known for who they are, not by the challenge(s) they face. I've heard the comment by one low vision student who stated "Why is it more people talk to me when I don't have my cane than when I do?" This makes a statement about how people do notice differences and not everyone knows how to look past what challenges a person faces. Well, I'm here to tell you though, that's their problem and not yours nor your child's. So, if there is something that can help you, use it as my advice. Take advantage of all that technologies may be able to offer. You may find something that really helps, which you wish really had been available years before.

So, good luck to all of you students out there. Continue to try your best and reach for the stars, because it is said that when you do this, you might not get to the stars but you may just make it to the moon.



(Continued from page 4) - President's Message

Lori Psaltakis
Julie Burke
Nikki Myers
Tom Wojtowicz
Princess Alexander
Derrick Bagnara
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Stajkowski



Scholarship

Last year IPVI awarded the MBJ Scholarship to Stephanie Collins who is now attending Oregon University.

IPVI received a wonderful thank you note which is printed below.

Dear IPVI,

I would like to personally thank you for this amazing scholarship. I am so thankful for the opportunity you have given me. This scholarship allows me to achieve my goals and dreams. I had an amazing time last year making friends, working hard, and learning a lot. Receiving this scholarship is both an honor and a blessing. Thank you.

*Sincerely,
Stephanie Collins*

We are very happy that Stephanie is doing so well in College, and we hope that others will apply for the MBJ Scholarship award.



Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments



Dawn Wojtowicz
and
Vicki Juskie





START THE SCHOOL YEAR OFF RIGHT

Learn to be an Advocate for your Child!

The Family Resource Center on Disabilities (FRCD) will provide information on ways to support your child both in the community and in the school system.

Date: Tuesday, October 21st, 2014

Time: 6:00 p.m. - dinner, 6:30 p.m. - presentation

Topic: "Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy"

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

Please RSVP to Gail Patterson (312-997-3695) or

Mary Zabelski (312-997-3675) by October 17th.

(Dinner & child care will be provided -

Siblings welcome!!)

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 8, 2014

Time: Pre-registered families 9:00am - 1:00pm
General public 10:00am - 1:00pm

To register or for more information contact:

Mary Zabelski 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!!!)



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 MBJSF, 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 MBJSF 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 MBJSF 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 UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation – enhancing the lives of families in need, one child at a time...



The UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation (UHCCF) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that provides medical grants to help children gain access to health-related services not covered, or not fully covered, by their parents' commercial health insurance plan. Families can receive up to \$5,000 annually per child (\$10,000 lifetime maximum per child), and do not need to have insurance through UnitedHealthcare to be eligible.

UHCCF was founded in 1999. Since 2007, UHCCF has awarded more than 6,500 grants valued at over \$20M to children and their families across the United States. UHCCF's funding is provided by contributions from individuals, corporations and UnitedHealth Group employees.

To apply, donate or learn more, please visit www.UHCCF.org.

UnitedHealthcare
Children's Foundation®



DO YOU
KNOW A CHILD
WHO COULD
BENEFIT FROM
A MEDICAL
GRANT?

UnitedHealthcare
Children's Foundation®

MN017-W400

P.O. Box 41

Minneapolis, MN 55440-0041

1-855-MY-UHCCF (1-855-698-4223)



<http://www.uhccf.org>



Like us on Facebook
facebook.com/uhccf

Answer "YES" to all four questions listed inside and the child may be eligible to receive up to \$10,000* in medical grants from the UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation!

DO YOU HAVE OR KNOW OF A CHILD WHO COULD BENEFIT FROM A MEDICAL GRANT?

If you can answer "YES" to all four questions below, the child may be eligible to receive up to \$10,000* in medical grants from the UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation!

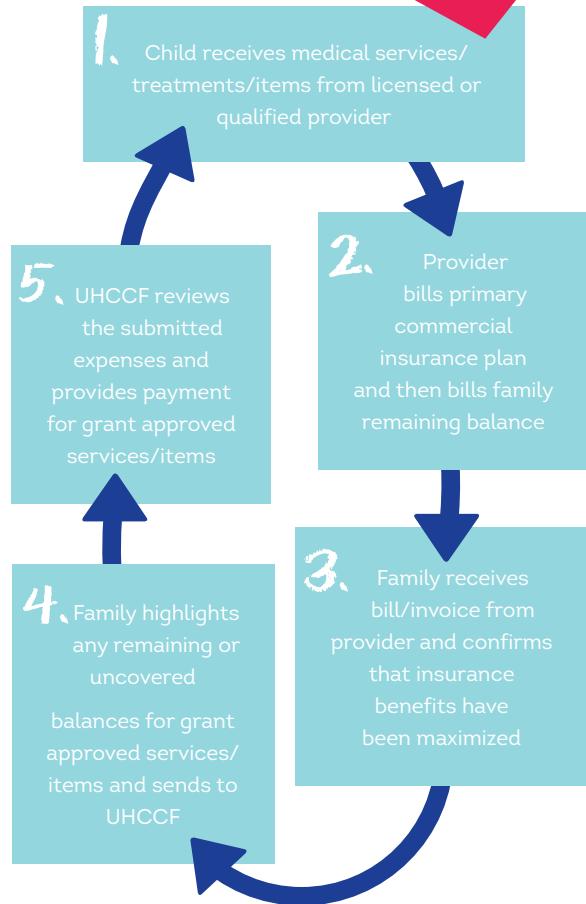
- Is the child sixteen or younger, living in the United States, and facing a health-related challenge?
- Is the child currently covered by a commercial health insurance plan?
- Does the commercial health insurance plan cover only a portion or none of their necessary treatment, services or equipment?
- Does the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) currently meet the following Adjusted Gross Income levels (as reported on last year's IRS 1040)?

* \$10,000 maximum lifetime grant allowance per child.

Family Size	Adjusted Gross Income
2	\$50,000 or less
3	\$75,000 or less
4	\$100,000 or less
5 or more	\$125,000 or less

Note: Eligibility and coverage criteria is subject to change. For a full listing of current eligibility requirements and coverage exclusions, please visit www.uhccf.org.

How the grant reimbursement process works, once approved.



What can the medical grant cover?

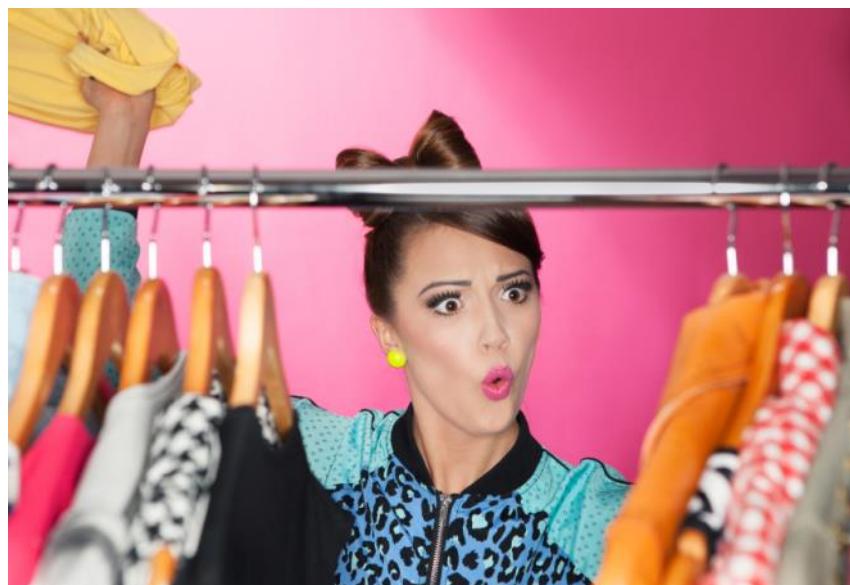
Qualifying families can receive up to \$5,000 annually, per child (\$10,000* lifetime max) to help pay for medical services and equipment such as physical, occupational and speech therapies, counseling services, surgeries, prescription medications, wheelchairs, orthotics, eyeglasses and hearing aids.



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



There is no better time to clean out your closet!



Thank
you
for
your
support!

The
RealReal

We are thrilled to announce our partnership with The RealReal, an online luxury consignment store, for our Flair fundraiser!

The Chicago Lighthouse will receive 70% profit of all items we sell on
TheRealReal.com

[Women's Luxury Designer List](#)
[Men's Luxury Designer List](#)
[Jewelry Luxury Designer List](#)

For more information or to arrange to have your items be picked up, please call:

Sammi Grant
Sammi.Grant@chicagolighthouse.org
312-666-1331 x 3136

**We request that all items either be dropped off, or have a scheduled pickup by October 15th.*

Chicago Chapter Networking Group

Presents



Parents with a Vision

If you are a parent of a child with a retinal disease such as Stargardt or Usher, have a family member with Stargardt or Usher or are affected personally, please join us on Sunday, October 19, 2014. Our plan is to create a positive and friendly group who can share experiences, exchange advice, and offer encouragement to parents, family members, and individuals who are also facing similar challenges.

**Children are welcome. We have a play room for the children.
Light refreshments will be provided.**

Plan on attending this informative networking meeting. Great opportunity to meet and connect with parents of children with vision loss, individuals, and family members.

**Join us at the home of
Dr. Thara Nagarajan and Josh Singh
933 East 49th Street
Chicago, IL 60615-1805**

**Sunday, October 19, 2014
3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

There is no fee to attend this meeting:
RSVP to Mary Ann Subleski at
(866) 782-7330 or
MSubleski@FightBlindness.org

FROM FAMILYCONNECT WEBSITE

Independence for Him Means Inconvenience for Me

By Emily Coleman, Posted 8/28/2014

Having a child who is blind, requires spending lots of time teaching them to do things for themselves. Helping my son to become independent is maybe the most important part of being his parent. What I've been reminded of lately, is that teaching skills for independence makes things inconvenient for me...for now.

Eddie has been working on taking his own leg braces and shoes off. Those plastic orthotics can be real difficult to work with, but we've been teaching him how to remove them. Now that the skill is mastered, his shoes and socks are abandoned every time he has a few minutes alone. This is inconvenient for me when we have to be somewhere fast and I have to get those suckers back on.

A continual goal is to get Eddie to consistently use utensils to feed himself. It's obviously much faster when he uses his fingers, and gobble up his meals in record time. With utensils, it is always a battle, and although he can do it, the inconvenience shows up in the added time to every single meal.

Eddie spent years learning how to walk, and being brave enough to wander independently. Now that he is a self-determined explorer, he wanders all over the house and even outside regularly. This has become inconvenient for me as he leaves messes in his wake, and I have to keep a closer eye on him, so he stays out of the street.

These are just a few examples of some skills that Eddie has worked long and hard to acquire. Every time he learns something new, he inspires us to teach him more ways to be independent, which is inconvenient for us...for now. For now, we just have to deal with it, because in the long-run the tables will turn.



When he's an adult, his independence will mean more independence for us, and more happiness for him. A little inconvenience now is worth it to increase his chances of having a better, fuller future. So, I just strive to be more patient, and take the sort-of bad with the really good...for now...because "now" will be gone in a flash.

Although I want to always think of him as the little boy pictured here asleep in my bed, he's going to grow up fast. Someday, he'll be bigger than me...in every sense of the word. I just want to make sure his future can be as big as possible, and showing him how to do things for himself is the best way I can make that happen.

Mixed Emotions Going Back to School

By Susan LaVenture, Posted on 9/3/2014

For families it's that time of year—mixed emotions of sadness that the summer vacation time is over, excitement and anticipation of preparation of the new school year, and the anxiety and stress that parents of children with disabilities often encounter. Will my child have the right accommodations needed to make sure his/her textbooks and materials will be accessible? Will there be a specialized teacher of the visually impaired, and an orientation and mobility instructor available to give the time and attention my child needs? And for children who need it, will there be appropriate services from occupational and other special therapists? Is the school my child attends the most appropriate for his or her needs?

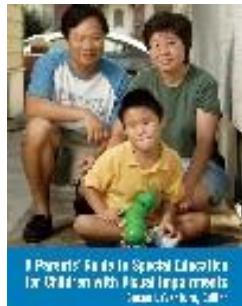


You are your child's best advocate. You know your child best. I encourage you to have confidence to follow your instinct and observations about your child's development, strengths, and interests, and take an active role to help create a plan for the types of services and education your child needs. In order to do that you need to understand the U.S. special education law Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that gives you parental rights, and the power to be an active participant in your child's educational planning as part of the team working with school personnel to create an Individualized Educational Program (IEP).

To help you to be an active advocate for your child, you need to understand how the law gives your child rights, and learn what special educational services the school is required by law to provide for your child. You also need to learn about the best resources available for you and your families. The National Association of Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI) and the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) have collaborated to create resources for parents to help you become knowledgeable about your child's special education needs, such as the book A Parents' Guide to Special Education for Children with Visual Impairments. There are also several free excerpts from the *Guide* on FamilyConnect that can assist you, including IEP checklists.

Enjoy watching your child grow and develop into the human being he or she is meant to be. I've raised three children and they are all special and have different interests and paths in life. It's a lot of work to raise children but it is one of the most rewarding experiences to have.

Please stay in touch with NAPVI and FamilyConnect through the year!



AFB American Foundation™
for the Blind

Expanding possibilities for people with vision loss

NAPVI
JEWISH GUILD
HEALTHCARE
Vision + Health

Family Connect

For Parents of Children with Visual Impairments

Blind Pediatric Individuals with Recurrent Sleep Problems Needed for Clinical Research Study and Survey

Posted, 9/9/2014

Pediatric individuals who are blind with recurring sleeping or napping problems are needed to participate in a survey and/or take part in a clinical research study.

For each completed survey, \$24 will be donated up to \$50,000 to organizations that support people with blindness.

Eligible volunteers who take part in the clinical research study will be compensated for their time and will receive all study-related investigational medication, medical evaluation, and transportation at no cost.

Nighttime and daytime sleep problems occur in some individuals who are totally blind. This may be caused by the lack of light needed to reset the "body clock."

Eligible volunteers are:

- less than 18 years old
- blind
- having recurrent trouble sleeping at night or daytime sleepiness or napping

If you are interested, please call toll free 1-844-361-2424 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM M-F ET, or email info@non24registry.com.

Phone: (844) 361-2424

Email: info@non24registry.com



REGISTER FOR YOUR FREE PARENT WORKSHOP TODAY!



Illinois State Board of Education

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

Space is limited; registration is mandatory. Please visit www.frcd.org or call 312-939-3513 for registration and workshop location.

Six Principles of IDEA

Thursday, October 2, 6pm-8pm

Navigating the IEP Process

Thursday, October 9, 10am-1pm

Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy

Thursday, October 16, 6pm-8pm

Adult Life: Accessing Services

Thursday, October 23, 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



The What, The Why, and The How of Response to Intervention (RTI) Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)

Overview for Families

Join Family Resource Center on Disabilities Parent Training and Information Center and Illinois RTI Network for the FREE informational session for parents of children who struggle with reading, math, or behavior.

Monday, September 29

12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

RTI Overview (WEBINAR)

Tuesday, September 30

12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

RTI Data (WEBINAR)

Jueves, 09 de octubre

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

RTI Información general (WEBINAR)

Jueves, 16 de octubre

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Interpretación de datos (WEBINAR)

Jueves, 23 de octubre

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

RTI y Educación Especial (WEBINAR)

The Illinois RTI Network Parent Partnership is a State Personal Development Grant (SPDG) project of the Illinois State Board of Education. All funding (100%) is from federal sources. The contents of this presentation were developed under a grant from the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

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

FEATURED SESSION

The Legacy of Blind Musicians



The tradition of blind musicians is not a new one. Blind individuals have played roles in many cultures as court musicians, wandering minstrels, and religious singers/players. Music has been an occupation open to and chosen by blind persons throughout history; and they have demonstrated their skill across many musical forms and genres. There are many reasons blind individuals choose this profession; but recent research on brain plasticity and musical preference give greater insight into the reasons blind persons choose and succeed in the music business.

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

Watch This Session for FREE!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Beyond Reading & Writing: Lifestyles of Braille Challenge Finalists

This presentation describes the findings of a descriptive study examining the lifestyles of National Braille Challenge participants. Given the competitive nature of the Challenge, the researchers hypothesized that these students would demonstrate success in academic, daily living, social, and vocational pursuits. Students, parents, and TVIs completed parallel surveys.

MORE: [Same website](#)



The What, Where, When and Why of Written Documentation

"The What, Where, When and Why of Written documentation" is a lively presentation which re-enforces the need to detail all services provided by a Vision Rehabilitation Therapist/Rehabilitation Teacher.

MORE: [Same website](#)



Assessment and Instruction in the Schools for Children with Cerebral Visual Impairment (CVI)

This presentation provides an overview of issues surrounding cerebral visual impairment for educational personnel. The effects of visual processing will be discussed along with their impact on function. Methods to coordinate multidisciplinary assessment and intervention services to meet the complex needs of children with cerebral visual impairment will be offered.

MORE: [Same website](#)

Summer Challenge to END BLINDNESS

Have you ever heard about the Gratitude Challenge? It's the newest Facebook craze and I really been enjoying so many of them in our community to share their thoughts on what they are thankful for in their lives.

In the spirit of the Gratitude Challenge, I wanted to share my own list with you, a list inspired by an amazing summer at the Foundation Fighting Blindness. Here it is:

- **I'm grateful for members and supporters like YOU!** We recently closed out our Summer Challenge to End Blindness raising over \$2 million - monies that will fund exciting research in the coming year.
- **I'm grateful for researchers on the front lines and the momentum they are building.** Researchers like Dr. John Flannery, one of the pioneers of an approach to create a “delivery system” that will harness the power of gene therapy to treat a multitude of retinal diseases.
- **I'm grateful to be inspired by all the members of our FFB family who are accomplishing amazing things.** Individuals like Erik Weihenmayer, who lost his vision in his teens, but has scaled Mount Everest and launched a 21-day adventure to become the first blind person to kayak the Grand Canyon.

So that's my list. Thank you for letting me share it with you. You can read more about Dr. Flannery and Eric, as well as other inspiring stories on our blog Eye on the Cure. I hope you will feel sense of pride reading what you have helped accomplish.

I also hope you will take a moment to share your own gratitude list on our Facebook page.



With gratitude,

Bill

William T. Schmidt
Chief Executive Officer

Share your
Gratitude
on Facebook



APH NEWS

Field Test Opportunity: Nemeth Tutorial

APH staff, in a project with Northern Illinois University, is developing a web based Nemeth tutorial that works equally well for both sighted and blind users with a refreshable braille display. The tutorial requires an internet connection and a modern browser and, for blind users, a screen reader and refreshable braille display. Supported screen readers include JAWS®, Window-Eyes®, and NVDA® on Windows®, VoiceOver® (on both Mac® and iOS®) and TalkBack® on Android®. Supported browsers include Internet Explorer®, FireFox®, and Chrome® on Windows, Safari® on Mac and iOS, and Firefox and Chrome on Android.

Any braille display that the selected screen reader supports works with the tutorial.

To participate in the testing, send a blank email to nemeth-subscribe@tech.aph.org. This subscribes you to an email list where other test participants, developers, and customer service personnel exchange experiences, impressions, and suggestions.

APH's Nearby Explorer Version 2 Released

The most powerful, complete, and inexpensive GPS application ever developed for blind users just got even better with *virtual map exploration!*

Virtual map exploration is a feature that lets the user use the touch screen on any supported Android device to get detailed feedback about nearly any location on earth.



When the user opens Map View in the app, Nearby Explorer announces the relevant information about the spot touched just as if the user were actually in that location. The kind of information the user gets depends on how she sets the feedback possibilities. The choices come from one of 20 possible options on the home screen that include Country, State, County, City, Street, Nearest Place, and more. The relationship to other geo-based objects gives a unique, dynamic perspective to blind users.

If a student is studying the counties in her area, for instance, she may mask out all the other feedback and move a finger around to discover the placement and relationship of each county in the state. One may also zoom the map out to encompass large areas, such as the entire state or region.

While the onboard maps for Nearby Explorer include only the United States and Canada, a net-

work connection adds basic information about any place on earth through Google's Places service. While the user cannot follow a street outside the U.S. or Canada, countries, cities, and places of interest all provide enough feedback to get a good perspective about placement and relationship. It is interesting, for instance, for a user to turn off all feedback except country, then expand the map view to cover hundreds or thousands of miles and find those countries she's read about in the news.

Nearby Explorer costs \$99 and is available in the Google Play Store at <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.aph.avigenie&hl=en>. It is also available on quota by calling customer support at 800-223-1839.

If you purchased Nearby Explorer through the Play Store, the automatic update is free. If you purchased on quota, you should get an email with a link to download the update.

Media Release: Transforming Braille Group LLC Announces Low Cost Refreshable Braille Display on the Horizon

Orbit Research LLC and the Transforming Braille Group LLC are pleased to announce an agreement to produce a low cost, refreshable braille display.

Orbit, an international engineering company based in Wilmington, Delaware, specializing in high quality, low cost products for blind and partially sighted people, will be undertaking the research, development and manufacture of this unique product.

The Transforming Braille Group LLC is a global consortium of organizations of and for the blind which is investing \$1M in the project.

The objective of the project is to produce a stand-alone 20-cell refreshable braille display for \$300 (or £200) which will bring refreshable braille within the reach of children in developing countries and will provide libraries in developed countries with a viable alternative to hard copy braille. The product will be launched at CSUN in 2016.

The display is designed to work through USB and Bluetooth connectivity with 'smart' phones and tablets. It is not intended to compete with high specification refreshable braille displays already on the market, primarily used in education and employment, but is intended to bring Braille-displayed e-books to a wide audience at an economical price.

"The agreement with TBG is a landmark in our journey to develop and manufacture essential products at an affordable cost through the application of mainstream technology in unique and innovative ways" said Dr. Gina Spagnoli, Orbit Research's Founder. "While each of our previous products has brought a multi-fold improvement in the state of the art in terms of performance, cost, size and features, we are thrilled that through this partnership with TBG, we will be able to offer a game-changing product that will impact the daily lives of millions of blind people across the world."

TBG President, Kevin Carey said: "At last we have a technology which will guarantee the survival of braille. It has been my long-standing, publicly stated objective to find a disruptive technology which will radically force down the cost of refreshable braille so that the world's digital content becomes available in a tactile format. This new device will bring braille within the price range of educators in developing countries and will enable most blind people to access e-books and other internet material without resorting to specialist libraries."

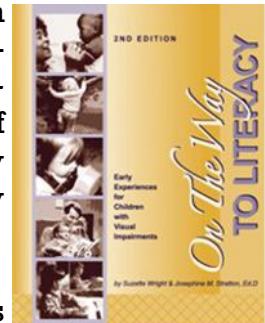
TBG estimates that its new product will retail at a unit cost less than 20% of the current market price.

Contact for details: Kevin Carey, President, Transforming Braille Group LLC,
Tel: +44(0)1273 834321,

humanity@atlas.co.uk,
www.Transformingbraille.org (under construction)

Oldies but Goodies: The "Established" APH Product Series

The *On the Way to Literacy Handbook* guides teachers and parents in supporting a young child's first steps towards literacy. With a significant amount of new information and reorganized content, the 2nd edition of the *On the Way to Literacy Handbook* (©2007) brings together information and research from the field of teaching children with visual impairments, research regarding early literacy for typically sighted children, and the findings of the National Early Literacy Panel.



This handbook encourages the use of everyday events to support a child's learning in key areas: early communication and language, concept development, tactile discrimination skills needed for learning through touch and for reading braille, and knowledge about written language. This handbook contains extensive information on selecting and reading aloud from appropriate books and providing children opportunities to use the tools for writing in braille or print.

Opportunities to develop early literacy skills are important for all children. Although portions of the *On the Way to Literacy Handbook* focus on the future braille reader, a great deal of the information is appropriate for a child who will read print. Approaches and activities are adaptable for older children and for those with additional disabilities, including children who may use another means of communicating, such as a symbol communication system. Appendices list additional sources of information to help readers meet each child's unique and changing needs.

In addition to the handbook, the *On the Way to Literacy: Early Experiences of Visually Impaired Children* series consists of 18 tactile/visual storybooks to be read to young children. All of the storybooks provide valuable exposure to braille, with large print for the sighted reader, and feature tactile as well as visual illustrations. Because it is often difficult to tactually recognize a raised im-

age based on a visual picture, tactile illustrations are designed to meet the special needs of tactful learners. They represent familiar objects in a highly simplified way, retaining features that are key for tactful recognition: texture, shape, and size. They also present a range of types of illustration, objects and textures attached to the page, collaged shapes, highly realistic thermoforms of actual objects, and simple raised outline drawings of familiar objects. The handbook and storybooks can be purchased separately or in sets.

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.

Recommended APH Products for Programs Serving Students with Visual Impairment 2014-15

Every year APH's Janie Blome puts together this handy document that lists APH educational products in various categories. It is designed to help educational programs forecast purchases to meet student needs for the upcoming school year.

All items on this list are available for purchase with federal Quota funds. Please note that the federal Quota funds spending deadline is September 30 each year.

Here is the website: www.aph.org/products/recommended/

Table of Contents

- [Early Childhood](#)
 - [Itinerant and Classroom Teachers: Elementary](#)
 - [Itinerant and Classroom Teachers: Secondary](#)
 - [Dormitory/After School Programs/Home](#)
 - [Multiple Disabilities/Deafblind](#)
 - [Daily Living](#)
-

Advanced Desktop Stick-On Number Lines

[1-03482-00](#) -- \$18.00

Related Products

Desktop Stick-On Number Lines: Large Print/Braille (5-pack): [1-03481-00](#) -- \$13.00

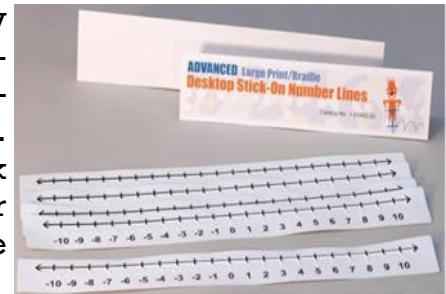
Consumable Number Lines: [Large Print: 1-03012-00 -- \\$10.00](#)

[Braille/Tactile: 1-03013-00 -- \\$12.00](#)

Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments

Number lines are available for large print and braille readers.

APH's Desktop Stick-On Number Lines visually and/or tactually demonstrate the basic concepts of negative numbers: counting, sequencing, number relationships, addition, and subtraction. Supports Common Core State Standards, Number Sense, Grades 6 & 7. These self-adhesive number lines are perfect for the student's desk or tabletop. The adhesive will not permanently stick to surfaces or mar them. Each number line is reusable for approximately five times before the adhesive becomes ineffective.



Includes: 5 large print/braille number lines with numbers -10 to +10

Recommended ages: 11 years and up.

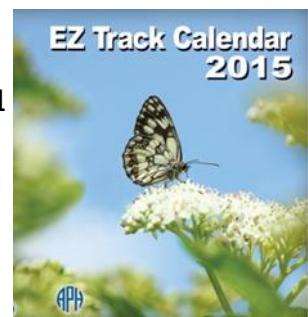
NEW! EZ Track Calendar: A Low Vision Appointment Book and Calendar, 2015

With binder: [1-07900-15](#) — \$39.00

Inserts only, no binder: [1-07901-15](#) — \$33.00

This calendar offers a systematic and organized way of keeping track of appointments, holidays, and other events.

Each large print page holds four days, with enough room to write notes and appointments. The calendar comes with a three-ring binder.



NEW! Braille DateBook, 2015

[1-07899-15](#) — \$68.00

Optional Item

Additional Filler Paper and Tabs: [1-07897-00](#) — \$11.00

Replacement Item

Calendar Pages, 2015: [1-07898-15](#) — \$18.00

Related Product

Braillable Labels and Sheets: Small Label Pack: 2 lines, 15 cells (3.875 x 0.95) 10 sheets, 18 labels per sheet: [1-08872-00](#) — \$13.00



Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments

The 2015 Braille DateBook is an attractive planner-organizer designed specifically for braille users!

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.

Includes

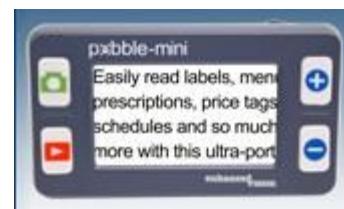
- Binder
- Calendar pages
- Blank filler pages and blank tabs
- A Saddle-Shaped Stylus
- Print and braille tips pamphlet

Recommended ages: 11 years and up.

You are Cordially Invited to a... Low Vision Technology Open House Hosted by: Second Sense - Beyond Vision Loss



If you or someone you know has low vision due to Macular Degeneration or other eye conditions, here's an event you don't want to miss!



Products by: **enhanced vision®**

Second Sense
65 E. Wacker Place, Suite 1010
Chicago, IL 60601

R.S.V.P. 312-236-8569
Ask for Brian Hollandsworth

FREE Pebble-Mini will be raffled - Value \$295



Event Date: Saturday - October 18, 2014 Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF ILLINOIS 2014 CONVENTION BULLETIN

“CREATE THE LIFE YOU WANT”

On October 31st, Nov. 1st, and 2nd 2014, enthusiastic Federationists will assemble in Naperville to renew our dedication in the pursuit of security, equality, and opportunity for all blind people.

The site for our convention will be the Naperville Marriott, 1801 Naperville Blvd., Naperville, IL 60563(630) 505-4900. Room rates are \$89 per night plus applicable taxes. Please indicate that you are with the NFBI to get this special rate. Make reservations by calling (800) 228-9290. Reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card or a one night deposit. Our cutoff date for reservations is October 10th.

This year's convention will kick off with Friday afternoon seminars as well as an afternoon resolutions committee meeting. Come learn and participate in our governing process.

The Resolutions Committee will be chaired by Chris Jeckel. ALL resolutions must be submitted by October 15th, 2014. He may be contacted at (217) 369-2915 or at jeckel.chris@gmail.com.

IABS IDOL will occur Friday evening. Those wanting to perform during the IABS Idol should contact IABS by e-mailing Julia Chang at roseailuj@att.net. Please put IABS IDOL in your subject line.

Our general session will convene on Saturday, November 1st at 9 a.m. During Saturday's general sessions we will hear a National Report regarding NFB happenings delivered by our National Representative, Ms. Ever Lee Hairston, a member of NFB Board of Directors. We will hear from employment and community service panels as well as Janet Szlyk who will talk about the Lighthouse for the Blind and the tollway. We will welcome our Freedom Link and BELL participants just to name a few of our agenda items.

We will have a Saturday parent breakfast and a Sunday student breakfast. We will have both student and parent luncheons on Saturday. In addition, there will be breakout sessions for parents of blind children, a teen scene and significant others meeting.

Saturday evening will culminate with our annual banquet, featuring an energizing address from our National Representative, Ms. Ever Lee Hairston. See: <https://nfb.org/ever-lee-hairston-bio>. We will also see the much-anticipated scholarship awards.

Sunday morning's general session will begin with Braille is Beautiful and we will hear from other blind people sharing their experiences. Resolutions will be voted on during the Sunday morning session. Adjournment is scheduled for 12:00 PM on November 2nd.

Advance registration for the convention made before October 15th is \$5. Registration after that date or at convention will be \$15. This year you can register and pay online at www.nfbofillinois.org. If you are mailing your form and payment, the registration form and fees for breakfasts, luncheon, and banquet should be sent before October 15th to Glenn Moore, Treasurer NFBI, P.O. Box 1065, Elgin, IL 60121. Checks or money orders should be made payable to NFB of Illinois. Please do not send cash.

We will host a meeting for parents of blind children at 7 a.m. on Saturday. The student business meeting will

Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments

be held on Sunday morning at 7:00 a.m. These are both breakfast meetings.

Two breakfasts are planned. Their cost is \$10. We will have two luncheons for all those interested in student and/or parent issues on Saturday. The cost for either luncheon will be \$15. The banquet on Saturday night will start at 7 p.m. and tickets will cost \$30.

Those with special dietary needs for any of the meals should contact Denise Avant, (773) 325-1117 or da-yant1958@gmail.com. The deadline for such requests is October 15th.

Kids' Kamp (childcare) will be available on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Kids' Kamp is free to all children ages 3 to 12 who are registered for the convention. A separate release form must be filled out at time of registration.

For those needing financial assistance to attend the convention, all applications must be submitted to President Patti Chang no later than October 1st at 6919 W. Berwyn Ave. Chicago, IL 60656 or pattischang@gmail.com. The form to fill out for financial assistance from the James Chappell Memorial Fund is available on our web site at www.nfbofillinois.org or one will be mailed to you upon request.

Federation conventions change the lives of blind and sighted people alike! Don't miss out on this opportunity for change! Join us for our best convention yet! Come and live the life you want!!!

* * * * *

James Chappell/Carmen Dennis Award

FORM UPDATED 9/1/14

This award has been established as a living memorial to James Chappell and Carmen Dennis. James and Carmen were both long-time federationists with extraordinary dedication to our movement.

James' hard work on behalf of the National Federation of The Blind (often in the face of seriously impaired health) was an inspiration and a demonstration of undaunted loyalty and dedication to the organized blind movement. James passed away on the steps of City Hall on his way to advocate for better transportation.

Carmen served our affiliate in numerous capacities throughout the years. She often assisted people to attend conventions out of her own pocket. She passed away while she held the office of NFBI secretary.

The award is intended to assist persons interested in NFBI to attend conventions, seminars, and the like. Recipients of the Chappell/Dennis Award must demonstrate genuine interest in, and commitment to the blind of Illinois or the potential to develop such interest and commitment. Recipients are expected to attend all sessions relative to the event for which they receive assistance.

Go to http://nfbofillinois.org/?page_id=102 to fill out the application for this award.



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, 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

Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments

IPVI

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

1-815-355-2098 • Email: ipvi@ipvi.org • www.ipvi.org

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Vacant

SERVICES VP

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vajuskie@aol.com

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deeder0477@aol.com

NAPVI REGION 3 REPRESENTATIVE

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Northbrook, IL 60062
847-217-7590
pamstern3@gmail.com

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.

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

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.

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

- | | | |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| ► 10/18 | Second Sense Low Vision Technology Open House | Chicago |
| ► 10/19 | FFB Parents with a Vision | Chicago |
| ► 10/21 | TCL Start the School Year Off Right - Presented by FRCD | Chicago |
| ► 10/31 | NFBI 2014 Convention | Naperville |
| 11/1-2 | | |
| ► 11/8 | PLAY FOR ALL - Lighthouse/IPVI Families | Chicago |
| ► | | |

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

**Newsletter Deadline for
NOVEMBER 2014 is OCTOBER 15th**



**Check Out
www.ipvi.org**

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