

E-CONNECTOR



BULLETIN BOARD

Notes and Notices from Colorado Parents of Blind Children (CO-POBC)



Dear Reader:

Please contact us if you have an announcement you would like to tack up on our bulletin board, or if you would like to add a friend or family member to the e-mail list. Direct all communications to: copobc.newsletter@gmail.com, attention Julie Hunter, editor.



MOSAIC: A SHOWCASE OF THE ARTS

Friday, September 5, 2014
5:30-9:30 p.m.

Enjoy an evening out at the Colorado Center for the Blind and help support the CCB Youth Services Programs.

Headliner, *Café Americana*, will be performing a musical blend of jazz, bluegrass, folk and Americana music. The evening will include exhibits of students' tactile and industrial arts, an exciting live auction, a cash bar and a great selection of food from some of Littleton's best restaurants.

The event will take place at the Center: 2233 West Shepperd Ave., Littleton, CO. Tickets are \$30. To purchase, contact Dan Burke: 303-778-1130, ext. 213; dburke@cocenter.org.



Parents, Kids, Teachers,
Families...

SAVE THE DATE!

October 30-November 2, 2014

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF COLORADO ANNUAL CONVENTION

Agenda details will be coming soon.

The convention will be held at the Marriott Denver South at Park Meadows, 10345 Park Meadows Dr. Lone Tree, CO 80124. Check the NFBCO web site, www.nfbco.org for more information about convention registration and hotel accommodations, or contact Lisa Bonderson at lkb@labarrelaw.com.



NEW! NFBCO BLOG

The National Federation of the Blind of Colorado has recently created a blog for posting news and ideas for any person interested in what is happening in the blindness community. To access the blog, go to <https://theblindcoloradan.blogspot.com>.



IN HONOR OF LABOR DAY...

Did you know that a subsection of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, Section 14(c), allows the Secretary of Labor to grant employers Special Wage Certificates permitting them to pay workers with disabilities subminimum-wages, primarily in sheltered workshops. This is based on the false assumption that disabled workers are less productive than nondisabled workers. With training and opportunity, many disabled workers could move into competitive employment. [The Fair Wages for Workers with Disabilities Act of 2013 \(H.R. 831\)](#) has been introduced by Congressman Gregg Harper and, when passed, will responsibly phase out and eventually repeal Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

As a result, individuals with disabilities will no longer be trapped in segregated subminimum-wage workshops. Current service providers will have three years to transition to a training and employment business model that will assist individuals with even the most significant disabilities the opportunity to obtain real jobs at real wages.



RESOURCES FOR PRODUCTS

[AbleData.com](#) is a comprehensive database resource for most anything you might be searching for in the way of adaptive materials for the blind and visually impaired. AbleData does not sell products, but helps connect you to the companies that do. The product categories include: Computers; Educational Aids; Health Care; Information Storage; Kitchen Aids; Labeling; Magnification; Office Equipment; Orientation & Mobility; Reading; Recreation; Sensors; Telephone; Time; Tools; Typing; Weather; Writing. They also provide information on do-it-yourself designs. AbleData provides links to connect you to the sources for ordering products, etc.



THE DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (DVR) FAILS TO PROVIDE TRANSITION SERVICES TO TEENS

Emily Romero, college freshman, has been patiently waiting for DVR services since she was 16 years old. [Hear her story here.](#)

Why is this happening? There are now 3500 disabled Coloradans on the waiting list for services from Colorado DVR! On July 24 DVR Director, Joelle Brouner, conducted a public meeting regarding the status of the waiting list. Here is a summary of the facts as they were presented: DVR's waiting list peaked at over 6100 in late February 2014. Although 2200 names have been moved from the waiting list since then, there are approximately 400 new applications each month. On July 24 there were 5151 names on the waiting list. DVR has been working to reduce the waiting list, but the question of how to resolve this problem remains. Is the answer in increasing state funding or better management of resources? Perhaps both. In any case, the NFB of Colorado remains vigilant and determined to do all it can to help resolve this situation.



SPORTS, SPORTS, SPORTS...

Blind kids playing kickball: [Click here to view the video.](#)

How blind golfers play the game: [Click here to view the video.](#)

Blind teen rodeo champ: [Click here to view the video.](#)

Blind high school track athlete competes in pole vault: [Click here to view the video.](#)



BRaille FLASH CARDS

Braille alphabet and counting flash cards are available from the [NFB Independence Market](#). The Braille/Print Alphabet Flash Cards feature print and Braille letters as well as tactile illustrations. The Braille/Print Raised Shape Counting Cards feature numbers in Braille and raised print as well as the corresponding number of raised shapes. An activity guide in print and Braille is included with suggestions for various activities and games.



FAST SATURDAY

Fun Activities and Skills Training (FAST) is back in action. Brent Batron, Youth Services Coordinator at the Colorado Center for the Blind, announces the activities planned for September and October.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 13, 2014

1:00-5:00 p.m.
Ages 5 and up

GOALBALL at the CCB with Matt Simpson from the United States Association of Blind Athletes. The group will be divided into beginners and more experienced players.

SATURDAY, OCT. 11, 2014

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Lunch will be provided. RSVP by October 8.)

ASTRONOMY DAY

With John Ristvey from the National Center for Atmospheric Research and Ben Wentworth, retired CSDB science teacher

These FAST activities will take place at:

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

For more information contact Brent Batron:
bbatron@cocenter.org or 303-778-1130, ext. 222



PLAY GOALBALL...WATCH GOAL BALL!

Drop-in Goalball games are taking place at the Colorado Center for the Blind every Saturday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Whether you come to watch and learn the game or participate as a team member, all are welcome (sighted or blind). Just be prepared to wear sleepshades (blindfolds) if you can see the ball!

