

# IPVI INSIGHTS

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

**August  
2014**



## **IPVI President Announcement**

*By Lyle Stauder*

I want to express my sincere appreciation to all those who attended this year's Brookfield Zoo Members Only Outing. It was a great day for families to interact with each other as well as enjoy some food and the animals. We had a few hiccups, but I hope the overall experience was a happy one. Thanks all of you again for your attendance. We would also like to thank the 100% Foundation for its support in continuing to make this our most attended yearly event. We could not do it without Frank Davis' and his organization's support.

I also want to thank all of the new volunteers as well who came forward. We will be contacting you shortly so we can strategize on the assignments.

Our Bowling for Braille Fundraiser on September 20, 2014 with 9:15 p.m. check in at Orland Bowl at 8601 W. 159th Street, Orland Park, is quickly approaching. Besides attending the event, if possible, please assist us by asking your local vendors to donate baskets, silent auction items, gift cards, and/or monetary contributions in any amount they're able. Our secretary, Dawn, or Treasurer, Vicki, can use all of the help they can muster in making this another great event for IPVI. If all of our families were able to secure at least one donation for the event, that would greatly help in making it a success. Call Vicki at 815.355.2098 for coordination on delivering the items donated.

Again, thank all of you who helped make our Zoo event successful. We look forward to seeing you next year!

## Inside This Issue:

IPVI President Announcement	1
IPVI Bowling Fundraiser	2
Ms. Vic's Volleys	3
MBJ Scholarship Awardee	4
IPVI's MJB Scholarship Fund	5
Family Connect Website	6
3 O&M Researchers to Redesign White Cane	6
New Tactile Music Notation	7
Talking GPS apps for NA, UK, & Ireland	8
Differentiation at Home	9
There Was a Time	10
PBA Offers Children's Eye Health Programs	11
APH News	13
Social Media Spotlight	13
APH Sizzlin' Summer Savings Sale	13
Math Robert App for iPad	13
Visual Braille App for iPad	14
Braille Beads	15
Improved Format! IL Braille Series	16
Making Sense	17
AfterShokz-Bluez 2 Headphones	17
"iBraille™" Greeting Cards	18
Blast Off to Space Camp	20
AER Education Brief	21
The Eye Specialists Center	22
IPVI Board of Directors	23
IPVI Membership Dues	24
IPVI Calendar of Events	25



**BOWLING**

**Fundraiser**

**on September 20**

**9:30 pm**

**Check-in: 9:15 pm**

**ORLAND BOWL**

8601 W 159<sup>th</sup> St - Orland Park

708-532-8868

Contact Dawn Wojtowicz - 708-590-6447



*Help us with  
providing Silent  
Auction and Raffle  
Prizes which could  
include vendor baskets,  
sports items, or some-  
thing you would like to  
donate.*

**MS. VIC'S VOLLEYS**

*Victoria Juskie, IPVI Treasurer*

**VOLLEY I**

The following individuals or organizations became members this month:

- Owens/Bharani Family - Chicago
- Mariela Vazquez - Chicago
- Hines Family - Chicago
- Debra Hudson - Chicago
- Spencer/Wiggs Family - Lansing
- Tosca Daniels - Chicago
- Monique Hill - Chicago

**VOLLEY II**

Have you heard the saying, "It could always be worse"? There are several TV shows, extended quotes as well as books about this subject. Additionally, every day I am amazed on how things could always be worse. For example, when we were growing up in the early 1960's (okay I'm showing my age), my mentally challenged older brother spent Monday through Friday at the boarding school, Joseph P. Kennedy School for Exceptional Children. We would then pick him up Friday at 5 p.m. and then spend the weekend together. We would take him back on Sunday afternoon. During the 14 years he spent at that facility, I became familiar with numerous children with different disabilities, many of which were much more severe than that which we were dealing with.

Often we would go home feeling that we were truly blessed even though Jim had a disability, because he had learned to feed, clothe, bathe, talk, walk, and function as a typical guy. Yes, he's slow and he functions between 8 and 15 years old. Due to these limitations, he needs help cleaning the house, doing the laundry, shopping, banking, and attending to any medical issues. He now lives across the

street from us in a townhome that he shared with our mom, who passed away 12 years ago. This set up has given him as much independence as possible because he lives alone but has us across the street. Our alternatives were to have him live with us but that meant we would have had to buy a bigger house and move or he could have lived in a group home.

Group homes are great alternatives for disabled people because they live in an environment with usually three other like-functioning individuals. They each will have their own room and three Group Home Caretakers alternate being there on premises 24 hours a day to provide assistance. Depending upon the abilities of the residents, the Caretakers teach each resident to keep his/her room clean, pick up messes, clean their clothes, etc.

Over the course of his 59 years, my brother has dated several ladies from a variety of group home settings. He also dated a woman who lived a long time with her parents. This girl then moved into a group home once her parents were too old to care for her properly. Many times people express their worries about group home settings, but in Laura's case, she learned to be higher functioning in her new environment. There were people who let her try, try, try until she did it; unlike her parents, who did too much for her, so she acted more helpless than what she could be.

The reason I've brought this up is two-fold. The first is to be thankful for what we have, warts and all. It could always be worse. Your child is born different. Their impairments have their challenges, but you have your children. Help her/him to live life to the fullest. Also, my heartfelt sympathy goes out to those parents who weren't so lucky. Their child may not have made it through term or passed away sometime afterward. Their heartache is palpable forever. I pray for their solace.

The second is to begin putting thought into the future “what if” factors and plan for the same. The “what ifs” I’m speaking about have to deal with worse-case scenarios such as what if there is an accident and you’re unable to care for your child? Have you made your wishes known through a will? Have you spoken to your family and/or close friends to get an executor and guardian for your child(ren) in case of a worse-case event occurring? You should. This is such a difficult area to wrap our brains around because we don’t want to think about the fact that something may happen to us. Because we have children with special needs though, we have a higher duty to them. Speak with an attorney and/or look into special trusts that can be established to take care of your child’s needs in case you’re not able to. It costs to establish these documents but the relief you’ll feel after it’s done is priceless.

So my tip of the day is to try to see the brighter side of life, even though we all have our crosses to bear. Then prepare for the future but enjoy the now as well. The more we pro-act instead of re-act, the smoother the transitions of life may be.

Continue enjoying your summer. I’ll talk to you next month.



### **MBJ SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE**

We have awarded one new scholarship this year. IPVI is very happy to announce that it has presented an MBJ Scholarship to a fine young woman, Samantha Smolka, whom the



Juskies have personally known since she was a toddler. We first met her and her family at the Oak Lawn Lions Club Christmas party.

Samantha lives in Hometown and plans to attend Northern Illinois University. Her goal is to become a teacher of the Visually Impaired

(Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade). She graduated from Addison Trail High School having been on the Dean’s List all four years with a grade point average of 3.667 and having a class ranking of 111 out of 402. She also took College Math, English and Consumer Management courses while in high school.

Her past times include Goalball, track and field events, and being a Para-Olympic Athlete. Additionally, Sam volunteers to teach children with disabilities how to swim.

Ms. Smolka suffers from Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP). She has tunnel vision that is so restrictive now that she has to use her cane more often. She also has cysts in her eyes that make it blurry and hard to see. RP is an inherited, degenerative eye disease that causes severe vision impairment and often blindness. The progress of RP is not consistent. Some people will exhibit symptoms from infancy; others may not notice symptoms until later in life. Generally, the later the onset, the more rapid is the deterioration in sight. Those who do not have RP have 90 degree peripheral vision, while some people who have RP have less than 90 degrees.

A form of retina dystrophy, RP is caused by abnormalities of the photoreceptors (rods and cones) or the retinal pigment epithelium of the

*(Continued on page 6)*



# 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)**

(Continued from page 4)- MBI Scholarship Awardee

retina leading to progressive sight loss. Affected individuals may experience defective light to dark, dark to light adaptation or nyctalopia (night blindness), as the result of the degeneration of the peripheral visual field (known as tunnel vision). Sometimes, central vision is lost first causing the person to look sidelong at objects.

The effect of RP is best illustrated by comparison to a television or computer screen. The pixels of light that form the image on the screen equate to the millions of light receptors on the retina of the eye. The fewer pixels on a screen, the less distinct will be the images it will display. Fewer than 10 percent of the light receptors in the eye receive the colored, high intensity light seen in bright light or daylight conditions. These receptors are located in the center of the circular retina. The remaining 90 percent of light receptors receive gray-scale, low intensity light used for low light and night vision and are located around the periphery of the retina. RP destroys light receptors from the outside inward, from the center outward, or in sporadic patches with a corresponding reduction in the efficiency of the eye to detect light. This degeneration is progressive and has no known cure.

Sam regularly uses a cane as well as a monocular to read signs and labels. She uses large print books, a Magic Screen Enlarger, the Brailnote, and the Victor Reader for Notes. She also uses a Braille compass and has received mobility training from the ICRE Center for Independent Living. She also uses Braille dots on the stove and microwave.

We at IPVI wish Ms. Smolka a successful college experience. We are so happy that we can be a part of her efforts in obtaining a college teaching degree. Go Huskies!! God Bless You, Samantha! We are very proud of you.

REPRINTED FROM  
FAMILY CONNECT WEBSITE



**Three orientation and mobility researchers granted nearly half a million dollars to redesign the white cane**

(Item posted 05/05/2014)

The long, white cane used as a mobility device by people with visual impairments around the globe has remained largely unaltered since the 1940s. Three *JVIB* authors from Western Michigan University have been given nearly half a million dollars to investigate whether the white cane, the primary mobility tool used by individuals who are blind or have low vision, can be redesigned to be more effective. In describing the impetus for the project, Principal Investigator **Dae Shik Kim** explained,

The vast majority [of people who are blind] use the long cane to get around. So by redesigning and improving its design, and also improving how the cane is used, we hope to improve the safety of blind individuals. . . . The current long cane design and cane-use biomechanics do not seem to be adequate to provide reliable protection from such hazards [as drop-offs and other obstacles].

The three-year, \$421,125 grant from the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will allow Dr. Kim and colleague **Robert Wall Emerson**, of the Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies, and **Koorosh Naghshineh**, of the Depart-

ment of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, to examine every aspect of the white cane—including rigidity, length, weight, weight distribution, and whether the cane is made out of aluminum, graphite, fiberglass, or another material—and measure the effect each variable has on an individual's ability to detect obstacles and drop-offs.

Cane techniques will also be explored by the researchers, who will compare two-point touch with constant contact and determine which best allows individuals to travel safely. (To learn more about these cane techniques, read the *JVIB* article by Drs. Kim, Wall Emerson, and colleague **Amy Curtis**, entitled "*Interaction Effects of the Amount of Practice, Preferred Cane Technique, and Type of Cane Technique Used on Drop-off Detection Performance.*"

For more information, contact: Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies, College of Health and Human Services, Western Michigan University, 1903 West Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49008; phone: 269-387-7367; website: [www.wmich.edu/visionstudies](http://www.wmich.edu/visionstudies). [Information for this piece came from the May 5, 2014, *MLive.com* article, "WMU professors win \$420,000 NIH grant to redesign white canes used by blind," by Yvonne Zipp.]

**Contact: Blindness and Low Vision Studies**

**Phone: (269) 387-7367**

**URL: <http://www.wmich.edu/visionstudies>**

---

### **Music school graduate develops new tactile music notation**



(Item posted 06/16/2014)

A student who recently earned a doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison

(UW-Madison) School of Music developed a tactile notation system for reading music that is designed to be simpler to use than traditional music braille. **Yeaji Kim**, the first visually impaired musician to be accepted into the school's doctoral program, described Tactile Stave Notation in her dissertation.

Traditional music braille uses the same six-dot braille cell as other braille codes, however, since each braille symbol or group of symbols in music braille have different meanings than they do in literary braille and other braille codes, it can be difficult for young students to master. "The (Braille)[sic] letter system is already very complicated. And then to have the symbols also mean something else, to mean music, can be very confusing to a kid," explained **Todd Welbourne**, professor of piano at the UW-Madison School of Music. Dr. Kim's creation features a tactile or 3-D staff and musical notes printed over traditional sheet music, and it is designed to allow visually impaired and sighted musicians to read the same musical score. In addition, Tactile Stave Notation is designed to make it easier for teachers who are sighted to teach students with visual impairments, since teachers do not need to learn braille to use the new notation.

Dr. Kim has filed a provisional application for a U.S. patent for Tactile Stave Notation, and is seeking funds to help pay for legal fees related to a patent application. After returning to her home country of South Korea for two concert engagements following her graduation, she hopes to find a way to return to the United States later this year to continue work on the notation system. Help has already been offered to Dr. Kim by faculty at UW-Madison, however. Upon learning of Tactile Stave Notation, UW-Madison Professor **Tim Osswald**, co-director of the Polymer Engineering Center at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, immediately amassed a team of undergraduate and graduate students to brainstorm ways to mass-produce the tactile music, which Dr.

Kim had been creating by hand. "We do research in the area of 3D printing. We see this as an opportunity to push the envelope and have undergraduate and graduate students try to find a solution for her," said Dr. Osswald. For more information, contact: School of Music, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 3561 Humanities, 455 North Park Street, Madison, WI 53706; phone: 608-263-1900. [Information for this piece was taken from the June 15, 2014, *Wisconsin State Journal* article, "Blind musician at UW-Madison develops 3D sheet music for visually impaired children," by Gayle Worland.]

**Contact: UW-Madison School of Music**

Phone: (608) 263-1900  
ate and graduate students to brainstorm ways to mass-produce the tactile music, which Dr. Kim had been creating by hand. "We do research in the area of 3D printing. We see this as an opportunity to push the envelope and have undergraduate and graduate students try to find a solution for her," said Dr. Osswald. For more information, contact: School of Music, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 3561 Humanities, 455 North Park Street, Madison, WI 53706; phone: 608-263-1900. [Information for this piece was taken from the June 15, 2014, *Wisconsin State Journal* article, "Blind musician at UW-Madison develops 3D sheet music for visually impaired children," by Gayle Worland.]

**Contact: UW-Madison School of Music**

Phone: (608) 263-1900



**Talking GPS apps for North America, the United Kingdom, and Ireland**

(Item posted 05/07/2014)

Sendero Group, a developer of accessible GPS (Global Positioning System) and talking map software, launched a second fully accessible turn-by-turn GPS application (app) for the iPhone on the tail of its release of one for North America. The RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People) Navigator, which offers wayfinding information for the United Kingdom and Ireland, was released on May 4, 2014. The Seeing Eye GPS, which was described as the first fully accessible GPS product for the iPhone when it was released, offers navigation information for the United States and Canada and is in its fourth iteration (version 1.4 was released in March 2014). Both apps include all the typical features expected of GPS navigation products, plus features that meet the unique needs of individuals who are blind. For example, instead of multiple layers of menus, the three main navigation elements are situated in the lower portion of every screen; the cross street and its orientation are announced at intersections, and intersections are described according to the clock-face configuration of the streets; and directions are provided appropriately for pedestrian and vehicle routes, including heads-up announcements for approaching turns, turn now, continue straight, and points of interest. With the LookAround Wand feature, individuals can point their phones in any direction to hear about establishments that are nearby. The apps can be downloaded for free, but require monthly subscriptions to operate. RNIB Navigator and The Seeing Eye GPS are designed to be compatible with various iPhone devices—iPhone 4, iPhone 4S, iPhone 5, iPad WiFi 3G, iPad 2 WiFi 3G, iPad WiFi 4G, iPad mini Wi-Fi Cellular—running the operating system iOS 6.0 or later. The apps use the Apple VoiceOver feature for audio voice output and do not contain their own voice synthesizer. **RNIB Navigator** and **The Seeing Eye GPS** can be downloaded from the iTunes store, and the **RNIB Navigator User Guide** can be



found online. For more information, contact: Sendero Group, 429 F Street, Suite 4, Davis, CA 95616; e-mail: [ict@rnib.org.uk](mailto:ict@rnib.org.uk); website: <http://senderogroup.com>.

**Contact: Sendero Group**

**URL: <http://senderogroup.com>**



## Differentiation at Home

*by Emily Coleman*

Differentiation is one of those big words heard all the time at school. Basically, it means adapting a lesson in a variety of ways so that all kids can learn, even those that learn differently. This actually can make something meaningful for a student who may not be ready for the whole concept at once.

Well, this past weekend, I've been applying this concept at home. Instead of adapting lessons, I've been adapting activities. In the summer, Eddie (my son who most readers know is blind and autistic) has a pretty hard time. Unsure of what to do with so much free-time, he gets easily bored with his preferred activities.

Most 9-year-olds live for the freedom of summer. There are adventures to be had, new games to play, and sunshine to enjoy. Well, I don't think Eddie feels any different...he just doesn't always know how to access it. In the past, I'm not sure I've always been good at providing those opportunities, but I'm trying harder this year...which has already started.

First, we've been playing a lot of baseball as a family. Eddie likes to be around us while we play. He finds his way outdoors to see what we're up to, so of course I started including him. At first he said, "No," when I asked if he wanted to play. However, with coercion,

cheering, and my assistance...pretty soon he was batting right along with me. He laughed every time we made contact with the ball, and grinned as the bat reverberated in his hands.



Second, we had two parties at two different lakes this weekend. Eddie enjoys swimming (as you can see from this older picture), but the cold water scares him off at first. As the girls ran and jumped into the

lake, Eddie had to be slowly coaxed. Since I had to join him in the frigid water, I couldn't blame him for being unsure of the icy temperatures.

I had to listen to his loud protests and the skeptical looks of spectators as I forced him to adjust to the cold water. I'm sure I looked pretty mean at first, but as soon as he got used to that water, he swam happily for an hour. His laughter quickly diminished the earlier uneasiness felt by me and my company. Nobody could've argued with my seemingly brutal approach once his pure joy for swimming was displayed.

Third, my daughters set-up a really cool fort in our living room with the help of their dad. When I suggested that Eddie have a fort, too, his sisters wanted to help. We set-up a two-man tent in the living room, and filled it with all of his favorite things. It was a cozy sensory room that he absolutely loves. The night we had a camp-out in the living room, Eddie was able to join us, which his sisters thought was fantastic.

So, for continuing into summer, I think we've already had some success. Another parent of a

child who is blind asked me how I handle the summers, and I didn't have a great answer. All I could say was that there are always good days and really bad days. But now I think with some differentiation at home, and a little creative thinking, we can have many more good days...and only a couple bad ones. Everybody has the right to a few bad days...even me...and even Eddie.

---

## There Was a Time

*by Emily Coleman*

There was a time I was expecting the birth of a little boy that would love me at first sight. Little did I know that sight had nothing to do with love.

There was a time I anticipated first steps, and being beyond the crawling stage where dirt is just a part of your life. Well, after anticipating crawling for over two years, and then first steps for another two years...I learned to stop anticipating and to enjoy every stage no matter how long it lasted.

There was a time I thought kindergarten meant the first day of school. Instead, the first day of school can come at three, with a transition into public school and special education.

Speaking of school, there was a time I thought parent-teacher conferences were once a year. That's still true, but it's called an IEP, and the 20 minute conference turns into a one...or a two...or a three hour meeting with the teacher and a dozen more of your child's closest adult friends.

There was a time when I thought I couldn't love books any more. As an avid reader, books are just part of who I am. Now I know that braille books are simply much cooler.

There was a time when I thought nothing was

cuter than a child riding their first bike. There is something WAY cuter...a child holding their first cane.

There was a time when I worried that my children wouldn't make any friends. I had no idea that I'd be worried about them even wanting friends. Autism will do that to a parent.

Speaking of autism, there was a time I wished I could read the minds of my babies, because they couldn't express their thoughts, sadness, and joy. I never knew you could wish for the same thing nine years later...as I continue to do this very day.

There was a time when we started three college savings accounts for our kids. Then, we took a deep breath, and changed one into a trust account for a special needs child... admitting that the future is unknown.

There was a time when children with special needs were born to other people. Needless to say, that ship sailed long ago, and that time feels like it never existed. Luckily, I'm much wiser now.



There was a time when my perspective on life was very small, and the simple things seemed insignificant. Now I know that life is never insignificant, and it's important to enjoy every extra snuggle, giggle, and hug. At the end of the day, every child grows up, and even if our children can't be measured by the same milestones, they will still be measured by time.

## Prevent Blindness Offers Children's Eye Health Programs to Help Parents, Teachers and Kids Save Sight

*Prevent Blindness Declares August as Children's Eye Health and Safety Awareness Month*

CHICAGO (July 21, 2014) – Back-to-school preparations are well underway for many parents and students. To help give children a great head start to a successful school year, Prevent Blindness offers free information and programs on the importance of healthy vision.

Prevent Blindness has declared August as Children's Eye Health and Safety Awareness month to inspire parents to make their child's vision health a priority. Family-friendly resources on a wide variety of topics that help parents take the right steps to keep their child's sight healthy for life can be found at [preventblindness.org](http://preventblindness.org) and through the [National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health at Prevent Blindness \(NCCVEH\)](http://www.nccveh.org) website. Topics covered include amblyopia (lazy eye), strabismus (crossed eyes), UV-protection and sports safety, and the Affordable Care Act and children's vision.

Prevent Blindness also offers the following programs to help save children's sight:

The NCCVEH is teaming up with Family Voices and its [National Center for Family Professional Partnership \(NCFPP\)](http://www.ncfpp.org) for August's Children's Eye Health and Safety Month to offer families of children with special health care needs important information on vision issues. Resources include [Vision Health for Children on the Autism Spectrum](#), [Families of Children with Vision Impairment: Working with Medical Professionals](#), and much more.

**Eye Spy** is an eye health and safety education program designed specifically for children. Through this free, online program, children have an opportunity to learn about eye anatomy, how the eye works and eye safety. This is more than fun and games. Teachers may also use the program in the classroom.

Designed specifically for educators, Prevent Blindness offers the **Star Pupils Eye Health and Safety Curriculum** for grades K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. The program, which is available free for download upon request, provides teachers with interactive materials that help students learn the importance of sight, components of the eye and how we see, and how to identify objects and situations that can be dangerous to eyes. The program meets National Health, National Science and National Physical Education standards and includes presentation guides, eye exam diagrams, in-class worksheets and an activity book for children to take home.

**The Eye Patch Club** is a program geared towards children with amblyopia and their families. Eye doctors commonly treat amblyopia by having the child wear a patch over the unaffected eye for extended periods of time. The Eye Patch Club program is designed to encourage the children to wear their patches as prescribed by their doctor. Among other materials, members of the club receive their own special calendar and stickers. The Eye

## Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments

Patch Club kit may be purchased for \$12.95 by calling (800) 331-2020. Proceeds will go to support the sight-saving programs of Prevent Blindness.

“By working with teams of experts in the fields of education and vision and eye health, we’ve put together a variety of engaging and informational programs that are appealing and user-friendly for kids, their parents and teachers,” said Hugh R. Parry, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness. “By everyone working collectively, we can give our children the best chance at success both in and outside of the classroom!”

For more information on children’s eye health and safety, the NCFPP Partnership, Eye Spy, Star Pupils Eye Health and Safety Curriculum, or the Eye Patch Club, please call Prevent Blindness at (800) 331-2020 or visit [preventblindness.org](http://preventblindness.org).

### **Sarah Hecker**

Director, Media Relations

### **Prevent Blindness**

211 West Wacker Drive, Suite 1700, Chicago, Illinois 60606

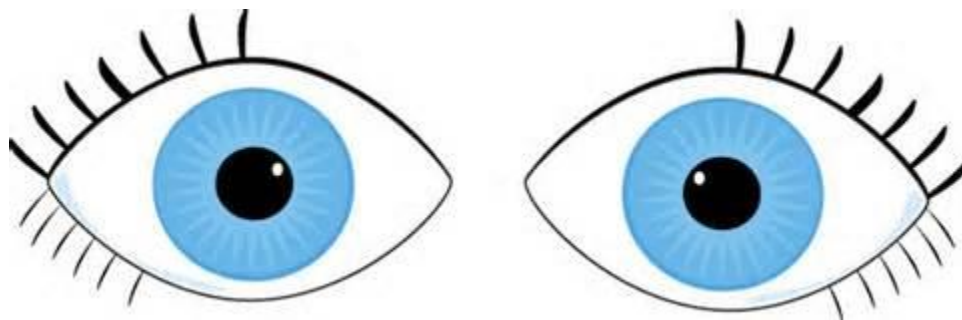
**T** 312.363.6035

**F** 312.363.6052

[www.preventblindness.org](http://www.preventblindness.org)

### **About Prevent Blindness**

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



APH NEWS

**Social Media Spotlight**

**Did you know APH could make you an internet sensation?** Well...maybe not, but we CAN share your ideas with tens of thousands in the blindness community. Our blog, Fred's Head from APH, is visited an average of 35,000 times a month by teachers and other blindness professionals, students, and adults who are blind and visually impaired. We publish blog posts on dozens of topics related to blindness-- cooking tips, the latest accessible apps for iOS and Android, your favorite ways to use APH products, and much more. It doesn't have to be lengthy or complex. Please submit your ideas or full articles to our Social Media Coordinator, Marissa Stalvey, at [mstalvey@aph.org](mailto:mstalvey@aph.org).



**APH Sizzlin' Summer Savings Sale**

Load up a world of savings on selected APH products with APH's Sizzlin' Summer Savings Sale 2014, July 1—September 30. As always, first come, first served.



[www.aph.org/products/sizzle.html](http://www.aph.org/products/sizzle.html)

**NEW! Math Robot App for iPad**

Available on the [Apple App Store](http://Apple App Store) -- \$4.99

**Note:** Math Robot will be available with Quota funds in the future!

**Related Product**

**Refreshabraille 18:** [1-07445-01](http://1-07445-01) -- \$1,695.00 + shipping



Announcing the first iOS app from APH! Works with your Apple iPad® or iPad mini® running iOS 7® or later!

While there are hundreds of math drill and practice apps on the App Store(SM), most of them are not accessible to students who are blind. APH's **Math Robot™** was designed for students who are blind and visually impaired, as well as sighted students, making it ideal for use by an entire class.

## Fun Math Robot Character

A flashcard format and a smart "know-it-all" math robot character provide fun drills and practices for simple math problems. The app is both self-voicing and accessible with Apple's VoiceOver for iOS.

Math Robot automatically announces the problem, or if VoiceOver is running, it uses the screen reader to announce and control the app functions. For sighted students, Math Robot intelligently enunciates and repeats the problem.

## Use with a Refreshable Braille Display!

When using a refreshable braille display, like APH's Refreshabraille 18™ Bluetooth device, the built-in VoiceOver screen reader shows the problem in braille and allows the user to enter his or her answers using the display's braille keyboard. Set VoiceOver to display the problems in literary U.S. English braille, Unified English Braille (UEB), or Nemeth Braille.

Teachers and parents can: set the range of numbers to use for drills; select the operations to use; set the number of tries; and set a time limit allowed to answer each problem. A low vision mode adds extra contrast.

**Recommended ages:** 6 years and up.

Apple is a registered trademark of Apple Inc.

---

## NEW! Visual Brailier App for iPad

Available on the [Apple App Store](#) -- FREE

Announcing another iOS app from APH! Works with your Apple iPad® or iPad mini® running iOS 7® or later! And it's free-of-charge!

Visual Brailier is the simple 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.



## Features

- 6-dot braille on-screen keyboard
- Support for any and all 6-dot braille codes
- An indefinite number of 40-cell braille lines
- Cut, copy, and paste braille manipulation
- Compatible with refreshable braille display input and output devices
- BRL (unformatted) and BRF (formatted) braille file export

---

## NEW! Braille Beads

[1-888-79-00](tel:1-888-79-0000) -- \$195.00

### Optional Item

**Braille Beading Tray with Jars:** [1-888-77-00](tel:1-888-77-0000) -- \$59.00

### Replacement Items

**Findings Pack Kit (necklace, bracelet, and fob):** [1-888-87-00](tel:1-888-87-0000) -- \$31.00

**Braille Beads Pack:** [1-888-88-00](tel:1-888-88-0000) -- \$143.00

**Pony Beads Pack:** [1-888-89-00](tel:1-888-89-0000) -- \$21.00

Become bejeweled with braille! Make fun and educational jewelry with plastic braille beads!

**Braille Beads** are small, plastic rectangles that have braille on one side and incised print letters on the other side. Each bead has two holes through which wire or cord may be threaded. Also included are fun image bead manipulatives, such as flower, peace sign, heart, and circle.

### Making jewelry teaches students to:

- Plan (a design or a word)
- Organize materials (wire, cord, needles, scissors)
- Sort (shape, size, color)
- Practice fine motor skills (stringing beads, tying knots)

Most importantly, Braille Beads encourage creativity! Beading is an activity that children enjoy for arts and crafts, and adults enjoy for pleasure and employment. Braille Beads allow children who are visually impaired and blind to create personalized objects of art they can wear. They can take pride in their creations and just by wearing braille jewelry, chil-



dren become ambassadors for braille!

**Braille Beads: APH Starter Kit includes:**

- Necklace, Bracelet, and Fob Assortment Pack
- Braille Beads Pack (red, yellow, blue, green, orange, pink, white, black)
- Pony Beads Pack (red, yellow, blue, green, orange, pink, white, black)
- Clear adhesive braille labels
- Bejeweled with Braille: Instructions for Making Braille Jewelry, Large Print, Braille, and on CD-ROM

**Optional Braille Beading Tray with Jars**

APH offers the Braille Beading Tray with Jars as a separate product. The tray and jars keep the beads organized while beading. The tray holds up to seven jars of Braille Beads. Each recessed circle that holds a jar of Braille Beads has a fluted space directly in front of it to hold the same color Pony beads. The tray has a workspace for placing beads and experimenting with designs before stringing them onto a cord or wire. This workspace has a beading mat to prevent the Pony beads from rolling. A smaller space on the right holds jewelry findings or tools for cutting elastic or bending wires.

**Recommended ages:** 5 years and up.

**WARNING: Choking Hazard--Small Parts.** Not intended for children ages 5 and under without adult supervision.

---

**Improved Format! Illinois Braille Series, ©1992**

**Book I, Uncontracted Braille:**

Braille, Improved Format: 5-17230-01 -- \$26.00

Print: 7-17230-00 -- \$18.00

**Book II, Contracted Braille:**

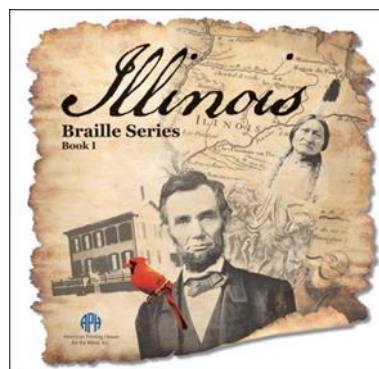
Braille, Improved Format: 5-17240-01 -- \$19.00

Print: 7-17240-00 -- \$18.00

**Book III, Contracted Braille:**

Braille, Improved Format: 5-17250-01 -- \$19.00

Print: 7-17250-00 -- \$18.00



This popular braille course for adults has now improved braille formatting and includes colorful new covers!

The **Illinois Braille Series** is a classic program for teaching literary braille to former print read-



ers. It includes raised print letters, braille, tracking guides, practice activities, writing drills, and an interesting variety of reading selections. This 3-volume set progresses from uncontracted to contracted braille in 50 lessons.

While the content of the Illinois Braille Series has not changed, the format in Books I and II has been adjusted to accommodate the beginning braille reader.

### **Book I Covers:**

- Braille alphabet
- Braille numbers
- Basic punctuation symbols

**Format Improvements:** Book I is now produced in standard-sized braille rather than enlarged (jumbo) braille. Guidelines and double spacing have been added to assist the learner.

### **Books II and III Cover:**

- Contractions and additional symbols, which comprise standard English Braille American Edition (EBAE)

**Format Improvements:** Book II provides special formatting to aid development of efficient hand movement.

### **Braille Code Instruction offered by APH**

For a list of braille instruction books and codebooks offered by APH, please visit: [www.aph.org/products/braille.html](http://www.aph.org/products/braille.html).

## MAKING SENSE

**AfterShokz-Bluez 2 Headphones:** Wearing headphones or ear buds while walking can be dangerous as you need to hear your surroundings to navigate and listen for traffic. If you are using your GPS or want to listen to music, there is now a solution! The AfterShokz-Bluez 2 bone conduction headphones are open ear and let you hear your surroundings while connected to a mobile device. A voice prompt makes turning on the power, pairing and playing easy. The headset fits comfortably and is water resistant. To learn more, visit [www.aftershokz.com](http://www.aftershokz.com) and click on the

“products” link.

*Reprinted from MAKING SENSE, August 2014, Second Sense, Beyond vision loss, 65 East Wacker Place, Suite 1010, Chicago, IL 60601, 312-236-8569, [www.second-sense.org](http://www.second-sense.org).*



# inBraille™

Braille-inspired designs | See. Read. Support.



Offered by...  
The Chicago Lighthouse  
for People Who Are Blind  
or Visually Impaired

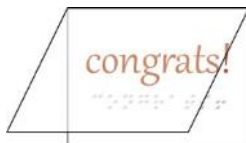


## “inBraille™” greeting cards

These Braille-inspired designs, intended for the enjoyment of those who can see, as well as those who cannot, showcase the beauty and meaning of the Braille language. The cards have been graciously created by artist, Alisa Singer.

### A Unique Design

The cover image pattern on each card corresponds to the embossed Braille message found inside the card.



## All-occasion pack



“thinking of you”



“thank you”



“happy birthday”



“sympathy”



“congrats!”

**5 cards/\$19**

## Cards that Give Back



The Chicago Lighthouse  
for People Who Are Blind  
or Visually Impaired

All inBraille™ cards are packaged by Lighthouse Industries employees who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise disabled. Proceeds of the sales of these cards will be used to fund the programs provided by The Chicago Lighthouse, a leader for over 100 years in delivering services for people who are blind or visually impaired.

### How to Purchase

Cards are available in Lighthouse retail stores and online. They are sold as singles (\$4/in stores only) or as packaged sets.

For larger orders, call our Tools for Living Store at (800) 919-3375 or email us at [chicagolighthouse.org/tools-for-living-store](http://chicagolighthouse.org/tools-for-living-store).

To learn more about inBraille™, go to <http://chicagolighthouse.org/inBraille>.

### Our mailing address is:

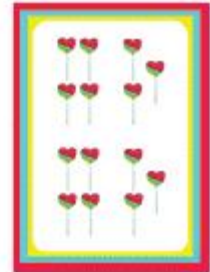
The Chicago Lighthouse  
1850 W. Roosevelt Road  
Chicago, IL 60608

### hugs and kisses pack



"hugs and kisses"

**6 cards/\$22**



### tikkun olam pack



"tikkun olam" (Hebrew phrase meaning  
'repair the world')

**4 cards/\$15**

## BLAST OFF TO SPACE CAMP!



The 2014 sessions for SCI-VIS (Space Camp for Interested Visually Impaired Students) will be held Sept. 20 – Sept. 25, 2014 (travel home 9/26/2014 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Students throughout the world are invited to attend this very special program. Space Camp will gather academically oriented visually impaired students. Braille, large print, low vision devices, CCTV's, refreshable braille displays, and synthetic speech, among others are available during this special week to allow a better experience for children with visual impairments.



children with visual impairments.

The word "camp" truly understates the **EXPERIENCE** of Space Camp. Students live in a simulated space station called Habitat 1. They have the opportunity to practice their leadership and teamwork abilities as they prepare for two Space Shuttle missions.

While preparing for a "role" (Shuttle Pilot, Communications Officer in Mission Control, Space Station Scientist, and many others), students learn about the history of manned space flight, shuttle and space station basics, and water survival. Simultaneously, they experience lunar gravity (1/6 Earth gravity), the 5DF (degrees of freedom) chair, and the Zero G wall. The students participate in building a lunar colony. They also build and fly their own rocket! They will tour Rocket Park, the world's most comprehensive collection of rocketry. At night the Spacedome Theater features space and science films, such as "Blue Planet" and "The Dream is Alive" which were filmed in space by astronauts, projected on a 67-foot dome screen. And more, and more, and more...

Space Camp is open to students from 4<sup>th</sup> grade (age 10) through high school. There are four separate programs available, including Aviation Challenge (Mach I-III), Space Academy, Advanced Academy, and Space Camp. Each program costs \$700.

Space Camp, Space Academy, and Advanced Academy focus on space travel. Another exciting part of Space Camp is the Aviation Challenge Program. Aviation Challenge (AC) introduces students to the total experience of military jet pilot training. Students learn the basics of flying, propulsion systems, navigation, high performance maneuvering, and more. Students fly simulators, practice taking off and landing on aircraft carriers, and participate in search and rescue missions. They also learn and practice the basics of land and water survival. WOW! There is a lot to do in Aviation Challenge.

**Grant for Space Camp available** - Yes, rocket science can be a lot of fun! Space Camp 2014 will be from Sept. 20 to Sept. 25, 2014 (travel home 9/26/2014.) It will again be a week full of fun, action and exciting activities. AER IL will sponsor the camp fee for one student and assist with travel expenses for a chaperone. Please view the Space Camp flier and the Scholarship application or call Andy Heim at 309-264-8895 for more details.

**Space Camp 2014 Info - PDF**

**Space Camp 2014 Application - Word**

**Space Camp 2014 Application - PDF**

For more information contact

Andy Heim at:

Magnified Vision

P.O. Box 5454

Morton, IL 61550

Phone: (888) 567-8766

Email: [info@magnifiedvision.net](mailto:info@magnifiedvision.net)



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

FEATURED SESSION

Body Awareness and Movement for Students with Multiple Disabilities Including Visual Impairments



This session will provide hands-on examples of how to teach body concepts, spatial awareness, and the language of movement to students with multiple disabilities. Strategies include the use of music, routines, and symbols, with physical guidance by instructor.

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

Watch This Session for FREE!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Broadening the Scope of Guide Dog Education

Guide dog education begins before partnering with a dog, supplemental learning enriches the class experience, and every person has further learning to do after leaving the training facility. Guide Dogs for the Blind is making useful material easier for our clients to retrieve (information pull), and being proactive in delivering essential post-graduate support (information push) as part of a multi-pronged strategy to empower our alumni, including electronic resources to engage learners for the duration of the Guide Dog partnership.

MORE: Same website



The Development of Orientation and Mobility Skills through Physical Education

Supporting physical education teachers to enhance the O&M skill development of students who are visually impaired is a role of an orientation and mobility instructor. Examination of how PE teachers can help promote O&M skill development within the context of the physical education common core standards will be presented.

MORE: Same website



ADA and Transportation Refresher and Update

This session will review hot topics about the ADA and transportation based on questions received by Easter Seals Project ACTION (ESPA) via its hotline, web site and training events. It will be interactive, focusing on audience interest and direct Q&A and in-depth discussion of the more complex issues. Updates from the FTA on ADA regulations will be discussed, including lessons learned regarding the change in the definition of a wheelchair, the absence of change in the definition of a service animal, and the addition of "direct threat" to FTA regulations.

MORE: Same website



**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 2947, Naperville, IL 60567-2947**

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

**PRESIDENT**

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

**OPERATIONS VP**

Vacant

**SERVICES VP**

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

**TREASURER**

Vicki Juskie  
21170 Deerpath Road  
Frankfort, IL 60423  
(815) 464-6162  
[vajuskie@aol.com](mailto:vajuskie@aol.com)

**SECRETARY**

Dawn Wojtowicz  
9188 161<sup>st</sup> Place  
Orland Hills, IL 60487  
708-590-6447  
[deeder0477@aol.com](mailto:deeder0477@aol.com)

**NAPVI REGION 3 REPRESENTATIVE**

Pam Stern  
1912 Mission Hills Lane  
Northbrook, IL 60062  
847-217-7590  
[pamstern3@gmail.com](mailto:pamstern3@gmail.com)

**SPANISH TRANSLATOR**

Noelia Gamino  
708-655-2747

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



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

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

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

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

## What does IPVI do?

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

Check one:

Parent/Guardian Membership: \$15 per year.

Child(ren)'s Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate(s) of my visually impaired child(ren): \_\_\_\_\_

My child(ren)'s eye condition: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Group/Agency Membership \$50 per year.

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

Medical Specialist \$50 per year.

Scholarship Fund \$10.00

Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (tax deductible)

New Membership

Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Have questions or need more information?**

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



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

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

## IPVI CALENDAR

- ▶ **9/20 IPVI Bowling Fundraiser**
- ▶ **9/20-25 Space Camp**

**Orland Park**  
**Huntsville, AL**

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

**Newsletter Deadline for  
SEPTEMBER 2014 is AUGUST 15<sup>th</sup>**



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

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