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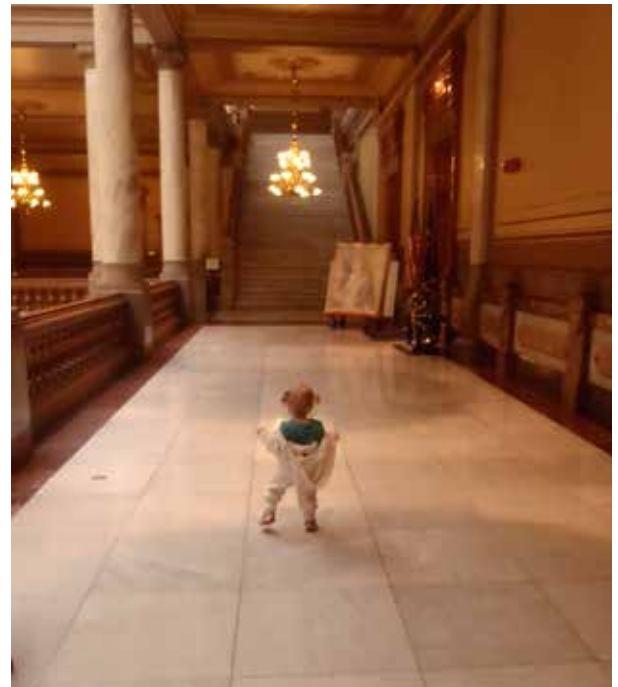
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## VIPS-Bloomington Families Share the VIPS Message at the Indiana State House

A new two-year Indiana state budget was made in the recent legislative session. The specialized early intervention for visually impaired infants and toddlers provided by VIPS is not state funded in Indiana. In fact, over the past 3 years the early intervention system in Indiana, First Steps, has undergone drastic cuts in all services and therapies. We would like to change that situation someday.

In order to keep the needs of our children on the minds of the Indiana General Assembly, VIPS Bloomington participated in the Valentine's Day at the State House event on Feb. 14, sponsored by the Arc of Indiana, an advocacy organization for individuals of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Rebecca Davis and Ann Hughes joined with several VIPS families to advocate for their children by talking with local lawmakers about the need for early intervention for Indiana's youngest visually impaired children. VIPS families gave their legislators brailled valentines handmade by the IU Delta Gamma fraternity. Each valentine had a picture of a VIPS-Bloomington child and a statistic or fact about the importance of early intervention for blind children. Thanks to the Riddles, the Sparks, and the Allens for taking the time to come to advocate for their children. Your stories

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Tiny Vivia leads the charge at the IN Statehouse!



Rebecca Davis presents VIPS Valentines to IN Governor Mike Pence.

## Bloomington Advocates

continued from front page

have power and will help to improve services for your children and for children to come. Together, we hope to improve the system in Indiana to better serve families facing the specific challenges of raising children with visual impairment.

VIPS-Bloomington thanks Governor Mike Pence, Sen. Mark Stoops, Rep. Eric Koch, Rep. Peggy Mayfield, Rep. Matt Pierce, and Rep. Matt Uebelhor for taking the time to listen to our families. Thanks to the IU Delta Gammas & Jenny Kelly for making valentines that were as lovely as they were educational. Thanks also to Kim Dodson of the Arc of Indiana for her assistance in helping us navigate the busy hallways of the State House.



State Senator Mark Stoops meets Levi Riddle (VIPS Bloomington's youngest self-advocate) and Dad while Ann Hughes looks on.

## VIPS Announces Summer Programs

### VIPS-Louisville

**Two-Day 2's classes** continue on their regular school year schedule throughout June and July. Children may be added to the class upon their second birthday at a weekly rate of \$50. Before-and-after-school care is available from 8 - 9 a.m. and noon - 5 p.m. at \$5/hour. Before-and-after-program care spots may be reserved on a weekly basis or as space and child/adult ratios permit. Lunch is to be provided by the parents of children enrolled.

**Summer Enrichment Program** will explore the theme of "Take a Look at This!" The program will be offered Monday - Thursday,

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. for VIPS children and community peers. Children must be 3 - 5 years old on June 1, 2013 to enroll.

VIPS Summer Enrichment Program will run June 10 - August 1, 2013. Tuition for the summer program is set at \$132 per week. If you sign up for 2 days per week (Monday & Tuesday or Wednesday & Thursday), tuition is \$66/week. A \$10 deposit is required for each week registered, which goes toward tuition. VIPS will offer before-and-after-program care from 8 - 9 a.m. and 3 - 5 p.m. for \$5/hour. VIPS teachers and early interventionists will lead the children in fun and educational activities centered around weekly topics - all designed to enhance school year studies. The lead teachers will be supported by Kidstown Preschool instructional assistants, university student teachers, and college and high school student volunteers.

**Friday Friends** will be held on Fridays in June and July for extra fun in Kidstown! Friday Friends invites our VIPS children of all ages, their siblings, community friends, and parents/caregivers to enjoy time together in our state-of-the-art Kosair Charities Kidstown. We will gather from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. each Friday. Activities will include parent-child playtime, exploration stations, playground, sensory garden, and featured guests and visitors. Friday Friends is free to children with visual impairments; a suggested donation of \$5 is appreciated from our community peers. Parents/caregivers must remain with their child(ren) throughout the Friday Friends program.

### VIPS Lexington

**Summer Sensations Camp** will be held at Gardenside Church for VIPS children, June 5 - 7, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Siblings 10 and under are welcome to attend. Children need to bring their own lunch.

VIPS Lexington will offer a **Summer Preschool Program** for children 2 ½ years up to age five years at UK Lab School. Preschool will run 10 a.m. - noon on the following dates: June 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27 and July 10, 11, 17, 18, 24 & 25. If you think your child is eligible but you did not receive a letter about preschool, please contact VIPS Lexington at 859-276-0335.

VIPS Lexington will be hosting **Park Pals** throughout the summer on Fridays, 10 - 11 a.m., weather permitting. Siblings are welcome as well. Below are the dates and locations:

June 14: Jacobson Park

June 21: Southland Park

June 28: Shilito Park

July 12: Woodland Park

July 19: Uk Arboretum, Kentucky Children's Garden

July 26: Makeup if a park has been rained out



# Homemade - It's Where the Heart Is

By Paige Maynard, VIPS Louisville Developmental Interventionist

It is heartwarming to work with families who sacrificially invest in their children. If your bunch is, or has ever been, a First Steps family, then you are considered a hero to everyone at VIPS. One such family belongs to Hunter Lich, a 12-month-old who receives developmental intervention services from VIPS. Because of his diagnosis of retinopathy of prematurity, Hunter can perceive hand motion only. His compromised vision has made it difficult for him to investigate objects that are not in contact with his body. However, his grandfather, Bill, has done an applause-worthy job of creating a homemade toy that facilitates Hunter's exploration.



Hunter's "Noodle Play Gym"

Hunter's "Noodle Play Gym" has allowed him to begin reaching, grasping, and bringing his hands together. Simply, Hunter's Noodle Play Gym is made from a foam pool noodle. For his height and reach, about 4 1/4 inches was cut off one side. The ends of the noodle sit in empty tin cans, which are screwed to cheerily painted wooden blocks. His grandmother, Mary, uses ribbon and masking tape to affix Hunter's red toy to the noodle.

Hunter's family's commitment to his interventions serve as a reminder of the effectiveness for intervention, its relevance to everyday life, and the extent of possibilities that made-at-home toys can bring to your child. Not only are toys made with items already around the house inexpensive, they can be individualized for each child's needs. For example, Hunter's grandparents and parents knew that Hunter needed to learn to look and reach for one toy before learning to play with the myriad of items that come standard on a play gym. Therefore, this play gym was created so that it is visually simple, and has only one toy hanging from it.

Homemade toys can be effective because they help you, the caregiver, to fully think through intervention. When creating or modifying a toy, it is required that you strategically consider exactly what you want your child to learn and how you are going to use the materials you have to teach it to him. When your child interacts with materials that you yourself created, it is oftentimes easier to see what is working and what is not with the design and intervention strategies. Further, you are more easily able to modify the toy if there are hiccups along the way, or if your child is ready to move to something more complex. For example, the tin cans in Hunter's toy were originally tennis shoes, which frequently tipped over. The tin cans have helped to stabilize it as he is playing, especially when he really gets hold of the red hanging toy.

Toys made from everyday materials are usually more relevant to your child's everyday life. Because they utilize familiar objects, they will help your child expand her knowledge of her environment. Children who are blind or visually impaired are not afforded as many incidental opportunities to explore their homes and communities as sighted children. When you use objects from your child's natural environment, he can explore and learn from them in ways that he may not have been previously able. For example, when Hunter masters playing with his red hanging toy, he could benefit from exploring a spoon, empty pie tin, or maybe even a Braille slate snugly tied to his play gym.



Hunter at play.

The extent of the toys that can be adapted or made of materials in your home is truly never-ending. For example, egg cartons, muffin tins, and ice cube trays make wonderful tools for learning positional concepts, fine motor practice, matching, and sorting. Boxes can be filled with items from around your home to explore. Shakers can be made from plastic Easter eggs, toothbrush holders, and empty bottles. Almost everything in your home can be used to teach your child. The best ideas usually come from necessity – think about what you would like to see your child doing, and then decide how to make it happen!

# Kentucky Braille Challenge

Reprinted with permission from the Wildcat Monthly, March 2013, published by the KY School for the Blind.

On Feb. 21, Kentucky students who read and write Braille joined together for a day of fun and competition at Kentucky School for the Blind and the American Printing House for the Blind to take part in the Kentucky Regional Braille Challenge. This event is the first step in the National Braille Challenge, which is the only Braille reading and writing contest in the nation.

Braille Challenge included competition in reading comprehension, reading speed and accuracy, proofreading, spelling and reading tactile charts and graphs. The preliminary round is open to students of all skill levels. Agencies and schools throughout the U.S. and Canada have partnered with Braille Institute to host 42 Regional Braille Challenge contests from mid-January through mid-March.

The top scoring contestants from regional competition go to Los Angeles in June for a Final Round—two days of competition, camaraderie and fun. Students selected to compete at the national level will be made on May 1.

Right: APH President Dr. Tuck Tinsley presents KSB eighth grader Shane Lowe, a former VIPS student, with a first place award for winning his division.



## Sources for Infant Miraflex Glasses

### Bloomington

Indiana University / Community Eye Center  
803 N Monroe St  
Bloomington, IN 47404  
Phone: 812-855-1671  
[www.opt.indiana.edu/clinics/cecc.aspx](http://www.opt.indiana.edu/clinics/cecc.aspx)

Hoosier Eye Doctor  
1105 S College Mall Rd  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
Phone: 812-333-2020  
[www.hoosiereyedoctor.com](http://www.hoosiereyedoctor.com)

### Louisville

Visionfirst Eye Care  
4000 Poplar Level Rd  
Louisville, KY 40213  
Phone: 502-456-1004  
[visionfirsteyecare.com](http://visionfirsteyecare.com)

Optical Shop of Eye Clinic of Louisville  
301 E Muhammad Ali Blvd  
Louisville, KY 40202  
Phone: 502-852-4127  
[www.louisvilleeye.org](http://www.louisvilleeye.org)

Advanced Vision of Louisville  
4414 Shelbyville Rd, Ste 204  
Louisville, KY 40207  
Phone: 502-894-4434  
[www.visioncarelouisville.com](http://www.visioncarelouisville.com)

### Lexington

University Optical  
740 S Limestone St, 1st floor  
Lexington, KY 40536  
Phone: 859-323-3105  
[www.ukhealthcare.uky.edu](http://www.ukhealthcare.uky.edu)

## Guiding Principles of Cortical Visual Impairment

By Rebecca Davis, VIPS Bloomington Development Director/Parent Advisor

Dr. Christine Roman-Lantzy shared a wealth of information on cortical visual impairment (CVI) in her presentation, "The Time is Now: Why Students with CVI Can't Wait," given on March 5 & 6 in Indianapolis and hosted by the PASS Project at the Blumberg Center at Indiana State University.

The current leading cause of visual impairment among children is not a disease or condition of the eyes, but cortical visual impairment—also known as cerebral visual impairment—in which visual dysfunction is caused by damage or injury to the brain. Although CVI is the leading cause of pediatric visual impairment in Western civilization today, there is a lot of misinformation about this diagnosis. Therefore, diagnosing CVI and then providing the appropriate early intervention for young children

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# Babies Count!

Babies Count is a National Registry for Children with Visual Impairments, Birth to 3 Years, that has been a project of the American Printing House for the Blind. The mission of this project is to collect standardized epidemiological and demographic data on young children with visual impairments. All data are coded to assure confidentiality of children and families. Data have been collected from 21 states; VIPS has participated in this important national project.

Currently, Babies Count is on hold while a panel of leaders in the field review the procedures and questionnaires that have been used and try to come up with a more streamlined process for interventionists and families.

Last Fall, some results of analysis of data collected between 2005 and 2011 for nearly 6,000 children nationwide were shared and they provide an interesting look at childhood visual impairment. Of the total, male young children between birth and three years were more likely to have a visual impairment than females, making up 56% of the sample. Almost 80% of participating families were two parent households. The average age of the mother was 27.9 years, and more than half had at least some college.

The seven most prevalent visual conditions were: cortical visual impairment (CVI) -- 35%; retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) -- 17%; optic nerve hypoplasia (ONH) -- 16%; structural defects -- 11%; retinal disorders -- 8%; albinism -- 6%; and refractive disorders -- 6%. The most common problems among children with "other disorders" were nystagmus and strabismus.

The mean age at which children were diagnosed was 4.9 months. Children with cortical visual impairment tended to have the greatest lag in diagnosis (mean of 6.9 months), while children with structural defects and retinopathy of prematurity tended to be diagnosed the earliest (means of 2.3 months and 2.8 months). The mean age of referral was 10.5 months and age of entry into intervention was 11.6 months. It's interesting to note that, despite being diagnosed earlier, children with ROP did not experience a significantly earlier referral (mean of 10.3 months) and entry into intervention (mean of 11.5 months).

Extent of visual impairment is influenced by visual condition as is the degree of risk of experiencing additional disabilities. CVI and ROP are associated with higher risk and ONH, Albinism, structural defects, and retinal disorders have a lower risk.

## Amount of Vision and Visual Condition

	Legally Blind (LB)	Not LB	Unknown
CVI	33%	17%	50%
ROP	36%	19%	45%
ONH	55%	9%	36%
Albinism	32%	23%	45%
Structural Defects	40%	20%	40%
Retinal Disorders	45%	19%	36%
Other	20%	34%	46%

## Multiple Disability Risk Status

*VI Only = visual impairment only*  
*VI/DD = visual impairment/developmental delay*  
*VI/MD = visual impairment/multiple disabilities*

	VI Only	VI/DD	VI/MD
CVI	15%	29%	56%
ROP	33%	31%	36%
ONH	50%	26%	24%
Albinism	86%	10%	4%
Structural Defects	51%	19%	30%
Retinal Disorders	55%	21%	24%

## CVI -- continued from pg. 4

with CVI is critical in helping these children, literally, "learn to see." Time is of the essence for children with CVI.

Here are some guiding principles about CVI:

- CVI is fundamentally different than ocular causes of visual impairment. An individual with CVI can perceive visual information, but cannot make sense of it.
- CVI is caused by damage or atypical structures in either the visual pathways and/or the visual processing center of the brain.
- In a CVI diagnosis, an eye exam does not match the way the child sees.
- Prematurity is NOT a cause of CVI. Some of the things that happen to babies who are premature can cause CVI such as Periventricular Leukomalacia (PVL), which is white matter brain damage that can occur due to prematurity, and brain hemorrhages. Mitochondrial disorders, metabolic changes, and trauma can also cause CVI.
- We expect improvement in visual functioning in children with CVI as they receive appropriate educational accommodations and interventions. Improvement in functional vision is facilitated, not automatic.

It is critical that, if your child is diagnosed with CVI, you educate yourself about the accommodations you can make at home to help your child learn to see.

If your child is at-risk for CVI from prematurity, metabolic condition, atypical MRI, or trauma, consider the following questions:

- Despite a normal eye exam, do you have concerns about how your child sees? (If yes, go on to the following questions...)
- Does your child gaze into bright light, or fail to close eyes in response to bright light? (If yes, consider talking to your Ophthalmologist about CVI.)
- Does your child look at your face? (If no, consider talking to your Ophthalmologist about CVI.)

### Resources:

1. Dr. Roman-Lantzy's website is [www.cviresources.com](http://www.cviresources.com). Her book, "Cortical Visual Impairment: An Approach to Assessment and Intervention," can be purchased at [www.afb.org](http://www.afb.org), \$49.95 paper or \$34.95 for e-book or Kindle edition.
2. The American Printing House for the Blind has very helpful CVI information on their website [www.aph.org](http://www.aph.org).
3. A great resource for parents and games for children with CVI is [www.littlebearses.org](http://www.littlebearses.org). There is also a book, "Little Bear Sees," written by parents of a child with CVI full of great information, resources, and tips on how accommodate and to improve your child's CVI diagnosis (\$18 on Amazon; \$9.99 Kindle).

# News From VIPS Lexington

## VIPS Lexington Participating In Community Health Fairs and Events

In an effort to reach more children who are blind and visually impaired, and to provide community education, VIPS participated in a health fair in Pulaski County on April 19. As one of many participants, VIPS also attended the annual St. Joe's Maternity Fair in Lexington on May 11. Acquiring a booth at the Infant-Toddler Institute scheduled in July is on the agenda to continue to reach children who are blind and visually impaired and to raise community and provider awareness.

## VIPS Lexington March Family Event

Seven VIPS families attended our March family event -- a Moms' Tea. The moms had tea and great conversation about services available and updating each other on what was going on with their kids. Two types of tea were served as well as cucumber sandwiches, egg salads, sandwiches, quiche, chocolate strawberries, lemon bars, and several other items. The tea service was prepared by volunteer Nancy Miller. As this was going on they took turns getting a 15 minute chair massage from Samantha Jewell of Circle of Light Massage. Then they all did a one hour relaxation yoga class led by professional instructor Christina Gerdes from Open Heart Yoga. Meanwhile, the dads and kids played parachute games outside as well as gym games and bubble activities. We also had six volunteers from Midway College of Nursing and three VIPS staff helping out with the event. Thanks to our volunteers Lauren Austin, Meghan Bostic, Krista Hahn, Kelsey Pilkerton, Whitney Sutherland, and Olivia Swamer.

## Never buy paint for kids!!

Paint

1 c. salt

1 c. flour

1 c water

food coloring

Share with your friends

so they can make it too!





# News From VIPS Bloomington

## Participating in Children's Expo

The IU School of Optometry and VIPS shared a display at the Children's Expo at Fairview Elementary in February. Hundreds of local families were on hand to learn about the resources for families and children in south central Indiana. Attendees enjoyed magic shows, and live entertainment including stilt walkers. VIPS-Bloomington displayed Braille and tactile books and other toys for visually impaired children. By typing names in Braille, we introduced a lot of children to Braille for the first time. Thanks to Dr. Don Lyon and the IU School of Optometry for their continued support of VIPS-Bloomington.



Dr. Don Lyon and the IU School for Optometry shared a table with VIPS at the Children's Expo in Bloomington.

## Attending CVI Conference in Indy



Rebecca Davis and Annie Hughes with Dr. Roman-Lantzy (center).

attended by special education teachers, early interventionists, and parents from all over Indiana. CVI is the number one visual impairment in the western world. The need to raise awareness about this condition is critical to improving rates of referral and

In March, the Indiana DeafBlind Project hosted Dr. Christine Roman-Lantzy, a nationally recognized specialist in educating children with cortical visual impairment (CVI). The conference, entitled "The Time is Now: Why Students with CVI Can't Wait" was

educational approaches to CVI. Thanks to Karen Goehl, Sharon Bryan, and Marcee Wilburn from the Indiana Deafblind Project for making this important conference happen.

## Presenting at the Indiana Kiwanis Key Club Convention

The Kiwanis Club of South Central Indiana invited Rebecca Davis to present "Giving Indiana's Visually Impaired Children the Best Start" to the Indiana Kiwanis Key Club State Convention on March 23. Around 40 Key Club members attended.

Several willing volunteers participated in a sorting exercise while blindfolded to begin to understand the challenges faced by children with severe vision loss. Our thanks to the wonderful Key Club members who welcomed VIPS-Bloomington to their conference, the Kiwanis Club of South Central Indiana, and Gov Elect Vanessa McClary.

We had a great time at your convention!



A Key Club member tries a sorting exercise during the VIPS presentation.

## Being Nominated for Be More Awards

On April 2, the City of Bloomington held its annual Be More Awards to highlight our vibrant and dedicated volunteer community. VIPS Bloomington's Advisory Board President, Gen Shelton and the Advisory Board itself were nominated for the City of Bloomington's Be More Awards. Nominees exemplify the outstanding volunteer work done by many caring individuals in Bloomington. VIPS-Bloomington is very grateful for the drive and dedication of its advisory board. We couldn't serve Indiana families without you!



VIPS-Bloomington Board Members, Jenny Kelly, Shannon West, Amy Shrake, Leanne Ellis, and Tana Hellwig.

## Celebrating Abilities Resource Fair – VIPS goes “On Safari!”

VIPS-Bloomington participated in the Celebrating Abilities Resource Fair (CARF) this year at the Ellettsville Christian Church on April 12. Cyndi Johnson, a VIPS-Bloomington advisory board member, and a founder of Down Syndrome Family Connection, has made the Celebrating Abilities Resource Fair a fantastic yearly event. CARF is designed to spotlight products and resources for people with disabilities and their families in central and south central Indiana. It is always educational and fun for local Hoosiers with disabilities of all ages. We applaud Cyndi and the Down Syndrome Family Connection and are happy to participate in their wonderful event. Our thanks to Ann Hughes and board members, Jim Shelton, Jenny Kelly, Shannon West, and Tana Hellwig for representing VIPS-Bloomington at the Celebrating Abilities Resource Fair!



Ann shows a actual book to Rebecca Johnson at the Abilities Resource Fair.

## Serving Wonderful Children and Families



Jaiden really likes the APH Lite Box! Miss Annie schedules joint visits with Jaiden's developmental therapist David.



Bentley was very engaged in early literacy activities during a spring home visit!

William is beginning to show an interest in specific textures. He likes the bumpy cardboard in this Seedlings book!



Jasmine is really exploring!



(Above) Krishna isn't quite ready to stack blocks yet, but he likes the sound they make when he pushes them around in a tray. (Left) Michelle loves to look at books with her mom.





# Ann Hughes Named Indiana's 2013 Hoosier Preschool Educator of the Year

VIPS is thrilled to announce that Ann Hughes is this year's Hoosier Preschool Educator as chosen by the Indiana Association of the Education of Young Children. Ann was honored at a luncheon at the IAEYC conference in Indy on Friday, April 12. The award is well deserved. Ann spends hours driving to counties all over central and south central Indiana. She provides exceptional education and support to families who have been previously overlooked and underserved in Indiana. Her dedication and experience are simply unparalleled. She makes a difference in the life of every child she meets (67 VIPS families and counting since 2011). VIPS and the youngest visually impaired children in Indiana are so fortunate to have Miss Annie on their team!



Ann Hughes received the 2013 Hoosier Preschool Educator award from Dianna Wallace and the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children in April.



Miss Annie and Juri study a textured book.

## News From VIPS Louisville

### Chili Cookoff

On March 17, VIPS Louisville sponsored a St. Patrick's Day Chili Cookoff. Despite the fact that it was rainy and snowy, two VIPS families came out for the festivities. Pyper Buren's grandmother won the prize for best chili. Thanks to VIPS staff for their support, including VIPS Executive Director Diane Nelson who brought cupcakes, Angie Paisley and family who brought chili, and to Beth Krebs and Mary Lesousky for their helping hands. Thanks also to our volunteers Francesca Cordin, the McCurry's (Terry, Hannah and Emily) and Haley Schnell.



Pyper Buren & Brody Fromoet came dressed in green for the St. Patty's Day Chili Cookoff.

### Annual Easter Party

VIPS-Louisville was an egg hunter's wonderland on Saturday, March 30, the day before Easter. It was a beautiful, sunny day for the nine VIPS families who attended the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the VIPS Louisville Office. Easter Bunny (the wonderful



Easter Bunny (Michelle Renbarger) greets Brookelynn.

Michelle Renbarger) came hoppin' down the bunny trail to visit with all the children and families.

There were talking Easter eggs, beeping Easter eggs, and lots of brightly colored, filled eggs, compliments of the St. Agnes School 7th Grade. Our egg hiders did a great job -- thanks to Ryan Hack and to Mitch Dahmke, Family Support Specialist with the KY School for the Blind. There was a "Sensory Egg Hunt" in the Sensory Garden and two sensory tables with touch & feel eggs and lighted eggs for the children to find. Kids could also make colorful and tactile Easter crafts.

Thanks to The Bakery at Sullivan for donating delicious pastries for the event. Thanks also to our great volunteers, including Anna & Madeline Feitelson, Ryan Hack, and Caroline, Hannah, and Parker McCurry.

(Right) Vance takes a multisensory approach to exploring his egg. (Below) Kids enjoy Easter crafts that were available.



(Above) Addyson has a big basket to fill with mom's help. (Below) Pyper finds a beeping egg in the Sensory Garden.



## New Arrivals

VIPS is pleased to welcome the following new children and their families into the VIPS Program:

### VIPS Louisville

Ana -- 17 months, Albany, IN  
 Aniyah -- 17 months, Monticello, IN  
 Brighton -- 10 months, Milton, KY  
 Brody -- 8 months, Shelbyville, KY  
 Caden -- 13 months, Cox's Creek, KY  
 Cali -- 4 years, Benton, KY  
 Ellie -- 15 months, Pekin, IN  
 Ethan -- 10 months, Louisville, KY  
 Leslie -- 9 months, Corydon, IN  
 Levi -- 6 months, Lagrange, KY  
 McKinley -- 29 months, Scottsville, IN

### VIPS Lexington

Alexis -- 24 months, Winchester, KY  
 Brantley -- 7 months, Winchester, KY  
 Bronx -- 14 months, Middlesboro, KY  
 Brylee -- 17 months, Rockholds, KY  
 Carter -- 11 months, Mt. Sterling, KY  
 EJ -- 24 months, Mt. Vernon, KY  
 Madelyn -- 12 months, Lexington, KY  
 Sophia -- 18 months, West Liberty, KY

### VIPS Bloomington

Alayna -- 12 months, Greenfield, IN  
 Brantley -- 15 months, Indianapolis, IN  
 Calease -- 19 months, Indianapolis, IN  
 Callie -- 8 months, Bedford, IN  
 Cole -- 17 months, Brazil, IN  
 Elena -- 24 months, Indianapolis, IN  
 Kaden -- 18 months, Indianapolis, IN  
 Kailee -- 35 months, Bedford, IN  
 Lydia -- 34 months, Camby, IN



Elena is a new child from Indianapolis.



# VIPS Louisville Class News

## Spring Flies in to the 2-Day Twos

By Staci Maynard, Two-Day 2's Teacher, VIPS Louisville

It is difficult to believe that, at this writing, we are already three and a half months into 2013. The two-year-olds have been very busy learning through fun. They are all growing at an amazing rate: from learning to drink from a cup to discovering how to put together a puzzle to learning the alphabet, counting, and spelling; the toddlers are always finding new ways to expand their minds.

For the month of March, our class began to find out what happens in spring. We learned about spring weather, including rain, clouds, and wind. We made clouds out of finger paint, made rain by pouring water through colanders, and jumped in pretend puddles. The kids enjoyed learning to use their mouths to blow like the wind too. Their favorite weather subject to explore was rainbows. They enjoyed talking about the colors in a rainbow, making rainbows from cereal or Play-Doh, singing about how a rainbow was made, and sponge painting a rainbow.

The new life that occurs in spring was another popular topic to explore in March. The two-year-olds were very intrigued with plants and how they grow. They were fascinated with the sensory table in which they could pretend to plant silk flowers in pots of black bean "dirt" and then water the plants to make them grow. They also had the opportunity to make their own flowers by sticking objects on contact paper or by coloring on aluminum foil. Each child even got to find out how tall he/she was in comparison to a sunflower.



Madi and Jude paint clouds.

On Easter week, we talked about new life in the form of baby chicks and bunnies. The kids enjoyed dressing up in spring costumes, counting objects hidden inside eggs, and going on a mini Easter egg hunt with talking eggs. Each child did a beautiful job of making an Easter egg out of contact paper and tissue paper pieces. They also made multi-textured bunny masks, but they enjoyed touching them so much that I don't know if any of the masks got home in one piece.

The two-year-old class came back from Spring Break ready to learn and have a good time together. They were all very happy to return to school and had no problem getting back into their class routine.



Sarah and Ethan read together while dressed as helping professionals.

Of course, they have liked learning about bugs so much the past couple of weeks that I think the transition from vacation was easy for them. The kids enjoyed listening to bug sounds, pretending to catch bugs, acting like bugs, and making bugs out of sections of egg cartons. They will have the opportunity to lace a spider web and make a butterfly out of coffee filters as well. They really enjoy songs about bugs, especially if there are motions or bug sounds involved. Our class will be continuing to learn about different animals as we work toward the end of the school year.

It's so amazing to watch the little victories that our friends achieve each week. Several of our friends have become masters of matching, whether they are matching colored eggs, butterfly shapes, or bug pictures together. They also seem to be a little more independent every time that we see them. The kids are becoming more mobile, more verbal, and more interactive. They are even becoming very skilled at following the class routine, including sitting in circle time during a story and songs. I cannot



Addyson, Madi and Grace practice group participation.



say enough about how exciting it is to be a part of these children's growth and development. One never knows what they are going to do from one minute to the next. The 2-Day Twos class will continue through July, so who knows what our class members will be able to do by then!

We would like to express our gratitude to Seedlings Braille Books for Children for their donation of eleven new Braille books, most of which are also textured, for our classroom. These books will be a great asset to our two-year-olds, who are learning to see with their hands.

## PAL: Check Us Out!

By Staci Maynard, PAL Teacher, VIPS Louisville

Our Play and Learn family group has been seeing a lot of growth and new faces lately, which is awesome. It is very satisfying to see parents connecting with one another while their children also become acquainted. We have been having as many as 5 or 6 families lately, and the adults seem to have as much fun as the children do.

As the weather has been warming up, we have begun to enjoy our time outdoors on the amazing VIPS playground. The babies especially enjoy swinging. The light features in the sensory room are also a major attraction for the young ones while our toddler and preschool-aged friends are drawn to the adventure of the three outdoor slide choices and the sensory room ball pit.



Layla and her mom enjoy the ball pit.

We have begun to utilize the Smart Board for an interactive song time, and we try to find an activity that provides multisensory input each week. For example, one week we sang bug songs, such as "Ladybug, Ladybug" and "Itsy Bitsy Spider" and had a box of packing peanuts with plastic bugs hidden inside for the children to explore. In recent months, we have also experimented with various simple crafts for infants and toddlers. We made clouds out of shaving cream. On bug week, the kids had the opportunity to make caterpillars by sticking circle shapes

in paint and then printing them on paper. One friend made a caterpillar that covered her entire sheet of painting paper.

You can make your own sensory experience at home by pouring black beans in a bowl or tray (along with other items, if desired) and then letting your child explore. Black beans are a popular choice for a sensory experience, since they provide a dark background for contrast and are less messy than many of the other sensory table options. Beans can be used to practice scooping, pouring, and sprinkling, among other skills. There are a number of other options that can be used as a substitute: bird seed, sand, water, pasta, rice, cotton balls, etc. Be creative! You should also be watchful, though, since children will be tempted to explore the objects with their mouths if not supervised.



Little Isabella likes to read books with her mom.

PAL will continue in its typical format through the month of May. Then, in June, we will transition to our Friday summer program, Friday Friends (see pg. 2). More information on this program will be forthcoming, but I can say that it will be a great way to meet new friends, to find out more about VIPS, and to get to interact with special guests. We hope to see you at PAL on Fridays from 10 a.m. - noon and then at Friday Friends during the summer.



Jude's mom sent in this picture of him climbing a huge lego structure at Lego Fest.

# Kidstown Preschool

By Angie Paisley, Preschool Teacher, VIPS Louisville

During April, May and June our preschoolers have been and will continue to be very busy learners as usual. At the beginning of April we took a very exciting field trip to the library at the KY School for the Blind. We enjoyed a special story time and loved



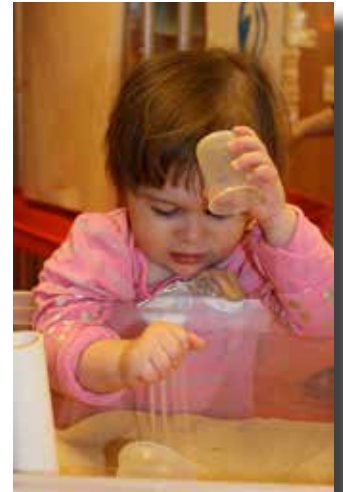
Braden touches the soft fur of one of the animals on display in the KSB library.

seeing the animals which had been preserved through taxidermy. We learned all about animals and where they lived, and categorized them according to whether they were air, land or water animals. We made our very own birds nests out of mud, sticks, grass, etc.—of course after the children told us what we needed! We made our own land and water habitats using shaving cream and brown and blue food coloring. The children drew their favorite land and water animals in the shaving cream. These two sensory experiences, as well as all that we have in preschool, are very important in the pre-Braille process.



Layla and Lainey practice gardening.

Also in April we learned about how things grow in a garden. The children can now explain what is needed to make a plant grow. We planted our own seeds (grass and bean), and are beginning to see them sprout and grow. We took a field trip to the Garden Gate, and were able to smell, touch and fully experience all the many things that grow in the garden. We cannot wait to extend this at the end of May when our good friends from Texas Roadhouse give us all new plants for our sensory garden and allow us to plant with them!



Haley works on pouring sand.

The week of Derby we made horses, hats and had our very own Derby Race! We also hope to have a horse come to visit us! The Louisville Zoo got to meet our wonderful preschoolers on our field trip there on May 7. We will finish off the year learning about zoo animals, bugs and insects, and nursery rhymes.

We will celebrate our year with Graduation on May 30 at 7 p.m. We have some very special friends that we will miss in the coming years very much—Layla Grottenthaler, Zachary Harris, Morgan Ottman, Braeden Robinson, and Alyssa Tull. We cannot wait to see how much these bright children continue to excel in kindergarten and beyond.



Megan enjoys swinging on the playground.

We would like to say a great big "Thanks!" to Jill and John Talbott, to Lori Grottenthaler, and to Kathryn and Bill Brangers for their donation of supplies for the preschool, and to Kris Mowery of GE for the rocking plush sheep dog.





Ahmed strengthens his upper body on the rolling exercise board.

The Seventh Grade Class from St. Agnes School came for a visit in the Spring and learned some things about visual impairment and performed a volunteer job. In the pictures below, students explore under blindfolds using the white cane.



## VIPS Staff News

### VIPS Louisville Preschool's Exceptional Substitute Teachers

When teacher of the visually impaired (TVI), Diane Key, left the VIPS Preschool, a substitute TVI was needed to meet the very special needs of the preschool's visually impaired students. Our Visual Impairment Specialist Jan Moseley, who was working 4-5 hours per week, jumped in and took over the responsibilities, becoming a full-time substitute TVI. Although Jan had not been in the classroom for 34 years, she is having a ball with the little ones! And the children have been in wonderful hands -- Jan has been in the field of visual impairment since 1971. She was a teacher of the visually impaired, 1971 - 1979. In 1979, she became an administrator for the Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS), overseeing the entire visual impairment and other health impaired programs. When Jan retired from JCPS in 2004, she came to work at VIPS as our Visual Impairment Specialist, a position in



TVI Jan Moseley (Thing 2) is shown with Preschool Teacher Angie Paisley (Cat in the Hat) and LaRhonda Daniels (Thing 1), an Instructional Assistant.

which she has overseen IEPs and advised VIPS staff and parents on educational issues for our preschool population; most recently she has been the Editor for VISability.

Jan has been assisted with her classroom responsibilities by three other retired professionals from the field of visual impairment who have served as subs when Jan cannot be here. Darlene Middleton has been a TVI at both the TN and KY Schools for the Blind (KSB). She taught for 15 years and then became the Outreach



Coordinator for KSB, then Admissions and Program Coordinator, for a total of 37 years experience. Carla McMillan has 30 years experience in the field of education, 27 of them at KSB, where she served as a Guidance Counselor for 14 years. And Barbara Merrick began her career in visual impairment in 1974 as a teacher of Activities of Daily Living at the rehabilitation center for the blind for the state of KY. In 1988, she became a TVI with Jefferson County, until she retired in 2011. Now she subs quite a bit.

That gives our TVI subs a combined expertise of nearly 150 years of experience working with children and adults who are visually impaired to share with VIPS kids!

## Pauletta Feldman Returns to VIPS Louisville

On April 15, Pauletta Feldman re-joined the VIPS staff after three years in retirement. She will be part-time, doing special projects as needed for 10 to 15 hours per week and initially she will be doing the newsletter while VISability Editor Jan Moseley is teaching in the VIPS Preschool. Welcome back, Pauletta!



## Meet Alysia Rue

Alysia Rue is a contracted Developmental Interventionist, who joined VIPS in the spring of 2013. She recently received her IECE certification from the University of Kentucky, and is working towards her Master's degree. She completed practicum work at Highland Presbyterian Weekday School, Creative Beginnings Child Development Center, and Down Syndrome of Louisville. Alysia enjoys meeting new families and collaborating with them as well as other professionals to help ensure children reach their maximum potential.



## Notes of Interest



Military OneSource is a website that has information about resources/benefits geared specifically for military families with a child receiving early intervention and special education. "The Exceptional Family Member Program" (EFMP) works with military families with special needs to address their unique needs throughout the assignment process and after families have settled into their new installation. Use these resources, tools, and articles to learn more about EFMP and the families it serves." <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/efmp> <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/efmp> (It must be noted that VIPS cannot serve children served through Military OneSource, since those children cannot access services through more than one federal program and are not, therefore, eligible for First Steps.)

A Children's Braille Book Club is available through the National Braille Press. Membership is free. Every month, a new print-braille book is offered at a very reasonable price--these are the same books you would buy at a bookstore, but they have been enhanced with braille also. They are a delight for the whole family. You can join by calling 800-548-7323 or by visiting [www.npb.org](http://www.npb.org).

"Explore the Braille Alphabet with Madilyn and Ruff" is a new accessible app by Sensory Sun, scheduled to launch in May 2013. It is designed by Sensory Sun's founder, Hillary Kleck, and aims to teach sighted, low vision and blind children about the Braille alphabet. Your child can browse through a story of the letters and their sounds, then play a game using the iPad with or without Apple's VoiceOver feature. Checkout: [www.sensorysun.com/2013/04/explore-the-braille-alphabet-with-madilyn-and-ruff-accessible-app-launching-may-2013/](http://www.sensorysun.com/2013/04/explore-the-braille-alphabet-with-madilyn-and-ruff-accessible-app-launching-may-2013/).

For some great information on "iPad, iPod, iPhone -- iTechnology and apps that have been used successfully with individuals with deafblindness or with visual impairments and additional disabilities, check out: [www.pathstoliteracy.org/technology/ipad-ipod-iphone](http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/technology/ipad-ipod-iphone).

**"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."**

Frederick Douglass (1818 – 1895) was an American abolitionist, editor, orator, author, statesman and reformer. Called "The Sage of Anacostia" and "The Lion of Anacostia," Douglass was one of the most prominent figures of African American history during his time, and one of the most influential lecturers and authors in American history.

# Kind Gifts of Time from Generous People

## VIPS Louisville

For their invaluable help with ReVision and Dining in the Dark:

- Thanks to Board Member Mark Stiebling from the bottom of our hearts for all your hard work in designing ReVision, showing up early all 3 days to set up and work the event, and staying to break everything down. You and Theresa worked so tirelessly to make it a beautiful event.
- Thanks to Board Member John Talbott and wife Jill for bringing out 50 of your closest friends to make Dining in the Dark such a tremendous success!! John, thanks for speaking so well on behalf of VIPS at the event. You are an amazing parent and so generous with your time, talent and treasure as a board member.
- Thanks to Board Member Glen Stuckel for your help with ReVision and encouraging Kosair Charities to sponsor two tables at Dark Dining.
- Thanks to event volunteers, including Christy Chandler, Robin Steinhilber, Kathy Toebe, and Jamie Weedman, and to VIPS staff members Rebecca Davis, Beth Krebs, Mary Lesousky, Staci & Paige Maynard, and Jan Moseley.

A great big thanks to VIPS Louisville Board Member and VIPS parent Erik Hitzelberger and wife Brandi for their Hitzelberger Family Challenge, which has generated to date \$820 in donations, which they will match dollar for dollar.

For her dedication and reliability, thanks to our wonderful 2's Class volunteer, Fran Woodward. What would we do without you?

For helping out at VIPS Louisville with a variety of needs over the past few months thanks to the following individuals: Safir Bibi, Cameron Brown, Ti'Ericka Carney, Edie Greenberg, Sadie Jagers, Maria Jones, Hannah McCurry, and Jane St. John.

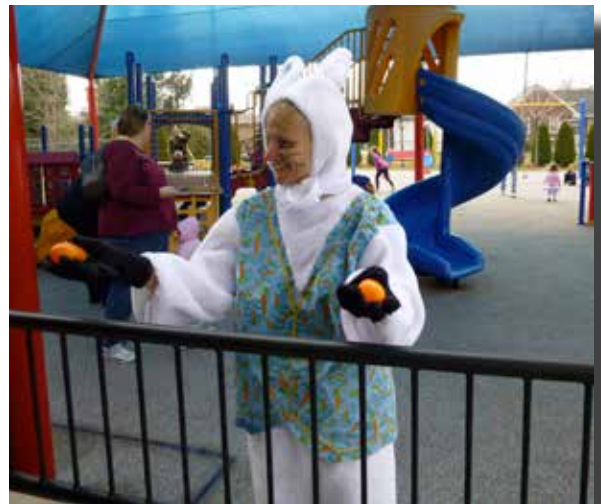
For helping with the VIPS Louisville Chili Cookoff, thanks to VIPS staff for their support, including VIPS Executive Director Diane Nelson who brought cupcakes, Angie Paisley and family who brought chili, and to Beth Krebs and Mary Lesousky for their helping hands. Thanks also to our volunteers Francesca Cordin, the McCurry's (Terry, Hannah and Emily) and Haley Schnell.

For stuffing Easter Eggs for the annual VIPS Louisville Easter Party, thanks to volunteers from the seventh grade at St. Agnes School and the fourth graders from Sacred Heart Model School.



(Above) The whole group of 7th Graders from St. Agnes School.

For the wonderful assistance with the annual VIPS Louisville Easter Party, thanks to the fabulous Michelle Renbarger (Easter Bunny) and to Mitch Dahmke, Anna & Madeline Feitelson, Ryan Hack, and Caroline, Hannah, and Parker McCurry. Thanks to The Bakery at Sullivan for donating delicious pastries for the event.



Easter Bunny (Michelle Renbarger) "eggs" kids on to find some more eggs.

## VIPS Lexington

A huge shout out and thanks to the Delta Gammas for their hard work in making glitter bottles, and coloring rice for our Welcome Bags. Also, their assistance with making in-kind donation requests for our Golf Outing is invaluable and very much appreciated.

For assisting with the Mother's Tea, thanks to: volunteer Nancy Miller for preparing the tea service, Samantha Jewell of Circle of Light Massage, Christina Gerdes from Open Heart Yoga, and our volunteers from Midway College of Nursing including

Lauren Austin, Meghan Bostic, Krista Hahn, Kelsey Pilkerton, Whitney Sutherland and Olivia Swamer.

## VIPS Bloomington

In gratitude for our day at the Indiana Statehouse, we say thanks to Governor Mike Pence, Sen. Mark Stoops, Rep. Eric Koch, Rep. Peggy Mayfield, Rep. Matt Pierce, and Rep. Matt Ubehlor for taking the time to listen to our families. Thanks to the IU Delta Gamma fraternity (Lauren Casel, Megan Clark, Maurissa Paligraf) and to Jenny Kelly for making valentines with a picture of a VIPS-Bloomington child and a statistic or fact about the importance of early intervention for blind children for us to give to state legislators. Thanks to the Riddles, the Sparks, and the Allens for taking the time to come to advocate for their children. Your stories have power and will help to improve services for your children and for children to come. Thanks also to Kim Dodson of the Arc of Indiana for her assistance in helping us navigate the busy hallways of the State House.



Megan Clark & Maurissa Paligraf, members of IU's Delta Gammas, made beautiful and educational valentines for us to take to the State House.

For representing VIPS-Bloomington at the Celebrating Abilities Resource Fair, our thanks to Ann Hughes and board members, Tana Hellwig, Jenny Kelly, Jim Shelton, and Shannon West.

For help with graphic design, thanks to Jenn Taylor.

For hosting our first Play & Learn in Carmel, IN, we say a special thanks to the Malhotra family. Thanks to Carol Marks and the Unitarian Universalist Church for welcoming our third Play & Learn in Bloomington.

For meeting with Rebecca Davis and Heather Benson about generating support for VIPS-Bloomington, thanks to members of Indiana Lions Club, including Ray Collins (Riley

Township Lions), Jennifer and J. Ross Drapalik (Martinsville Lions), Bob Kamman (Seymour Lions), Sara Provines (Spencer Lions), and Frank Ruane (ISBVI Lions).

Thanks to Karen Goehl and Marcee Wilburn from the Indiana Deafblind Project for their time and support in helping draft a plan to train Early Interventionists in Visual Impairment, and to Bess Dennison from the SKI-HI Institute at Utah State University for her support and guidance.

## VIPS Has a House for Sale!

In 2004 a very generous man, Mr. Dennis Ash, upon passing donated his home to VIPS with the understanding his brother could live there as long as he was able. Well the brother, Mr. Ralph Ash, has become very ill and has moved to Golden Living on Breckenridge Lane for the remainder of his life. VIPS took possession of the house at 1705 Larkmoor Lane on April 13. Larkmoor Lane is across Newburg Road past PNC on the right. It has been difficult for Mr. Ash to leave the home he has known for so long and move to assisted living. Executive Director Diane Nelson passed a card around for all staff to sign to thank Mr. Ash for his generosity in taking care of the home for us, offer prayers for him, and wish him the best for his future.

Also – we will immediately put the house up for sale if you know anyone interested in a fixer upper. It has a new roof and windows and well cared for yard. The interior needs painting and updating. The house across the street from this one sold in May for \$112,000.

## Welcome Bag Wish List

VIPS Needs the following items for our Welcome Bags for new families. Welcome Bags contain items that families can use with their children to encourage the use of remaining vision and to stimulate other senses. Items we can use include:

- Black bath towel
- Shiny Mardi Gras beads (especially red and gold/ yellow)
- Metallic ribbon (especially red and gold/yellow)
- Mylar gift stuffing/Mylar tissue paper (especially red and gold/yellow)

Thanks for all you do!!!



## Become a Monthly V.I.P.!

Become a V.I.P. by making a monthly gift to VIPS. It's one of the most manageable and effective ways you can support the education of young children who are visually impaired. Your pre-authorized gift is automatically debited from your bank account or credit card on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> of each month (your choice). It's convenient for you and provides VIPS with a steady, reliable source of funds. Your ongoing pledge can be changed or canceled at any time.

To join the "VIPS V.I.P. Club" and make your pledge, please call VIPS at 502-636-3207!

## ReVision & Dining in the Dark

Thanks to our wonderful sponsor Brown-Forman Corporation, VIPS recently hosted another successful ReVision and Dining in the Dark at the Glassworks building in downtown Louisville.

This unique event began with a cocktail party on February 27 to debut dozens of tactual art works created by local, regional and national



Some art works by VIPS kids students of the KY School for the Blind were included along with works by regional and national artists.



artists, all of which were available for purchase. On March 1, the exhibit was a featured stop on the popular Louisville Downtown Trolley Hop. The following night, the art merged with VIPS' annual Dining in the Dark event, an elegant evening where guests can experience a gourmet meal while enhancing all senses outside of sight. Dining in the Dark drew more than 150 guests, the largest attendance ever!



Chris Morris, Master Distiller for Woodford Reserve, conducted bourbon tastings.



Board member Jennifer O'Dea (right) and friend Tammy Moore Hjalms looked very stylish in their sleepshades during dinner.

# Recent Grants

## VIPS Louisville

- Kosair Charities continues to be a blessing for VIPS by its dedication to helping young children who are blind and visually impaired to receive the critical early intervention they need to succeed. In celebration of its 90th Anniversary, Kosair recently announced a \$1 million commitment to a new matching grant program titled "Take Flight Matching Grants." Donors making gifts starting at \$10,000 to Kosair Charities can designate the purpose (i.e. VIPS teacher salaries) and Kosair will match dollar for dollar. We are thrilled to say we have 2 match requests for VIPS Louisville -- the Louisville Downtown Lions Club grant of \$20,000 and Dr Mark Lynn's Stampede for VIPS grant of \$30,000 for a total of \$100,000 for VIPS Louisville. The Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County has pledged \$10,000 for VIPS Bloomington, which Kosair will also match. THANK YOU KOSAIR CHARITIES!
- Just received the 4<sup>th</sup> of 5 installments of \$80,000 from Dr. Mark & Cindy Lynn.
- The Brown Forman Foundation just donated \$15,000 (\$5,000 for our school and \$10,000 for next year's ReVision)
- Cralle Fund has contributed a \$7,500 scholarship.
- ICAP Energy \$5,000
- Johnston Family Foundation's gift of \$2,500
- New Albany Lions Club gift of \$300
- Steve Wiser's Book --book sales continue. We have made approximately \$5,500 thus far.

## VIPS Bloomington

- Aver's Pizza Fundraiser -- \$50
- Sertoma Club of Broad Ripple -- \$200 donation
- Brown County Lions -- \$300 donation
- Delta Gamma Theta Chapter at IU -- \$1,463

# A Very Busy May

## Tennis Ball & Tournament

It will be a busy weekend indeed for VIPS at the Louisville Boat Club with the Second Annual Tennis Ball and Tournament, presented by ICAP. On May 18, guests will come together to experience a fun evening of live music, dinner and auctions. The following day, the tennis courts will be busy with competitive doubles teams in a sold-out tournament! While this is all going on, youngsters will enjoy a free kids clinic in the indoor courts area.

## 25th Annual Yum! Brands Golf Tournament

VIPS is celebrating a special anniversary with the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Yum! Brands Corporate Cup Golf Tournament! This event is to be held on Monday, May 20 at Persimmon Ridge Golf Club. More than two dozen teams will hit the links, enjoying special "games" along the way. The tournament will even draw some special visitors -- the VIPS Preschool class who will play the links with plastic clubs. Special thanks to Yum! Brands and the founding sponsor of this event, KFC.

## 10th Annual VIPS Lexington Golf Outing

The 10th Annual VIPS Lexington Golf Outing will tee off at the Keene Run Golf Course on Harrodsburg Road. Registration will begin at 11 a.m., followed by lunch. Play begins at 1 p.m.

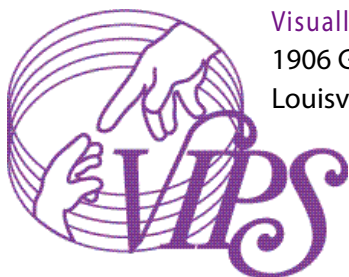
## In Memoriam

This issue of VISability is dedicated to the memory of

**Samantha Woodson**

Daughter of Kim Woodson (Daniel) and  
Kerry Woodson of Louisville,  
who passed away on May 5, 2013  
at the age of 10 years.

*Our hearts go out to all of those who loved Samantha.*



Visually Impaired Preschool Services  
1906 Goldsmith Lane  
Louisville, KY 40218

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## Upcoming Events

### VIPS Louisville

Thursday, May 30

VIPS Louisville will hold graduation, 7 p.m.

Mondays & Tuesdays,  
Wednesdays & Thursdays  
June & July

\*The Two-Day 2's Class will continue  
throughout June & July, 9 a.m. - noon.

Monday thru Thursday,  
June 10 - Aug. 1

\*Summer Enrichment Program will be held,  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Fridays  
June & July

\*PAL and Friday Friends will be combined  
throughout June and July, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m..

### VIPS Lexington

Wednesday - Friday, June 5 - 7

\*Summer Sensations Camp will be held,  
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Wednesdays & Thursdays  
June 12 & 13, 29 & 30, 26 & 27  
July 10 & 11, 17 & 18, 24 & 25

\*Summer Preschool Program will be held  
10 a.m. - noon.

Fridays  
June 14, 21, 28; July 12, 19, 26

\*Park Pals will be held.

Saturday, June 29

VIPS Lexington will hold a Family Picnic at  
Masterson Station Park, 4 p.m.

\*See details on page 2.

## VIPS Has Updated Our Mission Statement

Visually Impaired Preschool Services (VIPS) empowers families by providing educational excellence to young children with visual impairments in order to build a strong foundation for reaching their highest potential.

## Family Reunion, Family Retreat!

This year's Family Retreat will be in the form of a Family Reunion on **Saturday, August 3**. We want all families who have ever been involved in VIPS to come! There will be lots of food and friends and fun for all ages!! Watch for details! If you are an "old" family, call the VIPS Louisville Office to make sure we have all of your contact information correct!! And maybe you can help us find some of your old group from your VIPS days!!

*VISability* is a quarterly publication of  
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Jan Moseley, Editor.

### VIPS-Louisville

1906 Goldsmith Lane  
Louisville, KY 40218

(502) 636-3207 FAX (502) 636-0024

Toll free 1-888-636-8477

E-mail: [info@vips.org](mailto:info@vips.org)

Website: [www.vips.org](http://www.vips.org)

Diane Nelson, Executive Director  
Heather Benson, Development Director  
Gretchen Cutrer, JCPS Instructional Assistant  
Carol Dahmke, Office Manager  
LaRhonda Daniels, Instructional Assistant  
Ashley Emmons, O&M/Developmental Interventionist  
Pauletta Feldman, Special Projects  
Martha Hack, Development Asst./Family Services  
Dani Harper, Receptionist  
Beth Krebs, Instructional Assistant  
Mary Lesousky, TVI/Developmental Interventionist  
Paige Maynard, Developmental Interventionist  
Staci Maynard, Two-Day 2's/PAL  
Jan Moseley, Visual Impairment Specialist  
Kathy Mullen, Education Coordinator  
Angie Paisley, Teacher, Kidstown Preschool  
Paula Roberts, Music Therapist  
Kim Shippey, Controller  
Maury Weedman, O&M Specialist/Facilities Manager

### VIPS-Central Kentucky

161 Burt Road, Suite 4  
Lexington, KY 40503

(859) 276-0335 FAX (859) 276-4379

Toll free 1-888-254-8477

E-mail: [vipslex@vips.org](mailto:vipslex@vips.org)

Ashley Emmons, O&M/Developmental Interventionist  
Jill Haas, Family Services Coordinator  
Amanda Hamm, Developmental Interventionist  
Dixie Miller, TVI/Developmental Interventionist  
Mary Moore, Development Director  
Mary Smyth, Office Manager

### VIPS-Bloomington, IN

2600 S. Henderson Street, #154  
Bloomington, IN 47401

Toll Free 1-888-824-2197

FAX 1-502-636-0024

E-Mail: [vipsbloomington@vips.org](mailto:vipsbloomington@vips.org)

Rebecca Davis, Development Director/Parent Advisor  
Ann Hughes, TVI  
Kelly Lloyd, TVI