From the Director’s Desk - By Beth Kennedy

It is here! The Request for Applications was released on July 1, 2013! We have been on the edge of our seats, wondering when it would come... Now we need your help! It is important to have letters of support from people who are DeafBlind, family members, and the professionals who serve them. We have 45 days to write our application. Time is of the essence- please consider submitting your letter soon. We will be happy to provide some details about the new project, as they become available, if you want to call or email before writing your letter.

This newsletter details some of the activities that we have engaged in recently, some of which we hope to continue in the next grant cycle. We celebrated DeafBlind Awareness Week in true style this year, with a presentation by Dr. Jan van Dijk and collaborating with the state consumer group, Self Help for Independency in Michigan Equalizing the DeafBlind (SHI-M=DB), to assist them in hosting the annual DeafBlind Workshop (DBW). This issue includes resources, including summer camp opportunities. We have heard that some camps are faced with low enrollment- while it may seem last minute, take a chance and contact any camps of interest- you never know!
National DeafBlind Awareness Week
was celebrated June 23 - 29, 2013!

In 1984, in honor of Helen Keller’s birthday, President Reagan proclaimed the last week of June as “Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week.”

For more information about 2013 or future awareness activities, visit the Helen Keller National Center’s (HKNC) website at www.hknc.org.
Thank you to everyone who participated in DB Central’s annual census of children and young adults who are DeafBlind in Michigan!

Introducing the 2012 DeafBlind Census Findings...

2012 COUNT BY AGE

MAJOR CATEGORIES FOR CAUSE OF DEAFBLINDNESS

- Chromosomal/Hereditary: 40%
- Prenatal: 14%
- Postnatal: 13%
- Complications of Prematurity: 12%
- No Determination: 5%
- Information Not Provided: 16%
2012 DeafBlind Census
Ages 0-21 by County

Source: December 1, 2012 DB Central Census

**County Counts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcona</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allegan</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpena</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arenac</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baraga</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berrien</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cass</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheboygan</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chippewa</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clare</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dickinson</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eaton</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genesee</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Traverse</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gratiot</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillsdale</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Huron</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ingham</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ionia</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iosco</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabella</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kalkaska</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lapeer</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livingston</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macomb</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manistee</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marquette</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mecosta</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midland</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montcalm</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muskegon</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newaygo</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakland</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceana</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otsego</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ottawa</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roscommon</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saginaw</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanilac</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shiawasee</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Clair</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Joseph</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuscola</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Buren</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washtenaw</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wexford</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>350</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2011 Census Findings vs. 2012 Census Findings

**Top 10 Chromosomal Causes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Other</td>
<td>1 CHARGE Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 CHARGE Syndrome</td>
<td>2 Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Usher Type I Syndrome</td>
<td>3 Down Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Stickler Syndrome</td>
<td>4 Stickler Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Cornelia de Lange</td>
<td>5 Cornelia de Lange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Dandy Walker Syndrome</td>
<td>6 Usher I Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Goldenhar Syndrome</td>
<td>7 Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome</td>
<td>8 Dandy Walker Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Trisomy 13 (Trisomy 13-15, Patau Syndrome)</td>
<td>9 Goldenhar Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Leber Congenital Amaurosis</td>
<td>10 Usher Type II Syndrome</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Top 5 Prenatal Causes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Other</td>
<td>1 Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Microcephaly</td>
<td>2 Microcephaly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Cytomegalovirus</td>
<td>3 Cytomegalovirus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Hydrocephaly</td>
<td>4 Hydrocephaly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Maternal drug Use</td>
<td>5 Maternal drug use</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Top 5 Postnatal Causes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Other</td>
<td>1 Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Asphyxia</td>
<td>2 Asphyxia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Severe head injury</td>
<td>3 Severe head injury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Meningitis</td>
<td>4 Meningitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Encephalitis</td>
<td>5 Encephalitis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Which counties changed over the last year?**

- Alcona  +2
- Allegan -1
- Berrien -1
- Branch +2
- Calhoun +3
- Cass +1
- Genesee +8
- Grand Traverse +3
- Gratiot -2
- Huron +1
- Ingham -1
- Iosco +2
- Jackson -2
- Livingston -1
- Marquette +1
- Monroe +1
- Montcalm +2
- Muskegon +1
- Ottawa +1
- Roscommon +1
- St. Clair -1
- Tuscola -1
- Washtenaw -1
- Wayne -5
- Wexford +1
- Total +14
In Honor of DeafBlind Awareness Week DB Central Hosted:

Dr. Jan van Dijk!

On June 25, 2013, DB Central brought leading authority on children with multiple disabilities, Dr. Jan van Dijk, to present at Central Michigan University. His presentation was a great learning experience for all involved, and offered a rare opportunity to learn from one of the experts in the field of DeafBlindness. The recorded session will be available on our website (www.dbcentral.org) soon. For those of you who were able to attend, we thank you for helping to make the event a success and hope you enjoyed the presentation!

Deaf Blind Workshop at De Sales Center!
June 27-29, 2013
(In collaboration with SHI-M=DB)

Jill Gaus, AADB President, at the DeafBlind Workshop Butterfly Release!
The Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education recently launched the Deaf Students with Disabilities Network, which has been developed for parents, teachers, and professionals living and working with deaf and hard of hearing students with disabilities. This site is designed to address the gap of knowledge specific to deaf and hard of hearing students with disabilities. The site provides information and, more importantly, discussion forums that allow people from across the United States to interact and learn from one another.

Visit the website here: http://deafwdisabilities.grou.ps/home

WonderBaby.org — Orientation and Mobility for Young Children

WonderBaby.org, a project funded by Perkins School for the Blind, is dedicated to helping parents of young children with visual impairments as well as children with multiple disabilities. At this website, you’ll find a database of articles written by parents who want to share with others what they’ve learned about playing with and teaching a blind child, as well as links to meaningful resources and ways to connect with other families.

Sensory Sun Educational Technologies for Children with Visual Impairments

Sensory Sun provides adapted lesson plans, sensory-based activities, and accessibility reviews of toys, educational products, and services. On the website, you can find interactive technology and sensory activity ideas to teach visually impaired children to read and write braille, as well as learn math, science, art and social skills.

Sensory Sun also provides an accessible toy guide on their website for children with a visual impairment. A PDF version can be downloaded from their website at: www.sensorysun.com.
Check it Out! ASL and Braille

Free Online ASL Resource

American Sign Language University is an online American Sign Language curriculum resource center. ASLU provides free self-study materials, lessons, and information, as well as fee-based instructor-guided courses. Signs are taught through the use of video clips. Lessons are designed around word frequency research, in which the most commonly used signs are taught. According to ASLU creator, Dr. Bill Vicars, “the lessons are designed to help a student reach communicative competence very quickly-- based on science combined with over two decades of real world teaching experience.” Courses are open enrollment, open completion. Each course requires approximately 45 to 60 online hours to complete, but can be completed either faster or slower depending on each student's needs, abilities, and time availability.

Check out the website at www.lifeprint.com

Braille Certification Courses

The National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute offers courses in literary, mathematics, and music transcribing as well as literary and mathematics proofreading for Library of Congress certification. This certificate qualifies the recipient to transcribe general literary materials and is a prerequisite for other transcribing and proofreading courses. The literary braille course is a prerequisite for the other courses, and consists of twenty lessons that take 12 to 18 months to complete. Necessary instructional materials are provided free by the NFB Jernigan Institute.

For more information, visit https://nfb.org/braille-certification

Letter from the US Department of Education Regarding Braille Instruction

As part of the delivery of a free appropriate public education (FAPE), visually impaired students are entitled to instruction in Braille if deemed necessary. Despite this, parents and advocates of blind/VI students report that these services are being delivered less frequently. The Department of Education released a letter reaffirming the importance of Braille instruction, clarifying the circumstances in which it must be delivered, and identifying resources for state and local education agencies to meet the needs of blind/VI students.

This letter can be found online on the DeafBlind Central website: www.dbcentral.org
Check it Out! Summer Camps

Lions Bear Lake Camp for the Visually Impaired

Camp for First Timers: This camp is for the visually impaired child that has never been away from home. It is an introduction to camping. The camp is 6 days in length. Focus will be to give basic introduction to camp activities, independence and mobility around camp and living with a cabin group. If you think your child would enjoy a camp experience, but not sure about leaving him for 2 weeks, then this is the one. This session is July 14-20, 2013.

Camp for Lifers: Our camp for lifers is our traditional camp program. This camp is two weeks long. Campers will have the opportunity to learn outdoor skills in the area of nature, kayaks, canoes, swimming, arts & crafts, team building and challenge activities. The two weeks allows for focus on campers’ independence and mobility around camp and group living. This session is from July 14-27, 2013.

To learn more and register, log on to [http://bearlakecamp.org/](http://bearlakecamp.org/)

Camp Tuhsmeheta: Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind

Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind (OUB), through OUB CAMPS, provides outdoor education and recreation specifically adapted for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. We offer unique camp experiences at Camp Tuhsmeheta, through Camp-in-a-Box programs, and our new Birding-by-Ear program. Camp T’s 297 acres and eco-diversity has unlimited potential as “the” place to develop a love for swimming, boating, hiking and exploring while learning about nature, and developing mobility and orientation skills, activities in daily living, and social skills in the process.

Visit Camp Tuhsmeheta’s website at [campt.org](http://campt.org).

There are still some upcoming camps this summer, check them out below!

July 16 – 21: NFB-MI Braille Camp at Camp Tuhsmeheta
July 21 – 26: Making Sense of Our Senses at Camp Tuhsmeheta
July 28 – Aug 2: NFB-MI Science Camp-in-a-Box at MacMullen Conference Center
August 4 – 9: MDE-LIO Camp at Camp Tuhsmeheta
August 9 – 19: UP Adventure Trip Camp-in-a-Box at Pictured Rocks

New: Deadline for registration for any camp or weekend event is 16 days before the event.
Check it Out! Helpful Webinars

Visit the following websites to listen to archived webinars and learn more about upcoming webinars:

**Top Ten Strategies for Promoting Positive Behavior in Children**

The recording of the webinar *Top Ten Strategies for Promoting Positive Behavior in Children* by presenter Laurie Denno is now available from the CHARGE Syndrome Foundation. This presentation outlines a number of simple strategies that can be used to structure the home and school environment to prevent behavior problems in children with CHARGE syndrome.

Check out more of the CHARGE Syndrome Foundation’s webinars at: [http://chargesyndrome.org/](http://chargesyndrome.org/)

**Perkins Webinars**

Broadcast live and for free, Perkins Training & Educational Resources Program introduces webinars presented by experts in the field of visual impairment and deafblindness.

Learn more at: [http://www.perkins.org/resources/webinars/](http://www.perkins.org/resources/webinars/)

**Michigan Disability Rights Coalition Webinars**

This resource features webinars regarding assistive technology and accessibility concerns for individuals with disabilities.


**CADRE Webinar: Building Effective Family-School Partnerships**

On August 14th from 2:30 PM – 3:45 PM EST, CADRE will host a free webinar with Karen Mapp, Director, Harvard Graduate School of Education, entitled *Moving Forward: Building Effective Family-School Partnerships*. This webinar will provide an overview of what we now know about policies and practices needed to cultivate and sustain effective family-school partnerships that support student achievement and school improvement.

**About the Presenter:** Karen L. Mapp, EdD, is a Senior Lecturer on Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) and the Faculty Director of the Education Policy and Management Master’s Program. Over the past twenty years, Karen’s research and practice focus has been on the cultivation of partnerships among families, community members and educators that support student achievement and school improvement.

**How to Register:**
Visit the website [http://familyschoolpartnership.events.tadnet.org](http://familyschoolpartnership.events.tadnet.org)
If you are unable to join the webinar a recording will be available on the website at a later date.

Check out the CADRE website for past webinar recordings! Go to: [http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/webinarindex.cfm](http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/webinarindex.cfm)
July 12-14, 2013
**DB Central/MADB Family Retreat**
Location: Camp T, Greenville, MI
For more information: www.dbcentral.org

July 14-19, 2013
**Family Week Two**
Location: Holley Family Village, Brooklyn, MI
For more information: www.holleyfv.org

July 14-20, 2013
**Lion Bear Lake Camp-Blind and Visually Impaired First Timers Session**
Location: Lapeer, MI
For more information: www.bearlakecamp.org or 810-245-0726

July 14-27, 2013
**Lions Bear Lake Camp-Blind and Visually Impaired Lifers Session**
Location: Lapeer, MI
For more information: www.bearlakecamp.org or 810-245-0726

July 21-26, 2013
**Art & Drama Week**
Location: Holley Family Village, Brooklyn, MI
For more information: www.holleyfv.org

July 28-August 2, 2013
**Youth Career Development & Exploration Week**
Location: Holley Family Village, Brooklyn, MI
For more information: www.holleyfv.org
Upcoming Events

July 25 - 28, 2013
11th International CHARGE Syndrome Conference
For More Information: http://chargesyndrome.org/

July 29 - August 9, 2013
HKNC 17th Annual Young Adult Summer Program for Youth Who are Deaf-blind
For more information: Laura Thomas (309) 716-3657 or Laura.Thomas@hknc.org

August 4-9, 2013
ASL Week
Location: Holley Family Village, Brooklyn, MI
For more information: www.holleyfv.org

August 21, 2013
Interveners and Intervention
Location: Lunchtime Webinar
Information will be available soon: www.dbcentral.org

August 24-28, 2013
8th DbI European Conference
Location: Lille-France
For more information: http://dbilille2013.eu/

September 5 - 8, 2013
The Michigan Deaf Association’s 54th Biennial Conference
Location: Kalamazoo, MI
For more information: http://www.mideaf.org/

September 14, 2013
Panel of DeafBlind Adults—Work and College Experiences
Location: CMU
Information will be available soon: www.dbcentral.org
DeafBlind Central: Michigan’s Training and Resource Project

Project Director: Beth Kennedy
Family Support Coordinator: Jennifer Bigelow-Stambaugh
Administrative Secretary: Amanda Patterson
Graduate Assistant: Katie Tennant

DeafBlind Central
Central Michigan University
Sloan 105
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859
Phone: (989) 774.2725 (V/TTY)
Toll-Free: (888) 758.0508 (V/TTY)
VP: (989) 546-4626
Fax: (989) 774.1572
Email: dbcen@cmich.edu
Website: www.dbcentral.org

DeafBlind Services
Bureau of Services for Blind Persons
Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
201 N. Washington Square, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 30652
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: (517) 373.2062 (V), (517) 373.4025 (TTY)
Toll-Free: 1.800.292.4200 (V), 1.888.864.1212 (TTY)
Email: DeafBlind@michigan.gov
Website: www.michigan.gov/mcb

Michigan Hands and Voices
P.O. Box 10038
Lansing, MI, 48913
Phone: (517) 241.7066
Email: info@mihandsandvoices.org
Website: www.handsandvoices.org

Michigan Families for Hands and Voices
"What Works for your Child is what makes the Choice right"

Bureau of Services for Blind Persons

Michigan Department of Education: Low Incidence Outreach

MDE Low Incidence Outreach
1505 W. Court Street, Suite 227
Flint, MI 48503
Phone: (810) 760.2206
Toll-Free: 1.888.760.2206
Fax: (810) 760.6949
Email: msdb-outreach@michigan.gov
Website: http://mde-lio.cenmi.org

Michigan Parents of Visually Impaired

Michigan Association for DeafBlind
Website: http://dir.groups.yahoo.com/group/MichiganAssociationDeafBlind/

Self Help for Independence in Michigan
Equalizing the DeafBlind
SHI-M=DB

Jill Gaus
3123 Catalpa Drive
Jackson, MI 49203
Phone: (517) 764.6178
Email: jagaus@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.shimdb.org
DeafBlind Resources

Helen Keller National Center
Youths and Adults

American Association of the DeafBlind

National Consortium on DeafBlindness

American Association of the Deaf-Blind
8630 Fenton Street, Suite 121
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3802
Phone: (301) 495.4402 (TTY)
(301) 495.4403 (V)
Fax: (301) 495.4404
Email: aadb-info@aadb.org
Website: www.aadb.org

National Family Association for DeafBlind

National Family Association for Deafblind

Perkins School for the Blind:
DeafBlind Program

Perkins School for the Blind
175 North Beacon Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: (617) 924.7502
Fax: (617) 926.2027
Email: Barbara.mason@perkins.org
Website: http://www.perkins.org/inside-perkins/deafblind-program/

DeafBlind International

Website: www.deafblindinternational.org

The CHARGE Syndrome Foundation

CHARGE Syndrome Foundation, Inc.
141 Middle Neck Rd.
Sands Point, NY 11050
Phone: (516) 684.4720
Toll-Free: (800) 442.7604
Fax: (516) 883.9060
Email: info@chargesyndrome.org
Website: www.chargesyndrome.org