International Family Conference

July 27-29, 2012 • Boston Marriott Newton
WELCOME!

What an exciting time for families, professionals, volunteers, and others attending this conference! The National Association for parents of children with Visual Impairments, NAPVI, together with the Jewish Guild Healthcare, Perkins, and the New England Consortium for Deafblind are pleased to have collaborated to co-sponsor the event.

Additional co-sponsors include The American Foundation for the Blind, Junior Blind of America, Braille Institute of America, MN-NAPVI Affiliate Parents’ Association, Hadley School for the Blind, Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, and the National Braille Press. A special thanks to Camp Abilities, Perkins and the United States Blind Athletes for creating and coordinating the Children’s Program for the entire conference! We salute our volunteers who will pay a vital role in the success of this conference.

The Boston Marriott Newton Hotel is a beautiful hotel in a cool summer location just outside the city of historical Boston.

The conference is filled with excellent speakers, including three inspiring keynote speakers. There are 32 workshops sessions to choose from providing information on a variety of aspects parenting a child with a visual impairment...The theme of the conference is “Families on the Move” encouraging physical activity and health for families, sharing advances in medical research, treatment and technology! The Families Connecting with Families Conference of July 2012 promises to be an opportunity for sharing with one another and learning through each others’ experiences. Our receptions and meal venues give you an opportunity to meet other parents and professionals from all over the country and your children will make new friends during the fun activities the children’s program committee has put together.

The planning committee had one important goal: To host and International Family Conference that salutes families and shows your significant role in your child’s life. Have a great conference!

Susan LaVenture
Executive Director
National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments

Julie Urban
President
National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments
Create a FamilyFriends social networking profile at www.familyconnect.org.

Get support, advice and resources.
Make lasting friendships with parents just like you!
It's easy, it's free, and available where you are!

MaribelNAPVIparent

My Child’s Eye Condition(s)
Aniridia
Nystagmus

My Child’s Age
6 years old

Edit Profile

Status Updates
- I’m connecting with other parents just like me through FamilyFriends—and you can, too! (0 comments)

Start connecting today!
www.familyconnect.org

FamilyConnect
For parents of children with visual impairments

Brought to you by:
American Foundation for the Blind and National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments
### INTERNATIONAL FAMILY CONFERENCE - Friday, July 27, 2012

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM - 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Pre-Conference Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM - 5:00 PM</td>
<td>NAPVI Affiliate Parent Leaders’ Seminar (Commonwealth 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 - 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Family Connect Focus Groups for Parents (Commonwealth 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 - 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Bridge Multimedia Described and Captioned Media Focus Groups for Parents and Kids (Merry Go Round)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 - 7:30 PM</td>
<td>Registration (Ballroom Foyer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 - 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Overview of Cortical Vision Impairment, CVI; What Every Parent Should Know! with Internationally Recognized Expert, Christine Roman (Salon G)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 - 6:00 PM</td>
<td>Special Sessions for Families and Professionals: Exhibitors will Showcase their Products and Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 - 7:30 PM</td>
<td>Exhibit Hall Closes - Dinner On Your Own</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 - 9:30 PM</td>
<td>Opening Welcome Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 - 9:30 PM</td>
<td>Keynote Speaker: Marla Runyan, Olympian Track Star Who Happens to Be Visually Impaired After Dinner Reception (Light Snacks and Beverages) Family Fun Activities (Salons A-E)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 - 9:30 PM</td>
<td>Exhibit Hall Open (Ballroom Foyer)</td>
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### INTERNATIONAL FAMILY CONFERENCE - Saturday, July 28, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 - 8:30 AM</td>
<td>Continental Breakfast (Salons A-E)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 - noon</td>
<td>Registration (Ballroom Foyer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Exhibit Hall Open Exhibitors will Showcase their Products and Resources (Ballroom Foyer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15 - 11:45 AM</td>
<td>Childcare and Children’s Physical Activity Programs Open (Commonwealth Ballroom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15 AM - 8:45 PM</td>
<td>Childcare Drop Off to Children’s Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Children’s Programs Begin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:00 AM</td>
<td>GENERAL SESSION (Salons A-E)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Welcome Introduction of Keynote Speaker</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Lois Smith MD, PhD, Boston Children’s Hospital, Department of Ophthalmology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15 - 11:15 AM</td>
<td>Eye Condition and Network Sessions (Salons A-E)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45 AM - 12:45</td>
<td>LUNCH - Pick up children, child and physical activity program closed for lunch (Salons A-E)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45 - 4:45 PM</td>
<td>Childcare Open with Children’s Activities (Commonwealth Ballroom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 - 2:00 PM</td>
<td>FIRST BREAKOUT SESSION, Saturday Afternoon Section A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-1</td>
<td>Preparing for Life after High School (Students w/Multiple Impairments Panel Discussion)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Charles River West)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-2</td>
<td>Preparing for College (Student Panel Discussion)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Charles River East)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-3</td>
<td>Eat Healthy... Be Healthy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Salon G)</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-4</td>
<td>Expanded Core Curriculum: What is it and Why Should ECC be a Part of the IEP?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Old Meeting House)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-5</td>
<td>Orientation and Mobility for Young Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Salon H)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-6</td>
<td>DICAPTA - Described and Captioned Media in Spanish (Spanish Session)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Salon F)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-7</td>
<td>Overview of Technology for Students of All Ages</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Lexington)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-8</td>
<td>Current Research and Practice in Motor Development for Children with Visual Impairments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Salons A-E)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15 - 3:15 PM</td>
<td>SECOND BREAKOUT SESSION, Saturday Afternoon Section B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-1</td>
<td>Transition from School to Supported Employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Charles River East)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>B-2</td>
<td>Tangible Symbols — Communicating Without Words</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Charles River West)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-3</td>
<td>Physical Education for Children with Visual Impairments; What Every Parent Should Know! (Spanish Session)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Salon F)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-4</td>
<td>Technology for O&amp;M and Independent Living</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Lexington)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-5</td>
<td>Having Fun with Braille for Parents</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Salons A-E)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-6</td>
<td>I Got You Babe: Positive Parenting for a Special Needs Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Salon G)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-7</td>
<td>Issues in School Transition in Early Childhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Salon H)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-8</td>
<td>Video Description Is Here to Stay</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Old Meeting House)</td>
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### INTERNATIONAL FAMILY CONFERENCE - Sat., July 28, 2012, cont.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:30 - 4:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>THIRD BREAKOUT SESSION - Saturday Afternoon Section C</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>C-1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What a State Commission for the Blind Can Offer Your Teen: Transition from School to Employment (Charles River East)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:45 PM</td>
<td>Childcare Closes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Exhibit Hall Closes for the Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>Bus Transportation to the Perkins School for the Blind Family Program and Cookout (Ballroom Exit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 to 8:30 PM</td>
<td>Family Activities and Cookout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tours of Perkins School for the Blind</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturday evening, join us for a fun-filled evening on the Perkins School’s campus, where there will be live music by Ben Rudnick &amp; Friends, a catered dinner, a water park and more! Take a tour of the Perkins campus, including the amazing new state-of-the-art Grousbeck Center for Students and Technology, Transportation will be provided throughout the evening. While there is no childcare at this event, there will be plenty of activities to keep them entertained. Perkins items available for purchase, cash only, ATM is onsite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 PM</td>
<td>Bus Transportation Back to the Hotel</td>
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</tbody>
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### INTERNATIONAL FAMILY CONFERENCE - Sunday., July 29, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>7:30 - 8:30 AM</strong></td>
<td>Continental Breakfast (Salons A-E)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8:15 - 8:45 AM</strong></td>
<td>Drop Off Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9:00 - 11:45 AM</strong></td>
<td>Childcare and Physical Activities Program Open (Commonwealth Ballroom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9:15 - 10:15 AM</strong></td>
<td><strong>FOURTH BREAKOUT SESSION—SUNDAY MORNING Section D</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>D-1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Father Factor (This Session is for Dads Only!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Charles River East)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>10:30 - 11:30 AM</strong></td>
<td><strong>CLOSING SESSION (Salons A-E)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Keynote Presentation—Paul Schroeder, Vice President, Programs and Policy Group, AFB</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kids Receive Camp Abilities Certificates</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Closing Remarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOON</strong></td>
<td>Pick Up Children, Childcare and Children’s Physical Activities Program Closes (Commonwealth Ballroom)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dr. Lois E.H. Smith

Lois E. Smith M.D., Ph.D., is a clinician/scientist at Children's Hospital and Professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School. She studies vascular diseases of the eye and has published extensively on biochemical pathways in retinopathy. Dr. Smith received a BSc. degree from the University of British Columbia, Canada, a PhD in Chemistry from the California Institute of Technology and an MD from Boston University. She was a resident in Ophthalmology at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. She is the recipient of the 2006 Alfred A. Bressler Prize in Vision Science, the 2007 Alcon Research Institute Award and the 2008 Friedenwald Award (Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology) for outstanding research in ophthalmology. She also received the 2008 ARVO Cless Best of the Best Award for the most outstanding lecture given at ARVO. She is a former member of the National Eye Institute Advisory Council and a current member of the National Institutes of Health Trans Angiogenesis Research Program and is on the Board of Scientific Advisors for the National Eye Institute (NIH). She is an editor of Investigative Ophthalmology and Vision Science and of the Journal of Clinical Investigation.

Her basic research work is in retinal neovascularization, both basic mechanism and treatment. Her work pertains to vascular changes in the retina in neovascular eye diseases including diabetic retinopathy, age related macular degeneration, and retinopathy of prematurity (ROP).

In 1994 Smith developed a mouse model of proliferative retinopathy, based on the principles of retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) which is now widely used for elucidating the basic mechanism of retinopathy. She was the first to show that VEGF is necessary for ischemia-induced proliferative retinopathy by blocking VEGF in the mouse retina. She defined the role of growth hormone and IGF-1 in retinopathy and translated the work into a clinical trial to replace IGF-1 in premature infants as well as an algorithm, WINROP, that is used to predict those infants that will later develop ROP.

She has shown that omega-3 fatty acids are critical to retinopathy and that increasing the omega-3/omega-6 ratio in retina can inhibit pathological angiogenesis. Omega-3 fatty acids are low in Western diets and are absent in the total parenteral (TPN) solutions given to premature infants. AREDS2 (a multicentered clinical trial sponsored by NIH) will evaluate the role of these fatty acids in neovascular age-related macular degeneration, and a trial in premature infants is underway.

Smith recently found that erythropoietin, a Hif regulated hormone, is also critical to vessel loss and proliferation in retinopathy. Understanding the role of erythropoietin in angiogenesis is critical to the timing of erythropoietin intervention for patients with retinopathy, as well as for other diseases such as cancer where pathological angiogenesis plays a significant role.

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Marla Runyan

Residence: Eugene, Oregon

Employment
Communication Disorders Consultant
Graduate Student
Keynote/Motivational Speaker
2-Time U.S. Olympian,
Former Professional Athlete

Website: www.marlarunyan.com

Education
• 2011 Master of Arts, Special Education, Visual Impairment, in progress
  University of Northern Colorado
• 1994 Master of Arts, Communicative Disorders, Deafblindness
  San Diego State University
• 1991 Bachelor of Arts, Communicative Disorders
  San Diego State University

Athletic Accomplishments
• First legally blind athlete to compete for the U.S. Olympic Team in Track and Field
• 2000 U.S. Olympian, 8th Place finisher in the Women’s 1500 meter event
• 2004 U.S. Olympian, 5000 meters
• 3-Time U.S. National Champion at 5000 meters
Keynote Speakers

- Former American Record holder, indoor 5000 meters
- 2002 NYC Marathon, Top American female finisher, 4th place overall
- 2003 Boston Marathon, Top American female finisher, 5th place overall
- 2004 Chicago Marathon, Top American female finisher, 7th place overall
- 2006 Twin Cities Marathon Champion, National Champion
- 1992 & 1996 Paralympian, 5-Time Gold Medalist

Deaf-Blind Communications Consultant, Regional Programs, Eugene, Oregon
Developed and implemented expressive and receptive communication techniques for deafblind students in various settings. Worked closely with teachers and support specialists to encourage generalization of communication techniques in school, home, and community environments.

Home Instruction, Eugene, Oregon
Teacher for high school student with autism. Assisted with swim program for students with multiple disabilities.

Classroom teacher for deaf and hard of hearing students with special needs (vision, motor, and/or cognitive impairments)

Developed thematic curriculum. Used American Sign Language as the primary mode of communication and instruction.

Publications

Paul Schroeder
Vice President, Programs and Policy Group
Areas of Expertise:
AFB’s national efforts and programs
Public policy and legislation relating to visual impairment
Technology

As Vice President of Programs and Policy, Paul Schroeder oversees all of AFB’s national programmatic efforts in aging, education, employment, literacy, and technology, as well as AFB’s public policy and research agendas. Schroeder is intimately involved in AFB’s technology initiatives, including efforts to encourage the development of mainstream products and services that are accessible for people who are blind or have low vision.

Schroeder also collaborates with other organizations working on policy matters in the field of blindness and visual impairment. He is regularly called upon to provide input on a variety of issues to governmental agencies, private industry, and nonprofit organizations. His policy expertise and activities include the areas of telecommunications and technology policy, vocational rehabilitation, education, and public health. Schroeder is also the senior contributing editor for AccessWorld: Technology for Consumers with Visual Impairments, published by AFB Press.

Prior to joining AFB, Schroeder served for three years as director of governmental affairs for the American Council of the Blind in Washington, DC, and as the special projects coordinator for the Governor’s Office of Advocacy for People with Disabilities in Columbus, OH. While in Columbus, he served on the Board of Directors for the Central Ohio Radio Reading Service, which provides information to individuals unable to read newspapers and other print periodicals.

Schroeder earned his B.A. in political science and international studies from American University in Washington, DC.
WonderBaby.org

Our site supports parents of children who are blind, as well as children who are visually impaired with multiple disabilities. Read articles written by parents who want to share what they’ve learned about raising a child with disabilities and find ways to connect with other families.

Additional resources at www.Perkins.org/resources

Cindy’s Corner

Each month, Perkins’ Educator Series e-newsletter presents a new hands-on activity that will provide students with a fun way to work on meaningful skills. These activities have been adapted to meet the needs of students who are visually impaired, including those with additional disabilities.

Webcasts

On-demand webcasts are presented by experts in the field of visual impairment and deafblindness. Whether your focus is professional or personal, you will find topics of interest, including social skills, assistive technology, and independent living skills.

Webinars

Broadcast live and for free, on an easy to use web conferencing platform. Ask questions and learn from experts in the field of visual impairment and deafblindness. If you miss the live broadcast, no problem! Streaming video will be ready to view any time within a few days of its original airing.
FIRST BREAKOUT SESSION 1:00-2:00 PM

A-1 Preparing for Life after High School
Moderator: Sheri Stanger and daughter Megan, Director of Outreach, CHARGE Syndrome Foundation
Hastings-on-Hudson, New York

This panel discussion, moderated by Sheri Stanger, will include transition-age students with multiple impairments together with their parents discussing their hopes and dreams for life beyond High School. The panel will respond to questions from the audience.

Sheri Stanger, the Mother of 18 year old Megan who has CHARGE Syndrome and attends the Perkins School for the Blind, currently works as the Director of Outreach for the CHARGE Syndrome Foundation. Both Sheri and her husband, Neal, have held various volunteer positions at the Foundation since its inception. Sheri, who holds a Master’s Degree in Psychological Counseling from Columbia University, has also worked as a School Counselor for the Jewish Guild for the Blind and has 13 years of experience as a board member for the National Family Association for Deaf-Blind.

Jane Allen lives in Old Orchard Beach, Maine with her husband, John and their three children. Their 18 year old son, Jacob Allen (in the middle of 2 sisters – Paige 20, Kayley 16) was born with bilateral anophthalmia. Jacob received early intervention services and was then mainstreamed into local public schools through his completion of high school this year. Unchartered territory now awaits as they make the bigger step in his transition to adulthood! Besides being a mom...Jane is a 4th grade teacher in a local school and was a special education teacher previous to that. She and her husband John are co-presidents of the Maine Chapter of NAPVI...now in its 3rd year!

Michael Sher is almost 24 and has one semester left to finish his AA at the local community college. Preparing for and attending college independently has required Michael to deal with and go through many different organizations and experiences. These ranged from Regional Center and Rehab for equipment, Access for transportation, Student Services for accommodations, and campus construction and a kidney transplant just to see how far he could be pushed and still continue.

Randi Sher is a member of the NAPVI board and directs educational programs at a synagogue in southern California. She credits her experiences with Michael with giving her patience and understanding with which to better deal with the students and their parents from her school.

A-2 Preparing for College; A Student Panel Discussion
Moderator: Gordon Rovins - Facilitator, Director of Special Programs, Jewish Guild for the Blind, New York, New York

Intended for both students who are about to enter college within the next few years as well as their parents, this panel of college students and recent graduates, all of whom are legally blind, will talk about their first-hand experiences in adjusting to college life, both academically and socially. One panelist, in addition to being visually impaired, is hearing impaired and will discuss her use of "voice transliterators" while a student at Harvard Law School. Panelists: Maureen Hayden,

Gordon Rovins, the Director of Special Programs at the Jewish Guild for the Blind in New York, currently oversees the GuildScholar Award, an annual scholarship program for college bound high school students who are legally blind. Mr. Rovins has over twenty five years experience working with people with disabilities and, since 1987, has worked as an accessibility and modification consultant providing training and information to a variety of agencies to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Education from New York University and a Master’s Degree in Environmental Studies from Polytechnic University.

Panelists:
Haben Girma is a second year student at Harvard Law School and a recipient of a Jewish Guild Scholarship. She hopes to work in the field of Civil Rights upon graduation. Haben is visually and hearing impaired and uses voice transliterators.
Lindsay Yazzolino is a student at Brown University who will be receiving her degree in Cognitive Science with a focus on Neuro-linguistics this year.

Maureen Hayden My name is Maureen Hayden and I am 19 years old. Even though my family is from Tucson Arizona, I am studying at the University of Rhode Island. I just finished my freshman year of college and I am hopping to attain a bachelors degree in marine biology.

A-3 Eat Healthy...Be Healthy (English)
Presenters: Joan Hill RD, CDE, LDN, Registered Dietician, Certified Diabetes Educator, Licensed Dietician/Nutritionist, Hill Nutrition Consulting LLC, Natick, Massachusetts
Annemarie O’Hearn, Vice President, Jewish Guild for the Blind, Albany, New York

This session will provide parents with simple ways to help their children develop and maintain healthy eating habits that contribute to lifelong health and disease prevention. It will empower parents to proactively make, and teach their children to make, nutritional choices that will directly improve their overall health as well as reduce their risk of diabetes and diabetes related health complications.

Joan has been a practicing dietitian/nutritionist for over 30 years, 18 of them at the Joslin Diabetes Center. She has also worked for over 10 years with the Greater Boston Diabetes Society (now operated by the Jewish Guild for the Blind) in developing and implementing interactive diabetes prevention education programs for hundreds of children and families throughout Greater Boston.

Annemarie O’Hearn is Vice President for Education and Training at the Jewish Guild for the Blind. Based in Albany, NY, her responsibilities include developing and implementing vision loss training and diabetes prevention education programs for health professionals, caregivers, and people of all ages who are at risk. Prior to coming to The Guild, Annemarie worked for ten years in the New York State Senate as a health and education policy analyst. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and a Masters in Public Administration.

A-5 Orientation and Mobility for Young Children
Presenter: Venetia Hayden, Vice President of National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments, Tucson, AZ

This session is for families and includes a brief description of orientation and mobility (O&M) and what parents can do to help encourage orientation and mobility skills. It helps build an attitude of confidence and self-determination in young children, enabling them to go out into the world on their own, become successful, make mistakes, and not only survive, but thrive.

Venetia Hayden and her husband Joseph have raised a wonderful young lady Maureen Hayden, blind, who is 19 years and in college now. During this time Venetia has been very involved with supporting parents through NAPVI and is currently the Vice President of the association. Venetia also is a Certified Teacher of the Visually Impaired and Orientation and Mobility Specialist. She has been devoted to the vision filed for as long as raising her daughter. She brings a wealth of knowledge and information with the parent’s perspective.

A-6 Let’s Go to the Movies! (Spanish session)
Presenters: Carol Colmenares is Director of Education and Outreach at Dicapta
Lourdes Fiallos is Director of Operations at Dicapta

Workshop Purpose: To inform the community about the benefits and applications of using descriptions Video Description (VD) as a tool in educational settings. Emphasis will be placed on the need for leadership working towards "the right to accessible media in Spanish". An overview will be given on how to access the services, benefits of VD in the classroom; Educational Guides (Hands On activity), regulations and how to be involved.

Dicapta is the first company to provide Spanish-language video description in the United States, and the company has since described and captioned over 3,000 hours of educational and commercial television. A team with over 40 years of experience in audiovisual media is fully aware of the needs and issues faced
by Latinos with sensory impairments. Staff has established important relationships with organizations that teach, advocate for, and otherwise work with Latinos with disabilities.

Carol Colmenares has worked in children’s media since 1995 and has worked on nearly every aspect of television production from the technical aspects of media production to casting and directing. Her professional experience includes positions as a content producer, advisor, and media outreach expert to Hispanics in the United States including involvement in producing several bilingual productions for the Public Broadcasting System (PBS). Carol is the Director of Education and Outreach at Dicapta.

Lourdes Fiallos, since 2006, has handled production processes for Dicapta’s United States Department of Education projects: Technology and Media Services for Individuals with Disabilities Television Access (CFDA 84.327C). She has experience in production as well as in handling the role as caption and video description together with addressing the day-to-day needs of coordinating, communicating and administrating project resources. Lourdes is the Director of Operations at Dicapta.

A-7 Overview of Technology for Students of All Ages
Presenter, Ike Presley, American Foundation for the Blind

This session will acquaint both students and their parents with the wide variety of technologies available to the blind and visually impaired. It will be an introduction to the basic types of technology that can be used to enhance access to printed information, electronic information and written communication. Participants will be introduced to the tools that can assist the student in these three areas grouped according to access modality; visual, tactile or auditory.

Brief Biographical Sketch: Ike Presley is the current National Project Manager at the American Foundation for the Blind based in Atlanta. During the past thirteen years with AFB Ike has developed professional development courses, authored articles and books and presented at numerous conferences. He has worked as an AT specialist for the Georgia Project for Assistive Technology as well as at the Georgia Sensory Rehabilitation Center. He has also worked for 11 years as a Teacher of the Visually Impaired in the Atlanta area.

A-8 Current Research and Practice in Motor Development for Children with Visual Impairments
Presenters: Lauren Lieberman and Pamela Haibach

Children with visual impairments have consistently demonstrated low gross motor skill performance. To date there has been no large-scale research in this area in the United States. This presentation will share the research that is being done in this area in New York State and beyond as well as plans to disseminate educational material to alleviate this issue. Participants will learn what techniques they can use to assist their children in acquiring and maintaining gross motor skills to help them be active movers for life.

Lauren Lieberman is a Distinguished Service Professor in Adapted Physical Education from The College at Brockport. She taught at the Perkins School for the Blind in the Deafblind Program. She is the founder and director of Camp Abilities a developmental sports camp for children with visual impairments. She currently does research in this area as well as consults with the American Printing House for the Blind on products related to physical activity. She has also written 6 books in this area including a leading text book with AFB coming out in the fall of 2012.

Dr. Pamela Haibach is an Associate Professor at The College at Brockport, State University of New York. Her area of expertise is motor development and motor learning and has recently published a first of its kind textbook joining these two fields, entitled Motor Learning and Motor Development, through Human Kinetics Publishers. She also conducts research with children and adolescents with visual impairments and blindness assessing postural control and balance, motor skills, and self-efficacy of balance as well as assists at Camp Abilities summer sports camps for children with visual impairments and blindness.

SECOND BREAKOUT SESSION 2:15-3:15 PM
B-1 Transition from School to Employment
Presenter: Janet LaBreck, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

This workshop will explore the variety of funding resources available to support your child throughout their transition to adult services. It will also address the eligibility, assessment and training opportunities available to participate in specific vocational training programs designed to meet their future goals. Supported services for day/residential services will also be covered.

As one of the original Commissioners, Helen Keller was instrumental in launching and setting the philosophy of the first Commission for the Blind in the United States in Massachusetts in 1906. Today, within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Commissioner LaBreck is responsible for managing a state and federal budget for The Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB). The MCB continues to build on its mission of providing the highest quali-
ty rehabilitation and social services leading to independence, and economic self-sufficiency through employment and full community inclusion for 30,000 individuals who are blind in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Governor Deval Patrick appointed Janet LaBreck as Commissioner for The Massachusetts Commission for the Blind in 2007. She served as Regional Director for MCB from 2001-2007. Commissioner LaBreck has been employed with MCB since 1985 as a CAP Counselor, Independent Living Case Coordinator and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. Commissioner LaBreck received her Bachelor’s degree from the University of Massachusetts/Boston and she obtained her Master’s Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Springfield College.

Commissioner LaBreck is instrumental in promoting partnerships with the business, higher education, medical and Non-profit communities and has been prominent in organizing campaigns that have effectively increased employment opportunities for the disability community. Additionally, she has been recognized as a leader in the area of working to increase employment opportunities through her association with the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR). Additionally, Commissioner LaBreck serves as the New England Chair for NE-CSAVR. Janet also serves on the Executive Committee for The National Council of State Agencies for the Blind (NCSAB).

B-2 Session Title: Tangible Symbols - Communicating Without Words

Ellen Trief Ed.D, Professor
Hunter College
Programs in Visual Impairment and Blindness and Severe/Multiple Disabilities
New York, New York

Dr. Trief will discuss an alternative approach to developing language skills for children having no, or limited, verbal communication skills in order to facilitate communication and interaction with their peers, teachers and parents.

Dr. Trief is a national leader in developing, teaching and evaluating tangible symbols programming. An Associate Professor in Special Education at Hunter College in New York City and a former director of early intervention at the Jewish Guild for the Blind, Dr. Trief holds a Doctorate in Special Education and Administration from Teachers College, Columbia University. She is the author of four books, three on curriculum for early intervention and preschool and one on pre-college skills for the student with visual impairments.

B-3 Physical Education for Children with Visual Impairments; What Every Parent Should Know! (Spanish Session)

B-3 Session Title: ¡Educación Física para Niños con Impedimentos Visuales: Lo que todo padre debe saber!

Presenter: Dr. Luis Columna, Manlius NY
Associate Professor - Department of Exercise Science at Syracuse University

A todos los padres de niños con impedimentos visuales, este es un taller que no te puedes perder. A menudo los padres de niños con impedimentos visuales desconocen sus derechos en cuanto a la educación física para sus hijos. El propósito de este taller es proveerle a los padres las herramientas necesarias para que conozcan los beneficios de la clase de educación física para sus hijos con impedimentos visuales y proveerles la información necesaria que les permitirá trabajar en colaboración con el maestro de educación física que brinda estos servicios. Además, este taller proporcionará a los participantes estrategias, actividades, y documentos que pueden ser fácilmente modificadas e implementadas en el currículo de educación física. Se discutirán las características generales de los programas de educación física, derechos de los niños y los padres, plan educativo individualizado, y mucho más.

B-3 Physical Education for Children with Visual Impairments: What Every Parent Should Know!

Presenter: Dr. Luis Columna, Manlius NY
Associate Professor - Department of Exercise Science at Syracuse University

To all parents of children with visual impairments, this is a workshop that you cannot miss. Often parents of children with visual impairments are unaware of their rights regarding physical education for their children. Therefore, the purpose of this workshop is to provide parents with the tools necessary to understand the benefits of physical education class for children with visual impairments and provide the necessary information that will allow them to work with physical education teacher who provides these services. In addition, this workshop will provide participants with strategies, activities, and documents that can be easily modified and implemented in the physical education curriculum. We will discuss the general characteristics of the physical education programs, rights of children and parents, individualized education plan, and more.

Dr. Luis Columna, a native of San Juan, Puerto Rico, is currently an Associate Professor in the Exercise Science
Department at Syracuse University. Throughout his doctoral studies, he taught adapted physical education in the Denton, TX public schools. His research focuses on ways to increase the participation of families (especially Hispanic) of children with disabilities into physical activity and also his research focuses on ways to better prepare teachers to work with diverse populations.

**B-4 Session Title:** “Technology for O&M and Independent Living”  
*Presenter: Chancey Fleet, Adaptive Technology Specialist, Jewish Guild for the Blind, New York, NY 10023*

This session is intended for Middle School to College-age students as they become independent in both travel and everyday living skills. It will cover such practical applications as:
- GPS on your phone
- Specialized GPS products (Brailletouch, Trekker etc.)
- Apps and websites for public transit
- Color identification
- Currency identification
- Barcodes and labeling
- Online shopping from groceries to apartments

Brief Biographical Sketch: Chancey Fleet is an Adaptive Technology Specialist at the Jewish Guild for the Blind in New York City. She also serves on the Research and Development Committee for the National Federation of the Blind. In her spare time she coordinates a free computer support clinic at the Andrew Heiskell Library for the Blind. She is passionate about affordable technologies, peer support and Braille literacy. She has used assistive technology herself since grade school.

**B-5 Workshop Title:** Creating Braille Drawings Using the Perkins Brailler -- Fun for Families  
*Presenter: KIM CHARLSON  
Director, Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library*

This hands-on workshop, based on the book Drawing with Your Perkins Brailler by Kim Charlson, will explore the importance of providing children and adults who are blind with awareness, understanding, and the skills to create braille drawings using a Perkins Brailler. Learning to draw pictures with the Brailler strengthens several key developmental concepts and allows children and adults to experience the fun, pride and self-esteem in the creation of drawings that can be shared with sighted classmates, family members, and friends. Techniques and actual design patterns will be shared.

Workshop attendance limited to 20 people. Each participant will have access to a Perkins Brailler for the hands-on workshop.

Kim Charlson was appointed to the position of director of the Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library in 2001 following 16 years as the Service Management Librarian and Assistant Director. She has distinguished herself as a recognized national and international expert on library and information services for people with disabilities, braille literacy, adaptive technology in libraries, and information access.

Ms. Charlson serves on a number of committees for the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and as a national member of the Braille Authority of North America, the standard-setting body for braille in the United States and Canada. She is chair of the Massachusetts Braille Literacy Advisory Council, past treasurer of the international Council on English Braille, and has served as an appointed member of both the Governor’s Advisory Council on Disability Policy and the Secretary of State’s Help America Vote Act Advisory Committee. She is first vice-president of the American Council of the Blind.

**B-6 I Got You Babe: Positive Parenting for a Special Needs Child**  
*Presenters: Michael and Djenne Morris, Knightdale, North Carolina*

Parenting a child with unique health needs can have an effect on the relationships of the adult caretakers. In this workshop, using real life experiences, humor, raw honesty and tried and true practical suggestions, Michael and Djenne will address what has been the "G.L.U.E." in their relationship and inspire others to find the "G.L.U.E." in theirs.

Michael and Djenne Morris love being a team! Their 20 year marriage (though they've been an item for 29 years!) has been blessed with 3 children, Imani(17), Malik(16) and Zakiya(10). Malik was born with CHARGE Syndrome which fueled their passion to support families of children with special needs. Michael is in sales and Djenne is a Family Specialist and motivational speaker. Raised in Boston and NYC respectively, they moved to North Carolina 8 years ago to enjoy the beautiful weather! Both have served in the full time ministry together and continue their work as lay ministers with marriage dynamics, personal/spiritual growth and special needs families in their church, Brooks Avenue Church of Christ in Raleigh, NC. They enjoy traveling, reading, spending time with each other and friends and lots of laughter!

**B-7 Issues in School Transition in Early Childhood**  
*Presenter: Linda L. Gerra, Ed.D., M.S.*

Transition into Kindergarten is often a stressful time for parents of preschool children, especially children with
visual impairments and blindness. Their child is usually going to a new school with new staff and therapists: both parents and child are facing new challenges. This presentation will attempt to allay some of the fears parents may have by taking them through the transition process, providing resources, and providing suggestions for preparing themselves and their children for this new experience. The difficulty of school and program selection will also be discussed.

Dr. Gerra has expertise in the field of visual impairment and blindness and has a doctorate in Visual Impairment and Blindness from Teachers College, Columbia University. She has many years of experience in the administration of programs for children with visual impairments and blindness. She has also taught children in Early Intervention, Preschool, and School Age Programs. She has taught classes related to curriculum development and teaching at Teachers College, Dominican College, and Hunter College in New York. Dr. Gerra is currently the Director of Educational Services at The Jewish Guild for the Blind in New York City and is a resource for parents, teachers, and other administrators working with children with visual impairment and blindness.

B-8 Video Description is here to stay!
July 1, 2012 marked the beginning of a new era in TV watching for children and adults with visual impairments. Find out what it means to you at this this informative and practical presentation. Examples will be shown, and there will be plenty of time for your questions.
Presenter: Matt Kaplowitz, Bridge Multimedia

BRIDGE MULTIMEDIA produces accessible media content, develops accessible technology, and provides accessible technology systems integration.

Matt Kaplowitz has been in the world of children’s entertainment for more then 25 years as a writer, producer, director, composer and sound designer of TV shows, feature & documentary films and commercials that have won multiple, Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, Peabody, and Clio Awards. He was the composer of the music for Looney Toons on Tour, and Flintstones Christmas, both in their third year of traveling through Asia. Matt has also been the recipient of several major grant awards from the U.S. Department of Education and the National Science Foundation for the development and implementation of accessible technology and transmedia for children and adults.

THIRD BREAKOUT SESSION 3:30-4:30 PM
C-1 What the State Commission for the Blind can offer your Teen; Transition from School to Employment; Preparing Your Visually Impaired Child for Life After High School
Presenter: Janet LaBreck, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

This workshop will provide an overview of the necessary steps required to best prepare your child for a successful experience with obtaining the appropriate skills needed to eventually become competitively employed regardless of supports that your child may require. Resources and specific information regarding available programs and services to assist your child will be provided during this presentation.

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services leading to independence, and economic self-sufficiency through employment and full community inclusion for 30,000 individuals who are blind in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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C-2 Scholarship Resources for Students who are Blind/VI
Presenter: Gordon Rovins, Director of Special Programs, Jewish Guild for the Blind, New York, NY

This session will not only describe some of the national and regional scholarships available to help students who are blind and visually impaired afford college but will also offer insights into the application process for those scholarships and how best to apply. It is appropriate both for students and parents who are soon to go through the college application process as well as for those students still a few years away from college who want to maximize their chances of obtaining financial assistance.

Gordon Rovins, the Director of Special Programs at the Jewish Guild for the Blind in New York, currently oversees the GuildScholar Award, an annual scholarship program for college bound high school students who are legally blind. Mr. Rovins has over twenty five years experience working with people with disabilities and, since 1987, has worked as an accessibility and modification consultant providing training and information to a variety of agencies to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Education from New York University and a Master’s Degree in Environmental Studies from Polytechnic University.

C-3 What’s New in "Special Collections" at the Braille Institute for Young Children
Presenter: Ruth McKinney, Director of Braille Publishing.

Ruth will offer an overview of what’s new and available for children of all ages in Braille Institute’s Special Collection catalogue. You’ll be introduced to "Top Dot" book kits that includes interactive materials designed to encourage early literacy through children’s daily routines. In addition, Ruth will facilitate a discussion of what is needed in early Braille literacy and beyond. Please bring your thoughts and ideas to help us all "bridge the gaps".

Ruth McKinney, Director of Braille Publishing has worked in the field of publishing for over 30 years. She has worked for both textbook and magazine publishers including McGraw Hill, Ziff-Davis, and the Los Angeles Times. Her role has been to develop creative ways to impart information to students and readers. At Braille Institute, Ruth has been instrumental in looking at ways to make early Braille literacy fun. Ruth holds BFA from Syracuse University.

C-4 Bookshare @ Home: Parents and Families Accessing Digital Books for Reading
Presenter: Donna McNear, Independent Educational Consultant

Parents and caregivers will learn how to visit the Bookshare web site, obtain a free membership for qualified children, research digital books, download books, and use free assistive software to read books. For families already using Bookshare, additional information will be shared, such as accessible textbooks and additional reading tools. Ideas and strategies forgetting children started will be reviewed with time for questions.

Donna McNear, M.A., is an independent consultant and former career teacher/orientation and mobility specialist for children with visual impairments in Minnesota. She provides on-going support and technical assistance to educational agencies and organizations nationally and internationally. Ms. McNear’s current interests include accessible educational materials, instructional coaching, mentorships, parent partnerships, and improving services to children with disabilities in the Pacific Region. In 2008, she received the Outstanding Leadership Award from the Council for Exceptional Children.
C-5 Technology for Young Children
Presenter: Eric Jerman

This session is intended for the parents of children from Pre-school to early elementary school and will focus on how i-Pad applications can be used and customized for very young children having low or no vision. Numerous applications will be discussed in some detail covering such categories as:
- Cause and effect
- Read-to-Me stories
- Music and Sounds
- Communications
- Accessibility

Eric Jerman is a teacher at the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown and the father of a four year old son with Cortical Visual Impairment. He has lectured extensively on i-Pad applications and is a contributor to the WonderBaby website. He will be providing participants with his own handouts on i-Pad applications.

C-6 A View from the Other Side of the Mountain: Supporting Siblings of Children with Special Needs
Presenters: Michael and Djenne Morris, North Carolina

Having a brother or sister with a special need can pose very unique challenges. This workshop will explore how siblings can be affected and will share many of their feelings, challenges, joys and experiences. Practical suggestion will be discussed about how to support these very special siblings.

Presenters: Michael and Djenne Morris love being a team! Their 20 year marriage (though they've been an item for 29 years!) has been blessed with 3 children, Imani (17), Malik (16) and Zakiya (10). Malik was born with CHARGE Syndrome which fueled their passion to support families of children with special needs. Michael is in sales and Djenne is a Family Specialist and motivational speaker. Raised in Boston and NYC respectively, they moved to North Carolina 8 years ago to enjoy the beautiful weather! Both have served in the full time ministry together and continue their work as lay ministers with marriage dynamics, personal/spiritual growth and special needs families in their church, Brooks Ave Church of Christ in Raleigh, NC. They enjoy traveling, reading, spending time with each other and friends and lots of laughter!

C-7 Overview of Cortical Vision Impairment; What Every Parent Should Know!
Presenter: Dr. Christine Roman-Lantzy

Dr. Roman-Lantzy will provide a brief overview of cortical vision impairment and considerations for parents as they navigate educational and medical systems. This session will provide an overview of cortical vision impairment and features of systematic assessment and intervention for infants and children who have CVI or who are at risk. Dr. Roman-Lantzy is a private consultant for CVI Resources, teacher of the visually impaired, certified orientation and mobility specialist, and infant developmentalist. Dr. Roman-Lantzy is a champion for parents of children with vision loss, developing a validated approach for interviewing parents and capturing their perspectives during the CVI assessment process.

Christine Roman was raised in Michigan and received degrees in Elementary Education and Special Education/Visual Impairment at Michigan State University. She worked as an itinerant teacher of the visually impaired in the greater Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area for 17 years prior to becoming a Research Assistant in the Vision Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh. While at Pitt, she completed studies in Orientation & Mobility and received a Master's Degree in Medically Fragile/High Risk Infants. Her doctoral studies were also completed at Pitt where she completed a PhD in 1996; her dissertation, Validation of an Interview Instrument to Identify Behaviors Characteristic of Cortical Visual Impairment in Infants revealed that caregivers of infants can reliably report regarding the presence or absence of the characteristics of CVI. Dr. Roman was an Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Program in Visual Impairment at Marshall University in S. Charleston, WV from 1999-2005. She is the Director of The Pediatric View Program at The Western Pennsylvania Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA and serves as Project Leader of the CVI Project at The American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville, KY. Dr. Roman serves as Project Consultant/Trainer to two 5 year multi-state CVI-mentor training projects. She has lectured extensively regarding the CVI educational materials she has developed. These materials include: The CVI Range an assessment of functional vision, and The CVI Resolution Chart& CVI/O&M Resolution Chart used to plot and monitor progress both of which will be available in a book in press (working title, CVI: Identification, Assessment & Intervention) with The American Foundation for the Blind.

C-8 Social Skills and Sexuality Education; Lessons for Life
Presenter: Tom Miller, Watertown, Massachusetts

This session will overview the importance of this area of education across the age ranges and offer strategies for intervention and education.

Tom Miller has worked in the field of education of children who are blind, deafblind or with multiple disabilities since 1974. Tom is currently the program Director of the Kevin M. O’Grady School in Beverly, Massachusetts. Tom trains parents and professionals nationally and internationally in program develop-
ment, early intervention issues, transition from early intervention to preschool services, access to the general education curriculum, the expanded care curriculum, and social skills development and sexuality education.

FOURTH BREAKOUT SESSION 9:15-10:15 AM
D-1 The Father Factor
(This Session is for Dad's Only!)

Dads face unique experiences of their own as they parent a child with special needs. In this workshop, you will hear first hand from fathers about the joys and challenges they face in raising their children.

Presenters:
Moderator: Michael A. Morris, Father and Multi-Media Specialist, Web.com
Knightdale, NC
Panelists: Dave Bushland, Minnesota, Dave Hyche, Alabama, John Allen, Maine

Michael Morris is a devoted husband and father of 3 children, Imani, 17, Malik, 16 and Zakiya, 10. His son, Malik has CHARGE Syndrome and is Deaf-blind, multi-handicapped. Michael graduated from Wesleyan University with a degree in English. He has been trained in the ministry and corporate sales. Mike is very active in the Special Needs Ministry at Brooks Avenue Church of Christ. Being the father of a Deaf-Blind son had had a profound impact on Michael. He has become active in supporting families of children with special needs through the North Carolina Deaf-Blind Project and the National Fatherhood Agenda. He and his wife, Djenne-amal, have been married for 20 years. Perfect, thank you!

Dave Bushland and his wife, Patty, have 5 children the youngest of which, Mary Rose, age six, is completely blind from Leber’s Congenital Amaurosis (LCA). Shortly after gaining Mary Rose’s diagnosis, the Bushland’s were relocated to Arkansas, where they soon realized there was a lack of support for parents who had children with visual impairments. Feeling called to action, they started Arkansas NAPVI which grew quickly to one of the more active NAPVI chapters in the US. Then in 2008 the family relocated to Minnesota where they encountered a similar situation. In 2009 Minnesota NAPVI (MNAPVI) was formed and it too is one of the fastest growing chapters of NAPVI in the US, and is proudly, one of the sponsors of Families Connecting with Families Conference. Dave is president of the MNAPVI and has served in that role since its founding.

In addition to his work with MNAPVI, Dave is Treasurer of the United States Association of Blind Athletes, where he has served on its board since 2008. He is also on the Associate Board of the Foundation for Retinal Research, and is a former board member for NAPVI. Dave has organized multiple conferences, sports camps, and has raised several hundred thousand dollars for causes related for visual impairments. In addition, he is active in his other children’s lives having served as a coach for multiple sports from pee wee soccer to high school football. Dave and Patty, live in Eden Prairie, MN where he is Vice President of Finance for SuperValu.

David P. Hyche from Birmingham Alabama Father of a VI 7 year old with ROP. Light perception. Former President of the Alabama NAPVI affiliate AAPVI. Currently serving on the board for the Alabama Institute for the Deafand Blind Regional Centers. Currently the NAPVI Region 4 Representative. Chapter Director for the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators which has for the past three years funded and facilitated the construction of audible beeping Easter Eggs for use in activities for VI children including location skills. The project is named for David’s Daughter Rachel.

John Allen and his wife Jane founded the Affiliate NAPVI for families living in the state of Maine, ME-NAPVI. John lives in Old Orchard Beach, Maine with his wife and 3 children. His 18 year old son, Jacob, is the middle child, or as he likes to put it, “The rose between the thorns”. His two sisters, of course, think just the opposite. Jacob has been blind since birth due to bilateral anophthalmia. John says those 18 years of being his Dad have been a unique, but rewarding, experience. A recent career change has John working at the Iris Network in Portland Maine as an Employment Specialist. He works with blind and visually impaired people in job and career development, and assist them at a work site as a job coach. He says this new direction in his career would not have been possible without those 18 years’ experience.

D-2 Every Child Can Participate
Presenter: Katherine McDowell, Certified Adapted Physical Educator, Teacher of Adapted Aquatics, Jewish Guild for the Blind, New York, NY

In this session Ms. McDowell will demonstrate how any child, regardless of the severity of their disability, can participate in athletics and physical activities. She will discuss ways that parents can ensure their child is not left out of physical education in school or after school activities.
Ms. McDowell holds a Master's Degree from the State University of New York at Cortland in Physical Education with a concentration in Adapted P.E. She is currently employed at The Guild School in NYC and has almost 10 years of combined experience as a Counselor for Blind/Visually Impaired Students at a sports development camp, as a Physical Education Teacher and as a Teacher of Adapted Aquatics.

D-3 O&M for the Mature Student---Preparing for Working with a Guide Dog?

Presenter: Meg Robertson, Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist & Director of O&M Department at the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind.

Session Description: As students mature finding the time for Orientation and Mobility instruction becomes challenging to the student, the school and the family. A review of O&M skills and where and when they come into use empowers the educated family to make informed decisions regarding a student's education and programming, with consideration to prerequisite skills for working with a guide dog. Creative options for instruction and finding the time will be presented.

Meg Robertson is Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist celebrating her 25th year working at the Commission for the Blind. She is currently the Director of the O&M Dept. at MCB. MCB is the state agency which provides vision services to Mass. residents who are legally blind. She is past Chair of the Northeast AER O&M Division and past President of Association of Massachusetts Educators of Students with Visual Impairments. She began her O&M career with the Massachusetts Association for the Blind, providing services to adults with intellectual and visual impairments. She is also the Chairperson of the North Reading Commission on Disability. She is the mother of a 16 year old, in the mist for preparing college and transition into adulthood.

Michelle J. Antinarelli, COMS, Upton, Massachusetts Orientation and Mobility Specialist

Brief Biographical Sketch: Michelle is an independent itinerant orientation and mobility specialist providing direct and consultative support to school districts in central Massachusetts. Currently President-Elect of the Association of Massachusetts Educators of Students with Visual Impairments, she started her career with the Massachusetts Association for the Blind, providing services to adults with intellectual and visual impairments. She is also the mother of two with oculocutaneous albinism, one in college and one heading to college in September. With her husband of twenty-three years she has experienced the very best of the special education world, and some of the very worst.

D-4 Latest Developments and Resources for Telecommunications for Individuals Who Are Deafblind

Presenter: Betsy McGinnity, Perkins School for the Blind

The National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program

Betsy L. McGinnity, Director, Training & Educational Resources Program

The landmark Twenty-first Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act includes a provision to help citizens who are deaf-blind access 21st century communication technology. The National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP) will help eligible individuals acquire equipment and get training to enable them to engage in distance communication via phone, cell phones and the internet. In partnership with the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults, Perkins will run the national outreach project. Perkins and HKNC will also lead the establishment of program in 12 states as work in collaboration in an additional 15 states. This presentation will talk about the new law, eligibility requirements and opportunities.
D-5  Come and Learn About Guide Dogs  
Presenter: Charles Pat McKenna, Outreach Specialists, Seeing Eye, Inc., Morristown, New Jersey

Come and join me for a discussion about life with a guide dog. As a Seeing Eye graduate I will describe how my life changed after being matched with my first Seeing Eye Dog in 2001 and how my independent navigation has changed. The application process, student life, and the responsibility of ownership will be among the topics covered.

Pat travels across the U.S. and Canada to recruit students to The Seeing Eye. He is also responsible for coordinating The Seeing Eye’s Orientation and Mobility Seminar among other programs. Before joining The Seeing Eye in April 2011, Pat served as a mediator and arbitrator for the State of New Jersey, and as a mediator for the Borough of Highland Park. In December 2008, he cofounded the Community Justice Center, a non-profit law firm specializing in veteran and public benefits located in Trenton, New Jersey. He earned a master’s degree in environmental science from Rutgers University-New Brunswick in 2002 and a juris doctorate from Rutgers University-Newark in 2004, and is licensed to practice law in the state of New Jersey. Pursuing his love of health and fitness, he became certified as a personal trainer in March of 2008. Pat is currently with his second Seeing Eye dog, a large male yellow cross named Garcia.

D-6  Individual Educational Plans: Let’s Talk!  
Presenter: Julie Urban, NAPVI President, Phoenix, Arizona

This session will be an interactive session. Join us and bring your questions, concerns and/or solutions to help each other find answers. Audience: parents, students and professionals

Julie Urban is the President of NAPVI; she is also a certified teacher of students with visual impairments. She has worked with all ages in residential schools, private agencies for the blind and public schools. Her daughter Rebecca has anophthalmia and additional disabilities. Becca is an adult who lives at home and attends a day treatment program in Phoenix, Arizona.

D-7  Eat Healthy...Be Healthy (Spanish Session)  
Presenters: Joan Hill RD, CDE, LDN, Registered Dietician, Certified Diabetes Educator, Licensed Dietician/Nutritionist, Hill Nutrition Consulting LLC, Natick, Massachusetts
Annemarie O’Hearn, Vice President, Jewish Guild for the Blind, Albany, New York

This session will provide parents with simple ways to help their children develop and maintain healthy eating habits that contribute to lifelong health and disease prevention. It will empower parents to proactively make, and teach their children to make, nutritional choices that will directly improve their overall health as well as reduce their risk of diabetes and diabetes related health complications.

Joan has been a practicing dietitian/nutritionist for over 30 years, 18 of them at the Joslin Diabetes Center. She has also worked for over 10 years with the Greater Boston Diabetes Society (now operated by the Jewish Guild for the Blind) in developing and implementing interactive diabetes prevention education programs for hundreds of children and families throughout Greater Boston.

Annemarie O’Hearn is Vice President for Education and Training at the Jewish Guild for the Blind. Based in Albany, NY, her responsibilities include developing and implementing vision loss training and diabetes prevention education programs for health professionals, caregivers, and people of all ages who are at risk. Prior to coming to The Guild, Annemarie worked for ten years in the New York State Senate as a health and education policy analyst. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and a Masters in Public Administration.

D-8  Modeling Braille Behavior  
Presenter: Nafisa R. Keels, Braille Instructor, Hadley School for the Blind, Winnetka, IL

Do you remember the first time you saw your parents use a pen and paper? Do you remember the joys of being read to and pretending to do the same? This session will provide you information and guidance on how to be a braille literacy model for your child. You will have an opportunity to observe and try out some of the methods, materials & resources needed to become the best literacy model and advocate for your child. Resources will be shared, along with information on the free courses Hadley offers that encourage you to learn and support the code for your child’s early education. This is an interactive session. Come prepared to join in!

Nafisa Keels, M. Ed. Hadley Instructor Nafisa Keels has many years of experience with teaching braille to children who are blind in residential and neighborhood schools and to sighted adults through distance education.
Dear NAPVI Conference Families,

Welcome to the 2012 International Family Conference! We are happy to announce our Children’s Programs for Saturday and half-day Sunday, July 28th and 29th. We have some wonderful activities planned and we thought this would be a great opportunity to provide you with a few details.

Through a special collaboration between Perkins School for the Blind, The College at Brockport—Camp Abilities, and The United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) your school age children and teens have an opportunity to experience and participate in blind specific sports and leisure activities. Graduate and undergraduate students studying to be adapted physical educators will lend new cutting edge teaching techniques and energy to the weekend. Adapted physical education teachers and physical therapists from Perkins School for the Blind will help facilitate various sports and games and provide vast knowledge, enthusiasm, and resources. The USABA will provide an excellent opportunity for children and teens to learn about sports, meet athletes, and interact with professional athletes with visual impairments.

We will provide a variety of developmentally appropriate sports and leisure activities such as Beep Baseball, Goalball, track and field events, rowing, horseback riding, and bocce. Physical therapists will run a gross motor and mobility room where children will play balance games and obstacle courses and more. A motor development specialist will be conducting gross motor assessments (object control and locomotor skills) with children who sign up, and the results will be given to the parents with suggestions for improvements if needed. All games and activities will allow children of all ages and abilities to learn blind specific sport skills, teamwork, and peer socialization. In addition, during the weekend events we are planning a teen social, including music, conversation, not to mention some great teen approved snacks!

Your infants will be thoroughly cuddled and cared for in two spacious suites. Infant and toddler games and activities will be offered throughout the day to keep your child at play with their individual "pace" in mind. We’ll need your child background information sheet in order to ensure your child’s comfort and enjoyment throughout their child care experience.

Once we have received your information packet, we will contact you to ensure that we have all the information we need to provide the best possible care for your child. In the coming months we will be providing you with additional details regarding our Children’s Programs. We are looking forward to a great conference and lots of great fun and new experiences for your child.

Thanks so much,

Mike Pecorella
Children’s Programs Committee Chair

Lauren Lieberman
Children’s Programs Committee Co-Chair
## 2012 NAPVI Family Conference Activity Schedule
### SATURDAY JULY 28TH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>9:00 - 9:45</th>
<th>10:00 - 10:45</th>
<th>11:00 - 11:45</th>
<th>1:00 - 1:45</th>
<th>2:00 - 2:45</th>
<th>3:00 - 3:45</th>
<th>4:00 - 4:45</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kayaking</td>
<td>3a</td>
<td>3b</td>
<td>2c</td>
<td>2a</td>
<td>2b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Charles River Canoe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse Riding</td>
<td>1b</td>
<td>2c</td>
<td>1c</td>
<td>1a</td>
<td>2a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Auburndale Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall Games</td>
<td>1a</td>
<td>1c</td>
<td>2b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1b</td>
<td></td>
<td>Newton Marriot Lower Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bocce</td>
<td>2c</td>
<td>1b</td>
<td>1a</td>
<td>1c</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Newton Marriot Outside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Motor</td>
<td>1c</td>
<td>1a</td>
<td>1b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Commonwealth 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goalball</td>
<td>2b</td>
<td>2a</td>
<td>3a</td>
<td>2c</td>
<td>1c</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Commonwealth 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beep Baseball</td>
<td>3b</td>
<td>3a</td>
<td>2a</td>
<td>2b</td>
<td>2c</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Commonwealth 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance Room</td>
<td>2a</td>
<td>2b</td>
<td>3b</td>
<td>1b</td>
<td>1a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story Book/Body Talk</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Split Session)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitness Room</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climbing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 A and B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Therapy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Waypoint</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
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### SUNDAY JULY 29, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>9 - 10:30</th>
<th>10:45 - 11:45</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beep Baseball Com</td>
<td>2 a-c</td>
<td></td>
<td>Auburndale Park</td>
<td>1b</td>
<td>4.5 - 5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 touch</td>
<td>3 a and b</td>
<td></td>
<td>Commonwealth</td>
<td>1c</td>
<td>5.5 - 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Para shoot / Scooter</td>
<td>1 a-c</td>
<td></td>
<td>Commonwealth</td>
<td>2a</td>
<td>9 - 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2b</td>
<td>11 - 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Awards Guest Speaker</td>
<td>All Groups</td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>2c</td>
<td>12 - 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3a</td>
<td>14 - 16</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3b</td>
<td>16 - 18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Children’s Program**

**A special thank you to our co-chairs of the children’s program!**

**Lauren Lieberman** is a 1996 graduate of Oregon State in the Movement Studies in Disabilities Program.

Lauren is currently a Distinguished Service Professor at The College at Brockport in the area of Adapted Physical Education. Prior to graduate school she taught at the Perkins School for the Blind in the Deafblind program for 5 years.

She also founded and currently runs Camp Abilities: A developmental sports camp for children with visual impairments each summer in Brockport, NY. She has helped start 12 Camp Abilities programs in the US and 4 in other countries. Her areas of research include inclusion strategies and physical activity for youth with sensory impairments. She has published over 80 articles in refereed journals, and presented over 120 presentations 22 in other countries. She has completed 12 books at this time including Games for People with Sensory Impairments (2nd edition) (American Printing House for the Blind), Strategies for Inclusion (Human Kinetics), Case Studies in Adapted Physical Education (Holcomb Hathaway), Paraeducators in Physical Education (HK), Going PLACES: A transition guide to physical activity for youth with visual impairments (APH), Everybody Plays (APH), Promoting Language Through Physical Education (HK), Essentials in Adapted Physical Education (HH), Assessment for Everyone (National Association for Sport and Physical Education), Sports for Everyone (Perkins School for the Blind Publishers), and two more in press. She is currently on the board of United States Association for Blind Athletes.

**Michael Pecorella** has been an adapted physical education teacher in the deafblind program at Perkins School for the Blind for the last 10 years. He received his degree in adapted physical education from the State University of New York in Brockport NY. Since becoming a teacher, Michael has worked with various children, with and without disabilities, in both public and private schools. He has coached in the Eastern Athletic Association for the Blind (EAAB) specializing in sports such as wrestling, goalball, and track and field. He has published articles related to adapted physical education and activity, and has had the opportunity to participate in various research and curriculum projects.

Michael also enjoys speaking at local and national conferences on the importance of physical activity, inclusion and leading a healthy lifestyle. He has also worked extensively with Dr Lauren Lieberman and Camp Abilities, which is a developmental sports camp for children with visual impairments. He has worked with Camp Abilities for over six years and helped facilitate the start of Camp Abilities in Alaska and Boston.
The American Foundation for the Blind
The American Foundation for the Blind offers many online resources for families. FamilyConnect gives parents of visually impaired children a place to support each other, share stories and concerns, and find local resources. Visit the AFB booth to explore our many books, e-books, videos, and other web programs, as well.

American Printing House for the Blind, Inc.
Louisville, Kentucky, USA
Founded 1858
APH is the world’s largest company devoted solely to making products for people who are visually impaired, and is the official supplier of educational materials for blind students in the U.S.

Visit our website at www.aph.org or call one of our friendly Customer Service representatives at 800-223-1839 for more information.

Bookshare
Bookshare is the world's largest online accessible library of digital books for individuals with print disabilities. Over 205,000 members enjoy access to a fast-growing collection of over 145,000 digital accessible titles. Bookshare is free for all U.S. students with a qualifying print disability. For more information, visit www.bookshare.org.

Braille Institute of America
www.brailleinstitute.org
Braille Institute® is a nonprofit organization empowering visually impaired men, women and children to live fulfilling lives. Through a network of five regional centers throughout Southern California, the Institute offers Child Development Services, a Youth/Career Program, Braille Publishing and The Braille Challenge®, a national academic competition for young braille readers.

Camp Abilities
Camp Abilities is a one-week sports camp for children who are visually impaired, blind, or deafblind. The main purpose is to empower children with visual impairments to learn sports and recreation and to advocate for themselves. There are currently 12 Camp Abilities throughout the US and four in other countries. The Camp Abilities at NAPVI will help children with visual impairments learn a variety of sports and recreational activities.

The CHARGE Syndrome Foundation, Inc.
The CHARGE Syndrome Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit, charitable organization that was established in 1993 by professionals who had worked with individuals with CHARGE syndrome and by parents of children with CHARGE syndrome. The Foundation is governed by a Board composed of 12 members, a majority of whom must have a family member with CHARGE syndrome.

A major activity of the Foundation Office is to provide information and support to thousands of families and professionals, especially to families with a newly identified son or daughter with CHARGE syndrome, and to gather, develop, maintain and distribute information about CHARGE syndrome. We also promote awareness and research regarding its identification, cause and management.

Guide Dogs for the Blind
Established in 1942, Guide Dogs for the Blind in San Rafael, CA and Boring, OR, provides enhanced mobility to qualified individuals through partnerships with dogs whose unique skills are developed and nurtured by dedicated volunteers and a professional staff. Stop by and learn more about our programs for youth, criteria for admissions and new training opportunities.

The Hadley School for the Blind
You're busy. Study on the go, on demand from anywhere! Hadley's Family Education Program offer free distance education courses and online seminars. Learn Braille, independent living skills, and more with courses designed for family members. Visit Hadley's booth to learn more about our program and to get enrollment information!

The HPS Network is a 501(c)3 non-profit serving families affected by the Hermansky-Pudlak Syndrome type of albinism. HPS typically involves legal blindness, a bleeding disorder, and some types, bowel and lung
Jewish Guild Healthcare
Vision + Health
From our beginnings as a residential school for blind Jewish children nearly 100 years ago, the Guild has grown to become one of the country’s foremost organizations providing services for people with vision loss. With its headquarters in New York City the Guild is a non-profit, non-sectarian agency that assists people who are blind and visually impaired from all walks of life.

Most recently, we have changed our name from The Jewish Guild for the Blind to Jewish Guild Healthcare, to better reflect the broad array of services we offer for individuals with vision loss. Our mission has been, and remains, to foster and facilitate lives of independence and dignity for men, women and children who have lost or are losing their vision.

MACS
MACS was formed in 1933, by a group of parents, all of whom had children with microphthalmia, anophthalmia and coloboma. Until then, most of them didn’t know of any other children like their own and children with these conditions; did not have the opportunity to meet each other, support each other and learn from each other. The committee is dedicated volunteers who all have a MACS child and have ideas for the future to make these aims realities.

National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments, Inc. (NAPVI)
NAPVI is a national, independent non-profit organization for parents of children who are blind or visually impaired, including those with additional disabilities. NAPVI is dedicated to providing leadership, support, parent training, networking and advocating for our children’s rights so they can reach their full potential.

National Braille Press
National Braille Press promotes the literacy of blind children through Braille, and provides access to information that empowers blind people to engage in work, family, and community affairs. Our ReadBooks! Program is a free national children’s Braille literacy initiative encouraging families with blind children to read print/Braille books together.

National Library Service for the Blind and Visually Handicapped
The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) coordinates a national network of state braille and talking book libraries. It is a free service which loans braille and digital audio materials by postage-free mail directly to individuals with visual impairments and institutions serving this population in the U.S. Downloadable books and magazines are also available.

The New England Consortium of Deafblind Projects (NEC)
The New England Consortium of Deafblind Projects (NEC) provides training to teams working with children who have combined vision and hearing loss. The deafblind projects in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire share resources and expertise to support children and families. Founded in 1969, NEC’s regional office is at Perkins.

NOAH
NOAH provides information and support regarding various types of albinism, promotes public and professional education about albinism, and encourages research and funding that will lead to improved diagnosis and management of albinism. NOAH provides a wide range of programs and services for adults with albinism and parents of children with albinism.

Perkins Products
Perkins Products proudly introduces our new Perkins SMART Brailler® technology which makes learning braille easy and fun for children, parents and teachers. We provide assistive devices and technology training and evaluation for children and adults who are visually impaired. Contact us at 617-972-7308 or at perkinsproducts@perkins.org

Perkins School for the Blind
Perkins School for the Blind is committed to providing education and services that build productive, meaningful lives for children and adults around the world who are blind, deafblind or visually impaired with or without other disabilities. Over 200 students populate Perkins’ residential and day programs, thriving on the guidance of an exceptional, interdisciplinary team of highly trained teachers, clinicians, residential and support staff. Perkins students enjoy an academic experience similar to that of any child, but also have access...
to specialized services that are critical for their development into adulthood. Community Programs extends our reach through our Outreach and Educational Partnership programs. Infant/Toddler 0-3, Perkins Early Learning Center 3-6, Deafblind Program 3-22, Educational Partnerships Community Based Itinerant Services 3-22, Lower School 6-14, Secondary 14-22 and Outreach Services. www.Perkins.org

The Seeing Eye
The Seeing Eye, the pioneer of the modern guide dog movement, assists people who are blind and visually impaired in pursuing their dreams with the help of the world-famous Seeing Eye® dogs. Meet Seeing Eye graduate Pat McKenna and his Seeing Eye dog, Garcia, and learn more about this school, located in Morristown, N.J.

United States Blind Athletes
Do you like sports and the thrill of competition? Have you ever thought “I can do that too” or “that sport seems fun”? The United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) was founded with the purpose of enhancing the lives of people who are blind and visually impaired by providing sports opportunities to thousands of athletes including, but not limited to, the National Sports Education Camp, Camp Abilities, regional and national goalball tournaments and winter ski camps. Not only is playing sports essentials for leading a healthy lifestyle, but a great way to make new friends! Next time you want to get out and try something new, or perfect the sport you already play, think about attending a USABA sports camp. For more information please visit www.usaba.org.

Vision Dynamics
At Vision Dynamics our goal is to inspire and empower individuals with vision loss/blindness. Our staff impacts lives every day with products, training, service and compassion. We teach people how to see again, because you don't see with your eyes - you see with your brain!
Conference Sponsors

Please let our sponsors know that you appreciate their generous support, without which we would not be able to hold this wonderful conference!

"PRESENTING" Sponsors:
National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments, NAPVI
Jewish Guild Healthcare Vision + Health
Perkins
New England Consortium of Deafblind Projects (NEC)

"Visionary" Sponsors
American Foundation for the Blind

"Rays" Sponsors
Braille Institute
Junior Blind of America
Massachusetts Commission for the Blind
Minnesota NAPVI

"Star Shine" Sponsors:
Camp Abilities
Hadley School for the Blind
National Braille Press
United States Blind Athletes
Planning Committee

National Planning Committee for the 2012 Families Connecting with Families Conference

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Natick, MA

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President
Maryland School for the Blind, Baltimore, MD

Amber Bobnar
MAPVI, Watertown, MA

Dan Callahan
Director
Children’s Vision Health Initiative
The Jewish Guild for the Blind, New York, NY

Beth Caruso
Director of Outreach Services
Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, MA

Kim Charlson
Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, MA

Catherine Duffek
New England Chapter
Glaucma Foundation, Boston, MA

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NEC, NH Family Specialist

Paula Labella Belanger
NEC, MA Family Specialist

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Lauren Lieberman, Ph.D.
Professor/Director of Camp Abilities
Brockport, NY

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MA Commission for the Blind

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Vice President of Programs
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Superintendent
Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, MA

Cheryl Rivers
Childrens Social Worker
MA Commission for the Blind, Boston, MA

Karen Ross, Ph.D.
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Carroll Center for the Blind, Newton, MA

Susan Parker-Strafaci
Director of Child Development
Braille Institute of America, Los Angeles, CA

Joanne Sullivan
Customer Relations Manager
National Braille Press, Boston, MA

Scott Truax
Career Connect and FamilyConnect Program Manager
AFB, New York, NY

Dawn Turco
Senior Vice President
Hadley School for the Blind, Winnetka, IL

Julie Urban
NAPVI President
Glendale, AZ
The National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments is a national, 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.

Why Join NAPVI?

These are just some of the benefits of joining NAPVI:

• Network with other parents through NAPVI’s database by eye condition, age, geographic location, educational and/or social needs
• Receive the quarterly magazine AWARENESS featuring information on the special needs of children with visual impairments, including child development, education, medical updates, personal articles written by parents, and resources available on the local, regional, and national levels.
• Obtain information through conferences, workshops, and publications that help you meet the special needs of your child(ren) with visual impairments
• Become a part of a national advocacy group that fosters communication and coordination of services among federal, state, and local agencies and organizations involved with people with visual impairments and increases public awareness of children with visual impairments so they are more readily accepted by society
• Gain scholarship opportunities and advocacy skills that advance your leadership potential and confidence
• Connect with other parents and professionals through state and local NAPVI chapters, which receive consultative and financial support from NAPVI National
• Utilize our national support and information network through our web site, phone and mail correspondence
• Save money with special membership discounts on conference registrations and publications

Have questions or need more information? Call us at 1-800-562-6265

Check one:

❑ Parent/Guardian Membership: $40 per year.
  Child’s Name(s):
  Birthdate(s) of my visually impaired child(ren):

  My child(ren)’s eye condition:
  I give my permission to release my name to other NAPVI parents.

❑ Group/Agency Membership $250 per year.
❑ Professional Associate Membership $50 per year.
❑ Sponsoring Membership: $1000
❑ Benefactor: Over $2000
❑ I would like to receive the newsletter on non-commercial formatted cassette.
  (15/16th speed, 4-sided tape)
❑ I would like to receive materials in Spanish.

Name: __________________________________________________________________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________________________________________________________
City:_______________________________________________State:_____________________Zip:________________________
Phone:(   )____________________________________Email: ____________________________________________________

Please enclose this form along with your payment by check in U.S. funds to:

NAPVI • P.O. Box 317 • Watertown, MA 02471
JOIN OUR NATIONAL TELE-SUPPORT NETWORK FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

When your child is diagnosed with a serious eye condition that can cause blindness or vision impairment, you may feel lost and alone and unsure of what your child needs.

No matter where you are in the country, there’s a community of caring parents who understand how you feel, because they’re going through the same thing. The Guild’s National Tele-Support Network can connect you with parents of children with the same eye condition as your child so you can share resources, experiences, strength and hope.

These free tele-support groups meet by phone every week. They are facilitated by a psychologist or social worker with frequent live input from experts in the fields of medicine, vision, education and rehabilitation.

TO REGISTER:

call Dan Callahan at 800-915-0306
or email CallahanD@jgb.org.

JEWSH GUILD HEALTHCARE
Vision + Health
CHILDREN’S VISION HEALTH
Formerly The Jewish Guild for the Blind. Beginning our 2nd century of care.