

# *You're Invited*

## Conferences for Illinois Parents of Children with Vision Loss

Parents of children ages birth through twenty-one are encouraged to join us for in-depth discussions of useful topics. Learn from experts in the field as well as from fellow parents.

### The Conference Program

- **Kids Under Construction**  
Learn strategies to build up your child's independence by encouraging age-appropriate responsibilities and continuing school learning at home.
- **Got Friends?**  
Learn how to support your child's friendships and social growth by understanding the social challenges of vision impairment.
- **Camp: More than S'Mores!**  
There's more to camp than s'mores and campfire songs. Parents of children with vision loss share their children's camp experiences.
- **iPads for Eye Students**  
Learn how iPads can be used to benefit students with vision loss and test drive a few apps in this hands-on session.
- **Resource Swap Shop**  
Who's the expert on resources available for families and children with vision loss? You are! In this small group discussion, we'll share experiences and information about helpful national, state and local resources. What resources have been most helpful to your family?

#### **Southern Illinois Vision Conference**

**March 17, 2012**

Mt. Vernon Primary Center  
401 N 30th  
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

#### **Northern Illinois Vision Conference**

**April 21, 2012**

Center for Sight and Hearing  
8038 MacIntosh Lane  
Rockford, IL 61107

**Time: 8:45 Check-in, 9:15 – 3:45 Conference Program**

**Hosts:** Center for Sight & Hearing; Delta Gamma Center for Children with Visual Impairments; Hearing and Vision Early Intervention Outreach; Franklin-Jefferson Special Education; Illinois School for the Visually Impaired; Northwestern Illinois Association; Rockford Public Schools; Illinois Machine Sublending Agency (Illinois Heartland Library System); StarNET Regions I & III; StarNET Region IV; TransVision; Sheila Walker, EI DTV, EI DTO&M, CTVI, COMS; and Voices of Vision Talking Book Center (Reaching Across Illinois Library System).

***Service providers are welcome to attend. This is a great opportunity to gain a new perspective and earn professional credits in a fun, family-friendly atmosphere!  
EI and CPDU credits are available.***

**CHILDCARE** is not provided. Assistance with hotel or childcare costs related to attending the conferences is possible (see family funding section below). Some reimbursement for mileage may also be possible.

**FAMILY FUNDING** — Families of children attending the conferences may be eligible for funding to help pay for lodging, mileage and childcare expenses. The ARC of Illinois and the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities offer Consumer Involvement Program-Consumer Stipend funds. To request a copy of the application form, please contact the ARC of Illinois at 815-464-1832 or find one online at <http://thearcofil.org>.

Each region of StarNET has fellowships available to eligible families. Families with children with special needs below the age of six may be eligible for funding to help pay for lodging, mileage, and childcare expenses related to attending a conference. To inquire about this fellowship and the eligibility criteria, or to download the application form, please contact StarNET. The application can be found in the financial section of the appropriate website.

Southern IL Families  
Sheri Kraus  
618-825-3969

<http://roe.stclair.k12.il.us/starnet>

Central and Northwest IL Families  
Letha Clark  
800-227-7537 ext. 251

[www.starnet.org](http://www.starnet.org)

**REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION** — Upon registration, you will receive a confirmation packet that will include program agenda, area hotel information, a map, and driving directions. All registration confirmations will be sent through Email unless US mail delivery is requested.

**INVITE TEACHERS** — Your child's providers/teachers are welcome to attend with you as a team. EI and CPDU credits are available.

**HELP PUBLICIZE THIS EVENT** — Feel free to make copies of the poster and registration forms. Distribute forms to friends. Hang posters in prominent places in your community.

**TRANSLATION and ADA ACCOMODATIONS**— ADA accommodations are available. Spanish translation services may be available as well. Please make requests on the registration form and submit at least 3 weeks prior to the conference date.

For more information, please contact—  
Michele Westmaas  
125 S. Webster  
Jacksonville, IL 62650  
217-479-4324 [michele.westmaas@illinois.gov](mailto:michele.westmaas@illinois.gov)



# Registration Form

## Conferences for Illinois Parents of Children with Vision Loss

Please mark which conference you wish to attend:

Southern Illinois Vision Conference

Northern Illinois Vision Conference

**March 17, 2012**

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Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

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Rockford, IL 61107

**List all who will be attending** and their relationship to the child with vision loss. If the attendee is a child, please list their age. Notice: **Children must be at least 12 years old to attend.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street

**IL**

City

State

Zip

County

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you would like registration information via US mail rather than Email.

**Name of child you are representing** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age of child** \_\_\_\_\_

Child's diagnosis \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain any translation or ADA accommodation needs \_\_\_\_\_

Choose appropriate format for handouts: Regular print Large print Braille

*I give permission for photos of all people in my party to be taken at the conference for future educational use.*

Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Register:** Online: [www.morgan.k12.il.us/isd/hveio](http://www.morgan.k12.il.us/isd/hveio)

Email: [amber.gaddis@illinois.gov](mailto:amber.gaddis@illinois.gov)

Phone: Gail Olson 217-479-4320

Fax: 217-479-4328

Mail: Amber Gaddis, 125 S. Webster, Jacksonville IL 62650