

# Information Update

Spring Newsletter 2007



Hand in Hand: A Partnership  
Serving Families, Educators, and Service Providers  
of Children and Youth Who are Deafblind



**Pennsylvania**  
**Department of**  
**Education**

*Bureau of Special Education*  
*Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network*



*Dance Party*

## SAVE THE DATE!



*Childcare Activities*

If your child has both a vision and hearing loss, your family (parents/guardians, siblings and child with deaf-blindness) may be eligible to attend a weekend learning conference (at little or no cost).

## JUNE 22-24, 2007

### MAGIC MOMENTS

### FAMILY LEARNING CONFERENCE

Crowne Plaza Harrisburg  
23 South Second Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101



*Making Friends*

For more information or to pre-register, please contact Molly Black at: 1-800-446-5607 x 6866 or [mblack@pattan.net](mailto:mblack@pattan.net)

**IT'S A GIRL!**



Congratulations to Kim and Rich Fino! Victoria (Tori) Romaine Fino arrived at 5:28 AM on February 12, 2007. She weighed 7 lbs. 15 oz. and 20.5 inches long. Kim is a Customer Service Representative with PaTTAN and the support person on our Project.

All are doing well. The Deafblind Project and our PA Families will miss Kim while she is out on maternity leave, but wish Kim, Rich and Tori much happiness always.

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**PROJECT SPARKLE**

**Supporting Parent Access to Resources, Knowledge, Linkages and Education**

The PA Deafblind Project is currently sponsoring Group 5 of Project SPARKLE and will be taking names of anyone interested for our next group. Project Sparkle is a unique training program designed specifically for families of children and youth who are deafblind to use in their homes. This means you can use this information and training whenever it is convenient for you and at a pace that works best for you. This program is designed to help you apply what you have learned to better address your child's developmental and educational needs. As an extra benefit to you, the PA Deafblind Project offers an optional monthly conference call to discuss the related material and allow networking for our participants. If you are interested please e-mail Patti McGowan at [pmcgowan@pattan.net](mailto:pmcgowan@pattan.net).

Congratulations to Lisa Moffatt for successfully completing Project Sparkle!

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**Annual Pennsylvania Partnership for the Deafblind (PPDB) Meeting  
Sunday, April 29, 2007**

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual PPDB meeting.

When: Sunday, April 29, 2007, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM, Lunch will be provided

Where: Crowne Plaza Harrisburg-Hershey

23 S Second Street

Harrisburg, PA 17101 Telephone (717) 234-5021

If you have any questions E-mail or call Gordon Boe, PPDB President at [g.boe@comcast.net](mailto:g.boe@comcast.net)  
or call 215-699-6535

**We hope to see you there!**

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# Upcoming Events

## **Family Learning Conference: June 22, 23, 24, 2007 Crowne Plaza Hotel, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania:**

We welcome all families who have children with both vision and hearing losses, and who qualify for our deafblind census, to attend our annual Family Learning Conference. This year's theme is Magic Moments, and will give parents/guardians the opportunity to participate in interactive learning sessions that discuss the many transitions that our children progress through. Children with deafblindness and their siblings will also be involved in activities over the weekend as well. If you have any questions or wish to pre-register for this event, please contact Molly Black at: [mblack@pattan.net](mailto:mblack@pattan.net) or 1-800-446-5607 x 6866.

## **Deafblind Summer Institute August 6, 2007 (8:45 am-4:30 pm) and August 7, 2007 (8:45 am- noon) at the Nittany Lion Inn, State College, Pennsylvania:**

The annual Deafblind Summer Institute will feature Philip Schweigert on "Design to Learn," a comprehensive assessment and instructional package that targets the development of communication and cognitive skills in natural environments. We are pleased to offer this session for team members that serve very young children as well as older children and youth. "Design to Learn" is useful for children and youth with significant disabilities.

## **Data Driven Instruction for Children and Youth Who are Deafblind:**

In conjunction with the "Design to Learn" session from the Summer Institute, we are seeking teams to participate in a project to implement the "Design to Learn" model while utilizing the Pennsylvania Progress Monitoring framework. You will be supported with Design to Learn resources, training, and technical assistance. We will ask you to attend the Summer Institute, videotape at least two brief samples, provide data, and attend training throughout 2007/2008. If you are interested, please contact Juli Baumgarner. [jbaumgarner@pattan.net](mailto:jbaumgarner@pattan.net) or 800-446-5607 ext. 6845

**Registration information for the Summer Institute is forthcoming from Pennsylvania State University.**

**For more training opportunities visit:**

[www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net)

## Distance Education Opportunities for Families and Professionals

“Distance education” describes a variety of ways to learn without having to attend a typical workshop or classroom. Distance education is a flexible way to learn at convenient times and at home. Our own Family Liaison, Patti McGowan, has the distinction of having completed Project SPARKLE, the John Tracy Parent Correspondence Course, and several courses from Hadley School for the Blind. Please contact her directly at [pmcgowan@pattan.net](mailto:pmcgowan@pattan.net) or 724-864-2553, if you would like more information.

Project SPARKLE is a wonderful opportunity for families to learn more about deafblindness and how it impacts your child. Project SPARKLE, developed by Utah State University, is a self-study program for families of children and youth who are deafblind. The Deafblind Project sponsors families in Pennsylvania. Families receive a set of instructional materials, and participate on-line, off-line and in monthly telephone conference calls to discuss the topics. Contact Patti McGowan at [pmcgowan@pattan.net](mailto:pmcgowan@pattan.net) or 724-864-2553 to enroll.

The John Tracy Clinic is a non-profit education center that offers free, parent-centered services worldwide. There is a special course available for parents of young children who are deafblind. Contact [www.jtc.org](http://www.jtc.org) or call 1-800-522-4582 for more information.

Hadley School for the Blind offers distance education course for individuals 14 years of age and older who are blind, for relatives of children and adults who are visually impaired or blind, and for professionals. Call 1-800-323-4238 or register online at [www.hadley-school.org](http://www.hadley-school.org).

Hadley is offering a new course “Parenting Children with Multiple Disabilities” for family members of children with visual impairment and one or more other disabilities.

## AT RESOURCES

The Adaptech Research Network of Dawson College, Montreal, has compiled a listing of free and low-cost (under \$200) adaptive technology software.  
<http://www.adaptech.org>

### Buy, Sell And Trade Assistive Technology on ATBay!

AT Bay is a new Florida-based website where people can buy, sell and trade assistive technology (AT for short). If your organization has used assistive technology devices stored for lending out or donating, list them on AT Bay. AT Bay is a program of the Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology, Inc. If you are interested in listing equipment for selling or trading go to: <http://atbay.faast.org/>

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## Websites for Vision Simulations

- \* <http://www.acbvi.org/albums/Vision/index.html>
- \* <http://www.visionsimulator.com/>
- \* <http://www.esrcs.org/eurotimes/April2003/prime-site.asp>  
(this one is actually the same as the one above, but this site has some extra stuff - like what infants see)
- \* <http://www.visionsimulations.com/>
- \* <http://www.richmondeye.com/simulation.asp>
- \* <http://www.nei.nih.gov/photo/sims/>  
(On this website, you can download the pictures and print them out)
- \* <http://www.webaim.org/simulations/lowvision>
- \* <http://ohiolionseyereseearch.com/simulati.htm#Diabetic%20Retinopathy>

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## CALLING ALL KIDS...

Do you have a short story, poem, joke, riddle or rhyme? How about an awesome drawing or fun photo to share? Submit them to KID'S CORNER, and your art work, writings, or pictures may be featured in the KID'S CORNER of the next newsletter. We would love to hear from you!

Please submit articles/items by email to: [pmcgowan@pattan.net](mailto:pmcgowan@pattan.net)

Submissions can also be mailed to:  
Patti McGowan  
12031 Blair Lane  
North Huntingdon, PA 15642



# Bobby Veinovich

My name is Bobby Veinovich and I am 10 years old. I live in West Mifflin with my mom, dad and my dog Pickles. I am in the 3rd grade and have been a cub scout for 3 years. My favorite thing to do is ride the subway into Pittsburgh. I enjoy country music, playing T ball, eating pizza and telling jokes. My joke for you today is:

Why was the mustard last in the race??? Because he couldn't ketchup!

# KID'S CORNER

## The Staff of Hand in Hand

Kerri McCarthy  
Project Director

Juli Baumgarner  
Project Coordinator

Jackie Brennan  
Educational Consultant

Lauri Triulzi  
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Molly Black  
Family Liaison

Patti McGowan  
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If we can be of assistance, please call Kim Fino at  
800-360-7282 (PA only) or 717-541-4960, ext. 3115, or email [kfino@pattan.net](mailto:kfino@pattan.net).



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HAND IN HAND  
PENNSYLVANIA TRAINING AND  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NETWORK

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