

E-CONNECTOR

News from Colorado Parents of Blind Children (CO-POBC)

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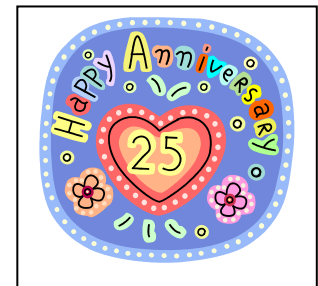
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BACK TO SCHOOL CHALLENGE

The beginning of the school year is like getting a fresh start, and with every fresh start there is opportunity. Your opportunity, and your challenge, parents, is to take a pro-active role in improving your child's school experience. Take some time to observe your child going to and from school, in the classroom, in the cafeteria, in the gym, on the playground, and in the neighborhood. After observing your child in these settings, pick out one area where your blind/visually impaired child is not on par with his or her sighted classmates due to visual impairment and set a goal to change that one thing. The goal might be that the child will carry his own tray in the lunch room, find the swing set on the playground on his own, or walk to the bus independently. Busy parents often wait for the school

personnel to suggest such goals, but parents...you are your child's number one advocate and you, too, have a responsibility here. Make observations, identify areas where your child is not as independent as his or her sighted peers and work with the school staff to set those goals. Do what you can at home to build the skills your child needs to become as independent as the other children. Change comes one small step at a time. So parents, it's time to take charge and take the challenge. Set a goal and make it happen!



COLORADO CENTER FOR THE BLIND 25th ANNIVERSARY

September 13-14, 2013

The CCB is turning 25!! You are invited to help celebrate the remarkable achievements of the Center and the hundreds of

Editor's Note: Please feel free to contact us if you have an announcement you would like included in the newsletter or if you would like to add a friend or family member to the e-mail list. Direct all communications to: copobc@gmail.com, attention Julie Hunter, editor.

lives that have been changed over the past quarter century.

Honored guests: Dr. Marc Maurer, president of the NFB, and his wife, Mrs. Patricia Maurer; Mark Riccobono, Executive Director of the NFB Jernigan Institute, Diane McGeorge, founder of the Colorado Center for the Blind, and others.

Friday, September 13:

The National Federation of the Blind made history in 2011 when a totally blind man, Mark Riccobono, drove a specially designed car around obstacles on the Daytona International Speedway in the Blind Driver Challenge. (View [youtube video](#) of the event here.) That blind -driver car is here in Colorado and Mark Riccobono will offer short rides in the neighborhood around the Center to demonstrate how a blind person can safely drive a car. Rides will be offered from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

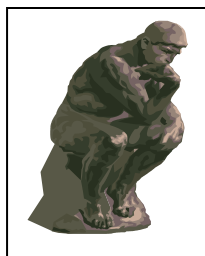
Tactile artist, Ann Cunningham, will unveil a work of art created by her in honor of CCB's twenty-five years. Ann will also demonstrate tactile drawing and invites participants to give it a try.

CCB students will be offering tours of the Center. Enjoy a bratwurst cook-out lunch prepared by students and staff.

Saturday, September 14:

Dinner, commemorative

comments and dancing at the Renaissance Denver Hotel. Please purchase banquet tickets by calling the Center at 303-778-1130, extensions 211 or 249, by Friday, September 6. Tickets are \$40 each.



DENVER ART MUSEUM TACTILE TOUR

(In association with the 25th Anniversary Celebration)

Join tactile artist, Ann Cunningham, and CCB students at the Denver Art Museum on September 14 to appreciate sculptures and other tactile art. The tour is from 10-11:30 a.m. followed by lunch (not included) at Mad Green's. From 2:00-4:00 p.m. see the tactile textiles. A small museum entrance fee may apply. Please **RSVP by September 9** to Brent Batron 303-778-1130 x 222



MOONLIGHT NATURE HIKE

On September 26th you can take a stroll through Bear Creek State Park with a park ranger who will discuss the nocturnal

animals that live in the park. There are hands-on exhibits in the visitor center. Learn about beavers, foxes, bears, birds and fish. For details and to **RSVP** contact Brent Batron **by Sept. 20th**. 303-778-1130 ext. 222.



CCB ON THE AIR

"DENVER SCHOOL GETS BLIND STUDENTS INTO CHEMISTRY"

That is the headline of a recent posting from *Here and Now*, a public radio magazine program produced by WBUR in Boston, Massachusetts, and distributed by Public Radio International to over 170 stations across the United States. On July 6, 2013, reporter Jenny Brundin broadcast a segment of the show from a chemistry lab at Metro State University in Denver. You may recall that in the July issue of *e-Connector* we posted a notice about a Chemistry Seminar for youth. Blind chemist, Dr. Cary Supalo, a professor at Illinois State University, showed the young blind participants how they can actively participate in chemistry labs using various alternative techniques and equipment. It is exciting to know that the innovative and life-changing programs of the Colorado Center for the Blind are being

recognized. To hear the five minute transcript of the show, [click here](#).



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Celebrate the last day of summer, Saturday, September 21st, at the Colorado Parents of Blind Children Ice Cream Social. Make your own sundae or root beer float. The children will be connected with blind mentors for activities and role modeling experience. Meet and get to know other parents of blind/visually impaired kids.

When: Saturday, September 21
Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Where: Colorado Center for the Blind
2233 W. Shepperd Ave.
Littleton, CO 80120

RSVP's are appreciated: Please reply to copobc@gmail.com or leave a voicemail reply at: 303-778-1130, ext. 305.



FANTASTIC TRAVEL RAFFLE

Dreaming of a trip to Hawaii or a Caribbean Cruise? Let your

imagination take you away on the vacation of a lifetime. The Amazing Vacation Travel Raffle may make your vacation dreams come true. The raffle is being sponsored by the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado. Proceeds will go to support the Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning Program (BELL) and the NFBCO Scholarship fund. Purchase tickets (\$10 each or 3 for \$20) for a chance to win a \$3,500.00 gift card from E-Travel Unlimited that can be used for the vacation or vacations of your choosing. The winning ticket will be drawn on October 19th.

You can purchase your tickets online by visiting the following link:

<http://www.nfbco.org/vacation-travel-affle>



CCB MENTORING PROGRAM RESUMES IN OCTOBER

The Colorado Center for the Blind will once again be offering a mentoring program to connect blind youth and their families with positive blind role models. All mentors will have been background checked and approved to be a mentor. The

kids will get to spend one-on-one time with their mentors while family members have the opportunity to discuss aspects of blindness in a group setting. Family members can even participate in some blindness skills training. Please contact Brent Batron, 303-778-1130 ext. 222 for more information and to enroll your child.



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 13-14

Colorado Center for the Blind [25th Anniversary Celebration](#) (See article in this newsletter)

September 14

(RSVP due by Sept. 9)
[Denver Art Museum Tactile Tour](#) (in association with the CCB 25th Anniversary. See article in this newsletter)

September 21

Colorado Parents of Blind Children [ICE CREAM SOCIAL](#) (See article in this newsletter)

September 26

(RSVP due by Sept. 20)
[Moonlight Nature Walk](#) (See article in this newsletter)