***COLORADO CENTER FOR THE BLIND***

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***June 2011 Newsletter***

***Take charge with confidence and self-reliance***

**Message from the Director**

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June is my favorite month at the center because everything comes together.  I am proud of our accomplishments as I take a moment to reflect upon how far we have come and remember the dream that Diane and Ray McGeorge had when the doors of the center opened in 1988 to five eager and nervous students.  Today we have had an impact on hundreds of blind people of all ages. On Tuesday, June 14th we had over 80 people in the building.  The youngest student was five and he was extremely excited that day because they were taking the bus to Lollypop Park.  Our oldest student that day was 92 and she was pleased to have gained more expertise in the areas of email and Braille. The staff that works with our students has full belief in blindness and model this each day.  Everyone gains confidence as they use their canes and learn that blindness will not stop them.  The energy is contagious and there is no other place that I would rather be!

**Program Notes**

***Youth Program***

It’s Elementary! (Confidence Camp for Kids)

Golf Classic

June 13th was a beautiful day to be out on the links.  Five blind children from our Confidence Camp for Kids hit the links to participate in the Blind Putt Challenge at the 11th Annual MDRF Golf Classic.  The kids enjoyed learning to putt and all adult golfers entered contests to test their golf skills by putting under blind folds.  Only the kids made holes in one.  The tournament was a time for fun and learning that blindness does not need to stop anyone from play a great game of golf.  Thanks to [Metro Denver REALTOR® Foundation](http://mdrfoundation.org) for hosting the event, Title sponsor [Professional Restoration](http://www.prorestoration.com/) and [White Orchid Interiors](http://www.thewhiteorchidinteriors.com/) for sponsoring the 19th hole.  [Click here](http://www.cocenter.org/pages/events/mdrf-golf-classic.php) for pictures from the tournament.

Eleven eager students arrived for camp not knowing exactly what they would be doing.  The staff was ready to teach them how to use their canes, make macaroni and cheese, go grocery shopping and take the bus.  The kids went swimming, visited Lollypop Park and took a trip up to the mountains to fish. They proudly brought back Rocky Mountain trout and shared this with their families. Can you believe that they did all this in two weeks?    This year their finale for their families and all of us   highlighted three students who individually entertained us with singing and dancing.  Their play this year told the story of the Braille contraction bank robbery.  The vault that they made held all of the contractions and the robber found out that he could learn Braille without stealing it.  Don’t miss the play next year!  These kids are transformed when they spend time with blind peers and learn from staff that challenges them.

Summer Programs

Eight staff arrived from all over the country to receive intensive training to prepare for their students.  Eighteen students ranging in age from 15 to 21 began their program in mid-June.  See the next newsletter for more.

***Independence Training Program***

The students are organized and actively engaged in several activities. They have Monday evening study groups set up in Braille, technology, home management and cane travel. They enjoyed going to an amusement park this weekend and are currently setting up a blood drive.  Students take an active part in their program and learn that they can accomplish whatever they set their minds to.

***Senior Program***

In the past month seniors have prepared food, gained ability in Braille and worked on cane technique.  Many of our seniors have been dedicated to using sleepshades in order to fully develop blindness techniques.  We are looking forward to even further program development in this area.

**Senior support groups are available each month.  For more information please call Duncan Larsen at** [**303-778-1130 extension 226**](tel:303-778-1130%20extension%20226)**.**

**Upcoming Events:**

June 2-August 4:  VSA Photo Project for youth

July 3-9:  National Convention in Orlando-center closed

July 18:  Middle School Program begins

July 25-August 5:  Bell Program (teaching Braille literacy to kids)

July 20:  Mile High Chapter of the NFB meeting at Brooks Towers, 1020 15th Street (pool room), Downtown Denver 5:30-7:30 pm

July 30:  NFB of Denver chapter picnic 10:00 – 2:00. Short chapter meeting, picnic, games and other fun activities. Please bring finger food or desserts to share.

August 3:  Summer program graduation, talent show and awards ceremony

August 10:  In-Touch Tour and Interactive Experience 8:30-10:00 am RSVP to Jennifer x214

August 20: The Center will march in the Western Welcome Week Parade

August 27: Hats Off to Broadway fund raiser for the Colorado Center for the Blind

September 17:  NFB of Denver chapter meeting 10:00-noon

September 24:  Blind Link rock climbing special invitation to local area blind kids

[**It’s Hats Off to Broadway**](http://www.cocenter.org/pages/events/hats-off-to-broadway.php)

Join us on Saturday August 27th for a musical tribute to the Best of Broadway by the Littleton Town Hall Arts Center Singers and Actors.  Songs from Evita, The Producers, Tommy, Brigadoon, Something Funny Happened on the Way to the Forum and the Wizard of Oz.  Also enjoy a wonderful array of delicious food, cash bar and live auction in addition to our musical tribute.

Reserve your seat now!  Purchase tickets for just $40.00. Call Carol at [(303) 778-1130 x211](tel:%28303%29%20778-1130%20x211).  Corporate sponsorships still available.

All proceeds go to our children’s and youth programs.   Your donation helps a blind child get a cane, learn to read Braille, be mentored by successful blind adults and learn that blindness is just a characteristic of who they are.

**In-Touch Tour and Interactive Experience**

Have you always wanted to learn more about the Center? Do you have a friend or colleague who needs to learn more about blindness?  Are you involved in a community group who would like to come to the center and learn about us?  Please join us for our In-Touch Tour and Interactive Experience.  We will host these events the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 8:30 – 10:00 am.  There will be no event in July.  Next tour is August 10th.  Please RSVP to Jennifer at [(303) 778-1130 x 214](tel:%28303%29%20778-1130%20x%20214) or [jstevens@cocenter.org](mailto:jstevens@cocenter.org) .

We are on YouTube!!!

Check out our [Youtube channel](http://www.youtube.com/cocenterorg).

**To refer someone who is interested in training, please call Robert Dyson at** [**303-778-1130 extension 249**](tel:303-778-1130%20extension%20249)**.**

**If you have items for the newsletter, please send them to** [**ccb@cocenter.org**](mailto:ccb@cocenter.org)**.**