

# **IPVI INSIGHTS**

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

**NOVEMBER 2018**



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Filiberto Almendarez III

I truly enjoy writing about IPVI events, our family members and my experiences. But, I would like to relate. While the Medical Field works tirelessly to increase vision and decrease loss in vision, the Tools Fields is providing assistance to assist in daily life. I know I wrote about the vibrating cane, but there is a Co-Robotic Cane. It provides feedback on a user's surrounding environment. Plus a computerized 3-D camera to "see" on behalf of the user. It also has a motorized roller tip that can propel the cane toward a desired location, allowing the user to follow the cane's direction. In addition, the user can speak into a microphone and a speech recognition system interprets verbal commands and guides the user via a wireless earpiece. Its credit card-sized computer stores pre-loaded floor plans and the developer is working on the Cane having the ability to download floor plans via Wi-Fi upon entering a building. The small computer analyzes 3-D information in real time and alerts the user of hallways and stairs. There are more features, but I want to relate the Robotic Glove too. The glove helps someone locate small objects. On the back surface is a camera and a speech recognition system, enabling the user to give the glove voice commands such as "door handle," "mug," "bowl," or "bottle of water." We know how many times our children spill a cup of water, drop items and cannot locate them. Or more importantly, not be able to detect an item in their path that results in an injury. This glove guides the user's hand via tactile prompts to the desired object. "Guiding the person's hand left or right. "An actuator on the thumb's surface takes care of that in a very intuitive and natural way." Prompting a user to move his or her hand forward and backward.

So, look into these advanced tools and move forward towards more independence.

Take care, Don't forget our November IPVI Event and Happy Thanksgiving!



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## #ToyLikeMe Holiday Shopping Guide

Toys for kids who wear glasses or hearing aids, use white canes or wheelchairs & more!

By Amber Bobnar

Tinker Bell with a cochlear implant? An American Girl Doll in a wheelchair? Barbie with a white cane? If you haven't seen these toys in your local toy store, don't worry, you're not missing anything. They just aren't there. Diversity in the toy industry really has improved quite a bit, but that diversity has yet to extend to disability. And why is that? As a community we realize how important it is for our children to play with toys that represent their lives and their experiences, and yet we still ignore the millions of children growing up with a disability. [See All the Different Toys at:](#)

[http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/  
toylikeme-shopping-guide](http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/toylikeme-shopping-guide)





**PLAY FOR ALL**

## **CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE and IPVI FAMILIES**

**A morning of fun for everyone**

**The Chicago Children's Museum at Navy Pier  
700 E. Grand Avenue, Suite 127  
Chicago, IL 60611**

**Saturday, November 10, 2018**

**Pre-registered families 9:00 - 1:00  
General public 10:00 - 1:00+**

**To register or for more information, please contact:  
Gail Patterson at the Chicago Lighthouse -  
(312) 997-3695**

**Pre-registration includes:**

**Free admission for Chicago Lighthouse & IPVI Families  
Free shuttle from the Chicago Lighthouse to Navy Pier**

**First 50 people only!!!**

**If leaving from Chicago Lighthouse, please arrive at 8:30am.**



### 7 Best Accessible Sensory Play Kits for Kids who are Blind or Visually Impaired



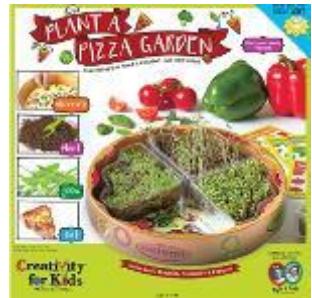
**Cra-Z-Art Deluxe Cotton Candy Maker Kit With Light Up Wand**

**Real Cooking Ultimate Baking Starter Set**



**Snowcone Maker**

**Plant a Pizza Garden Kit**



**Cookie Decorating Kit**



**Build a Bear Workshop Stuffing Station**

**Marshmallow Stuffer**



I hope some of these ideas will inspire you to set up an accessible activity for your child too! It's really rewarding to see them figure out how to make something and then enjoy the final product... especially when it's something they can eat and share with family! *By Amber Bobnar.*

**WonderBaby.org**  
Perkins School for the Blind



## Need Gift Ideas

As I searched the web it was very clear that the only ideas recommended for older children and teenagers were phones and electronic devices. So I'm asking all of you for ideas that you may have for this age range. If they only need a phone, an iPod or an iPad, then there are several companies that make these for the blind and visually impaired. Since my children are "all grown up", I have nothing to compare what your child uses. Just email your ideal to

Joan Bielawski  
[wjbielawski@yahoo.com](mailto:wjbielawski@yahoo.com)

helps individuals and their family members attend educational conferences that discuss topics focused on intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The program can assist financially with the many expenses involved with attending a conference, including but not limited to: registration, gas, hotel, childcare and meals.

This goal of this program is to make sure self-advocates and family members have the availability to information so that they are able to make positive changes in their lives and be the best advocates they can.

We would appreciate if you could share this information with individuals with developmental/intellectual disabilities and their families.

Below are some examples of types of conferences that we have provided funding for:

**Autism**  
**Cerebral Palsy**  
**Down Syndrome**  
**PECS**  
**Fragile X Syndrome**  
**Rett Syndrome**  
**Williams Syndrome**  
**Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders**  
**DUP15q Conference**  
**Batten Disease**  
**Transition Conference ...and many more**



## Stipend Program for Illinois Families to Attend Conferences

*Did you know that the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities has a stipend program that pays for Illinois families to attend conferences?*

### **The Consumer Involvement Program- Consumer Stipend Funds**

The Consumer Stipend Program funded by the ICDD and managed by The Arc of Illinois

Please contact Lee Ann at 815-464-1832 or [leeann@thearc.org](mailto:leeann@thearc.org) with any questions.

This is a great opportunity for self-advocates and family members to attend conferences or trainings that they would not otherwise be able to attend.



### Turkey Squash Thanksgiving Craft Project

By Amber Bobnar

If you're tired of carving pumpkins every year, why not spice things up with a decorated squash instead? Find out how to make this silly Turkey Squash with feathers and a crook neck squash. [READ MORE](#) at:

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/holiday-crafts-and-ideas/page/4>



### My Experience of Being a Father of a Visually Impaired Child

Shared by cmellor

Daddy Chris Clark writes about his visually impaired daughter Ellie and the impact she has made in his life. [READ MORE](#) at:

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/resources/my-daughter-ellie-daddy-chris-clark>



### The Day I Wished Our Lives Could Be Normal: Confessions of a Special Needs Dad

Shared by cmellor

Learn how to make an autumn wreath sensory art project with your blind child. It's easy and fun! [READ MORE](#) at:

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/resources/mia-may-six-months-update-written-her-daddy-nick-mcdonald>



### Core Wobble Stool: A Chair for Kids Who Can't Sit Still

Shared by Hillary Kleck

The Kore Wobble Stool design gently rolls with your child's natural movements, so he or she stays supported and comfortable while they wiggle around. [READ MORE](#) at:

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/resources/kore-wobble-stool>

### Proactive Parenting Approach for Positive Results



November 29, 2018  
CPS Garfield Park  
2651 W. Washington Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60612

#### About This Workshop

Learn about proactive parenting techniques that will help you fulfill children's emotional needs that foster good behavior and minimize power struggles. Recognize that all behaviors are trying to tell us something. Children misbehave for a reason. As we become better equipped, we can address these behaviors in a more strategic, positive way and see more positive results!

Family Resource Center on Disabilities |  
(312)939-3513 |  
[info@frcd.org](mailto:info@frcd.org) | [www.frct.org](http://www.frct.org)

### MAKING SENSE

**Latest Research on Blue Light:** Scientists have recently discovered there is a chemical reaction when retina cells are exposed to blue light that can cause cell death and macular degeneration. Blue light is emitted by the sun, but also from computer screens, cell phones, tablets and LED and CFL lighting. Care needs to be taken to protect your eyes from the damage blue light can cause. Filters to block sig-

nificant amount of blue light from smart phones and tablets can be applied to screens to reduce the amount of exposure. These filters also can protect your screen from scratches without affecting the visibility. Computer glasses with a yellow tint can increase contrast and comfort when viewing a computer screen for long periods of time. Take breaks when working on your computer by practicing the 20/20/20 rule. Every 20 minutes, look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds. Lastly, make sure to visit your eye care professional annually or if you experience any changes in vision. Seeing your doctor can prevent or slow vision loss.

**What is Actiview?:** We all know how audio description enhances a person with vision loss' ability to enjoy a movie or television program. Now, Actiview has put the ability to hear audio description in the palm of your hand with their new app and your iPhone! This free app syncs the audio description to the audio in the theater or your home. Simply download the program you want to watch and press play when the show begins. You'll be able to listen to the audio description with a pair of ear buds and not distract others who are also enjoying the show. More programs are coming and it is important to let the studios know Actiview's service is a valuable resource that provides inclusivity for all users. Actiview not only provides audio description, but amplified audio, closed captioning, ASL and ESL. If you have a program you would like to have audio described, let Actiview know and they will do their best to get it from the studio. To learn more, visit [www.activiewapp.com](http://www.activiewapp.com) or download the app from the App Store.

*Reprinted from MAKING SENSE, October and November 2018, Second Sense: Beyond vision loss, 312-236-8569, [www.second-sense.org](http://www.second-sense.org).*

## Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments

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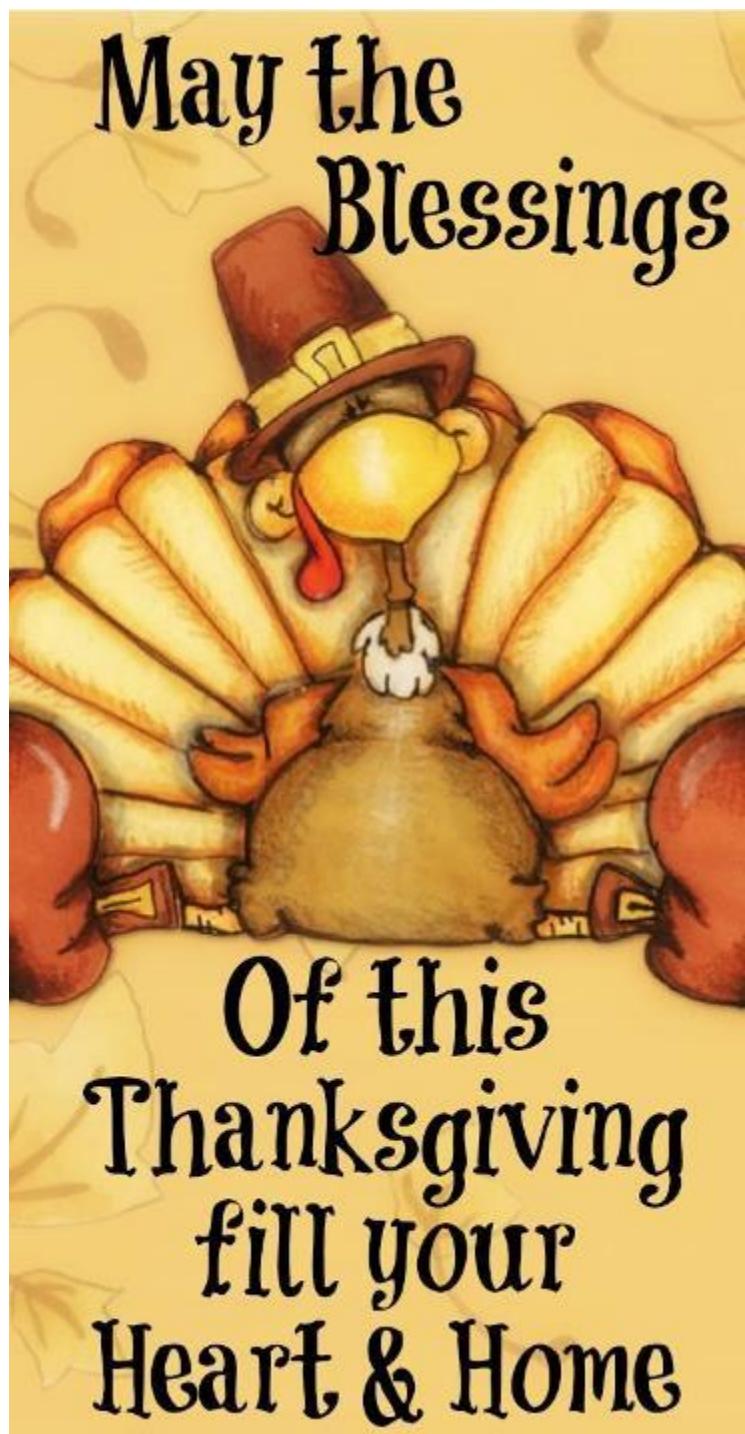
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# Join IPVI or renew your membership today!

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

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

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

Check one:

Parent/Guardian Membership: \$20 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 \$20/year.

Medical Specialist \$50 per year.

Scholarship Fund \$10.00

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

New Membership       Renewal

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

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

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

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

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

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

IPVI • P.O.Box 316634 • Chicago, IL 60631

## What does IPVI do?

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

Have questions or need  
more information?

Call us at  
1-773-882-1331

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

## **IPVI CALENDAR**

- ▶ November 10
- ▶ November 29

**TCL & IPVI “PLAY FOR ALL”  
Proactive Parenting Approach for Positive Results**

**Chicago  
Chicago**

Please call  
1-773-882-1331  
for any questions, concerns,  
or comments that IPVI can  
help you with.

**Newsletter Deadline for  
December 2018 is November 15, 2018**



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

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