

IPVI INSIGHTS

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

**December
2014**



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Lyle Stauder, President

Well, everyone, 2014 is almost over. It's hard to believe how quickly this year has passed. In recapping this year, we provided one new scholarship, took over 125 people to the Brookfield Zoo, held a Bowling Fundraiser, published the monthly newsletter, as well as hosted several parent parties in conjunction with the Chicago Lighthouse.

We could not do any of this without the wonderful volunteers and donors who support IPVI. Thank all of you for everything that you've done. I would be remiss though if I didn't give special shout outs to Joan Bielawski, our Newsletter Editor; Dawn our Secretary and Bowling Fundraiser Chair with its many volunteers; Mary Zabelski, our VP who coordinates both the Zoo outing (together with Gloria Udell and Gail Patterson) and the IPVI/Lighthouse parent meetings; Vicki Juskie our Treasurer and Columnist; Mrs. Gaminio, our Spanish Translator; Rich Zabelski and Bill Bielawski for behind the scenes support; as well as Frank Davis, President of the 100% Foundation who supports our Zoo outing; and the Hilton Perkins Grant Foundation. We wish to express our sincere gratitude also to the Brookfield Zoological Society and its docents and staff. All of the donors (private and business) who helped make our bowling fundraiser successful as well as all our other activities possible are also greatly appreciated. Thanks so much for supporting the great group of people who make all of this achievable. You are the best!

Our work never ends, however, so if you are feeling the need to help, we sure could use more volunteers. Also, if you're looking for a charity to help, please send all of your tax deductible donations to IPVI, 21170 Deerpath Rd., Frankfort, IL.

Thanks again, and I hope you have a lovely holiday season and Happy 2015 New Year! God Bless you all!





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Hi, everyone! Happy Holidays!

Please be advised that IPVI is going to a January 1st start for all dues. If you've paid already this year, the next dues will be January 1, 2016. For all others, if you haven't paid, please send in your \$15 by January 30th. This amount has not changed in years and really helps us continue our mission to help children who are blind and visually impaired. Also, it is your ticket to the Brookfield Zoo outing any many others that we host. Your tax deductible dues and any other donations can be sent to 21170 Deerpath Rd., Frankfort, IL 60423.

Thank you and God bless all of you.

Vicki Juskie
Treasurer,
IPVI



MS. VIC'S VOLLEYS

Victoria Juskie, IPVI Treasurer

VOLLEY I

No new members have joined our organization this month.

VOLLEY II

This holiday season it's important to help your child who's blind or visually impaired enjoy the season as much as other children do. If your child is really young, music of the season can be very festive. If s/he has low vision, the sparkling lights can be very alluring and cheerful. The wonderful smells and tastes of the holiday play an important part in the memories you'll be making and sharing with your child, too.

I recommend engaging your child in as many age-appropriate tasks in which s/he's able to partake, including making homemade cookies, decorating the house, shopping for gifts for others and wrapping them. Yes, you may think some of this might be silly, but one of the things I've learned over these years of meeting all of these wonderful children is the more you treat them as any other child and involve them the same as others, the more they grow intellectually, socially, and typically. Again, if your child just has a vision issue and no other cognitive difficulties, you can teach her the same tasks you'd teach any other child, but you may have to be a little more creative and vocal.

For example, when you gather the ingredients for making cookies from a recipe, as you get them out, explain each to your child. Let him feel, smell and taste the flour, the sugar, the vanilla, etc. Explain how soft flour feels while sugar is more coarse. Use a measuring cup which has raised markings or which you've modified by using strip tape to mark the cup

yourself so that the measurements can be felt. I know many place their fingers up to one knuckle in a cup to know when to stop pouring (not a good system with hot items, though). Let her feel the different sizes of the measuring spoons while you explain the difference between a teaspoon and a tablespoon.

Then explain the difference in dry ingredients versus wet ones as well as why and how you fold or mix them together. Explain brand names used, the different shapes and colors of ingredients as well as their packaging and their weights, for example, the five-pound bag of flour versus the four-pound bag of sugar. Don't forget to let them feel the weight differences. Let them feel the rectangular shape of the butter stick and teach them how to soften the butter, either by taking it out to stand at room temperature or placing it in a covered bowl in the microwave for a few seconds. Explain the temperatures at which the oven may be set and how one sets it after reading the directions from the recipe. My friends use fabric paint to mark the dial with a dot for 350 degrees for example. Help them scoop out spoonfuls of the prepared cookie mix onto the baking sheet. Then let her set a timer for however long it takes to bake the cookies.

Once the timer goes off, teach the child how the oven opens and how one uses oven mitts so you don't get burned. Teach them to use the spatula to carefully take the cookies off the sheet so they are not broken and to place them onto a plate to cool. (Then don't forget to get a glass of milk ready so you can eat some while they're still warm! Yummy!)

So my tip of the day is to make sure you're doing all you can to engage all of a child's senses when it comes to learning about the every day chores that need to be done, being especially attentive to the details regarding those around the holiday traditions your family observes. This makes one feel special because

s/he is learning to help and being helpful is a very satisfying feeling for a child. By assisting, they are also learning how to become independent. You are taking away the mysteries of how things get accomplished for a child with no or low vision by engaging them in these activities. You're educating them on the processes. People who are blind are capable of being taught to cook, to clean, to do laundry, to vacuum, and loads of other things; but they only do those things after someone takes the time to teach them, just as you have to with anyone who's fully sighted.

So please have a wonderful holiday season and say your prayers of thanks for all the blessings we have received. God bless all of you!



Help Keep Thousands of Children Out of the Emergency Room this Holiday Season by Purchasing Safe Toys and Gifts

- Consumers Should Check Their List Twice to Make Sure They Are Purchasing Safe Toys and Gifts for Children -

CHICAGO (Nov. 18, 2014) – Holiday shopping is already in full swing with most stores and online retailers. And, the National Retail Federation forecasts sales in November and December to increase 4.1 percent from last year to \$616.9 billion. To help consumers, Prevent Blindness, the nation's oldest non-profit eye health and safety group, is providing tips to gift-givers to make sure all gifts are safe, especially those intended for children.

In 2012, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimated that hospital emergency rooms across the country treated 265,000 toy-related injuries. And, 72 percent of those injuries were to children under the age of 15. In fact, approximately 89,500 were to those under 5 years of age.

The most commonly injured part of the body is the head and face area, with the most common injuries being lacerations, contusions, or abrasions. The top three specifically identified toys that were associated with the most estimated injuries for all ages in 2012 were non-motorized scooters, toy balls and toy vehicles.

Before purchasing a toy or gift, Prevent Blindness suggests:

- Read all warnings and instructions on the box.
- Ask yourself or the parent if the toy is right for the child's ability and age. Consider whether other smaller children may be in the home that may have access to the toy.
- Avoid purchasing toys with sharp or rigid points, spikes, rods, or dangerous edges.
- Check the lenses and frames of children's sunglasses; many can break and cause injuries.
- Buy toys that will withstand impact and not break into dangerous shards.
- Look for the letters "ASTM." This designation means the product meets the national safety standards set by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM).
- Avoid toys that shoot or include parts that fly off.
- Gifts of sports equipment should always be accompanied by protective gear (such as a basketball along with eye goggles or a face guard with a new batting helmet for baseball or softball).
- Don't give toys with small parts to young children. Young kids tend to put things in

their mouths, increasing the risk of choking. If any part of a toy can fit in a toilet paper roll, the toy is not appropriate for children under the age of 3.

- Do not purchase toys with long strings or cords, especially for infants and very young children as these can become wrapped around a child's neck.
- Always dispose of uninflated or broken balloons immediately. According to the CPSC, more children have suffocated from them than any other type of toy.
- Ensure that laser product labels include a statement that the device complies with 21 CFR (the Code of Federal Regulations) Subchapter J (per an American Academy of Ophthalmology recommendation).

"The holidays can get hectic but we need to be diligent when purchasing gifts, especially for children, making sure they are safe and fit each individual child's needs," said Hugh R. Parry, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness. "By taking a few precautions, we can spend time with our family and friends and not in the emergency room!"

For more information on safe toys and gifts for children, visit preventblindness.org/safe-toy-checklist, or call Prevent Blindness at (800) 331-2020.

Best regards,

Sarah Hecker
Director, Media Relations
Prevent Blindness
211 West Wacker Dr
Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60606
T 312.363.6035
F 312.363.6052



www.preventblindness.org



NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF THE BLIND

WRITERS' DIVISION

Live the life you want.

2015 NFB WRITERS' DIVISION WRITING CONTEST

The annual youth and adult writing contests sponsored by the NFB Writers' Division will open January 1st and close April 1st.

NEW THIS YEAR: 2015, being the Federation's 75th birthday, the contest will for the first time ever have a required theme. All submissions will need to somehow incorporate the theme of 75. It does not have to be necessarily about the anniversary of NFB. It could just be the number 75, or perhaps the diamond anniversary, or 75 steps to your destination, or even 75 balloons. Thinking of past entries, 75 aliens would work. Seriously, let your imagination take over. Write the piece you want, just remember to include the theme of 75; this is inspired by the 75 years of the great work that has been happening within, and because of the National Federation of the Blind.

Adult contests, poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and stories for youth are open to all entrants eighteen and over.

The youth writing contest, poetry and fiction, are to promote Braille literacy and excellence in writing; youth must submit both a braille

hard-copy version along with an electronic doc or RTF file. The contest is divided into three groups, determined by grade level – elementary, middle, and high school.

Prizes for contest winners range up to \$100 for adult categories, and up to \$30 for youth.

All contest winners will be announced the first week in July, at the Writers' Division business meeting during the NFB national convention, held in Orlando, Florida. In addition, a list of winners will appear on our website, <http://writers.nfb.org>.

All winners from both, the adult and youth contests will be considered for publication in our Division's magazine, *Slate & Style*.

For additional contest details and submission guidelines, go to our website, <http://writers.nfb.org>.

Respectfully yours,
Robert Leslie Newman
President, NFB Writers' Division



Illinois Braille Readers Are Leaders (iBRAL) Contest for Blind Youth of Illinois

When: December 1, 2014 through January 19, 2015

The National Federation of the Blind of Illinois

(NFBI) is pleased to announce the 2nd annual Illinois Braille Readers Are Leaders contest. Contestants in similar grades at school compete against their peers to read the most Braille pages during the seven-week reading period. The contest encourages children in grades K-12 to be proud of their ability to read Braille, and to continually work to improve their skills while winning prizes in the process.

Important Dates

- November 1, 2014: registration for the contest opens.
- December 1, 2014: the beginning of the contest, and the first day participants can count their pages.
- January 19, 2015: the end of the contest, and the last day participants can count their pages. Also the last day contestants can submit a registration form.
- January 31, 2015: the reading log must be submitted to the NFBI by midnight.
- February, 2015: prizes will be mailed out.

For More Information

To get the complete rules, forms for registration and reading log, and additional information, visit the website <http://www.nfbfillinois.org>, then go to link "iBRAL Contest." Or contact

Debra Stein
E-mail: <mailto:ibralcontest@gmail.com>

Phone Number: 773-203-1394





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.

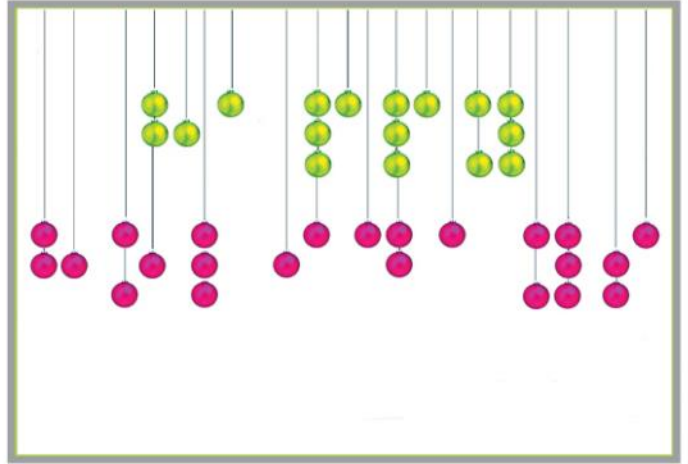
The MBSJF is funded completely from tax-deductible donations from individuals, companies and corporations who support IPVI's goals. Any individuals or groups wishing to donate to this fund, please forward your tax-deductible donations to IPVI. Thank you for your continued support of IPVI.



To request a scholarship application, please contact the Scholarship Program Coordinator, Vicki Juskie at: 815-464-6162 or vajuskie@aol.com



inBraille™ Greeting Cards Uniting Art With Cause



Cards are available in Lighthouse retail stores and online. They are sold as a package of 6 for \$22 (or as singles for \$4 each, in stores only.) For larger orders, call our Tools for Living Store at (800) 919-3375. To learn more about inBraille™ greeting cards, go to chicagolighthouse.org/inBraille.

The Art

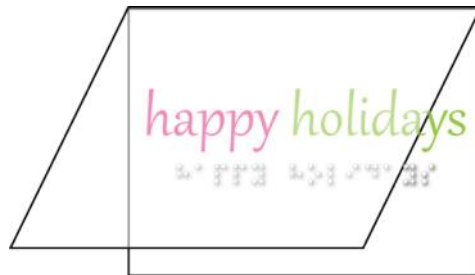
A celebration of the beauty of Braille—for those who can see, and those who cannot. Each cover features a unique, contemporary design reflecting the pattern of dots in the card's Braille message.

The Cause

Supporting access, independence and inclusion for people who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise disabled.

A Unique Design

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



Cards that Give Back

inBraille™ cards are packaged by people who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise disabled—who receive a fair wage. These specially designed *inBraille™* cards support The Chicago Lighthouse. The Lighthouse has been opening doors of opportunity providing comprehensive, trendsetting programs for people who are blind or visually impaired for over 100 years.





**NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF THE BLIND**



Bid for Equality

Black Friday, November 28 at 8 a.m. EST - December 4 at 11:59 p.m. EST

Join the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) this holiday season and show your loved ones how much you care. The National Federation of the Blind Bid for Equality online auction has amazing gift options for everyone and will help the NFB to develop innovative education, technology, and training programs to help blind Americans live the lives they want.

Featured items:

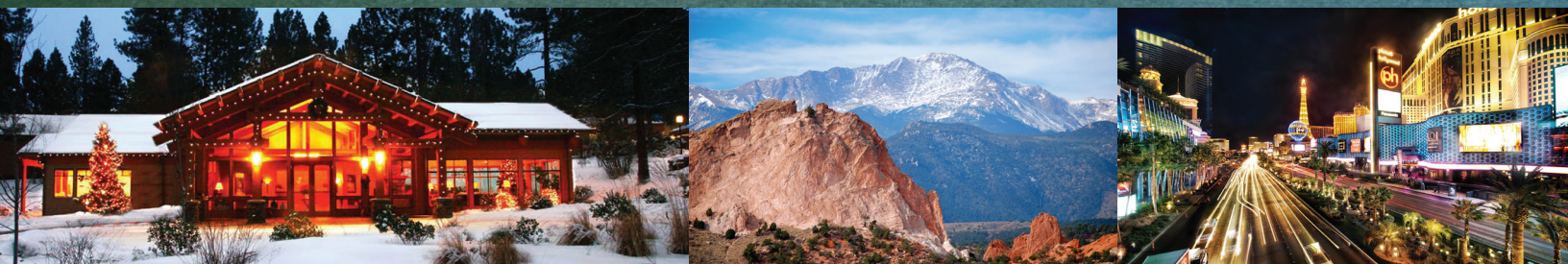
Vacation packages to Philadelphia, Colorado, Atlanta, and more!

We truly have something for everyone!

Please visit our auction's homepage to view our must-have donation items and preregister. Preregistering will allow you to preview our exciting donation items and add items of interest to your cart, ensuring you're ready to bid as soon as the auction goes live.

Don't see an item of interest, but still want to help make a difference? Cash donations are highly encouraged and can also be given via our auction homepage at www.biddingforgood.com/bid-for-equality.

The future is in your bid. We appreciate your support!





NAPVI

National Family Conference

National Association of Parents of Children with Visual Impairments

SAVE THE DATE



July 10-12, 2015 • Chicago, Illinois

Location:

Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind

1850 W Roosevelt Road, Chicago, IL

Conference hotel:

Chicago Marriott at Medical District /UIC

For more information contact Susan LaVenture, Executive Director NAPVI at

laventures@lighthouseguild.org or 800-562-6265

REGISTER FOR YOUR FREE PARENT WORKSHOP TODAY!



Illinois State Board of Education

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

istration and workshop location.

**Six Principles of IDEA:
Special Education What You Need to Know**
Saturday, December 6, 10am-1pm

**Reauthorization of IDEA: What Parents
Need to Know Part 2**
Friday, November 21, 12pm-1pm
Webinar

The Family Resource Center on Disabilities (FRCD) offers parents of children with disabilities birth to 21 years old, their help

ers, 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



New DOJ and DOE Guidance On School Districts' Obligations to Students with Communication Difficulties

On November 12, 2014, the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, and U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services issued joint guidance entitled "Frequently Asked Questions on Effective Communication for Students with Hearing, Vision, or Speech Disabilities in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools."

This guidance notes that while the obligations under the IDEA, Section 504 and the ADA are different, school districts are required to comply with all three to address the individual needs of the student. In some cases, this may mean that the school district is required to provide communication devices or services under the ADA that it would not have been required to provide under the IDEA, or vice versa.

In addition, the guidance makes clear that the school district must give primary consideration to the particular aid or service requested by the student. This means that the school district must provide the communication aid or service of choice, unless the school district can show that the alternative is as effective as that provided to students without disabilities.

Finally, the guidance makes clear that the IEP process cannot be used to delay the provision of communication aids or services. The FAQ states explicitly: "where the student or his or her parent(s) requests auxiliary aids and ser-

vices for the student under Title II, the appropriate aids and services must be provided as soon as possible, even if the IDEA's evaluation and IEP processes are still pending."

For the full guidance document, the abbreviated "Fact Sheet" and the "Dear Colleague Letter" download at www.mattcohenandassociates.com.

New OCR Guidance on Bullying of Students with Disabilities

As part of National Bullying Awareness Month in October, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights issued guidance to schools on responsibilities surrounding the bullying of students with disabilities. OCR reminded school districts that bullying and harassment of students must not be tolerated, and outlined for school districts their responsibilities under Section 504 and the ADA. Federal law requires school districts to take immediate and appropriate action to investigate and address the issue, including steps to stop and prevent the bullying from recurring.

This guidance makes clear that school districts must address bullying, when it is based on the student's disability. OCR provides information on the step-by-step analysis that it does when investigating harassment. This analysis includes:

- Was a student with a disability bullied by one or more students based on the student's disability?
- Was the bullying conduct sufficiently serious to create a hostile environment?
- Did the school know or should it have know of the conduct?
- Did the school fail to take prompt and effective steps reasonably calculated to end the conduct, eliminate the hostile environ-

ment, prevent it from recurring, and, as appropriate, remedy its effect?

- Did the school know or should it have known the effects of the bullying may have affected the student's receipt of IDEA services or Section 504 services? For example, did the school know or should it have known about adverse changes in the student's academic performance or behavior indicating that the student may not be receiving FAPE?
- Did the student meet its ongoing obligation to ensure FAPE by promptly determining whether the student's educational needs were still being met, and if not, making changes, as necessary, to his or her IEP or Section 504 plan?

As the document indicates, this guidance builds upon previous guidance provided by OCR and OSERS. The guidance provides several detailed examples and hypotheticals of what school districts should look out for and do when faced with bullying. OCR also encourages school districts and States to reevaluate their policies and practices in light of this new guidance.

For the full guidance document, go to www.mattcohenandassociates.com. You may also find the Department of Education's press release at www.ed.gov.

Ninth Circuit Holds that Failure to Disclose Data to Parents Resulted in Denial of FAPE

In a recent decision, *M.M. v. Lafayette Sch. Dist.*, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held that the school district's failure to provide RTI data to the student's parents as part of the evaluation and eligibility process deprived the parents of the opportunity to fully participate as equal participants in the eligibility

process, and therefore denied the student a free appropriate public education.

In this case, the student was being assessed to determine whether he met the eligibility criteria for "Specific Learning Disability" or SLD. The school district had collected RTI data prior, but when determining eligibility, the school district personnel opted to assess the student's eligibility under the "severe discrepancy" model (rather than the RTI model). The school district argued because they did not use the RTI model to determine eligibility, it was not required to disclose the RTI data to the parents.

The Court of Appeals disagreed with the school district. The Ninth Circuit held that the school district had a duty to provide the RTI data to the parents. The Court went further and stated, although not all procedural violations deny a student a FAPE, this violation did. "Without the RTI data, the parents were struggling to decipher [the student's] unique deficits, unaware of the extent to which he was not meaningfully benefitting from the [program], and thus unable to properly advocate for changes to his IEP."

Go to www.mattcohenandassociates.com for the full decision.

Upcoming Presentations

December 16 @ 9:30-11:00am
Matt Cohen

"Advocacy for Children with Disabilities"

Arlington Pediatrics Group
3325 N. Arlington Heights Rd. Suite 100A
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
Call 847-398-0400 to register.

February 3 @ 9:00am-4:30pm
Matt's speech is 3:45-4:30pm

**"School Actions (or Inaction)
That Can Result in Lawsuits"**

Sponsored by NBI, National Business Institute
Conference Topic: Special Education Laws
Made Simple

Visit www.nbi.sems.com for more information,
and to register. Or call 800-930-6182.

February 18-21

Matt's speech is Feb 20 @ 1:45-3:15pm

**"Navigating the Special Education Maze
In a Time of Shrinking Resources"**

LDA of America 52nd Annual International
Conference

Hilton Chicago

720 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60601

Visit www.lidaamerica.org/conference
for more information and to register.

February 24, 2015 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Matt Cohen

**"Clinical Evaluations, Report Writing and
Advocacy -
Maximizing Effectiveness While Maintaining
Professional Boundaries"**

Clinician Training

More details coming soon!

Matt Cohen is the founder of the Chicago law firm Matt Cohen & Associates LLC.

The practice is concentrated in representation of children and families in special education and discipline disputes with public schools, disability rights advocacy and legal assistance to mental health and human services professionals and the organizations they work for.

For more information about Matt Cohen and the staff, please visit

www.mattcohenandassociates.com.

If you have any questions, please contact his assistant, Tami Kuipers at 866-787-9270 or tami.kuipers@gmail.com.

Disclaimer:

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We would be pleased to communicate with you via email. However, if you communicate with us through the Web site regarding a matter for which we do not already represent you, your communication may not be treated as privileged and confidential. Do not send us confidential, proprietary or other sensitive information until you speak with one of our attorneys and receive authorization to send that information. Matt Cohen is providing this enews, the information, listings, and links contained herein only as a convenience to you.

APH NEWS

Winter White Fun

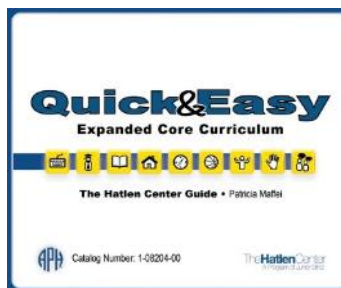
Plan now for cold weather sports!

Visit the APH PE website to find a winter sports camp near you. If you have camp and would like to have it added to the list, contact tpierce@aph.org.



Quick and Easy Expanded Core Curriculum

1-08204-00 -- \$45.00



Over 140 lessons to address the nine areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) in a variety of settings.

Quick & Easy Expanded Core Curriculum is designed for transition students who are visually impaired. The included lessons were chosen to address the most common gaps found within this population and require little time, expertise, or equipment to implement by the educational team and family members. The lessons, categorized by setting (home/school or community), are intentionally designed to be completed in 5–15 minutes. *They are not designed to replace a comprehensive program addressing the ECC.*

Each ECC lesson card is printed on durable paper stock and 3-hole punched for convenient storage in a custom-made binder. Visual icons within a color identification bar indicate ECC area(s) addressed by the lesson. Needed materials are listed in a different color bold font. Each lesson card measures 8 1/2 x 7 inches.

A Quick & Easy ECC Checklist is included to monitor an individual student's progress and serve as an informal assessment. The checklist is included in the binder as well as on the accompanying CD-ROM as a Microsoft® Excel® spreadsheet.

The Quick & Easy ECC Matrix (in both hard-copy and electronic formats) provides an overview of the ECC lessons covered in each lesson. The matrix key identifies the primary ECC area addressed, immersed ECC areas,

and provision of a Try It lesson (a suggestion for home practice).

Example ECC lessons target the following skills:

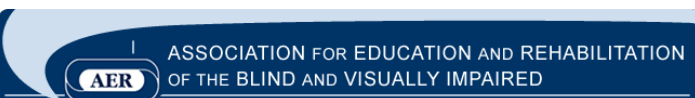
- **Planning a menu**
- **Practicing conversation**
- **Giving & receiving compliments**
- **Labeling cans and frozen foods**
- **Making purchases based on a budget**
- **Expanding career knowledge**
- **Tracking medical history**
- **Spreading condiments**
- **Reading nutrition labels**
- **Properly using smart phones**
- **Learning customer service techniques**

Quick & Easy ECC Kit Includes:

- **Binder with 142 lesson cards**
- **CD-ROM with accessible files:**
- **Binder contents (.brf)**
- **Matrix (.brf and .pdf)**
- **Checklist (Microsoft Excel)**

Note: The entire binder contents are only available as a braille ready format (.brf) file.

Recommended ages: Middle and high school transition students.



AER Illinois Chapter Communication

2015 Illinois AER Vision Conference

February 19-20, 2015
Hyatt Regency Schaumburg
Schaumburg, IL 60173

Hello AER members!

I am so excited to share with you our **Conference at a Glance** for the 2015 Illinois Vision Conference. With the help of an incredible program committee, headed by Doug Anzlovar, the IAER Board has created an exciting line-up of sessions for all of our professional divisions. We hope you take a look and become as excited we are! Make sure to **REGISTER** by February 5 to get the early bird rate. Conference is February 19 & 20, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Schaumburg Chicago.

This year we have an exciting experience for our Pre-conference day! Registration for the Pre-conference is combined with the Conference Registration. See the IAER **Pre-conference Flyer** for more information.

We are looking to have a more interactive conference this year. We want to see IAER, know the faces and names of our members. Please send pictures of IAER members to Amy Lund, **alund@sps186.org**. All photos need to have a caption of who is in the photo.

Enjoy your busy holiday times and IAER will see you in February!

Amy Lund
President IAER

FOUNDATION
FIGHTING
BLINDNESS

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

CHAIRMAN'S
HOLIDAY MATCH
CHALLENGE

Today, every dollar you donate to the Foundation Fighting Blindness will be doubled, thanks to a matching grant from our chairman, Gordon Gund, and his wife, Lulie.

That means your gift today will go twice as far to help researchers identify genes that cause blindness, discover ways to halt vision loss and restore eyesight and so much more.

Thanks to our Chairman's Holiday Match, your gift of \$25 becomes \$50, your gift of \$50 becomes \$100, and your gift of \$100 becomes \$200 in the fight against blindness.

2014 has truly been a remarkable year — we invested more than \$16 million this year in support of 120 research grants.

Currently, more than 15 clinical trials are underway testing cutting-edge treatments for retinal degenerative diseases, many made possible by lab studies funded by the Foundation. One trial, in particular, has shown very promising results, with five of the six people undergoing a gene therapy targeting chorioideremia reporting improvements in their vision. One of the participants in this study even went so far as to say that for the first time in a long time he could see the sky.

We are excited about recent progress, but I'm sure you agree that we cannot afford to let any avenue of research be ignored. That is why the Chairman's Match couldn't have come at a better time.

With so many human clinical trials underway right now — more than at any time in our organization's history — our resources are stretched as never before. So your support has never been more critical.

We ask that you be as generous as you can. Make the most of this opportunity and double the impact of your gift to the Foundation Fighting Blindness today.



With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

William T. Schmidt
Chief Executive Officer



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

FEATURED SESSION

Standards and Data and Outcomes ...Oh My!



In today's world of Common Core, outcomes, and standards how can TVIs and O&M specialists meet requirements for data and accountability? Join the discussion on:

- ◆ Collecting and managing essential data
- ◆ Establishing standards for assessments, reports, and services
- ◆ Connecting instruction to the assessed needs of the student

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

Watch This Session for FREE!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Supporting Math Literacy Using Nemeth Braille with Auditory and Print

Learn how the new Nemeth feature for the BrailleNote can change the way students with visual impairments access/produce math information. Tips/strategies will be shared.

MORE: Same website



Testing Concept Development in Preschoolers with Visual Impairment

This session provides an overview of assessment issues in testing young children with visual impairment.

MORE: Same website



Teaching Access Technology: What to Teach When?

This session will give participants a framework to guide them in the scope and sequence of teaching access technology to people who are blind or have low vision.

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 • www.ipvi.org

PRESIDENT

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

OPERATIONS VP

Vacant

SERVICES VP

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

TREASURER

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

SECRETARY

Dawn Wojtowicz
9188 161st Place
Orland Hills, IL 60487
708-590-6447
deeder0477@aol.com

NAPVI REGION 3 REPRESENTATIVE

Pam Stern
1912 Mission Hills Lane
Northbrook, IL 60062
847-217-7590
pamstern3@gmail.com

SPANISH TRANSLATOR

Noelia Gamino
708-655-2747

**THIS PUBLICATION IS SUPPORTED
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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:

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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

- ▶ 11/28-12/4 **NFB Bid for Equality** www.biddingforgood.com/bid-for-equality
- ▶ 12/1-1/19 **NFB IL Braille Readers Contest** <http://nfbfillinois.org>
- ▶ 1/1-4/1, 2015 **NFB Writers' Division Writing Contest** <http://writers.nfb.org>
- ▶ 2/19-20, 2015 **Illinois AER Vision Conference** Schaumburg
- ▶ 7/10-12, 2015 **Guild/NAPVI Nation Family Contest** Chicago

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

**Newsletter Deadline for
JANUARY 2015 is DECEMBER 15th**



**Check Out
www.ipvi.org**

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