



National Family Association For Deaf-Blind

NFADB exists to empower the voices of families of individuals who are deaf-blind and to advocate for their unique needs.

Accomplishments for 2011 by Susan Green, President



On behalf of the NFADB Board of Directors and myself, we wish you a Happy New Year. As we reflect on the past year

and all that we have endeavored we look forward to 2012. Here is our year in review.

Linda Syler finished serving as president for the past five years. On Sept 1, 2011 I became the president of NFADB after serving as secretary. Paddi Davies was appointed secretary, and Elisa Sanchez-Wilkinson returned to the board as a member.

I would like to just name a few of our activities and accomplishments. Our NFADB membership brochure was updated, website improvements including online membership application and donation form, PayPal account, Face book, participated in a webinar with NCDB, completed a national survey to aid in the planning of the symposium and welcomed New York and Texas as our newest state affiliates.

Members on the board have represented NFADB by attending meetings at local,

state and national levels. NFADB was present at the AADB Symposium in Kentucky, OSEP Project Director's Meeting in Washington D.C., CHARGE Syndrome Conference in Florida, NCDB meetings, Deaf-Blind Project meetings and National Leaders Consortium for Sensory Disabilities (NLCSD). Several of us sit on multiple organization boards and pull NFADB into them. It is imperative that we are present at these meetings and our voice be heard at the state and national levels.

On behalf of NFADB, we have written letters of support for organizations as they applied for the grant from the Federal Communications Commission to provide national outreach and marketing related to the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program, NDBEDP. Helen Keller National Center hosted our two day annual board meeting in November. The board has had many conference calls this past year and will continue to as we plan our Leadership Symposium that will take place July 13-15, 2012 in

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Austin, TX.

As you can see, last year was an exciting and busy year for us. I expect this year to be just as productive if not more, as we host our first symposium. With twelve board members and a handful of special advisors there is plenty to be done. We are a volunteer organization and always looking for members that would like to help us fulfill our mission.



THE NATIONAL FAMILY ASSOCIATION FOR DEAF-BLIND (NFADB)

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

NFADB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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What We Did over the Holidays

There is a Chinese proverb that says, "A picture is worth ten thousand words." Here are some photographs of families enjoying their Winter Break! Thank you to all who contributed to this wonderful family page.



If you would like to have your family's picture in the newsletter, please email them to Elisa-sw@hotmail.com

Daniel Shaffer, PA, Christmas break at his first "laser tag" birthday event.

Fun



Kristina and Shane Kezmarsky, PA, Christmas 2011

Family

SMILES



Butler Family Christmas 2011 -PA

JOY



The Lills, PA, visit the Baltimore Aquarium



Johnson Family, PA, Christmas at Myrtle Beach



Hannah Hindmarch, PA, picking a Christmas Tree



Trent Bates PA, signing a song about a Christmas Tree with his intervener.



Wilkinson Family, NM, decorating the tree

Togetherness

Cameron Family, PA, at Hershey Park's Candylane



LOVE

Surviving a Power Outage with Complex Medical Issues

By Susan Agrawal

Excerpt taken from Complex Child E-Magazine
www.ComplexChild.com

Almost every part of the country has experienced severe weather-related events in the past year, including damage from snowstorms, thunderstorms, hurricanes, or tornadoes. In many cases, power was lost for an extensive period of time, sometimes as long as two weeks. While neither severe weather nor power outages can be predicted with any great certainty, there are a number of steps you can take in advance to minimize the effects of a power outage on your child and family.

Step 1: Notify the Authorities

If your child with complex medical needs relies on medical technology on a daily basis, you need to notify your utility companies and local emergency providers. Most utility companies, particularly electricity suppliers, have plans in place and standard application forms for individuals requiring life-supporting medical equipment. In my state, for example, the electricity provider requires a letter from a doctor stating what medical technology is used. The company then places your name on a registry and tags your meter to prevent sudden disconnection. While the company here does not guarantee priority restoration, our experience has been that they will make a strong effort to prioritize your repair whenever possible. My daughter's Medicaid waiver also notifies all utilities of her medical technology on our behalf. The following are some of the companies and groups you should consider notifying in advance:

- * Electricity supplier
- * Gas supplier
- * Water supplier
- * Telephone providers, including landline and cell providers
- * Division responsible for snow removal and/or tree removal (often Street or Sanitation department)
- * Local fire department, ambulance, and/or paramedics
- * Local police department



If a severe storm or other weather-related event is anticipated, it may be wise to remind your local fire department or paramedics in advance of your situation.

Step 2: Prepare for an Outage

There are several standard measures that any individual should take to prepare for a power outage. The Red Cross and other organizations recommend that you have the following on hand before any outage:

- * Cooler
- * Battery-powered or hand-crank radio
- * Extra batteries
- * First aid kit
- * Medications—seven day supply if possible
- * Medical items
- * Multi-purpose tool or tool set
- * Sanitation and personal hygiene items (toilet paper, paper towels, etc.)
- * Cell phone with charger
- * Landline
- * Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, deed/lease to home, birth certificates, insurance policies)



- * Family and emergency contact information
- * Extra cash
- * A full tank of gas in your vehicle
- * Generator if possible



Ideally, all items should be kept together for quick access or in case you need to evacuate. It is also worthwhile to spend some time planning in advance for evacuation if that becomes necessary. You may want to identify a hotel in the immediate area, as well as one further away if your local area is too affected, that can accommodate your child's needs and your family. It is also wise to locate both a local hospital and one removed from the immediate area (for large power outages) in case your child will require hospitalization. In the case of a longer outage, you will need a vehicle that can transport your child and his/her medical equipment and supplies as required. Temperature fluctuation due to power outages can be a major problem for some children. Without a generator, neither heat nor air conditioning will be available. Some families may be able to heat the home with a wood stove or fireplace. Extra blankets will be helpful during winter power outages. Cooling vests that use ice packs may help during warm-weather outages. If the temperature is not acceptable for your child, you will need to evacuate.

If you would like to read more information regarding how to prepare your medical technology and supplies when in a power outage, please go to <http://www.articles.complexchild.com/dec2011/00346.pdf> . If you do not have a computer and would like to read the entire article, contact Elisa Sánchez Wilkinson, Newsletter Editor, at 505-203-8125 and she will mail the complete article to you. This article was printed with permission of the author.

Untitled By Martina L Carlson

*A student approached me this morning and said,
"I'll go to the doctor, and he'll open my head."
Then I'll get a new brain, and things will improve,
I won't mind the surgery; I've got nothing to lose."*

*"I shut down and give up because I don't want to cry,
I'm behind all my friends, so there's no point to try.
I fail again and again," he said this to me,
"I can't do the work, just let me be."*

*The words of this student, I cannot forget-
They're in my head and my heart; there forever,
they'll set.
No child should feel like his brain is all wrong.
No student should struggle the whole day long.*

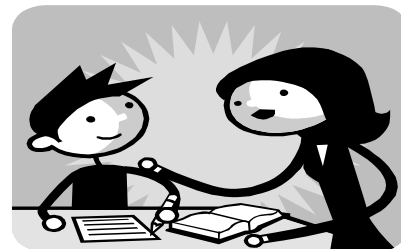
*As a teacher, it's my job to work without rest.
Until I show him he can, until he sees some success.
Many think he's not learning, but it's simply not true
He's learning he can't, and that's hard to undo.*

*Yes, he learns differently, but that is not bad,
Different should not mean frustrating and sad.
I must work extra hard, I must help him to see,
That his brain is just fine and that he can succeed.*

*His outlook must change, and then he can say,
"I've tried my best, and I've had a good day.
I must do things myself, but don't give me too much.
Spoon-feeding's no good, nor is a crutch."*

*"I must swim on my own; don't make me dependent,
This message I'll learn if you, my teacher, will send it.
Empower, encourage, and discern where I am,
Find the next step, then create the right plan."*

*A unique-thinking student with a different
brain wiring
Needs a teacher who refuses to let him stop trying.
So I must be patient and give him my best,
Meet him where he is, and let his brain do the rest.*



Martina L. Carlson is an educational leader whose area of expertise is in the teaching of reading and writing. She teaches 5th grade deaf and hard of hearing students in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Who are the future leaders in the field of Deaf-Blindness?

The Teaching Research Institute at WOU, in conjunction with Boston College, East Carolina University, Hunter College of City University of New York, San Francisco University, Texas Tech University, University of Alabama – Birmingham, University of Arizona, University of Southern Mississippi, the University of Utah, and Utah State University, have been collaborating to implement the Helen Keller Fellows Project. This project addresses the critical shortage of qualified personnel in low incidence disabilities with a specific emphasis in deaf-blindness. The Helen Keller Fellows Project was awarded through the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) under the Personnel Development to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities Combined Priority for Personnel Development (CFDA 84.325K).

The HK Fellows Project is in its fourth year and is currently working with eleven newly selected special education teachers from across the nation. The purpose of the program is to develop a cadre of geographically dispersed and networked teacher leaders who will be prepared to provide evidence-based practices and professional expertise required to meet the educational needs of children with vision and hearing impairments.

Each of the Cohorts of HK Fellows has participated in webinars with the experts in deaf-blindness and worked directly and indirectly with State Deaf-Blind programs to provide education and improve services for children who are deaf-blind and their families. The jobs they have found vary greatly - the key teacher of a deaf-blind classroom; special education administrator at the state level; special education teacher at the district level; university professor of deaf-blindness; technical assistance provider to assist families; trainer for interveners, etc. Many are still looking for work that will provide them an opportunity to use their critical expertise.

Several of the new Cohort of Helen Keller Fellows are the first in their family to have completed a college degree or pursue a graduate degree. One is the child of Mexican immigrants with 8th grade educations; another survived Spina Bifida and amazed her physicians by living beyond her first birthday and suffering no cognitive developmental delays. All are passionately devoted to ensuring that K-12 students with deaf-blindness are provided educational programs.

“I feel so fortunate to work with these individuals and see their dedication and desire to do meaningful work to help children receive the quality education they deserve”, stated Dr. Christina Reagle, Project Director. It is impossible to produce enough classroom teachers to guarantee that each child with deaf-blindness has a teacher with a focus on sensory disabilities. A more realistic solution is to identify and train highly qualified “teacher leaders” in order to support district level mentoring and sustained professional development. The development of such a cadre assists the field by providing coaching/mentoring to their educational colleagues, enhancing instructional programs, and providing job-embedded professional development within the least restrictive educational environment.

For further information please contact:

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Cohort #4, taken in November 2011



CHARGE Syndrome Foundation Update

The CHARGE Syndrome Foundation has some exciting new projects to share with families.

Scientific Advisory Board: The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) was established in 2011 to serve as a scientific resource, assisting in the identification, funding and development of scientific research projects. The formation of this new advisory board demonstrates the Foundation's commitment to high quality scientific research. Members of SAB consist of leading scientists and medical doctors with extensive research experience. We are fortunate to have such a wealth of knowledge and experience help guide the Foundation.

Pilot Grants: The Foundation is taking applications for pilot grants, which range in value between \$25,000 and \$50,000. All grant applicants will be reviewed by the SAB. Please go to www.chargesyndrome.org/documents/pilotgrant.pdf for more details.

Provider Database: The Foundation developed a CHARGE Provider Database of physicians, therapists and other service providers recommended by our membership. The database became active in January 2012. For information on great providers in your state, province or country, please contact sheri@chargesyndrome.org.

CHARGE Webinars: The Foundation is hosting its first ever Webinar on **Issues with Pain in CHARGE** on February 12, 2012 at 7pm. Presenters are Tim Hartshorne, PhD and Kasee Stratton, PhD. Registration is on a first come first served basis with Foundation members receiving registration priority.

CHARGE It for CHARGE (CIFC): This is the Foundation's 4th annual CIFC Fundraiser. It is the primary fundraising campaign which helps fund research, publications and biennial international conferences. Please check out our web site for more details.

11th International CHARGE Syndrome Conference: Fresh off the successful 10th International Conference in Orlando, FL, the Foundation Board Members are busy planning for the 11th International Conference in Scottsdale, AZ at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess Hotel. The conference will take place from July 25-28, 2013. Please follow our web site for more details as the date gets closer.

For more information on CHARGE syndrome please visit the Foundation's web site at www.chargesyndrome.org or e-mail the Foundation at info@chargesyndrome.org or call 1-800-442-7604. To contact the Director of Outreach – Sheri Stanger – please send an e-mail to sheri@chargesyndrome.org or call toll free at 1-855-5CHARGE (855-524-2743).

Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow.

[Helen Keller](#)



NCDB 2.0

News from the National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness

The National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness (NCDB) was recently awarded two additional years of funding, from October 1, 2011 until September 30, 2013. During this time much of our work will focus on important initiatives in the following four areas: family engagement, early identification, interveners, and technology. Our new activities are designed make a difference for children and families in each of these areas and to increase collaboration among state deaf-blind projects and key partners at local, state, and national levels, including NFADB.

What's in a name?

As we begin our new funding period, it is important for all of our partners to understand what NCDB is funded to accomplish. Some aspects of our work scope carry forward activities from our previous grant cycle and other parts are new. We are using the name NCDB 2.0 to illustrate that while we are still NCDB, and honored to continue as the national technical assistance center on deaf-blindness, we will also be engaging in new work that will have us operating a little differently.

Continuing Activities and Services

DB-LINK Information Services is still available to help you locate information about deaf-blindness or to help a child who is deaf-blind. To talk to an information specialist, call our toll-free telephone number at 800-438-9376 (800-854-7013 TTY). You can also reach us by e-mail at info@nationaldb.org. We provide tailored, personalized responses to information requests.

Our extensive, information-rich website can be accessed at www.nationaldb.org. Its many features include all of our NCDB publications, Deaf-Blind 101, an extensive section covering information and issues especially for families, and over 100 selected topics (e.g., CHARGE syndrome, cortical visual impairment, IEP development), each containing links to full-text information and resources. If you have not seen it yet, you might want to check out our website section on advocacy for families (www.nationaldb.org/FFAdvocacy.php) and our newest publication, *Practice Perspectives: Universal Design for Learning*. The latter is available in English (<http://nationaldb.org/documents/products/udl.pdf>) and Spanish (<http://nationaldb.org/documents/products/UDL-spanish.pdf>). Paper copies are available by contacting us by phone or e-mail.

Due to the demands associated with getting NCDB 2.0 up and running, *Deaf-Blind Perspectives* is currently on hiatus. The next issue will be published in the summer or fall of 2012. In the meantime, you can access the full text of all back issues on the Web at <http://nationaldb.org/dbp>.



New Initiatives

As noted above, a big part of our efforts during the two-year extension will be focused on four initiatives. Each is designed to address a specific area of content as well as serve as models for establishing and implementing strategies to support partners to collaborate and share information and resources.

The *Family Engagement Initiative* will work to build relationships and collaborative partnerships with and among family members of individuals who are deaf-blind at local, state, and national levels. We will also work with states to cultivate and increase the number of parent and youth leaders. Our partners in this initiative include NFADB, the Parent Training and Information Centers (PTIs), the CHARGE Syndrome Foundation, and the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI).

The *Early Identification Initiative* is intended to strengthen the state deaf-blind project network's capacity to identify infants and toddlers with combined vision and hearing loss. NCDB will work with state deaf-blind projects to collect, organize, and make available, tools and resources to improve early identification. We are currently completing a model framework that can be used in these identification efforts and plan to promote collaboration and web-based dialogue among projects that share an interest in this area.

The *Intervener Initiative* involves the development of recommendations for continuing and future services related to the provision of interveners for children with deaf-blindness in the U.S. NCDB has been asked by OSEP to conduct this initiative and provide them with recommendations by May 30, 2012. This work involves a two-phase process. The first is to gather information about the current status of intervener services and practices. We will soon be disseminating a survey about interveners for families. It will be announced on NFADB's listserv and Facebook page, so please keep an eye out for it. The second phase will be to craft recommendations based on an analysis of information collected during Phase 1. We will be bringing together a panel of state deaf-blind project personnel, family members, interveners, and higher education providers to provide input for NCDB to consider as we craft the recommendations.

The *Technology Solutions Initiative* is committed to promoting the integration of new and emerging technologies into state-deaf-blind project technical assistance (TA) activities. Technology can be used to build relationships, promote effective teaching strategies, improve communication among team members, and measure changes in both child and service provider behaviors. We will use one model that has shown promise (the Distance Mentorship Project) as a springboard for further replication and innovation. At the same time, we will examine and promote technology in the following categories as vehicles to provide TA remotely: video capture, wikis, and web-conferencing.

If you have questions about any of our activities or initiatives, please contact us at 800-438-9376 (800-854-7013 TTY) or info@nationaldb.org. We look forward to continuing our partnership with NFADB and working to improve outcomes for children who are deaf-blind and their families.

Coming to Terms with Terminology By Charles J. Wilkinson, MA, CI, CT

Have you ever wondered about what the letters after someone's name mean? I have too. I have letters after my name and I thought I would share with you what mine are and explain other abbreviations you might see for an Interpreter for the Deaf. My name is Charles J Wilkinson, MA, CI and CT. That is what is on my business card. Most people call me Charlie though. You are probably familiar that MA that stands for Masters of Arts. MS would stand for Masters of Science. I have a Masters of Arts degree in Education focusing on Multicultural Special Education. I was a teacher for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for many years and hold a K-12 teaching license in my state. I am currently an interpreter for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in an educational setting as well as a Video Relay Service (SVRS). I am also the father of a young man with dual sensory impairment. *The CI and CT are the certifications from Deaf, Inc. (RID).* RID is the National organization that certifies interpreters across our country. You can find lots of great information from their website www.RID.org.



What do the abbreviations after an interpreters name mean?

To be able to become a nationally certified interpreter you must take a written test. This test is comprehensive and includes specific ASL and English, specific knowledge of culture, specific knowledge of scenarios that are provided to test your knowledge of an interpreters Code of Professional Conduct (CPC) which is our Code of Ethics. This test can be compared to the Bar Exam that an attorney would take. Passing this test allows you to become a candidate to then for the performance test.

certified interpreter you must take written test. This test is knowledge on interpreting between of people who are Deaf and their spoken English, as well as in depth our knowledge of an interpreters

CI stands for Certificate of Interpretation. This means that you have passed the Certificate of Interpretation Performance Test. Its focus was to interpret between ASL and English. It is made up of three parts. Voice to Sign, Sign to Voice, and Interview. This was a filmed test. It was then sent off to raters. These raters were highly trained to look for specific skills and accuracy for what is required to be Nationally Certified.

CT stands for the Certificate of Transliteration. This means that you have passed the Certificate of Transliteration Performance Test. It has three parts similar to the Certificate of Interpretation Test, but instead, this test looks for the skills necessary to Transliterate. Transliteration is going from Spoken English to an English based/English word order type of communication and vice versa.

The CI and CT certification tests are no longer given. As with every certifying organization, it has changed with the times. *There is a new test called the National Interpreter Certification or NIC.* You may see NIC after an interpreter's name. It is fairly new, established within the last 5 years. There are three levels of the NIC test. NIC – Certified, NIC- Advanced, and NIC- Master. Although there is ongoing growth and change with RID, you will see these as credentials after an interpreter's name. Other certification like CI, CT are still valid. Only the test has changed. If you are currently working with an interpreter ask them what their credentials are. I know, that as an interpreter, I am always happy to share my certification information. After all, I did work hard to earn them. If they are not yet nationally certified, ask them where they are in the process. Hope that this helps with your keeping up with terminology! For more information on Interpreters for the Deaf, please visit www.RID.org. It is a great resource for anyone working with interpreters.

A New Associate Director for NCDB

Dr. Amy Parker has accepted the position of Associate Director for NCDB. Amy brings rich experiences and training to this position. She has worked as a policy intern for the American Foundation for the Blind and also has worked alongside individuals who are part of the Deaf-Blind Young Adults in Action project. She's worked as a Community Placement Specialist, as a Regional Representative for Helen Keller National Center, and as a Technical Assistance Specialist for NTAC. Amy completed her doctorate at Texas Tech University through the National Center for Leadership in Visual Impairment (NCLVI) fellowship program in 2009. Advocacy and policy development are two of Amy's passions in the fields of visual impairment and deaf-blindness.

I want to extend my personal congratulations to Amy. I know that she will offer much to our collaborative efforts, and we're eager for her to join the NCDB team. The talents and experiences Amy brings to the position is well suited for the work associated with NCDB 2.0 as we continue to bring focus to systems development on behalf of the national deaf-blind project network.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Amy Parker to NCDB 2.0 and to the Teaching Research Institute at Western Oregon University.

D. Jay Gense, Director
National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness
Teaching Research Institute - Western Oregon University

CHECK OUT THIS NEW WEBSITE:

<http://literacy.nationaldb.org>

The site has been designed to be user-friendly and provides strategies, examples and resources for increasing literacy learning opportunities for children at a variety of skill levels. Please mark your calendars for Feb 16th at 10 am PST for the NCDB 2.0 Literacy webinar. NCDB staff will provide a tour of the site, highlight plans for its expansion and share how it is being used. Check nationaldb.org for upcoming webinar details.



New York Parent New York Parent Network, NYPN



by Barbara Loughran, NYPN President

New York Parent Network started the new year off with great news! NYPN's grant from the Hilton/Perkins Program was renewed for the 2011-2012 membership year. Our membership drive also had a great start.

NYPN explored recreational activities for children with deaf-blindness and their families on Family Day on November 13th at Funfuzion at New Roc City. Kids and families choose from rides, video games, bowling, pool, and glow in the dark mini-golf. We hope to cosponsor a family event with New York Deaf-Blind Collaborative this Spring in Rochester, NY.

NYPN is currently finalizing our Fall-Winter Newsletter and planning for Spring!



Pennsylvania Partnership for Deaf-Blind Celebrates Fifth Anniversary



This spring, the Pennsylvania Partnership for the Deaf-blind (PPDB) will celebrate its fifth anniversary. During that time, PPDB has had a number of successes, overcome several major hurdles, and skinned our knees a few times.

Many of the successes have been recounted in previous editions of this newsletter. They include: Obtaining our federal non-profit status; receiving several grants from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; becoming NFADB's first state affiliate; developing a parent's guide to transition; establishing the PPDB Helen Keller Award to recognize people who make significant contributions to the deaf-blind

community in Pennsylvania; creating the Noah B. Radzik scholarship for siblings of those who are deaf-blind; starting the PPDB website (www.papdb.org); enhancing the ability of our families to network and communicate with each other; and expanding PPDB membership to over 100 individuals (including family members, adult siblings, adults who are deaf-blind, and others). Finally, within the last month, we have begun a private listserv exclusively for PPDB members.

The hurdles we have had to overcome are familiar to those who have participated in any parent-led volunteer organization: Leading different personalities with strongly-held ideas to success without blowing the organization apart; getting the work done with very limited funding; asking our members to carve time out from their very busy personal lives and schedules to help the organization achieve its goals; and keeping the organization focused on its mission.

To be honest, we've also skinned our knees and stubbed our toes on some things: We've taken on some projects without adequate resources to ensure their completion; we've collectively and individually run out of energy at a few critical times; we've sometimes allowed personal disagreements to affect our discussions; and we haven't communicated with our members as effectively as possible.

When all is said and done, however, PPDB is alive and well after five years!! The Board of Directors has transitioned to a new President (Sue Shaffer). The Board has also added two members (Jennifer Hindmarch and Stephanie Bates). Our membership is growing. One of our members is the current NFADB President (Susan Green), and another is on the NFADB Board (Patti McGowan). PPDB has strengthened its relationship with the Pennsylvania Initiative for the Deaf-Blind. And we are beginning to set priorities for our sixth year.

As the former President, I am proud of PPDB's accomplishments to date, and I look forward to a bright future.

Gordon Boe

Member, PPDB Board of Directors

NFADB is on the web.

www.nfadb.org

Come to the NFADB website and learn more about our Mission, State Affiliates, Resources and Links, Membership (you can use PayPal or major credit cards to pay your dues or become a new member) and Upcoming Events.

“Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved.” —Helen Keller

NFADB would like to thank all the families that have joined this association and continue to support, contribute, and inspire those around them. Below you will find information regarding the 2012 membership drive. To continue to receive up to date information regarding legislative issues, medical information, notices of upcoming events, families sharing information, and more, your membership needs to be current. NFADB is an outstanding association. Being a member brings each of us a sense of pride and satisfaction to know that we are working together to help our family members with deaf-blindness achieve success in their lives. **THANK YOU!**

**SUPPORT THE NFADB!
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES
(*U.S. FUNDS ONLY)**

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

- One Year: \$15
- Three Years: \$35
- Lifetime (Individual/family) \$100

Regular members are eligible to serve on the NFADB Board of Directors. All members automatically receive our NFADB newsletter which is also available by request in BRAILLE, LARGE PRINT or electronically. Indicate preference on application.

ONLY REGULAR MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR APPOINTMENT TO OFFICE

ALL MEMBERS AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE OUR NFADB MEMBERSHIP KIT AND OUR NEWSLETTER

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

Contributing Sponsor - \$_____

Name: _____
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: (____) _____ FAX: () _____
 E-mail: _____

Information about person who is deaf-blind

Name: _____
 Birthdate: _____
 Relationship to you: _____
 Cause of deaf-blindness: _____

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

Yes No

Please return with check or money order payable to: "NFADB" at:
 NFADB/Membership
 141 Middle Neck Road
 Sands Point, New York 11050-1299
 or go to the website and use PayPal or a major credit card

**National Family
Association for Deaf-Blind**

141 Middle Neck Road
Sands Point, NY 11050

Phone: 800-255-0411
Fax: 516-883-9060
E-mail: NFADB@aol.com



Supporting Persons Who are
Deaf-Blind And Their Families

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

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THE DEAF-BLIND
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National Family Association for Deaf-Blind

SAVE THE DATE
July 13-15, 2012

NFADB 2012 Symposium

**"Preparing Leaders for Today and Tomorrow:
Leadership in the 21st Century"**

Everyone will learn new skills, receive invaluable resources, meet families from around the country and return home with new ideas to help them, their child and their community.

Location: Austin, Texas

Parent Leaders are encouraged to apply!

For more details about funding opportunities, please check our web page after Jan. 2012.

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