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## Congratulations VIPS Class of 2013!



In June, five VIPS Louisville children donned their purple mortarboards and robes and walked down the center of KidsTown to the strains of "Pomp and Circumstance," a song that graduates of all ages recognize.

A brief video highlighted each child through the years, and Preschool Teacher Angie Paisley said a few words about each child's accomplishments and special talents. They were presented with the traditional copies of Dr. Seuss's *Oh The Places You'll Go* in print and Braille provided by the Dartmouth Club of Louisville. (Dr. Seuss was a Dartmouth graduate.) Music Therapist Paula Roberts led the graduates and their younger classmates in renditions of familiar songs rewritten to describe graduation.

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Braeden, Alyssa, Zachary, and Morgan prepare for graduation. Right: Layla rocks the ceremony!



## VIPS Presents 2013 Beacon Awards

On Tuesday evening, June 18, VIPS presented Beacon Awards to individuals and organizations in our community who help provide a beacon of hope to VIPS families through their generosity and/or volunteer efforts on behalf of VIPS. Winners included:

**Corporate Award** -- Blue Bell Ice Cream for furnishing their wonderful treats for so many of our events.

**Corporate Benefactor Award** -- Kentucky School for the Blind Charitable Foundation for the many ways it supports VIPS.

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Executive Director Diane Nelson presents Beacon Award to Rick Ricks of the KSBCF.



## Graduation continued

VIPS Class of 2013 t-shirts were presented with each child's diploma, as the proud parents crowded the aisle to snap their darling's first graduation photos. An impromptu rendition of "We Will Rock You" was provided in its entirety by graduate Layla Grottenthaler, to the delight of the audience!



The 2013 VIPS graduates were Layla Grottenthaler, Zachary Harris, Morgan Ottman, Braeden Robinson, and Alyssa Tull. Congratulations and our love and best wishes for a bright future go with you!

Morgan (left) and Braeden (right) became best friends at VIPS Preschool.

## October Is Blindness & Visual Impairment Awareness Month

Thanks to the efforts of VIPS Lexington Office Manager Mary Smyth, Governor Beshear has proclaimed October to be Blindness and Visual Impairment Month.

Last October during Blindness Awareness Month, several families celebrated the lives of their children by sharing their stories. We invite all current and former VIPS families to share their stories again this year. This is a great opportunity to bring awareness and understanding to the community about children who are blind and visually impaired and their families!

Some suggestions to get the creative juices flowing are:

1. A sweet or special moment between you and your child,
2. Your child's successes or challenges,
3. Your personal thoughts about your child and your family,
4. Things people may have said or done that have encouraged or discouraged you,
5. Any assistance or obstacle that you may have encountered within your community,
6. A person or people that have impacted the lives of your child and family, and/or
7. A day-in-the-life-of your child and family

The length of your story is up to you. It can be a few sentences to a few paragraphs. If you have a picture you would like to share, please include it.

We will post your child's story during the month of October on Facebook, Twitter, in our newsletters and e-mails, and will encourage readers to share and forward all of the stories to their family and friends.

Please send your story to Mary Smyth, LSW at: [vipslex@vips.org](mailto:vipslex@vips.org) or mail it to her at VIPS, 161 Burt Rd. Suite 4, Lexington, KY 40503.

## VIPS Families Celebrate Summer

### VIPS Louisville "End of Summer" Bash

Twelve families celebrated the end of summer with pizza, ice cream, games and prizes on August 3 at the Louisville VIPS office. Thanks to the Blue Bell Ice Cream Company, families were able to create their own fabulous dessert at the Blue Bell sundae bar. Corn hole, a duck pond and a sucker pull were among the fun activities that the children and their parents all enjoyed!

### VIPS Lexington Families Enjoy a Family Picnic ...

Sunday, June 30th was a day of delightful weather for the Lexington VIPS family picnic. We enjoyed Masterson Station Park where the new playground was a hit, because all of the children were able to access and enjoy it, regardless of mobility level. VIPS provided drinks and burgers and each family brought a dish to share.

Seven volunteers helped with the 25 family members who attended along with the young ladies of Girl Scout Troop 271. Families participated in activities, ate dinner, and got to know each other while the children played on the playground. Activities for the children included making craft door hangers, playing kickball, water balloon toss, corn hole, ladderball, and relay games for prizes.

Girl Scout Troop 271 of Lexington planned lots of fun activities for the children during the Family Picnic and presented VIPS with a check for \$310 that they raised through a yard sale and a bake



sale. The Scouts also made touch and feel books that they sold. Girl Scouts really do make a difference! Thanks for your time, talents, and the money you raised for VIPS!

Thanks to all who made this annual event such a success!

## ... And Horsing Around at the Horse Park

VIPS and Central Kentucky Riding for Hope (CKRH) partnered again this year to bring another exciting experience

to our families at the Kentucky Horse Park. This year it fell on the same day as Military Appreciation Day at the Horse Park, and our families were invited to participate in all of the festivities. A picnic kicked off the event, followed by a tour of the facility for the parents while the children painted their very own ribbons.

When the families reunited, they could enjoy the various stations located within the barn area. The children patted the horses while the CKRH staff explained and provided samples for the children to touch of the different things horses ate, how and where they slept, and the different types and sizes of shoes that they wore.

Rosie's Ponies was on site with a llama, goats, sheep, and ponies. As the llama made noises sounding similar to a baby's babbling, the children touched his soft nose and stroked his face. The differing textures of the sheep and goat coats brought smiles to some and curiosity to others' faces. Eager children were soothed by the gentle rhythm of the ponies as they were led around the field.



"Horses really eat this?" wonders Christian.

Kinsley rode a pony with assistance from her Dad Brian.



Kids visited a horse's "bedroom."



With the weather cooperating, a tasty picnic, many hands-on activities and marvelous learning experiences, everyone had a wonderful time.

Ms. Amanda and Gabby admire ribbon.

## VIPS Family Facebook Group

We have created a Facebook group that is available to all VIPS parents as a closed group. To join, you must have a Facebook account and search for the group, then ask to join. We will approve your request and then you will be able to post and comment in the group. The name of the group is VIPS Families Only. If you have trouble joining, email [jhaas@vips.org](mailto:jhaas@vips.org) for assistance.

# VIPS Bloomington News

## Riley Township Lions Make Play Frames for Indiana's VIPS Children

Infants and toddlers who are blind can be timid about exploring the world around them and touching new textures. Teachers of the Visually Impaired who work with infants and toddlers often use PVC pipe to make play frames to hang toys and household items that encourage exploration of different textures, sounds and smells. This exploration fosters both physical and cognitive development. As a child gets older and learns to stand, the PVC can be adjusted into a pre-cane device. However it is difficult for busy teachers to find time to create these structures.



Riley Township Lions bag play frame kits.

The Riley Township Lions, under the guidance of PDG Lion Ray Collins were able to help VIPS with this problem by holding a "Play Frame" party. They spent an evening making play frame "kits" for VIPS Bloomington families -- assembling all of the pieces of a play frame together and bagging them in individual bags so that teachers and families can easily put them together, saving teacher time and space in their "mobile offices," also known as cars.

Thanks to the Lions, we have been able to provide several families with their own play frames. One inventive dad even added wheels so that his daughter could navigate the gravel road in their neighborhood. Having a play frame kit makes one thing easier

for families who face a lot of challenges learning about how to encourage the development of their visually impaired infants and toddlers. We appreciate the thoughtfulness and industriousness of the Riley Township Lions! Thank you!

## CYO Camp Rancho Framasa

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the CYO Camp Rancho Framasa in Nashville, Indiana invited the VIPS-Bloomington staff to speak to camp counselors during their week of training. Camp Rancho Framasa is a popular camp in south central Indiana drawing campers year-round from all over Indiana and southern Kentucky. Part of their mission is to teach campers the importance of serving the community. This summer, camp directors Kevin and Angi Sullivan wanted their campers to use some of their handcraft time to make tactile toys and welcome bags for VIPS Bloomington.



A volunteer tries a task under sleep shades.

Ann Hughes and Rebecca Davis welcomed the opportunity to talk to the camp staff and to raise awareness about the services VIPS offers. Ann explained what the campers would be making and how the toys and bags will be used with VIPS families. A VIPS-Bloomington child, Michelle Allen, also came with her mom and sister. The counselors asked them many questions and enjoyed watching Michelle use her homemade pre-cane walker to get around. Then, some counselors participated in low vision activities wearing sleep shades to sort simple items without the use of vision.

CYO Camp hosted nearly one thousand young people from Indiana and Kentucky throughout the summer. Each week these young people learned from their counselors about VIPS and how they could help young children who are blind. We would like to thank Kevin and Angi Sullivan for supporting VIPS in Indiana and for providing us a broader audience for our mission.



Michelle shows her adaptive mobility device.



# Implementing the Expanded Core Curriculum in the VIPS Preschool

by Jan Moseley, Visual Impairment Specialist

Several years ago, Barbara Kelley, the first teacher of the VIPS preschool, wrote an article describing the ways in which the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) for children who are blind or visually impaired was being integrated into the VIPS Preschool. We intend to update that article with the 2013-14 version.

As you may recall, the ECC is comprised of 1. skills needed in order for students to access the "core curriculum", or the three R's of Reading, Riting and Rithmetic and 2. functional skills that prepare students for life.

Because 80-90% of all learning is visual, instructional techniques, materials and technology must be adapted for those whose vision does not allow them to quickly look at someone doing something and know instantly how to perform the same task themselves. This is the rationale for the ECC. All of those adaptations that must be made to help the blind/visually impaired learner make up what is called the Expanded Core Curriculum.

There are nine separate areas of the ECC:

- Compensatory Skills provide access to written materials;
- Orientation and Mobility Skills are needed to move safely through the environment;
- Social Interaction Skills enable effective interactions with others;
- Independent Living Skills teach self-help skills;
- Recreation and Leisure Skills enable the student to learn how to occupy free time;
- Career Education Skills help students learn how to obtain and keep a job;
- Assistive Technology Skills aid in communication and access to written materials;
- Sensory Efficiency Skills improve ability to use each sense; and
- Self-Determination Skills enable the learner to take responsibility for herself.

The VIPS preschool has continued to grow and develop, and though there are many changes, the ECC still forms the basis

for instruction in the preschool setting. We have changed shape and size and now offer reverse mainstreaming -- the integration of sighted peers into our classroom of learners with visual challenges. This allows VIPS children to interact with others their age who may be developmentally on target with their language, cognitive, motor and social skills -- areas of potential delay for a child who is visually impaired. And it enables sighted peers to learn a great deal about children who see the world in different ways, expanding their understanding and appreciation of friends who are differently abled.

So how do we implement the Expanded Core Curriculum in a classroom with sighted peers? In the next newsletter, we will give brief examples of how we are doing this throughout each school day.

## The Twos Class Gets Wild About Learning This Summer

by Staci Maynard, Two Day 2's Teacher, Kids Town Preschool

The VIPS Louisville two-year-olds were very actively involved in exploring their world this summer. We finished our spring session by continuing to talk about animals. From birds and fish to amphibians and reptiles to farm animals and zoo animals, our class was excited to discover as much as we could about different creatures.



Ms. Staci oversees as Addyson practices braille and Madisort sorts items in her "tackle box."

We collected sticks, grass, and other natural items to make our own nests. We caught "flies" (black pom-poms) for lunch like a frog does, which also allowed us to practice our pincer grasp,

and painted prints that looked like turtle shells. Learning about farm animals may have been our favorite unit. We made handprint horses for our mommies, got to explore oats and hay like horses eat, and each child was able to choose his/her favorite farm animal. (Cows were the winner.) Some of the children even got to pet or sit on a real horse. During our zoo theme, we had the opportunity to explore different animal habitats (ice, grassland, water, & sand) with our senses, to feed peanuts to a pretend elephant, and to paint a bear with aromatic, textured coffee paint.



Mason holds our class American eagle for the First Annual VIPS 4th of July parade.

Over the summer, we have been talking about different activities that people do and places that people like to go during summer vacation. We started the session by talking about transportation so that the children would know different ways that people get from place to place. Two of our favorite modes of transportation are the train and the helicopter. Our favorite song from this unit was "Twinkle, Twinkle Traffic Light," which taught us what each color of the traffic light symbolizes. Some of our friends are still able to sing this song and answer what each color means over a month later! We also experimented with ramps and created a bus with all of our school friends on it.

Next, we went camping. We even had a tent, lanterns, compasses, sleeping bags, and other camping gear in our room. We made our own binoculars and lanterns as well as created a cool camp scene picture for our daddies. The class especially enjoyed exploring



Sarah and Ethan are all set for their pretend camping trip.

Of course, no summer is complete without a Fourth of July celebration. Each child made his/her own sparkler out of milkshake straws, shiny pipe-cleaners, ribbon, and star stickers.

They got to carry these sparklers and wear patriotic dress-up clothes at our very own VIPS parade with the preschool class. We also had fun listening to the sounds of fireworks, playing in blue water, and creating our own flags.

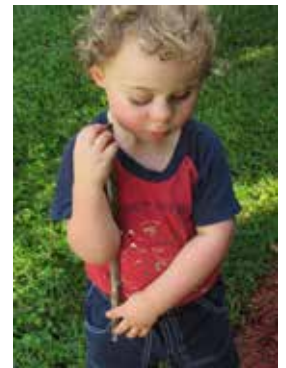


Jude and Sam have fun interacting with "Wheels on the Bus" on the classroom i-Pad.

Picnic in the park has been our most recent summer unit. We went on a picnic outside and also got to explore a watermelon by touching its inside and outside and by tasting it. Our watermelon song has also helped us to learn the colors of the watermelon inside and out. The students really enjoyed pretend picnics even more than going on our real picnic. They would lay out a blanket, drag over a picnic basket full of food and dishes, and hand everything out to one another.

We also got to put together squishy sensory/fine motor bags that look like watermelon and to make collages of what each one of us would want to eat on our picnic. Our favorite song has been "Dashing Through the Store" about our shopping trip to buy all of the food we'll need for a picnic.

Our final summer unit was a beach party. The children enjoyed some water fun as well as learned about different ocean animals and activities that are fun to do at the beach. They had the opportunity to do lots of exploring with salt water, shells, starfish, sand, etc. There were also fun fine motor/craft activities, such as making a jellyfish, creating an ocean sensory bottle and creating a seashore collage.



Vance explores the feel of a tree branch during a nature walk.

Everyone got a vacation for the month of August, but we had to say "goodbye" to many of our friends as they transitioned to preschool. It has been such a privilege and joy to have Jude Davis, Madi Davis, Mason Davis, Demarcus Dorsey, Ethan Eckerle, Sam Harris, and Grace Renner as our friends this year. Each one of them is a special, shining star, and we look forward to hearing about their future victories. Meanwhile, we anticipate making wonderful new friends with the start of the new school year.



# VIPS Louisville Preschool News

by Ashley Emmons, TVI/COMS, Kids Town Preschool

This summer, between 8 and 12 three - five year olds participated in an eight-week long, full day preschool camp. They experienced typical fun summer activities while picking up incidental learning at the same time.

Discussions on camping found the children pitching a tent in their classroom and learning fire safety rules around a pretend campfire over which they also "roasted" S'Mores. They learned some more rules about safety while camping in the woods where wild animals live.



Christian and Megan ride in the 4th of July Parade.

Safety rules were again applied to handling fireworks when the Fourth of July was celebrated with American symbols such as the Statue of Liberty and the Pledge of Allegiance, all capped off with a Fourth of July parade!



A pretend trip to the beach was enjoyed at the sand table -- much more enjoyable than sand in your bathing suit -- and a discussion of the differences between animals who live in salt water and those who live in fresh water.

And of course, there was a picnic scheduled for

Miss Leah follows Ahmed and Stella, who wore Statue of Liberty crowns for the parade.

circle time with naming foods typically found in the picnic basket, watermelon and the inevitable ants.

It was a wonderful time, leaving us itching for more when preschool starts back up in September!



Children lined up at the VIPS van for a field trip to Hogan's Fountain in Cherokee Park.

# VIPS Lexington Partners with UK Lab School for Summer Preschool

This summer we had up to five preschool age children participate in our six-week preschool program. For the first time, but hopefully not the last, we partnered with the University of Kentucky Lab School to provide space for the summer program, which has been wonderful.

Children enjoyed learning about birds and animals and about fruits and vegetables. Each week there was a theme, and each day consisted of an art project related to the theme, circle time, snack time, and free play. The children loved exploring the animals and where they lived. We talked about



Betty Jean paints a turtle.

the hot desert, the Arctic, animals that live in water and in the wilderness.

Another week we talked about fruit. The children got to explore and touch all types of fruit on the outside and on the inside after the



fruit was cut open. We talked about the textures and colors. The children did stamp art with fruit and then made fruit smoothies for snack.

Arabella and Betty Jean loved the slide.

The summer preschool worked out beautifully and we hope to expand upon our program next summer!



Miss Dixie sings with the children during circle time.

## Try This At Home!

Making fruit smoothies is an easy activity to re-create at home. You need some favorite fruits, yogurt and/or vanilla ice cream, juice, and a blender. Have the child pick out what fruits they want, and let them help with adding the ingredients into the blender. Keep adding to get the correct taste and texture you want. Let the child turn on the blender for extra fun. If you have some extra pieces of fruit lying around, grab some paper and paint and let your child do some stamp art as well!

# VIPS Lexington Summer Sensations Camp

The Summer Sensations Day Camp was held in Lexington on June 5 - 7 at the Gardenside Christian Church. Twenty children from 13 VIPS families attended. Activities included storytelling by Paschal Bautre, Ed.D., pony rides from Rosie's Ponies, a scavenger hunt, marshmallow roasting by a campfire, a bouncy castle and slide, music sing-a-longs from Musik Garten, musical instruments for the children to explore and play, water play activities including a huge water pillow filled with bright objects to crawl upon, games in the gym, petting zoo, and countless sensory craft activities.



Miss Dixie helped Colton play saxophone as Arabella watched.

A special thanks goes out to all the staff at Gardenside Church for use of the space and help in setting up and to the entire Lexington staff for their many hours of planning and preparation, making 2013 one of the best ever Summer Sensations camp! Special kudos to our Family Services Coordinator Jill Haas for planning this event for the first time ever and pulling it all together in a short time-frame!!



Gabby played guitar.

Mom Stephanie helps daughter Michelle ride a horse with assistance from Miss Dixie and a volunteer.





# VIPS Bloomington Play & Learn Group

On July 13, VIPS Bloomington held a quarterly Play & Learn group. Thanks to the generosity of the Malhotra family who opened their home to other VIPS families so they could all come together. These events are so beneficial to everyone--the children have a wonderful time playing and learning through the activities that Miss Annie structures to teach specific skills. And the parents gain so much from being with one another, sharing insights and experiences.



Krishna enjoys Miss Annie's ukelele.

Below: Lola relaxes in the ball pool.



Above: Veronika with her twins William & Kenny

# Friday Friends Expands to School Year

VIPS-Louisville Friday Friends has been such a community success (45 children on one memorable Friday this summer!) that we are opening the doors of Kosair Charities Kids Town one Friday each month during the school year to honor the request of our friends in the community who have joined us in the past for summer fun.

VIPS will host Friday Friends at Kids Town, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., on these Fridays during the school year: September 13, October 11, November 8, December 6, January 10, February 7, March 7, April 11 and May 9.

Community children, birth to age 6, accompanied by an adult caregiver, are welcome to enjoy Parent-Child Playtime, Kids Town, Sensory Room, Playground and Sensory Garden. A suggested \$5.00 donation per visit per family is appreciated for non-VIPS children. For additional information, call 636-3207.

## VIPS Grad Named "Little Mr. Spencer County!"

The Spencer Magnet recently reported that VIPS graduate, Dawson Barr, had been named Little Mister Spencer County! Dawson competed at the Kentucky State Fair for the title of Little Mr. Kentucky State Fair. Way to go, Dawson! We are thrilled to say we knew you when!



Photo compliments of The Spencer Magnet.



## New Arrivals

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

### VIPS-LOUISVILLE

Aaden – 12 months, Louisville, KY  
Avery - 11 months, Louisville, KY  
Benjamin - 14 months, Louisville, KY  
Brighton – 13 months, Milton, KY  
Brock – 12 months, Madison, IN  
Caleb - 18 months, Ekron, KY  
Carter – 9 months, Louisville, KY  
Elijah – 8 months, Prospect, KY  
Isabella - 8 months, Austin, IN  
Jonathan – 6 months, Louisville, KY  
Joseph – 27 months, Owensboro, KY  
Joshua – 13 months, Vine Grove, KY  
Keegan - 6 months, Louisville, KY  
Kye – 32 months, Dexter, KY  
Leslie - 10 months, Corydon, IN  
Mason – 10 months, Buffalo, KY  
Robert – 6 months, Louisville, KY  
Taveon – 48 months, Louisville, KY

### VIPS-LEXINGTON

Addyson – 14 months, Frankfort, KY  
Alexis – 20 months, Dunnville, KY  
Ali – 16 months, Lexington, KY  
Billy – 35 months, Mt. Olivet, KY  
Caroline – 8 months, Lexington, KY  
Clay – 12 months, Lexington, KY  
Hunter – 11 months, Somerset, KY  
Isaiah – 20 months, Jeffersonville, KY  
Jacob – 10 months, Owingsville, KY  
Jaden – 14 months, Berea, KY  
James – 18 months, Hazard, KY  
Kameron – 9 months, Goosetown, KY  
Kolton – 12 months, Richmond, KY  
Lucy – 18 months, Owingsville, KY  
Wilson – 14 months, Lexington, KY

### VIPS-BLOOMINGTON

Able – 9 months, Charlottesville, IN  
Braylon – 18 months, Indianapolis, IN  
Brynn -- 36 months, Ellettsville, IN  
Elena -- 26 months, Indianapolis, IN  
Kutter -- 17 months, Clay City, IN  
Lexi -- 11 months, Lake Station, IN  
Logan – 6 months, Columbus, IN  
Miriam – 36 months, Indianapolis, IN  
Nevaeh - 24 months, Milroy, IN

## Notes of Interest



### Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) Resources from Rebecca Davis, VIPS Bloomington

The Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness of October 2010 was dedicated to CVI. This is a great place for parents to begin learning!

Families can post questions and get definitive answers from a CVI family Facebook page. Once you are on Facebook, send a message to the Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) Awareness Facebook page. It is a closed group for families, caregivers and educators who live and work with children with CVI.

There is a standing Tuesday night conference call for CVI families facilitated by Judith Millman. She can be reached at [judithmillman@aol.com](mailto:judithmillman@aol.com) and there is an online forum for families at [www.familyconnect.org](http://www.familyconnect.org).

### Other Resources

The Braille Institute of America has developed a fantastic app which gives direct access to a large number of apps of interest to the visually impaired or their families and friends -- ViA (Visually Impaired Apps). The apps included are free or low cost for iPhones and iPads and can perform a range of tasks such as simulate nine visual impairments, allow you to type braille, use your phone or iPad as a Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) or as a magnifier and so on. Just search ViA in your App Store.

## VIPS Staff News

### Kudos

Paige Maynard and Kathy Mullen were invited to spend two days at the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) with a group of Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVI) and other VI experts from Washington, Oregon, California, Arkansas, and Colorado to work on adapting the Building on Patterns program for pre-Braille learners.

This group has been meeting for a week each summer for the past two years, with regularly scheduled phone conferences in between gatherings. As they recognized the need to introduce Braille to children before they are readers (contrary to the historic practice



of waiting until a student showed interest in reading), they also identified the need to embed early intervention strategies. It was a very profitable experience for both!

Kathy Mullen, Paige Maynard and Dixie Miller earned high scores on their July presentation at the Infant-Toddler Institute 2013 in Lexington. Their topic was "Eye Spy a Vision-Friendly Environment!"

## Team Building Retreat

Thanks to funding from VIPS Louisville Board member and long-time supporter, Al Cornish, the entire staff was treated to 2 part-day team building sessions after one full day at Jefferson Memorial Forest with professional consultant, Jeff Peden. Besides getting to know each other better in a less business-like way, we wrote personal contracts to improve our professional skills, shared them with one other staff member with whom we routinely discussed progress and then shared each week's small team progress with Diane Nelson. We think the results were highly satisfying and will lead to improving the work we all do!



## Staff Assignment Changes

If Ashley Emmons seems a little breathless this year, it is because she just completed her Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (IECE) teaching certification and immediately jumped into the new University of Kentucky Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI) program. This is on top of her background as a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS). Ashley will be assisted in the "red" preschool classroom by Ashley Buren and Beth Owens and will share Ms. Gretchen, our wonderful instructional assistant provided by Jefferson County Public Schools, with the instructional staff in the "green" preschool classroom. We are very proud of her!

Paige Maynard, a Developmental Interventionist familiar to many VIPS families, will continue seeing families as a

Developmental Interventionist (DI) and work part-time with Angie Paisley in the "green" preschool classroom on Mondays and Tuesdays as soon as her corneal transplant has healed enough to allow her to return to work. In addition to her Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (IECE) teaching certification, Paige is more than half-way through her Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI) endorsement! Way to go, Paige!

Alysia Rue has become a full-time VIPS Developmental Interventionist and will be seeing some of the children who were previously served by Paige.

## New Staff

Barbara Merrick, a retired Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI) from Jefferson County Public Schools, has been hired as part-time TVI/Preschool Teacher working in the "green" preschool classroom with Angie Paisley on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Before becoming a TVI, Barbara worked as an Orientation & Mobility instructor at the Kentucky Office of the Blind. She has agreed to come on board part time while she continues to work to become a deacon at the Episcopal Church School of Ministry. She has two grown sons and one four year old grandchild. She enjoys scrapbooking and church-related volunteer work. We are so happy to have you join us!



Beth Owens has been hired as an Instructional Assistant working in Ashley Emmons' classroom. She is a Louisville native who is married and the mother of three children ages 6, 9 and 11. Her



husband, Gary, is an Assistant Football Coach and Head Junior Varsity Coach at Trinity High School. Beth worked in accounting and bookkeeping until she became pregnant with her first child. While her children were young, she took care of friends' children in her home and has recently returned to work. She enjoys reading, cooking, exercising and spending time with family and friends. Beth is also in recovery from breast cancer. Welcome, Beth!

Ashley Buren, mother of VIPS child Pyper, has been hired as an Instructional Assistant also working in Ashley Emmons' classroom.

Ashley is enthusiastically friendly and comes to VIPS with an Associate Degree in Child Development, and has worked in child care since she was 16. Besides Pyper who is 14 months old, Ashley is the mother of Addyson, five years old. Ashley's husband, Craig, is a programmer. She has been involved with VIPS since Pyper was five months old and loves working with children, especially those with special needs. Ashley enjoys scrapbooking, family and church activities and learning Braille. We love to work with VIPS parents -- they truly recognize and contribute to the relevance of what we do!



It is with sadness that we report that Paula Roberts, music therapist and a huge part of our preschoolers' lives, has accepted a full-time position with Meade County Schools. Ms. Paula related beautifully to all of our children and became a full partner in their preschool experience. Her presence was a present for those fortunate enough to work with her, adults and children. She will be missed.

The VIPS Music Therapist's role has been assumed by Greta Gillmeister who has lengthy experience in providing music therapy to children as well as in teaching and supervising music therapists. Greta has worked with children with disabilities in area schools and hospitals, including children with hearing impairments at the Heuser Hearing and Language Academy. She enjoys running, knitting and playing Celtic music on the Irish flute and whistle (she also has a lovely voice!). Originally from West Virginia, she now lives in Louisville with big dogs that she has rescued, though she returns to West Virginia to visit family there. We welcome you.

Debby Eades, a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS) as well as a Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI) and a recent retiree of the Indiana School for the Blind & Visually Impaired, is contracting with VIPS Bloomington as an O&M Specialist. She has 32 years of teaching experience under her belt, including stints as a preschool TVI, a COMS and a private preschool teacher. She also taught children at Riley Children's



Hospital in Indianapolis for the Indianapolis public schools. Debbie enjoys tinkering with old-fashioned treadle sewing machines, riding her bike and doing yoga. She also quilts and sews. She is married and has two adult sons. We are thrilled to have a person with her skills and background join our Indiana staff!

Ti Erika Carney has been hired as an instructional assistant for the after-school program. She is a 2013 graduate of Assumption High School. She is multi-talented and sings, acts, draws, writes -- you name it! She volunteered at VIPS through Assumption's community service program. She loves to travel and was so taken with her Asian Studies class at Assumption that she plans to continue with the group!



We welcome back Courtenay (Schulten) Daugherty who is contracting with VIPS Lexington as an Orientation and Mobility instructor. She will work primarily with our school contracts and ultimately with First Steps children. Courtenay originally came to VIPS Louisville to do her O & M practicum and stayed to work as an instructional assistant while she completed her O&M classwork

to become certified. Welcome back, Courtenay!



Courtenay with former VIPS student Michael Johnson.

## Kind Gifts of Time from Generous People

### Louisville Volunteers

The amazing scheduling that found VIPS staff members scurrying in all directions to "pull off" four major events in as many days resulted in a huge need for volunteers.

The ICAP Tennis Ball on May 18 and Tennis Tournament on May 19 require a large number of volunteers, especially at the Silent Auction. We are grateful to our faithful friends at UPS, Nora Glenn, Gary Huffman, Mary Kokladas and Tiffany Yates for their help at the Tennis Ball. Also volunteering their time and talents at the Tennis Ball were VIPS staffers, relatives, spouses and friends, including Gretchen Cutrer, Ken Cutrer, Jennifer Greener, Rebecca G, Beth Krebs, Mary Lesousky, Paige Maynard, Staci Maynard, Jan Moseley, Kathy Mullen, Angie Paisley, Christy P. and Kathy Toebe. The ICAP Tennis Tournament drew the



following volunteers with VIPS connections: Ashley Buren, Trey Eckerle, Beth Krebs, Jack Krebs, Angie Paisley, Bobby Paisley and Michele Vories.

On May 20, the YUM! Brands 25th Annual Corporate Cup Golf Tournament was held at Persimmon Ridge Golf Course. In addition to YUM! Brands sponsoring the tournament for the last 25 years, YUM! Brand volunteers also helped the day of the tournament including Phyllis Blackwood, Nick Kiefer and Joyce Walker. They were assisted by volunteers from UPS, including Kristia Gomez, Nick Hall, Charlie Harper, Don Mattingly, Scott Minogue, Jeff Smaub and Lu Wimmer. Additional volunteers included Shari House, Amanda Mattingly, Joyce Peebles and Beau Schuster who were joined by VIPS staff members, Pauletta Feldman, Paige Maynard, Kathy Mullen and Leah Mullen.

Our most sincere thanks to all who participated in this extravaganza of fund-raising events!

For their help in “pretty”-ing up the Sensory Garden, we thank the following hard-working volunteers from Texas Roadhouse: Dawn Baucco, Sharon Braun, Sarah Grau, Mike Henry, Laura Hoon, Rebecca Hooper, Eric Lattig, Katie McCullum, Nora Meldrum, Vickie Rue, Elysia Schutz, Pat Stumler and Jennifer Wheeler.

UPS staff members came out in force to volunteer their time to the VIPS Munch-A-Bunch for Lunch food truck event on June 12. They included: John Beck, Ann Bennett, Byron Bennett, Carol Chandler, Pierre Clement, Ken Crissinger, Nick Day, Rachel Desamero, Jessica Dessart, Lisa Dierson, Robin Dixon, Kelly Geary, Teresa Gholson, Clara Hartlage, Patrick Holifield, Jim Jury, Will Kopp, Lenka Larimore, Belinda Lasch, Kim Lintelman, Leigh Ann Messer, Brittany Neuling, Chuck Nopper, Rachel Osborn, Pat Patterson, John Potts, Dorothy Rapson, Catherine Rawlings, Matt Renn, Jenny Sash, Brian Silliman and Jason Wallin. Thanks to all of you for your hard work on a hot day!

Learning generosity at a tender age, Hannah McCurry chose VIPS as the beneficiary of her Bat Mitzvah! Hannah asked her guests to donate consumables to VIPS. We are now stocked full of paper towels, art supplies, hand soap and much more! We appreciate your kindness, Hannah!



Hannah with her gifts for VIPS.

Let us not minimize the outstanding efforts of Fran Woodward, our faithful volunteer for the Twos' class, who continues to provide her able assistance with the youngest VIPS children. Thanks, Fran!

Thanks to VIPS grad Jessica Reynolds and Ashley Putnam from Mercy Academy who spent several hours at the VIPS Office making goody bags for the Summer Bash.

VIPS Grad Jessica Reynolds (backright) with classmate Ashley Putnam.



Special recognition goes to volunteers for the Summer Bash: Ryan Hack, John Daniels, Michael Daniels, Haley Schnell and Caroline Strack. We appreciate your efforts on our families' behalf!

The Larkmoor house (see article on pg. 14) is almost ready to sell thanks to many volunteers. Thanks to Kohl's employees Lauren Gifford, Trina Miles, Anita Noonan, Angela Sanders and Patricia White, who cleaned out the house as did VIPS Office Manager Carol Dahmke, her son Chris and her husband Mitch. Maury Weedman, VIPS O&M Specialist and Facilities Manager, was absolutely indispensable in the re-do process, just as he is in the classroom. Executive Director Diane Nelson put in many weekend hours renovating besides asking businesses for donations. Diane's friends Karen Goss and Carolyn and Ashley Smith also helped with the remodeling efforts.

## Lexington Volunteers

Thank you to Claire Jones and Paul Weise for joining VIPS staff and volunteering for the Children's Charity Celebrity Golf Classic at Greenbrier Golf and Country Club on June 21st. This event marked the 33rd year that the Children's Charity of the Bluegrass has received generous donations through the Celebrity Golf Classic that they in turn disburse to various nonprofits, like VIPS, who provide services to children of Central Kentucky. They announced that this year alone they have raised over \$693,000!

Thank you to Lauren Hill, Claire Jones, and Jamie Mogenhan for assisting with the VIPS Summer Preschool Program in Lexington.

Thank you to Melissa Altschul, Lauren Hill, Claire Jones, Leah Stephenson, and Leslie Varellas-Wagner for their invaluable assistance with VIPS Summer Sensations Camp. Many thanks to Kay Collier McLaughlin, Drew Newsome, Laura Newsome and Virginia Newsome for presenting the instrument petting zoo to the children. Thank you to Paschal Baute, Ed.D., for his wonderful

story telling, and Rosie's Ponies for the pony rides. And thank you to Gardenside Christian Church for providing the facility.

### Bloomington Volunteers

Thanks to Emily McCord and her Batchelor Middle School students for choosing VIPS as the agency they supported in the spring of 2013. Ms. McCord's students held a dance with the proceeds going towards VIPS. The class also welcomed a presentation about vision loss in young children.

We so appreciate the efforts of VIPS Bloomington Board members Janis Bolling and Leanne Ellis for working on a VIPS video for Indiana.

Thanks to Allen Pease of the Bloomington Kiwanis for assistance with local media and to Vanessa McClary of the South Central Indiana Kiwanis Club for championing our cause.

When a small agency does not have permanent office/classroom space, it must rely on the generosity and kindness of others. We are very grateful for the efforts of the following for helping us hold July's Play and Learn class: Virren & Vibha Malhotra for hosting the PAL class and Sullivan Hardware for donating flowerpots for an activity.

Thanks so much to Leslie Kaiser and Aver's Pizza for holding a weeklong VIPS fundraiser.

We appreciate the guidance of Cyndi Lawrence of the Outreach Program at the Indiana School for the Deaf for offering us advice about grantwriting.

For the first time ever the VIPS Bloomington Advisory Board was represented at the VIPS Beacon Awards held at VIPS Louisville. Thanks to Leanne Ellis, Tana Hellwig, Jenny Kelly and Amy Shrake for representing Indiana along with Barbara Story and Jill Brunic who made a long drive to attend the event.

Kevin and Angi Sullivan and the CYO Camp Rancho Framasa staff made much appreciated toys for VIPS kids.

Much gratitude is due VIPS Bloomington Board president, Gen Shelton and husband Jim for their continued support and advice.

And many thanks to Bonnie and Richard Clouse; Caryn, Terry, Lauryn & Kayleigh Cook; Martha Davis; Makaylah Puckett; and Robin & Mary Steinhilber for helping VIPS-Bloomington during the busy summer months!

## Lunch Truck Caravan Comes to VIPS

On June 12, VIPS Louisville sponsored the Munch-A-Bunch-For-Lunch food truck event in the parking lot with the help of a host of UPS volunteers (see pg. 13). We were joined by hundreds from the community to have lunch and to raise funds for Metro United Way. VIPS manned a drinks station and was able to keep all the proceeds of drink sales. Great prize baskets were also raffled.

- Food trucks that came for the event included:
- Fare & SQ Sandwiches
  - French Indo Canada
  - Grind Gourmet Burgers
  - Lil' Cheezers
  - Hole Smokes, The BBQ
  - Cowboy
  - Homemade Ice Cream & Pie Kitchen

## Recent Grants & Donations

### VIPS Louisville

We say a heartfelt "Thank You!" to the following foundations/funding sources who have been so generous to VIPS over the past several months:

Kosair Charities donated \$110,000 to fund the Kids Town Preschool at VIPS Program.

WHAS Crusade for Children donated a total of \$103,000 to all three VIPS Offices (\$70,000 to Louisville, \$23,000 to Lexington, and \$10,000 to Bloomington -- Bloomington's first Crusade donation!). Crusade grants fund teacher salaries.

The Kentucky School for the Blind Charitable Foundation provided \$55,000 for VIPS Outreach Services, the Family Retreat and the VIPS Stampede 5K.

The Louisville Downtown Lions Club provided \$20,000, 100% of which was matched by Kosair Charities, to total \$40,000. Thank you to both!

Louisville Metro Government donated \$6,500 for Music Therapy.

Jacob C. Koch Charitable Trust provided \$1,711 for various preschool educational tools.



William E. Barth Foundation donated \$2000 to VIPS Family Services for 2013 and 2014.

Louisville Jaycee Charities Fund provided \$1,400 for a new intercom system and other technology.

Kosair Charities donated \$1,000 towards a full year of field trips.

Younger Woman's Club of Louisville provided \$680 for the Two Day 2's Class.



VIPS KidsTown preschoolers pose in front of the Kosair Shriners statue at VIPS.

## VIPSLexington

The WHAS Crusade for Children awarded \$23,000 to VIPS Lexington to help us offset the partial cost of one of our teachers. The Crusade's support has been critical to the success of the Lexington office over the years and our families truly benefit from the Crusade's generosity.

VIPS was the charity of choice for the August 29th Central Bank Thursday Night Live, reaping tips from the beer truck while the crowd enjoyed the music of the Big Maracas.

On June 17th, the board of directors of the Children's Charity Fund of the Bluegrass (CCF) awarded VIPS Lexington \$17,500 to help cover the cost of our in-home intervention program. The grant award comes from the proceeds of the 2012 Children's Charity Celebrity Golf Classic held in mid-June. The tournament is held at Greenbrier and Andover Golf Courses and tops off a week of events.

One of the highlights is the Kids Jamboree at the Explorium and the Lexington Children's Theater. This year 7 VIPS families enjoyed pizza and fun activities. Since 1999, the CCF has provided nearly \$183,000 to support our mission. Thank you CCF!!

Thanks so much to United Way of the Bluegrass and the Kiwanis Club of Frankfort who provided funding for the Summer Sensations Summer Camp and the Summer Preschool. Your help made a difference in the lives of VIPS children.

In November, VIPS Lexington will once again join dozens of central Kentucky agencies by participating in the Good Giving Guide Challenge! This Challenge targets younger donors and gives them an opportunity to donate to a charity of their choice. The Challenge's broad appeal helps VIPS raise awareness about our mission through various social media outlets. You will see a lot of information on the VIPS Facebook and Twitter pages in the coming months. Remember to "like" us!

## VIPS Bloomington

We say a huge thanks to 100+ Women Who Care for the donation of \$20,000 to help serve our families.

VIPS Bloomington is thrilled to be the recipient of our first WHAS Crusade for Children grant of \$10,000!

Thank you Unitarian Universalists of Bloomington! In June 2012, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington voted for VIPS to receive 25% of the church offertory for a year. As of June 30, 2013, the total was over \$8,000 in the 2012-13 fiscal year! The UU Church also allowed VIPS to use their nursery room for Play and Learn groups. On June 30th, Rebecca Davis addressed the UU congregation to give a year-end report and to thank them for their generosity and hospitality. Their support has been instrumental in helping VIPS-Bloomington get off the ground. VIPS extends sincere thanks to Reverend Mary Ann Macklin, Reverend Bill Breeden, the UU Board of Directors, Bret Earheart and the Social Justice Committee.

Decatur County Community Foundation awarded VIPS Bloomington a "Small Project Grant" of \$750 to help continue VIPS services to families in Decatur County. We so appreciate your help!

Thanks so much to Monica Clemons, Terry & Dixie Patterson and Russ Working of the Bloomington Lions Club and the Brown County Lions Club for their recent generous donations.

Global Gifts in Bloomington donated bags for welcome bags as their latest generous effort in support VIPS Bloomington.

# Fiscal Year 2012-13 Highlights

At the Annual Meeting of the VIPS Board of Directors on June 18, VIPS Executive Director Diane Nelson gave her “state of the agency” report. And the highlights of the past fiscal 2012-13 year were truly impressive! Here are some of them:

- VIPS ended FY 2012-13 with over \$110,000 more than was expected (we had a net income of \$83,000 where a deficit of \$31,000 had been projected)!
- VIPS brought in revenues of nearly \$1,500,000.
- Agency wide, VIPS served over 300 children -- 144 by Louisville, 102 by Lexington, and 63 by Bloomington.
- VIPS had 136 new referrals during the fiscal year.
- Children were seen in 79 counties in KY (up 9%) and 25 counties in Indiana (up 14%).
- Community peers were welcomed into the Kids Town Preschool at VIPS and the Two Day 2's groups. There was a waiting list of sighted peers for these programs for the 2013-14 school year.
- VIPS began negotiation with UK's Lab School to relocate our Lexington office and program to their campus in shared space (we expect to have exciting news to report in the next newsletter issue).
- VIPS Bloomington made great strides in spreading the word and work in Indiana. They lobbied local legislators and met with Governor Steve Pence to communicate the need for state funding.
- In May, VIPS undertook four straight days of fundraising events, netting a total of nearly \$123,000.

## Goals for FY 2013-14

- VIPS projects a 2013-14 budget of almost \$1.7 million, up 45% in the last 4 years (incredible growth from the budget of our first budget of \$20,000 in 1985).

- Finalize negotiations with UK to move VIPS Lexington to the UK Lab School premises.
- Move Bloomington Office to a new rented space and hire a second TVI.
- Continue spreading the word about the needs of young children with visual impairments and how VIPS helps them to ophthalmologists, optometrists and pediatricians across KY and IN.
- Continue push out into underserved parts of the state and collaborations to increase service options.
- Explore new funding options, improve fundraisers, and develop a more structured Annual Giving Campaign.
- Update security procedures and develop a more functional website.
- Ensure that our Finance/Administrative teams continue to help all departments streamline processes, stay on budget and create written policies/procedures.

## The 2nd Annual Tennis Ball

VIPS held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tennis Ball dinner and auction on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Louisville Boat Club. This was truly a special evening, bringing together a glamorous crowd who raised a record-setting amount of funds for VIPS! The evening began with a cocktail hour and silent auction, followed by a sit-down dinner where guests heard the poignant story of two brothers who have both come through the doors of VIPS: Christian, currently enrolled in KidsTown Preschool at VIPS and Caden, a former graduate. The excitement grew as the room lit up with an energetic live



Caroline Johnson, former VIPS Mom and Tennis Ball Co-Chair, and husband Mike, who is a new VIPS Board Member, chat with a guest.



auction, followed by a special appeal to the crowd where they were asked to give a donation from their heart, which we like to call Fund-A-Vision. The following guests gave to this special appeal: Rick & Tiffany Boeckmann, Robert & Carol Brooks, Chris & Suzanne Chase, Al Cornish, Keith & Kathryn Delaney, Shannon Deweese, Chris Feger, Tim Feger, Dan Forte & Chris Schuster, Tim Gornett, Jay & Libby Hatcher, Glen Hogan, Bob & Meagan Hook, Josh & Stephanie Jones, David & Felicity Kemmerly, Rich & Nancy Lechleiter, Andrea Mattingly, Kim & Chuck Morton, Diane Nelson, Larry & Helen Peters, John & Susan Phillips, Rick & Becky Reed, Gene & Carrie Rice, Scott & Jill Roby, Todd & Carla Rush, Cara Silletto, Ryane Smith, Michael & Kelly Talbott, Andrew & Anne Varga and Paul Varga.



VIPS Executive Director Diane Nelson (in white skirt) with the group from Phoenix Process Equipment Co., one of the Tennis Ball sponsors.

Of course, we are greatly appreciative to all who gave their time, talent and treasure towards the 2013 Tennis Ball. Special thanks to our committee, including co-chairs Caroline Johnson and Amy Sitterly, along with Sharon Bensinger, Terri Connolly, Kitty Drake, Robin Frazier, Brandi Hitzelberger and Ellen Prizant. We are eternally grateful to our sponsors, including ICAP, Phoenix Process Equipment Company, UPS, Learning House and the Huey family. Last but certainly not least we would like to recognize the Louisville Boat Club for being such gracious hosts!

Some of the great auction items.



# Tennis Tournament

The weekend of tennis excitement continued into Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> with the annual VIPS Tennis Tournament, also held at the Louisville Boat Club. Nearly 40 doubles teams spent the afternoon competing against one another on the courts. After everyone gathered on the steps of the patio to view a fiery finals competition, the evening wrapped up with a cocktail party and a "Beat the Pro" contest.

Congratulations to the 2013 winners: Men's Division A -- Michael Cunningham & Robert Palmer; Men's Division B -- Brent Stern & Kevin Singerman; Women's Division A -- Jennifer Buckland-Stern & Wendy Knabel; and Women's Division B -- Amy Kadner & Debbie Emberson.



Tim Barnoud slams a shot.

Special thanks to Jay Hatcher and Mark Fraley, who organized the 2013 tournament and much appreciation to all of our sponsors, including ICAP, Stites & Harbison, Creation Gardens and, of course, Louisville Boat Club.

VIPS is pleased to announce that the combined proceeds from both tennis events was over \$76,000!

Jay Hatcher, one of the tournament organizers, holds little Maggie Byrd.



# YUM! Brands Corporate Cup Golf Tournament

On Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> VIPS traded in the tennis racquets for golf clubs to host the annual YUM! Brands Corporate Cup Golf Tournament, held at the beautiful Persimmon Ridge Golf Club in eastern Jefferson County. This was a very special year, as it marked the event's 25<sup>th</sup> year! Nearly 30 teams spent the afternoon on a very challenging course to raise funds for VIPS – over \$60,000 total! Players were treated to an appearance by the Kids Town Preschool students, who took a field trip to the course and practiced their putting skills on the greens.

Congratulations to the Louisville Downtown Lions Club team, which took the top prize at the golf tournament. VIPS appreciates all who supported this event in any way and gives special thanks YUM! Brands and KFC, who founded the Corporate Cup a quarter of a century ago! We say a heartfelt thanks to Andy Steinbach and Debbie Baldwin of YUM! who were our tournament organizers.



VIPS kids get some greens time at the KFC Yum Golf Tournament at Persimmon Ridge on May 20.



Layla (above left) and Braeden (right) practice putting.



Above: The winning team from the Louisville Downtown Lions Club. Left: Blind Golfer Jim Baker (left) accompanied by Everett Davis, challenges the player to beat his shots.



## It's a Stampede!!

On Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, VIPS held the 11th Annual Dr. Mark Lynn & Associates Stampede for VIPS 5K at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium. Thanks to a matching grant from Kosair Charities, Dr. Lynn's sponsorship totaled \$60,000 this year! This was on top of all of our usual sponsors and a couple of new ones, including Ford Motor Company and Boxcar PR. Special thanks to all who supported this year's race. We will have more about the outcome in our next issue.



# VIPS Board Elects New Officers and Board Members

At the VIPS Annual Board Meeting the following officers were elected to serve for two years: Jay Hatcher, President; John Talbott, Vice President; Jennifer O’Dea, Secretary; and Bill Jessee, Treasurer. The following were elected as new board members: Dr. Jennifer Alleyne (Honorary), Kristen Britt, Holly Belter-Chesser, Jim Conklin, William Corrigan, Brandon Jagers, and Mike Johnson, while Dr. Jerry Bizer, Scott Duncan of the Lexington VIPS Advisory Board, Greg Dutton, Catherine Leslie of the Lexington VIPS Advisory Board, and Amy Sitterly were re-elected to the Board. Heartfelt thanks were given to outgoing board members, including outgoing president Steve Soph (who will remain active as Past President), Alfonso Cornish, Harry Dennerly, Caroline Johnson, Connie Spalding and Susan Tyler Witten.

Al Cornish, Chair of the Personnel Committee, presented a special Board Award to Annie Hughes to honor her recognition as the 2013 Indiana Preschool Educator of the Year Award. What a blessing to have Annie on our team serving the children of Indiana!

Board Member Glen Stuckel, District 17 Metro Councilman and Kosair Charities representative to the Board, presented a \$20,000 check on behalf of Kosair Charities. This check was a match for a \$20,000 donation from the Downtown Lions’ Club. Thanks so very much to the Lions and to Kosair Charities.

# VIPS Benefits from Extreme Generosity: the Larkmoor House

The concept of “Paying it Forward” has certainly been exemplified when applied to the house on Larkmoor Avenue, just a few blocks from the VIPS Louisville Office, that was donated by brothers Ralph and Dennis Ash.

This first most generous donation led to many others. Plumbers Supply donated a new toilet, kitchen sink, and faucets for all kitchen and bath fixtures, as well as discounting other supplies needed by the plumber! Lanning Paints provided discounted interior paint for the

house, enabling VIPS to get the best use out of our donated funds. Rumpke of Kentucky donated two dumpsters to help with the clean-up. And many volunteers assisted in cleaning and spiffing up the house (see Volunteers, pg. 12).

Once renovated, the house will be sold with VIPS getting the proceeds thanks to the Ash brothers’ generosity as well as that of community partners and hard work from willing volunteers!

## Beacon Awards Continued from front page

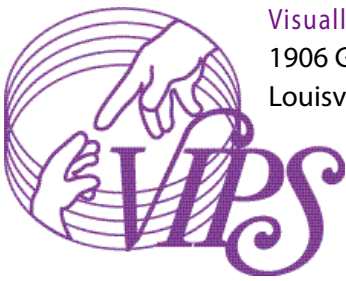
- **Individual Volunteer Award** -- VIPS Board Member Mark Stiebling for his many contributions to VIPS, artistic as well as those of time and energy.
- **Individual Benefactor Award** -- the Deeley Family, through individual efforts and their business D&W Silks, for years of service to VIPS in many different ways.
- **Social Service Award** -- UPS Supply Chain Solutions for donating all of their 2012 - 13 volunteer hours to VIPS.
- **Ambassador Award** -- Steve Wiser for donating proceeds from his book, “Distinctive Houses of Louisville,” to VIPS.
- **Parent Ambassador Award** -- the family of VIPS preschooler Christian Greenwell, and his brother, VIPS graduate Caden Rich, along with their parents, grandparents, and brother, Chance, for representing VIPS so well and being willing to help in so many ways.



Board Member Mark Stiebling is presented his Beacon Award by Diane Nelson.



Parent Ambassador Award Winners -- the family of Christian Greenwell and Caden Rich.



Visually Impaired Preschool Services  
1906 Goldsmith Lane  
Louisville, KY 40218

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## Upcoming Events

### VIPs Louisville Family Events

Saturday, September 28

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Dr. Mark Lynn & Associates Stampede for VIPs at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium starts at 8 a.m. with Kids Fun Run at 9:30 a.m. Fees, including a long-sleeve race t-shirt and access to many family-fun activities, are \$25/person; \$100/team of 4; \$5/Kids Fun Run; early registration prices valid thru 9/20/13. Prizes awarded to top finishers in overall and age-division categories! "Like" our Stampede Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dr-Mark-Lynn-Associates-Stampede-for-VIPs/111417688957941?bookmark\\_t=page](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dr-Mark-Lynn-Associates-Stampede-for-VIPs/111417688957941?bookmark_t=page).

Saturday, October 5

Combined VIPs Louisville and Lexington family event, 1 - 3 p.m., at Happy Jack's Pumpkin Patch in Frankfort, KY.

Saturday, October 12

Sibling Group at VIPs, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, October 27

Halloween Trunk or Treat at VIPs, 3 - 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 21

VIPs Family Thanksgiving Dinner, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Sunday, December 1

Santa Party at VIPs Kosair Charities Kids Town.

Saturday, December 14

Sibling Group at VIPs, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

### VIPs Lexington Family Events

The Month of October

Celebration of Blindness Awareness Month (See article on pg. 2)

Saturday, Oct 5<sup>th</sup>

Combined VIPs Louisville and Lexington family event, 1 - 3 p.m., at Happy Jack's Pumpkin Patch in Frankfort, KY.

Friday, October 25

Family Halloween Party, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Gardenside Christian Church in Lexington. Come in costume!

Saturday, November 23

Parents Night Out, 6:30 - 9 p.m., Gardenside Christian Church.

Saturday, December 14

Family Holiday Party, noon - 2 p.m., Gardenside Christian Church.

### VIPs Bloomington Events

Saturday, October 26

Dining in the Dark at Chapman's Restaurant, 4506 E. Third St., Bloomington. Doors open at 6 p.m. Contact Rebecca Davis for additional details at 888-824-2197 or [vipsbloomington@vips.org](mailto:vipsbloomington@vips.org).

## VIPs Kids Town Preschool Wish List

- Washable tempera paints, gallons: yellow, red, blue, black, white
- Adhesive backed foam
- Adhesive backed felt
- 8-1/2" x 11" cardstock in red, yellow, black and white
- Puff paint, especially black
- Paper towels
- Disinfectant wipes

And a REALLY BIG wish...  
Our teachers would dearly love to have a Closed Circuit TV, especially a newer color one. If you know of anyone wishing to donate a used one or fund the purchase of a new one, please call the office at 502-636-3207.

VISability is a bi-monthly publication of Visually Impaired Preschool Services, Jan Moseley, Editor.

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- Diane Nelson, Executive Director
- Heather Benson, Development Director
- Ashley Buren, Preschool Instructional Assistant
- Ti Erika Carney, After School Instructional Assistant
- Gretchen Cutrer, JCPS Preschool Instructional Assistant
- Carol Dahmke, Office Manager
- LaRhonda Daniels, Preschool Instructional Assistant
- Ashley Emmons, COMS/TVI/Kids Town Preschool Teacher
- Pauletta Feldman, Special Projects
- Greta Gillmeister, Music Therapist
- Martha Hack, Development Asst./Family Services
- Dani Harper, Receptionist
- Beth Krebs, Two's Instructional Assistant
- Mary Lesousky, TVI/Developmental Interventionist
- Paige Maynard, TVI/Kids Town Preschool Teacher
- Staci Maynard, TVI/Two-Day 2's/PAL Teacher
- Barbara Merrick, TVI/Preschool Teacher
- Jan Moseley, TVI/Visual Impairment Specialist
- Kathy Mullen, Education Coordinator
- Beth Owens, Preschool Instructional Assistant
- Angie Paisley, Teacher, Kids Town Preschool
- Alysia Rue, Developmental Interventionist
- Kim Shippey, Controller
- Maury Weedman, COMS/Facilities Manager

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- Jill Haas, Family Services Coordinator
- Amanda Hamm, Developmental Interventionist
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- Mary Moore, Development Director
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- Debby Eades, COMS
- Ann Hughes, TVI/Developmental Interventionist
- Kelly Lloyd, TVI/Developmental Interventionist