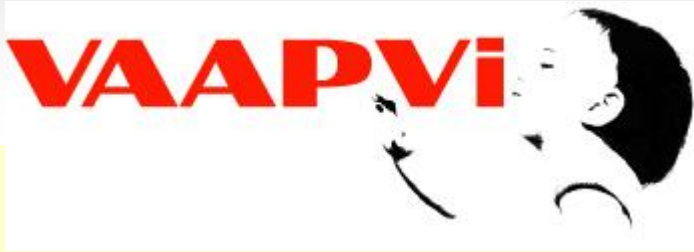


VAAPVi Voice



HAPPY NEW YEAR VAAPVi FAMILIES

*I hope that you all had a wonderful and safe
Holiday Season.*

Did all of you make your New Year's Resolutions?

*I know that I had a long list: getting my family to eat
healthier, exercising, spending more quality time with my
two little girls, and getting our household back into a
smooth routine, just to name a few.*

*VAAPVI has a New Year's resolution as well ... it is to get
our community more active; to pull our families together
in a variety of fun and educational ways. To do that we
really need your help!*

In this Issue:

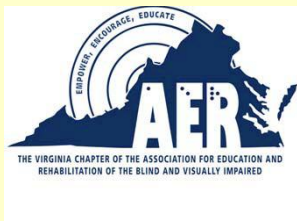
- Annual AER Conference
- Circus of the Senses
- Miracle League Games
- VA Victory Games
- In Theater Descriptive Movies
- Braille Challenge: Cinema without Sight
- 2010 Scholarships

CONNECT with other Local Families ONLINE.

*Join our STATE WIDE
listserv for Parents and
Professionals of
children with visual
impairments. Go to
www.yahogroups.com
and search for VA-BVI
and click on join group.*

A few very simple ways to get involved...

- 1. Let us hear from you.** It's simple, just let us know what we can do for you, share your ideas with us: things that you would like to see happen or change. Let us know if there is something going on in your area so we can let other parents know too.
- 2. Join our listserv!** Did you know that our network is now close to 200 families throughout the state of Virginia? All these families are connected directly with VAAPVI, but not necessarily with each other yet. I would first encourage all of you to register with our online list serve so that you can get more information on events and workshops, I also encourage each of you to start asking questions on the listserv or sharing information or ideas (anything related to raising or educating a child with a visual impairment, including topics related to other factors that may be going on with your child). You can always use an email account that does not compromise your privacy. By connecting on the list serve you will be able to connect directly with other parents.
- 3. Volunteer your time.** No matter where you are located, you can help coordinate an event in your area by simply helping to find the meeting location. Contact us for more details if you are interested.



SET YOUR SIGHT: GET ON TARGET

2010 Conference on Visual Impairments and Blindness

March 3-5, 2010
Best Western Inn & Suites Conference Center
Waynesboro, VA 229080

[Click HERE To find out more or to REGISTER](#)

This year's conference is a must for parents!

Sessions include the National Agenda, Dept of Education's new Visually Impaired Guidelines and so much more. Come join us Wed. night for a Parent's Social.

Keynote Speakers:

- **Dr. Phil Hatlen**
The well-known author of "The Opportunity to be Equal, the Right to be Equal" will speak on the National Agenda and the Expanded Core Curriculum
- **George Brummell**
A veteran who was blinded shares the inspirational story of his journey as an African American soldier through Vietnam, blindness and back as outlined in his book, "Shades of Darkness"
- **Carl Augusto President & CEO, American Foundation for the Blind**
A preeminent leader in the field of blindness and visual impairment presents his story of living with blindness and the tools for his success and independence

Concurrent Sessions Include:

- **Linda Alsop, Director for Deafblind Programs SKI-Hi Institute, Utah State University**
Conducts two sessions on deaf-blindness and the effective role of the intervener
- **Lucia Hasty, Tactile Graphics Committee Chair, BANA**
Conducts 4 sessions on creating and teaching readable tactile graphics
- **Chuck Huss, COMS**
Coordinator of the Bioptic Driving Program in West Virginia explores driving with bioptics and leads a panel discussion
- **Dona Sauerburger, COMS**
Provides street crossing training where there's no traffic control for O&M'ers and a session on teaching the cane
- **Mary Watkins, Outreach Director, WGBH Media Access Group**
Presents on NCAM and WGBH's access efforts, programs and resources
- **Strand of Assistive Technology Sessions Coordinated by Korey Singleton, AT Initiative Manager, GMU**
- **Preschool Sessions**
- **Vendors and much more . . .**

VIRGINIA VICTORY GAMES

March 6, 2010

Location: Kemper Athletic Center on the Campus of St. Christopher's School in Richmond, VA

VA Victory Games is athletic competition for children ages 6-21 who reside in Virginia with physical, visual and/or hearing impairments. The events are FREE to all participants.

Events include: Club throw, softball throw, shot-put, standing long jump, bowling, wheelchair slalom, 60M, 200M, 400M races.

For More information go to:

www.virginiavictorygames.org

or call 804-475-7808

Email:

information@virginiavictorygames.org

BIG APPLE CIRCUS

Circus of the Senses

March 10, 2010

11:00 am – 12 noon

Dulles Town Center, Under the Big Top

Circus of the Senses provides children with vision or hearing impairments and other disabilities an opportunity to experience the excitement of classical circus under the big top. The performance lasts one hour, with no intermission.

American Sign Language interpreters are stationed facing groups that request ASL seating.

Live Audio Description is broadcast via wireless headsets. Our BAC Founders provide play-by-play descriptions of each act in the show *for blind and vision-impaired children*.

Large-print and Braille Programs containing descriptions of each act are available either in advance or upon request on the day of the performance.

A Touch Session is available for *pre-selected* groups after the show, where vision-impaired children are invited to come into the ring to meet our performers, pet some of the show animals and touch some of the props and equipment. *Duration: 20 minutes.*

Deadline is February 3, 2010 to apply for **FREE tickets**

www.bigapplecircus.org

Registration form is being sent out in a separate attachment along with this VAAPVI Newsletter

Extreme Makeover: Home Edition

Extreme Makeover: Home Edition is casting for families for the next season of the show and has asked Youth Service America to help find inspirational families "that America can really root for." Because you are our connection to communities across the country, we're looking to you to help reach those local heroes who need help, or others in the community who can bring those families to our attention.

EM:HE is looking for inspirational members of the community who, for whatever reason, need a new home. While there are so many families in need all over this country, the show wants to focus on people that have given back to their community in some way despite their personal hardships. To be eligible, a family must own their own single family home or at least property on which a home can be built. In addition, they must be able to show producers how a makeover will make a difference in their lives.

Nominations must include the names and ages of each member of the household along with a description of the major challenges within the home. Please also include contact information of the family. If possible, include pictures of the family and their home. The deadline for family nominations is January 31, 2010. All nominations should be sent to: ExtremeMakeoverHomeEdition@gmail.com with the subject line of the e-mail listing the city and state where the family lives.



REGAL
ENTERTAINMENT
GROUP

OPEN CAPTION AND AUDIO DESCRIPTION IN THEATERS

Did you know that some of your local movie theaters offered open caption and descriptive audio?

For those of you who are unaware of what audio description is...it is using words to convey visual images. You can purchase videos with descriptive audio and some television stations air select programs with it as well.

Regal Theaters are all over Virginia and many of their theaters have open caption and descriptive audio for select movies with participating production studios.

Check their website here:

<http://www.regmovies.com/nowshowing/opencaptionedshowtimes.aspx#VA>

Check for available theaters, movies and show times. Then ask for the descriptive audio headsets when purchasing your tickets at the counter and enjoy!

Note: Not all movies will offer this feature; it is determined by the production studios. It does take about a week after a movie is released for the dates and show times for descriptive audio to be put on the website. As of right now their accessibility department states that audio description is not available when a movie is first released, it is always a couple of weeks after.

2010 SPRING BALL REGISTRATION

**Saturday Mornings
April 10th to June 26th**

- Fully Accessible Field
- Running Buddies
- Beeping baseballs
- Beeping locators for bases
- Boundless Playground construction has started!

**Field Location:
L.C. Bird High School
Sports Complex
10301 Courthouse Rd
Chesterfield, VA
23832**

**CLICK HERE TO
REGISTER NOW:**

www.miracleleagueofrichmond.com



Do you have equipment that you are looking for or trying to sell?

Send us the information to have it posted in our newsletter or post it on the listserv!

Do you have a story to share?

Email us!

VAAPVI
PO Box 1523
Chesterfield, VA
23832
(804) 938-1624
dpeifer@vaapvi.org or
info@vaapvi.org



FILM FESTIVAL FOR STUDENTS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

CINEMA WITHOUT SIGHT

In celebration of The Braille Challenge's 10th Anniversary, the Braille Institute is hosting it's own film festival celebrating the abilities of young people who are blind or visually impaired. It's called Cinema Without Sight. Their very own Sundance, with their very own theme:

I Am More Than What I See.

The top three submissions will be premiered at the June Braille Challenge Finals, with a top prize of a \$1,000 cash award. Download the [application](#) here.

The deadline is April 1, 2010.

For more information about The Braille Challenge: call Christine Pak at 1-800-BRAILLE (272-4553), Ext. 1321 or send an e-mail to cgpak@brailleinstitute.org



THE HADLEY SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

FREE online courses for parents!
www.hadley-school.org

2010 Scholarships!

American Council of the Blind 2010 Scholarships

ACB annually awards approximately 20 scholarships ranging in amounts from \$1,000 to \$2,500 to vocational, entering freshmen, undergraduate and graduate students who are legally blind, maintain a 3.3 GPA and are involved in their school/local communities.

Applications may be submitted beginning January 1st and all materials must be received by 11:59 PM on March 1st. Scholarship monies will be awarded for the upcoming academic year.

To read the scholarship guidelines and complete an on-line application, please visit: www.acb.org. For more information, please contact the ACB National Office at (202)467-5081 or (800)424-8666. We look forward to receiving your application materials.

Council of Citizens with Low Vision International 2010 Scholarships

CCLVI awards 3 students an individual prize of \$3,000 annually, this competitive scholarship is available to full-time college students with low vision, chosen from among those who meet the visual acuity and academic guidelines.

Guidelines, Application and Certification of Low Vision Forms and the on-line application are available from January 2010 to March 1st 2010. The application must be completed online at:

<http://www.cclvi.org/scholarship.htm>

Completed applications and supporting documents must be received by March 1st 2010. For more information about the guidelines, please call CCLVI at 1-800-733-2258.

National Federation of the Blind 2010 Scholarships

Each year NFB gives out 30 scholarships that range from \$3,000 up to \$12,000.

To be considered you must be:

- Legally Blind in both eyes
- Residing in the United States, D.C. or Puerto Rico
- Participate in the entire NFB Convention and in all scheduled scholarship activities
- Pursuing a full-time postsecondary degree program (one scholarship is available for a person who is employed full-time and attending school part-time).

In addition to the scholarship, each winner will receive assistance to attend the National Convention.

2010 Scholarship Deadline is March 31, 2010

For more information on the scholarships, guidelines and application process go to:

http://www.nfb.org/nfb/scholarship_program.asp
