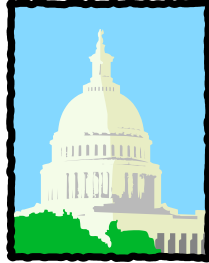


e-Connector

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

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THE NFB MARCHES ON WASHINGTON

The Washington Seminar is an important annual event for the National Federation of the Blind. Representatives from NFB of Colorado will join with other state affiliates to speak to all the members of Congress about important issues affecting blind Americans. We are happy to learn that **Everett Romero**, vice president of Colorado Parents of Blind Children, will be joining the Colorado delegation this year. Everett is the father of two blind daughters, Emily and Elizabeth. On February 4th and 5th, Everett will be attending the Parent Leadership Program sponsored by the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children. As the week unfolds, Everett will have the experience of walking the halls of Congress with fellow NFB members from Colorado to present the "Agenda of Blind

Americans", to Colorado's Senators and Representatives. Have a great time, Everett!

Here is a brief description of the three legislative initiatives being presented to Congress by the National Federation of the Blind at Washington Seminar 2012:

1. [The Fair Wages for Workers with Disabilities Act of 2011 \(H.R. 3086\)](#)

H.R. 3086 phases out Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act, which allows employers to pay disabled workers subminimum wages. This bill will end this exploitative practice, giving disabled Americans equal protection under the law to earn at least the federal minimum wage.

2. [The Home Appliance Accessibility Act \(HAAA\)](#)

Despite the existence of non-visual access technology, the overwhelming majority of home appliance manufacturers are selling touch-screen, flat panel, and digital home appliances that are completely inaccessible to the blind. HAAA calls for a study and minimum non-visual access standard for essential home appliances.

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

3. The Americans with Disabilities Business Opportunity Act (ADBOA)

Section 8(a) of the Small Business Act allows businesses owned by socially disadvantaged groups to obtain federal contracts. Although two-thirds of Americans with disabilities are unemployed or underemployed, disabled people are currently not presumed to be socially disadvantaged. ADBOA amends Section 8(a) to add disabled Americans to the list of those who are presumed to be socially disadvantaged, and thus make them eligible for preferential treatment in obtaining federal contracts.



ACCESSIBLE INTERNET GAMES

We all know that kids love spending time playing computer games, and for the most part those games have not been available to those unable to see the computer screen. But, thanks to some young, creative blind programmers, a growing number of games are available to those accessing a computer with a screen reader. RSGames now has seven games that can be downloaded or played directly from with your Web

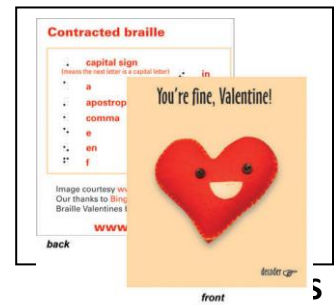
browser. There is no charge for participation in any of the following games:

- [Apples to Apples](#)
- [Monopoly](#)
- [Uno](#)
- [Yahtzee](#)
- [Blackjack](#)
- [Battleship](#)
- [1000 Miles](#)



2012 BOOK ANGEL PROGRAM

[Seedlings](#) Braille Books for Children is accepting registrations for the 2012 Book Angel Program. Blind and visually impaired children who are registered will receive two free Braille books this year. This program was originally called "Anna's Book Angel Project" and was named in memory the daughter of Seedlings' director who was killed by a drunk driver in 2001. Each year, blind children who were registered received one free book in Anna's name, but now, thanks to Seedlings' generous donors, blind children in the U.S. and Canada can receive two free Braille books per year! You can fill out the registration form on line by [clicking here](#).



National Braille Press creates a new Braille valentine every year. For 2012 the valentine features a red felt heart with the words "You're Fine Valentine" in print and Braille. The reverse side of the valentine has a guide to the Braille code so the message can be interpreted by sighted classmates and friends. A package of 20 valentines costs \$10. Previous year's cards, are on sale for \$7.00 for a pack of 20. Order from [National Braille Press by clicking here](#), or phone 1-800-548-7323.



MAKE YOUR OWN PUFFY PAINT ART

Here's a recipe for fun! Mix together equal amounts of shaving cream and standard white glue in a large bowl. (Squirting the shaving cream in is half the fun!) Add a few drops of food coloring or kids' paint to create the colors you want. Use brushes, sponges or hands to make "gloppy" art.

Add embellishments such as pipe cleaners, leaves, strips of colored paper or anything else you want to stick in the “glop”. The added pieces will dry in place. Dry your artwork overnight. Ideas: Cut the center out of a paper plate and decorate the ring with puffy paint to make a wreath; cut open and flatten a paper grocery sack, decorate with puffy paint and let dry overnight...then cut small shapes from the paper sack art and glue the smaller shapes on a piece of colored construction paper. Your imagination is the limit!



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND offers scholarships to post-secondary students of all ages. There are scholarships available from the national organization (the National Federation of the Blind) as well as from the state affiliate (the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado). Students are encouraged to apply to both organizations.

Information and applications for NFB national scholarships are available by visiting the NFB website (www.NFB.org) Deadline for application is March 31st, 2012.

Information and applications for NFB of Colorado scholarships are available by on the NFBCO website (www.NFBCO.org) Deadline for application is April 15, 2012

SEE THE FUTURE FUND will potentially be awarding up to \$42,000 to six visually impaired or blind college students under its “Education for Life” Scholarship program. In addition the SEE THE FUTURE FUND has partnered with the Kane Family Foundation to offer two “full-ride tuition” scholarships to two visually impaired or blind students. (The Kane/See the Future recipients must attend CU-Boulder, CU-Denver, or CU-Colorado Springs.) “Education for Life” scholarships do not have restrictions on the college being attended. These are all merit scholarships based on high academic achievement. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2012. For more information go to: www.seethefuture.org



BLIND LINK 2012

The 2012 BLIND LINK program has announced some exciting activities for the coming year. BLIND LINK is a program of the

Colorado Center for the Blind which matches kids with blind adult mentors. The kids and their mentors participate in exciting and challenging activities that help instill confidence, and positive attitudes about blindness. Youth Services Coordinator, Brent Batron, has hinted that Blind Link participants can look forward to gymnastics, swimming, kayaking lessons (in a swimming pool), rock climbing and more Whiz Kids science experiences later in the year.

For more information about BLIND LINK or to get your child connected with a mentor, contact Brent Batron at 303-778-1130, extension 222, or by email: bbatron@cocenter.org.

**CALENDAR OF
UPCOMING EVENTS**



BLIND LINK
Hockey Sports Camp
February 21, 2012

Swimming classes with National Sports Center for the Disabled.
Dates to be announced.

Contact Brent Batron for details. 303-778-1130, extension 222, or by email: bbatron@cocenter.org.