



# News From Advocates for Deaf-Blind

A Publication of the National Family Association for Deaf-Blind

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## NFADB UPDATES

Linda Syler, President, NFADB

Since our last newsletter, your NFADB Board has continued to work hard to meet the needs of its members. Below is a list of activities.



Work continues on the **Transition Survey** with the writing of a position paper. Board members Janette Peracchio and Blanche Stetler, international liaison Clara Berg, and special advisor

Kathy McNulty have worked many hours on this project and we owe them a great deal of thanks.

Your **Executive Committee and Board** have held a number of phone conferences throughout the year to keep up with committee and Board activities. *July 25-26th, our Board met at Overbrook School for the Blind in PA.* All Board members and special advisors were in attendance. Committees updated us on their past year's work and had the opportunity to set their agendas for 2008-09. It was a very productive meeting.

The **National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI)** approached us to discuss NFADB doing a strand on deaf-blindness at their 2009 conference in Costa Mesa, CA. After discussion NFADB accepted the invitation. This is an exciting opportunity for us to meet again to learn and network. See the article in this newsletter for more information.

Janette Peracchio, Debbie Ethridge, Sheri Stanger and I attended the

**Project Director's Meeting in Washington, D.C. in July (PDM).** We met with staff from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and state deaf-blind projects from around the country. We were also on a panel and presented our experiences as parents of children with deaf-blindness.

**A letter from NFADB was sent to the Disability Rights Section, Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice** concerning the proposed revisions in the ADA Regulations. Comments were made on the following regulations: effective communication, access to Internet-only goods and services, documentation justifying exam accommodations, availability of video description in movie theaters, and definition of service animals. If anyone would like to see a copy of this letter they can contact the NFADB administrative office.

Our **Board Development and Election Committee** has finalized its procedures. Anyone interested in serving on the Board can obtain a packet from them. Sheri Stanger is committee chair.

**We welcome two new Board members, Susan Green and Betty Hane.** They were able to attend our meeting at Overbrook in July. At this meeting, **elections were held. Cynthia Jackson-Glenn was elected treasurer and I was elected for a second term.** There is much to be done, but your Board is committed to serving you and your family. We will be expanding the lines of communication to you over the year. See you in July, 2009!♥



THE NATIONAL FAMILY ASSOCIATION FOR DEAF-BLIND (NFADB) SUPPORTING PERSONS WHO ARE DEAF-BLIND AND THEIR FAMILIES. A non-profit national family organization established in 1994. The philosophy of the Association is that "Individuals who are deaf-blind are valued members of society and are entitled to the same opportunities and choices as other members of the community."

### NFADB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<b>Linda Syler</b> President	<b>Debbie Ethridge</b> Vice President
<b>Cynthia Jackson-Glenn</b> Treasurer	<b>Janette Peracchio</b> Secretary

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This newsletter supports "person first" language. All submitted articles will be edited accordingly. This publication is supported in part by the Helen Keller National Center, Sands Point, NY and the Hilton/Perkins Program of Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, MA. The Hilton/Perkins Program is funded by a grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation of Reno, Nevada. Opinions expressed in the newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of NFADB, HKNC or Hilton/Perkins. Newsletter is available in braille, large print or on disk upon request. NFADB exists to empower the voices of families of individuals who are deaf-blind and advocate for their unique needs.

## UPCOMING NFADB CONFERENCE

NAPVI AND NFADB are pleased to announce

**"Families Connecting with Families"**

**July 17-19, 2009**

**Costa Mesa Hilton Hotel, Costa Mesa, CA**

**This is A COMBINED CONFERENCE FOR** educational professionals, related service providers, parents and family members who work and/or live with individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, low vision, deaf-blind, dual sensory impaired and/or multi-disabled.

This past spring, the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI) approached us with the idea of NFADB doing a **strand on deaf-blindness** at their 2009 conference. Your EC and Board were thrilled to work out the details to provide our members with another opportunity to connect and get information to support their family members who are deaf-blind.

Parents will need to pay their own air fare and hotel costs. The cost of rooms will be \$119/night. Registration is \$110/person, which covers most meals for the conference. Childcare will be available. This early announcement will give individuals and families a "heads up" so you can work on raising funds to attend. A special mailing will go out with full details, and information will be put on our website.

This is an exciting opportunity for all of us! Hope to see you there!



**CHARGE Syndrome Foundation, Inc.**

**9th International CHARGE Conference**

**July 24-26, 2008**

**Indian Lakes Resort  
Bloomington, IL 60108**

Visit their website for additional information  
[www.chargesyndrome.org](http://www.chargesyndrome.org)

## NATIONAL TASK FORCE ON DEAF-BLIND INTERPRETING

PEARL VEESART

Hi, Pearl Veesart here! I'm excited to share the following **information and resource** with you regarding work that's been accomplished with the **National Task Force on Deaf-Blind Interpreting (NTFDBI)**, of which I am a member.

The NTFDBI began via a motion passed at the 2005 Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) national convention to provide a forum for a national collaboration among lead agencies - the American Association of the Deaf-Blind (AADB), RID and the National Consortium of Interpreter Education Centers (NCIEC) - and representation from the Conference of Interpreter Trainers (CIT), the National Alliance of Black Interpreters (NAOBI), NFADB and several state-level agencies and community members. The **mission of the NTFDBI** is to establish a standard of effective practice to ensure the quality and availability of interpreters for people who are deaf-blind.

To that end, **NTFDBI** worked closely with DB-LINK at the National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness (NCDB) to compile an **Annotated Bibliography on Deaf-Blind Interpreting**. This bibliography would be for interpreters, interpreter educators, people who are deaf-blind and others with an interest in serving individuals who are deaf-blind. It would include books, articles and videos about interpreting for consumers who are deaf-blind, communication, advocacy and rights, culture and community, SSPs and more.

**We are pleased to announce that this document is now available on** the NCDB website at <http://www.nationaladb.org/ISSelectedTopics.php?topicCatID=767>

This site also has a downloadable PDF version of the document in regular and large print as well as plain text.

I urge you to take a look at this bibliography as you may find information and ideas that are relevant no matter which type of communication support - intervener, interpreter for deaf-blind, or support service provider (SSP) - applies to your family member. If you have any resources that are not included in this listing, please send the article or information to [NTFDBI@gmail.com](mailto:NTFDBI@gmail.com)

Other **recent work by the NTFDBI** includes a compilation of resources entitled **Deaf-Blind Interpreting: Many Paths on the Road** (RID VIEWS, February, 2008). This document is for people wanting to learn more and become more involved in the community and in deaf-blind interpreting. **Upcoming activities include a needs assessment of interpreter educators and program administrators regarding deaf-blind interpreter education (coming in the fall). A workshop at the Conference of Interpreter Trainers (CIT) conference in Puerto Rico in October 2008** will focus on strategies to include deaf-blind interpreting materials in currently established interpreter education curricula.

For **questions** or more **information**, please **contact** [NTFDBI@gmail.com](mailto:NTFDBI@gmail.com)

The **NTFDBI** is made possible with funding support from the NCIEC, which is funded through the Dept. of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, RID and AADB. ♥



*Articles submitted by  
Janette Peracchio, Secretary*

## NEW INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR AT PERKINS

**New Director, Perkins International Program** - On August 25, 2008 Steven M. Rothstein, President of Perkins was pleased to announce the appointment of the new Director of the Perkins International Program, including the valuable Hilton/Perkins international initiatives (<http://www.perkins.org/international/>).

The new director, **Sergei L. Sorokin**, will continue in the remarkable leadership exemplified by **Michael T. Collins**. Michael's grace, wisdom and interpersonal skills established this program and ensured a solid foundation moving forward. Perkins will continue to support partners in 63 countries and expand the number of children, their families, their teachers and others they collaborate with in conjunction with staff, consultants, donors and international partners and under the leadership of the new director. Sergei will officially be starting on Monday, November 17, 2008 on campus.

Sergei believes deeply in human ability to change the world through powerful action towards strong vision based on solid values. He says – "I am proud, humble and really excited to get the opportunity to contribute to this great venture and to carry on the impressive worldwide efforts from Mike and the team."

## Perkins School for the Blind Site of Announcement from Apple, Inc.

The last week of September was exciting for students at Perkins school for the Blind and other consumers who are blind or visually impaired. An announcement by the MA Attorney General and the president of the National Federation for the Blind (NFB) summarized that Apple, Inc. has been working with NFB to improve accessibility for iTunes and the iPod nano (4th generation) products. Apple is introducing products that use spoken menus, iPods with large font menus, high contrast screen settings and screen-reader compatibility. For more information on these products go to the Apple website highlighting some of their new accessibility features: <http://www.apple.com/accessibility/itunes/vision.html>. If you live near a shopping mall that has an Apple Store, stop in and try out the new features of the 4th generation products.

## Check out Project Forum

Project Forum's aim is to facilitate improved services to children and youth with disabilities by gathering and sharing information that supports changes to policy and practice at the national, state and local levels. To this end, each year Project Forum identifies 15 critical topics within the field of special education; conducts policy analyses on these topics; convenes policy forums on two of these topics; distributes information that will contribute to better results for children with disabilities. One hundred documents are available for download. One such document now available on their website is: ***Financial Responsibility for Students with Disabilities: A Special Case.***

*This Brief Policy Analysis addresses fiscal responsibility in situations when students with disabilities are placed by a non-educational agency outside the boundaries of their district of residence. Data was collected through a survey of all state directors of special education. Findings address the extent of the problem, rules for determining financial responsibility, the resolution of disputes and other strategies to address this complex policy issue. Numerous examples and related state resources are given. There are no restrictions on copying because this document was produced with federal funds. You can download it at [www.projectforum.org](http://www.projectforum.org)*

## *IN LOVING MEMORY OF . . . . .*

### *Mike Collins -- A Friend to All*



SUBMITTED BY JANETTE PERACCHIO, NFADB VP

In May, 2008 Michael Collins, director of Hilton/Perkins International at the Perkins School for the Blind, lost his battle with lung cancer. Mike was the founding director of the program and held this position for 20 years. In this role, he launched the school's international initiatives and partnerships that serve tens of thousands of children, their families and their teachers in 63 countries. He worked tirelessly with partners to create preschool, elementary and high schools, teacher education and family support initiatives. Mr. Collins was also active in a number of professional organizations, including Deafblind International, where he served as former president; International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) of which he was a board member; National Coalition on Deafblindness, of which he was a founder; and the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired. He was recognized with a number of accolades for his many efforts on behalf of others, including achievement awards from Deafblind International, and the Annie Sullivan Award from Perkins School for the Blind, which honors those who, like Helen Keller's teacher, Sullivan, dedicate their lives to making a profound difference in the lives of those who are blind and deafblind.

Expressions of sympathy may be made in his memory to the Michael T. Collins Fund c/o Perkins School for the Blind, 175 N. Beacon St., Watertown, MA 02472. ♥

REMEMBERING MIKE BY CLARA BERG  
NFADB INTERNATIONAL LIAISON

I cried on his shoulder and he said NO!

Twenty-two years ago, my husband and I went to Perkins School for the Blind for an evaluation of our son, Kenny. It was there that we first met Mr. Michael Collins, Director of the Deaf-Blind Program. I begged him to accept Kenny as a student. He said "NO!"

Six months later, after countless phone calls, Mr. Collins, who I now refer to as "Mike," said "YES" and the rest is history.

Tall as he was, he never complained about having to bend a little to receive a hug from this short (5'1") lady. Busy as he was, he always found time to listen to what I had to say, which, unfortunately, was not as short as I was.

Along with Joe McNulty, director of HKNC, Mike led the National Coalition on Deaf-Blindness. Together, they fought to include proper language about deaf-blindness in our laws and to preserve funding for educational services and vocational rehabilitation for young adults and adults who are deaf-blind. They also taught parents how to advocate for their children in their home communities and in Washington D.C. I saw them in action in D.C. - they were the real "mavericks" around issues in deaf-blindness.

In 1992, Mike became the director of the newly created Hilton/Perkins Program (HPP). He embodied the commitment of providing quality technical assistance and training to professionals around the world and encouraging families to network. Ironically, years later, I became a consultant for that program. Everywhere I went, I heard about or witnessed first hand the tremendous respect and admiration that teachers and parents had for Mike.

Mike became an active presence in Deafblind International (DbI). He was the president for two consecutive terms. As the years went by, I got to know more about Mike, his wife, Linda and their children. I'll never forget his big smile when he told me he had become a grandfather.

Our paths crossed many times and we shared many memorable and sometimes funny happenings. What a privilege to know and work with such a wonderful, knowledgeable and humble person!

Dear Mike, you are greatly missed. Your legacy opened up many doors for our children, our families, the professionals who work with us, and for thousands of people around the world. God took you at a young age, probably because He needed your energy to help Him! Today, we cry on His shoulder. But we do not say good bye. We just say "So long, until we meet again."♥

## OREGON HEALTH & SCIENCE UNIVERSITY

BY LINDA SYLER

Five years ago NFADB and Oregon Health & Science University collaborated on a research project: **Validation of Evidence-based Assessment Strategies to Promote Achievement in Children who are Deaf-Blind.** NFADB provided clerical and administrative support associated with the recruitment of family members in Project activities. This project will end this year. The major goal was to validate assessment strategies that will: promote high quality assessment of children who are deaf-blind; generate appropriate educational goals related to communication, social and cognitive development; suggest appropriate instructional strategies; and promote a strong connection between assessment and the achievement of specific educational outcomes.

In July, four members of the NFADB Board met with researchers Charity Rowland, Deborah Chen, Robert Stillman and Harvey Mar in Washington, D.C., during Project Directors' Meeting. We reviewed and discussed the end product of the project, a booklet for assessing young children who are deaf-blind. The booklet is intended for all professionals who are responsible for assessing and developing intervention for young children who are deaf-blind. It is also a tool for parents who want to be involved in their child's educational planning. For other families, it will help them understand their important role in the assessment process.

Your board members were very excited about the project and how it will help children with deaf-blindness. The final product will be available to NFADB members in early 2009. ♥

## NFADB AFFILIATES

### *New York Parent*



*Submitted by Barbara Loughran*

New York Parent Network (NYPN) has had a very busy and productive year

- Treasurer Mary Conlon, has completed the application process for 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt status. This will allow us to pursue fund raising and expand our services.
- We received grants from the Hilton - Perkins Foundation and the Ruth Schatz Zuckerbrod Memorial Grant from the Long Island Speech/ Language Hearing Association (LISHA).
- NYPN sponsored four fall conferences at various locations around New York State: *Communication* by Sam Morgan; *Entitlements* by Janice Fitzgerald; *Transition to Academic Life* by Susie Morgan; and *Transition to Supported Work & Living* by Carole Gothelf.
- NYPN Board of Directors, Sonia Hartmann, Clara Berg, Mary Conlon, Bill Grimes, Barbara Loughran and Evelyn Popper consulted with Kathy McNulty at the Helen Keller National Center to develop a Strategic Plan to guide our growth and development in the next few years.

We hope to increase our fundraising and outreach to expand our services throughout NYS in the upcoming year. ♥

## NFADB AFFILIATES



Pennsylvania Partnership  
for the Deafblind

*Submitted By Gordon Boe, President PPDB*

### The PA Affiliate: The Year In Review

On October 29, 2007, the Pennsylvania Partnership for the Deafblind (PPDB) was legally incorporated! Our first year of formal existence has been a series of adventures—everything has been an experiment. And, as we all know too well, everything seems to take longer than anticipated. However, we did make progress, some examples of which are highlighted below.

First, our seven-member Board of Directors has worked extremely hard and been very active. We have a monthly Board conference call, and we've even been able to have three face-to-face meetings. We've had some very spirited discussions, but we've been able to work through issues as a team. The Board has recently formed four committees: Fundraising, Membership, Outreach and Social. Each committee is chaired by a Board member, who provides an update of activities at each Board meeting.

Second, PPDB received IRS approval as a 501(c)(3) organization in August of this year. Completing the application was a long, arduous process, but once we figured out the "gotchas," we received approval within 60 days of submittal. We can now pursue funding sources that were previously unavailable to us.

Third, PPDB has received a \$10,000 Grassroots Advocacy Grant from the PA Developmental Disabilities Council. The project, which runs through September 2009, focuses on pro-

viding parents of those who are deaf-blind with the tools to successfully transition their children from high school to adulthood. We will have two training sessions (one this November and one in the spring) and publish a guide for parents.

Fourth, we've been fortunate to obtain the support and financial backing of three organizations:

- **Overbrook School for the Blind** in Philadelphia funded the cost of incorporation (in PA, it was close to \$2,000);
- The **state deaf-blind project** paid for our first year's conference calls, and provided us meeting rooms and technical assistance; and
- **DASH** (Disability Action Support Hub), a project of the State Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council, selected PPDB as its **Emergent Group for 2007-2008**. The DASH project leader facilitated the development and maintenance of our Action Plans, brought his experience with other advocacy organizations to the table, and advised us on key issues. DASH also provided about \$10,000 in financial support for our meetings, the printing of our brochure, developing a website, and paying the \$750 fee for our non-profit application

PPDB's first year can be thought of as a "set up" period, in which we worked to create a viable organization. With those steps taken, PPDB is now concentrating on providing services to our members through such things as: monthly conference calls on topics of interest to our membership; establishing a website; establishing regular communication with our members; reaching out to the adult deaf-blind community; training members on transition issues; identifying "best practices" of other affiliates and determining their applicability to PA; and raising funds for activities that will benefit our members. We look forward to working closely with NFADB and other affiliates to achieve these tasks and accomplish our goals.♥

## Sayreville teen overcomes obstacles as high-school basketball team manager

By ERICA HARBATKIN, STAFF WRITER [mycentraljersey.com](http://mycentraljersey.com)



Tim Stetler counts in his head as he fills paper cups with water. One-two-three-stop. Then he hands the cup to the player approaching the bench. For Stetler, the team manager for the War Memorial High School basketball team, learning to fill a paper cup properly was a challenge akin to learning to shoot a free throw.

Stetler, 18, is deaf-blind and severely brain-damaged. "At the beginning, he wouldn't know to hand a player a cup as he approached the water cooler, but as the season progressed he knew right away," said Ben Isabella, Stetler's mentor. Stetler doesn't live in pitch black and

silence, but he sees everything in double, has nearly no depth perception and has poor peripheral vision. He wears hearing aids, but can only make out certain types of sounds.

"Being deaf-blind doesn't mean you're Helen Keller," said his mother, Blanche Stetler, who works as a family specialist with the state's deaf-blind project. "It means you have both hearing and seeing problems that you qualify to be called deaf-blind."

Stetler is a Sayreville resident but attends Alpha School in Lakewood. Since his disabilities preclude him from attending school close to home, his mother wanted to find a way to involve him in the community. She called the high school and asked what he could do, and administrators said Stetler could be a basketball team manager if he had a mentor — someone at the school who could provide constant supervision.

That's where Ben Isabella came in. A longtime family friend, Isabella is also a math teacher at War Memorial High School. He agreed immediately to become Stetler's mentor. Initially, the responsibility was intense — he'd watch over Stetler's every move and provide constant direction. As the season progressed, Isabella began to take more of a backseat role, watching from the periphery as Stetler carried out his tasks.

"One-two-three-four-five-six-seven-eight-nine-ten!" Stetler said excitedly, sitting in a room with Isabella, his mother and basketball coach Shawn Currie. He was referring to the number of cups he fills at the beginning of each basketball game — 10 cups of water for 10 players. "Everything is a routine for him," Blanche Stetler said.

Tim Stetler has a complex disorder stemming from sensory neural brain damage incurred in the womb because his birth mother abused drugs (Blanche is his adoptive mother). The complexities of the disorder, coupled with the brain damage, mean that Stetler never had friends or a peer group he could associate with. "Before, my husband and I were his

only friends. Now he has people that he can talk to," Blanche Stetler said. "It's the first time in his life he's actually asking questions about other kids." He still can't go out with other kids or have extended conversations. But any interaction is exciting for Stetler. He carries the memory of a handshake or a kiss on the cheek long after it's over.

Recently, Stetler started working at Petco four days a week. A job coach works with him as he hands out fliers, cleans cages and takes care of fish. In the summer, Isabella will take over as his job coach. He was handing out fliers a few weeks ago when he met a young girl with Down syndrome. He still talks about it. "Ashley kisses me on the cheek," he said, gloating. Currie and Isabella laughed and that made Stetler laugh, too. "He gave her a flier and she kissed him on the cheek," Blanche Stetler said and then turned toward her son. "You have Ashley's picture?" Tim pulled out his wallet and found a small picture of the girl. Blanche had snapped the photo on her cell phone and made a print so Tim could carry it around. "Ashley!" he said, pointing to the photo. "His relationships are so few and far between that when something like that happens to him he talks about it non-stop because it's so unusual," Blanche said.

Tim Stetler has never been able to socialize with his peers because he attends school an hour away at Alpha School, a private facility for children with disabilities. He never knew anyone outside his family before the high school basketball team took him in. "When he was working at the basketball games he had something to go back and talk about in school," Blanche Stetler said, her eyes filling with tears. "It's the first time he has ever had anything to talk about." Tim picked up on the emotion and reached over toward his mom. "Why are you crying, mommy?" he said, patting her on the shoulder with both sweetness and force. "Stop crying, mommy."

For Stetler, filling up cups of water and handing out towels at home games is one of his only opportunities to be social. He treasures the varsity letter he received and beams at the prospect of greeting basketball players as he walks through the halls. But it has been a symbiotic relationship for the team as well. That became apparent to Isabella at a specific moment during the season, when Currie was angry and the players were frustrated and no one was happy. Except Stetler. "He's always smiling and in a good mood no matter what's going on in the game. He always wants to shake hands with the players, not knowing if they're frustrated or losing," said Isabella, who stays with Stetler during each game. "Well, going into halftime Coach is usually upset.

*(Continued on page 9)*





## International Report

by Clara Berg

### Mexico

*Irma Guevara, with the support of the Superintendent of the Dept. of Education, reached out to families who have children who are deaf-blind in Mexico to invite them for a weekend workshop in Coaxtepec.* On the day of the workshop, families gathered at CHIPPIS School for a two hour bus ride to the resort. The ride was quiet - almost nobody spoke. These families had never met before and, for many of them, it was their first experience being away from home. When they arrived at the resort, they went to their rooms, which had been randomly assigned, two mothers or two fathers per room.

During the next two days, I **presented on Transition and Person Centered Planning and facilitated the interaction among the families.** The concept of working with other families was new for these parents, but they soon became comfortable sharing ideas. Eventually, discussion turned to the topic of how to organize themselves. A core group of parents volunteered to help set up a national network. Their **goals** would be to:

- 1) *develop a national census to determine how many deaf-blind children there are in the country;*
- 2) *create a list of local resources; and*
- 3) *determine which areas have enhanced services available.*

**They created an agenda with a plan of action to follow in the next few months.** All information would be shared with the other families. On the ride back from the resort, the silence of the previous bus ride was replaced by friendly chatting among all the parents. **PARENTS IN MEXICO ARE NOW ON THEIR WAY!**



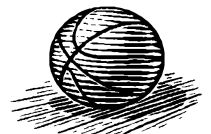
### Brazil

**The First International Symposium on Deaf-Blindness and Multiple Disabilities** took place at the **Paulista University in Sao Paulo from October 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>.** Parents and professionals from many different countries participated. **Speakers Isabel Amaral, Maria Veronica Cajal, Marcia Mara Storino and Joao Batista Ribas and others presented topics ranging from daily dealings with a child with deaf-blindness and multiple disabilities to transition to work/entering the adult world.** For more information about the outcomes of the meeting [www.sisdem2008.com.br](http://www.sisdem2008.com.br) ♥

*(Sayreville Teen continued from page 8)*

But he saw Coach coming and put his hand out and for that instant, (Currie's) seriousness went away. "It took him out of his zone and he came back to reality. It really shows that this is more than just basketball." Currie nodded. "I think (the players) are inspired by him," Currie said. "What Ben just said about me, I think is a microcosm of how our kids are with him."

Stetler has become both an inspiration and a lesson for the players, Currie said. When they start to grumble about running a suicide or doing a drill, Currie says Stetler's name and the players retreat. "You complain about basketball practice but you should be thankful you're allowed to play basketball," Currie tells the team. At the end-of-season banquet, Blanche Stetler watched as the entire team walked by and high-fived her son. She noticed one player wipe away a tear as he walked by. "Why are you crying," she asked. "You don't understand," the player told her. "It's an emotional thing." She shook her head. "Don't feel sorry for him. He's happy," she said. "If anything, you know when you have a problem - he doesn't. He's happy. We're brought up to feel sorry for people like Tim but there's nothing to feel sorry about." ♥



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SAVE THIS PAGE!!!**

**The NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN  
WHO ARE VISUALLY IMPAIRED and  
The NATIONAL FAMILY ASSOCIATION FOR DEAF-BLIND**

presents

*Families Connecting  
with Families  
in Fun-Filled Orange County, California*

**July 17 - 19, 2009  
Costa Mesa, California**



*10% discount on registration for NFADB members*

An international conference covering aspects of raising a child with a visual impairment or a child who is deaf-blind, the 2009 Families Connecting with Families conference will include:

- Interactive sessions and panel discussions to address parents' most pressing interests
- Networking with other families and professionals
- Free Daycare program for children
- Activities designed especially for teens
- Fun for the whole family with special reception and events
- Preview of new assessment guide for children who are deaf-blind
- Communication issues for children who are deaf-blind
- Transition

The 2009 conference will be held at  
**Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa**  
3050 Bristol Street Costa Mesa, CA 92626

This beautiful hotel is also an ideal family vacation destination, featuring special discounted hotel rates for the Families Connecting with Families conference. The Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa is centrally located.

- 15 miles from Disneyland, Disneyland's California Adventure, and Knott's Berry Farm Amusement Parks
- 5 miles from Newport, Huntington Beach, and Laguna Beaches
- Walking distance to South Coast Plaza shopping resort, and much more!

Keep an eye on the following websites for more details and registration information: [www.NFADB.org](http://www.NFADB.org) [www.napvi.org](http://www.napvi.org)

**NFABD**

141 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point, NY 11050 Tel 800.255.0411 | Fax 516.883.9060

## Commit to an NFADB Committee!



NFADB has several committees working behind the scenes all year. We welcome your participation on any of the following committees. Please contact the committee chairs, as indicated, or our main office at 800-255-0411, if you would like more information about the committees' activities and/or are interested in lending a helping hand.

### COMMITTEES & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) LIASONS:

**Membership Coordinator:** Erma Hill e-mail: HILL2C@aol.com; **EC:** Debbie Ethridge e-mail: debbieethridge@yahoo.com, ph: 479-619-8383.

**Affiliates:** Blanche Stetler e-mail: JTMommy@aol.com, ph 732-822-3423; **EC:** Janette Peracchio e-mail: jbperacchio@gmail.com, ph 860-558-7648.

**Newsletter Coordinator:** Vacant

**Fundraising Coordinator:** Cora Holloway e-mail: mcdh765037@aol.com, ph 608-332-5186; **EC:** Cynthia Jackson-Glenn e-mail: Cynthia.jackson-glenn@rsc.state.oh.us, ph 513-504-8597.

**Interpreter Coordinator:** Pearl Veasart e-mail: pearlvee@sprint.blackberry.net, ph 805-528-5673; **EC:** Cynthia Jackson-Glenn e-mail: Cynthia.jackson-glenn@rsc.state.oh.us, ph 513-504-8597.

**Board Recruitment & Development:** Sheri Stanger e-mail SheriMEd@aol.com, ph 914-478-7248; **EC:** Debbie Ethridge e-mail debbieethridge@yahoo.com, ph 479-619-8383.

**International Coordinator:** Clara Berg email: ClaraB428@hotmail.com, ph 718-428-1591; **EC:** Janette Peracchio e-mail: jbperacchio@gmail.com, ph 860-558-7648.

Conference Coordinator: Linda Syler

Web Site Coordinator: Debbie Ethridge

When sharing or copying information and articles from our newsletter, please credit **News From Advocates for Deaf-Blind** as the source. Thanks!

## LIVING HONOR GIFT, MEMORIAL OR CONTRIBUTION to The National Family Association For Deaf-Blind

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ given as a contribution or as a gift in honor or memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

Living Honor - A tribute to someone you wish to honor while they are present to enjoy your thoughtfulness.

Memorial - A gift in honor of someone who has passed on. The notice of this thoughtfulness will be sent to whomever you specify.

Mary Margaret O'Donnell Memorial Fund - An ongoing fund established in memory of our former president.

Contribution to NFADB - to be used as needed.

All honors, memorials and contributions are tax deductible and are used to further the goals and activities of NFADB.

### Please send a note about this gift to:

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### GIVEN BY:

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

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

### Send this form with your donation to:

**NFADB,  
141 Middle Neck Road  
Sands Point, NY 11050**

*Thank you!*

**SUPPORT THE NFADB!  
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

(\*U.S. funds only)

**REGULAR:** any person who is deaf-blind, their parent, guardian or family member.

- One Year:** \$15
- Three Years:** \$35
- Lifetime (Individual only)** \$100

**PROFESSIONAL/ASSOCIATE:** individuals interested in supporting the mission and purpose of the Association.

- One Year** \$15
- Three Years** \$35

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP:** Organizations interested in supporting the mission and purpose of the Association.

- One Year** \$100
- Three Years** \$250

Regular members are eligible to serve on the NFADB Board of Directors.

All members automatically receive our NFADB newsletter which is available by request in BRAILLE, LARGE PRINT or electronically.

**ONLY REGULAR MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE  
FOR APPOINTMENT TO OFFICE**

ALL MEMBERS AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE OUR NFADB  
MEMBERSHIP KIT AND OUR NEWSLETTER

**CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS:** those involved by reason of monetary or other gifts of value to the Association.

- Contributing Sponsor** - \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Information about person who is deaf-blind**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you: \_\_\_\_\_

Cause of deaf-blindness \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission to share my name with other families whose children have similar etiologies or disabilities.

- Yes
- No

I give permission to include the above information in a "Members Only" directory.

- Yes
- No

**Please return with check or money order payable to "NFADB" to: NFADB/Membership, 141 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point, New York 11050-1299**

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