I am very pleased to report that the project is fully staffed! We have welcomed Amanda Patterson, Administrative Secretary, to DB Central. Please see page 3 for an introduction and photo.

The winter issue of the DB Star is always one of my favorites! Be sure to check out the article and pictures from this year’s Challenge Mountain event on pages 9-11. If you have never joined us for some fun on the slopes, consider it for next year! Everyone who goes finds something fun to do.

This is also the time of year that we blanket the State with registry forms, asking for your help to make sure that we have an accurate count of children and young adults who are DeafBlind. We are very pleased to report that this year, this process is “going green!” Over half of the update forms were sent to parents and best contacts electronically. While a few glitches have been reported, it seems that the new database system is performing quite well! If you did not receive an e-mail with a link and password to update your child/student, it is probably because we do not have your e-mail address. Please take a moment to contact our office to provide that information. It is our hope that with each year, we send fewer and fewer paper forms.

This issue also contains information on the state and national family organizations. I encourage you to join, and/or share the information with others who may want to join.

Last but not least, we hope that you will attend Dr. Jan van Dijk’s presentation at CMU next month. See page 2 for more details.
MADB Family Retreat 2011 - July 16-18, 2011

Location: Camp Tuhsmehetla in Greenville, Michigan
Guest Presenter: David Brown

David Brown is an educational specialist for California’s DeafBlind Services. He has been a special education teacher for more than 30 years. He began his career in the United Kingdom and was a member of the first graduating class from the University of Birmingham’s deaf-blind program, England’s first college training program in the education of children who are DeafBlind. He worked for Sense, the National Deafblind and Rubella Association of the United Kingdom for 18 years and then came to California’s DeafBlind Services in 2000. He has written and spoken extensively on DeafBlindness, and is known internationally for his work with children that are DeafBlind and their families. He is a frequent Guest Speaker and lecturer not only in the U.S., but worldwide.

* Main event with Presenter July 16-18. Possible opportunity to stay and network with other families through July 22
* Check dbcentral.org for future updates and information.

Dr. Jan van Dijk is Returning to Michigan on March 15, 2011! - Rescheduled from November

You won’t want to miss out on this rare opportunity to learn from one of the leading authorities on children with multiple disabilities!

Since 1958, Dr. Jan van Dijk has been involved in the assessment of children with multiple disabilities and helping families and professionals to better understand and provide better services to these individuals.

His publications on children who are Deafblind have attracted world-wide attention. For his work he has received “The Anne Sullivan Award” and “The Deaf Blind International’s Distinguished Service Award.”

Dr. van Dijk presents workshops and seminars throughout the world. In cooperation with Dr. Catherine Nelson of the University of Utah, Dr. van Dijk produced a CD entitled Assessment of Multiple Sensory Impaired Children. He has also produced 2 CDs on learning and behavior problems of children with CHARGE Syndrome with Dr. Arno de Kort. The latest CD production, Challenging Behaviors of Blind and Deafblind Children with Multiple Disabilities has been produced in Russian and has appeared in English translation since early 2006.
Introducing Amanda Patterson!...

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you; my name is Amanda M. Patterson, and I am the new Administrative Secretary for DB Central. I reside in Alma and will graduate from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology in May 2011. I have applied for the Master of Counseling program at Central Michigan University and am keeping my fingers crossed!

My first day at DB Central was on November 15, 2010. It has been a very busy initiation. I’ve been able to be a part of the start of the 2010 DeafBlind child count and have participated in numerous training and orientation activities to help me acclimate myself to Central Michigan University. I bring to DB Central over ten years of secretarial experience and am very excited to be part of such a wonderful team. Before coming to DB Central I spent most of my time helping a husband and wife run their three small businesses in Alma. The businesses included a construction company, a restaurant, and an apartment complex. I developed many skills there that will be an asset to DB Central. I am enjoying my time here already and in addition to running the office I look forward to learning more about DeafBlindness.

Please feel free to contact me by email at patte2am@cmich.edu, 888.758.0508 (toll-free), or 989.774.2726 (VP) for assistance or just to introduce yourself. I am very excited to be working here and look forward to helping you in any way that I am able!

Annual DeafBlind Census

The annual census forms have been mailed. If you have not received our census registration materials, please contact DB Central at 888-758-0508 or via email at dbcen@cmich.edu. DB Central is required under federal regulation to identify children and young adults who qualify as DeafBlind across the state of Michigan. We appreciate your assistance in helping us to obtain an accurate count.
The National Family Association for Deaf-Blind is an organization that has been supporting individuals who are deaf-blind and their families for over sixteen years. We would like to invite you to become a member of this incredible organization. Our yearly membership runs from January 1 through December 31.

**NFADB offers support in a variety of ways:**
- A toll free number (answered by a real person) that connects families and others to resources and one-to-one support
- Current information and national updates delivered through a bi-annual newsletter
- Online resources and support through our website and Facebook page
- A member listserv that connects you by email to hundreds of other members

In addition, NFADB connects you to a much larger network of support. We represent families on the National Coalition on Deaf-Blindness by providing a unified voice on national issues related to deaf-blindness. We continue to expand and support a national NFADB Affiliate Network that supports state parent groups as they develop and grow. We can also help families access the services of the state deaf-blind projects, the National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness, the Helen Keller National Center and the American Association of the Deaf-Blind.

**Membership details:**
As you can see, we are working in many ways on behalf of individuals who are deaf-blind and their families. We would value your support and membership. We offer three membership options for families and professionals. Each membership is a household membership and includes all family members living at one address.

- **One year:** $15
- **Three years:** $35
- **Lifetime:** $100

**On-line survey:**
As the only national family organization that represents deaf-blindness, it is extremely important that we are aware of the issues that are of the greatest concern to parents and families with a child or member who is deaf-blind. You can help us accomplish this by taking a few minutes to complete a brief on-line survey. Simply go to the link below. The survey will appear with easy and simple instructions.

http://www.surveygizmo.com/s/425189/1bepm

Please take the time to join NFADB and complete the on-line survey today. Together we can work to make a difference in the lives of individuals who are deaf-blind.
# 2010-11 NFADB Membership Application

## Information about you

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<th>Name(s):</th>
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<td>Address:</td>
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<td>City:</td>
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## Information about the individual who is deaf-blind

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<th>Name:</th>
<th>Birthdate:</th>
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<td>Relationship to you:</td>
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<td>Cause of deaf-blindness:</td>
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## Information about your membership

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<th>I give permission to use my email address to sign me up for the NFADB listserv.</th>
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<td>Yes</td>
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<th>I give permission to share my name with other families who have a family member with similar etiologies, disabilities or challenges.</th>
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<th>How would you like to receive your NFADB newsletter?</th>
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Please make checks payable to NFADB and return your membership application and payment to:

NFADB Membership
141 Middle Neck Road
Sands Point, NY 11050-1129

For questions, please call Lori at 1-800-255-0411 or NFADB@aol.com
MADB 2011 Election

Michigan Association for DeafBlind (MADB) is seeking nominations for the following Board of Director positions: treasurer and vice president.

Michigan Association for DeafBlind (MADB) is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization comprised of people who are DeafBlind, parents and family members who have children who are DeafBlind, and professionals who work with people who are DeafBlind. In existence since the Congenital Rubella epidemic in the 1960's, MADB has historically provided support and a way for families of children with this low-incidence disability across Michigan to connect with one another and share information and support. The goals of MADB are to provide support, training, and information to empower families so that they may better support their children who are DeafBlind.

Nominations may be emailed to dbcen@cmich.edu. Elections will be held at the MADB Family Retreat Summer 2011 (more details to come-follow the DB central website and DB Star Newsletter for updates).

MADB Scholarship Information

MADB has a limited amount of funds available for 2011 to assist families in Michigan to attend training/conferences. To qualify, training/conference attendance must directly benefit a family member or individual who is DeafBlind, but doesn’t need to be etiology specific. Topics can include, but are not limited to, IEP training, transition, assistive technology as well as National conferences for specific DeafBlind conditions. For a Scholarship application, please contact: Jennifer Bigelow-Stambaugh, DB Central family support coordinator at 1-888-758-0508 or bigel1je@cmich.edu
MADB Membership

If you are interested in becoming a member of MADB please complete the application below and return it to DB Central (see page 1 for address). As a member, you will be kept informed of MADB activities and events and will have the opportunity to network with a wonderful group of people!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION for Michigan Association for DeafBlind (MADB)

Name: _______________________________________________________________________

Address: _______________________________________________________________________

City: __________________________ State: __________ Zip: ______________

Phone: (_____)_____________________E-mail: ____________________________________________________________________________

Information about the person who is DeafBlind

Name: _______________________________________________________________________

Date of Birth: _______________________ Relationship to you: _______________________

Cause of DeafBlindness:

Specific issues of concern to me/us:

I give my permission to share my name with other families whose children have similar disabilities: Yes _____ No _____

I would like to participate in an online chat group (list serve): Yes _____ No _____

Best way to contact me: Phone _____ E-mail _____ Mail _____
Guidelines for Receiving Distance Consultation Using Flip Cameras

Getting started:

- A signed DB Central “Family Consent for Services” form must be on file (includes permission to videotape).
- Video footage is collected and submitted to the project electronically.
- The number of clips needed will vary, depending on the child and the setting. At least three five minute clips are needed to provide an overview.
- Two to three areas of concern can be selected each time you submit footage.
- Possible activities to capture include: examples of expressive/receptive communication, making choices, transition between activities, discussing schedule, highly preferred activities, direct interaction with an adult, meal/snack, etc. Plan out what you hope to capture before trying to tape.

Collecting footage:

- Instructions for operating the Flip camera (available through the project library) are provided on a separate sheet and can be accessed on the project’s website.
- The student’s name and a brief description of the activity should be stated at the start of taping.
- Viewing distance should generally be three to six feet. Panning the room can provide useful information about learning areas, child’s position in relation to the teacher, materials, etc.
- Other students should not be taped.
- Review the footage to determine if selected areas of concern have been captured. Refer to directions for deleting footage, as needed. Additional clips may need to be filmed.

Obtaining feedback:

- Clips are submitted to the project (e.g. by returning the camera with footage intact, uploading to our secure Vimeo site, or on a DVD).
- A project staff member views the footage and provides feedback to the
An Early January Thaw wouldn’t put a Damper on the Challenge Mountain Family Fun Event!

An annual event since 2005, the DB Central staff and many families eagerly await the Challenge Mountain Family Fun Event! However, with an early January thaw and a lack of snow in Northern Michigan, DB Central staff and families were left wondering if the event would need to be rescheduled. A call was made to Mike Hurchick, Challenge Mountain Director two days prior to the event to inquire about the snow conditions in an attempt to determine whether the event should be postponed. Mike indicated that the snow conditions were not great (about 4 inches), but the Challenge Mountain staff and volunteers would do everything in their power to get everyone skiing! It was confirmed, the event would occur as planned, no rescheduling.

As luck would have it, those that stayed over in Petoskey on Friday woke to over 6 inches of new snow Saturday morning! There would be no question about the snow conditions now! The request for snow had been answered! An exciting day of outdoor winter activities would await all those that attended!

There were over fifty family members that enjoyed skiing, sledding, and playing in the snow. Returning families and new families alike had a great day on the mountain. The overwhelming consensus is that Challenge Mountain is a great family opportunity that makes winter sport activities accessible to all!

When asked what he enjoyed most about the event, Kurt Streng wrote, “I enjoyed doing an activity with my whole family. Seeing my son ski/ride was something I never thought he would do.”

Laurie Schoenfeldt attended for the first time and felt that this opportunity provided her family with, “A feeling of accomplishment.”

Challenge Mountain is available to families throughout the ski season, and offers adaptive recreational activities during the summer too. For more information, visit www.cmski.org, or call (231) 582-1186.
Left: Logan after a short ski lesson; Middle: Michael gets support from a Challenge Mountain volunteer; Right: Michael ski's on his own

Left: Tyler, Julie, and Kurt get ready to head up the hill; Middle: Evan stops to pose for a picture; Right: Kathy and James ski down the mountain
Left: Jacob waits for his next snowmobile ride!

Above left: Mariah laughs while coming down the hill!
Above Right: Jacob braces against the wind.
Left: Michael makes it down the mountain!
Upcoming Events

February 21 & 22, 2011
2011 National Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Conference
Where: Omni Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia
For more information, visit: http://ehdiconference.org

March 4, 2011
Is Your Teen Ready for Adult Life? Michigan Family to Family Training
Where: Ionia County ISD
When: 9:00am—3:00pm
For more information, email: info@michiganallianceforfamilies.org
Or call: 1-200-552-4821

March 8, 2011
“Transition Planning for Young Adults who are DeafBlind” by NYDBC
Free Webinar!
Register at: https://tadnet.linc.com/perl/linc/ims/login.pl?template_dir=tadnet

March 12, 2011
Job Seminar—Seeking Securing and Surviving Employment as a blind individual in the 21st century!
Where: Main branch of the Ann Arbor District Library in the Floor Board Room
When: 10:00am—3:00pm
For more information, call: 734-327-4224

March 14-15, 2011
Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) Basic Training
Where: Holiday Inn, Grand Rapids Airport
When: 9:00am—3:00pm
For more information, call: 616-285-7600

March 15, 2011
Dr. Jan van Dijk presents Child Guided Strategies—The van Dijk Approach to Assessment
Where: Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI
For more information, visit: dbcentral.org

March 16, 2011
NADE Professional Development Series
Common Core Standards: What They Mean for States and School
Where: available online after 1:00pm
For more information, visit: http://files.e2ma.net/3609/assets/docs/10-1nasdseprodevelopbrochure.pdf

March 24, 2011
Access to Music Notation for Blind and Low Vision Students
Presented by: William R. McCann and Mary Patricia Reuther from Dancing Dots Braille Music Technology, L.P. with assistance from Marcia Pavkovich
Where: The Michigan Library and Historical Center, Lake Superior Room, 702 W. Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, MI 48933
When: 8:15am-3:00pm
Cost: $50
Upcoming Events

March 24, 2011
Is Your Teen Ready for Adult Life? Michigan Family to Family Training
Where: Washtenaw ISD
When: 9:00am-3:00pm
For more information, email: info@michiganalliancefamilies.org
Or call: 1-800-552-4821

April 1, 2011
The Hearing Loss Association of Michigan (HLA-MI) Conference and Expo
For more information and online registration, visit: www.hearingloss-mi.org

April 6-9, 2011
American Academy of Audiology National Conference
Where: Chicago, IL
For more information, visit: http://www.audiologynow.org/pastfuture/index.html

May 4, 2011
NASDE Professional Development Series
Virtual Special Education: Issues and Answers
Where: available online after 1:00pm
To receive access to the conference series, complete the online request form: http://www.cenmi.org/NAUSDERequestForm.aspx

June 18-22, 2011
Michigan Youth Leadership Forum
Where: Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

June 19-23, 2011
28th Annual 2011 AADB National Symposium: “The Future is in Our Hands”
Where: Ft. Mitchell, KY

June 24-July 1, 2011
Leader Dogs for the Blind GPS Youth Camp
For more information, visit: http://www.leaderdog.org/programs/youth/index.php

July 14-15, 2011
Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) Advanced Training
Where: Detroit, MI

July 21-22, 2011
Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) Basic Training
Where: Traverse City, MI

July 29-31, 2011
CHARGE Syndrome Foundation Conference
Where: Orlando, FL

September 27-October 1, 2011
XV World Deafblind International Conference
Where: Sao Pablo, Brazil
For more information, visit: www.dbi2011.com.br