From the Director’s Desk - By Beth Kennedy

June 24-30, was DeafBlind Awareness Week, in honor of Helen Keller (June 27, 1880–June 1, 1968). This year, we acknowledged the week by co-hosting a family event with the Michigan Association for DeafBlind (MADB). We have included a write up and lots of pictures in this issue.

We have also summarized the data from the December 1, 2011, census count. Your patience with our evolving database system is much appreciated! The count represents only individuals ages birth through twenty-one. While we have limited services available to teams serving young adults ages 22-26 years, we are federally funded, so must concentrate or efforts on the birth through twenty-one population. If you are interested in connecting with other people in your area (see the map, included on pg. 8), contact the office. Please keep in mind that it is never too early to inform us of changes for your child/student. Many people will have new teachers in the fall. Knowing this information prior to our mailings will help to streamline the process.

On October 1, 2012, we will begin Year Five of a five year grant cycle. Time seems to have passed very quickly! We hope to be writing a new grant proposal next spring. If a Request for Applications (RFA) is released by the United States Department of Education, we will have thirty days to complete the proposal, including letters of support. Please be attentive to any such requests from project staff members. Your letters might make all the difference!

We will be sending out needs surveys this fall, in order to plan for the year, as well as to collect data for use in writing the next proposal. Please complete your survey and return it in a timely manner. We welcome you to call or email us with ideas for what might be included.

In the meantime, stay cool and have fun! Don’t forget- DB Central services are provided year-round!
National DeafBlind Awareness Week!

Was celebrated June 24 - June 30, 2012

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, visit the Helen Keller National Center's (HKNC) website at www.hknc.org.
2012 MADB & DB Central Family Retreat a Success!
By Jennifer Bigelow-Stambaugh

MADB and DB Central collaborated once again this year to host a Family Retreat June 22–24, 2012, at Camp Tuhsmehetu. The event included a presentation by guest Dinah Beams, the MADB annual meeting, family networking, children’s activities, swimming, boating, and much more!

With much planning and the help of many volunteers, the second annual MADB/DB Central Retreat at Camp T was a great success! The weather was great for a camp retreat with no rain in sight! Families were able to visit with other families, learn from Dinah Beams, and enjoy the overall camp amenities in the lovely weather. Many thanks to the Michigan Department of Education, Low Incidence Outreach for their support, including the donation of all food!

Families began arriving at the retreat on Friday evening, shared pizza and snacks, participated in camp tours, settled into their lodging accommodations, and had a campfire with s’mores. On Saturday, families enjoyed listening to a presentation by Dinah Beams, MA,CED while children participated in fun activities and crafts. Family time on Saturday afternoon, allowed families to swim, hike, boat, fish and visit with each other. The day’s events ended once again with a campfire and s’mores—what a way to end a great day!

Sunday’s activities included the Michigan Association for DeafBlind annual meeting, networking, and more time to take pleasure in the great outdoors. Many families ended their retreat with one last trip to the lake for a swim or a boat ride. It was the consensus once again, that families would like to hold a retreat at Camp T next summer. Mark your calendars for July 12–14, 2013—we hope you will join us for fun in the great outdoors!
MADB & DB Central Family Retreat
Swimming, Boating, and the Great Outdoors!

Skylar and Hunter are ready for fun!

The Baird Family leading the leather activity.

Emily stops to enjoy the outdoors.

Swimming in the deep!

Amanda, Josilyn, and Chris riding in the paddle boat.

Families enjoying the enclosed dock area.
MADB & DB Central Family Retreat
Swimming, Boating, and the Great Outdoors!

Sklyar fishing from the dock.
Michelle and EmiLee hanging out.
Logan playing in the sand.
Jackie and Anna stop for a picture.
Hiking on the trails.
Arienna is ready for a swim.
Kristy, Ashley, Skylar, Hunter, and Tirso take a canoe trip.
Michael swimming on the blue raft.
MADB & DB Central Family Retreat
Swimming, Boating, and the Great Outdoors!

Josilyn making sand art.
Mariah and Kelli enjoy a swim together.
Parker takes a rest on the stairs.

Michael and Emily working on a leather project.
Joy and Josilyn cool off in the water.
Kera, Shane, and Lydia working on crafts.

Michael steers the paddle boat to shore.
Cheryl and Damien relax in the sun.
Crafts in the Red Pine Pavilion.
Thank you to everyone who participated in DB Central’s annual census of children and young adults with DeafBlindness in Michigan.

Introducing the 2011 DeafBlind Census Findings...

2011 COUNT BY AGE

Major Categories for Cause of DB

- Chromosomal/Heredity: 41%
- Prenatal: 17%
- Postnatal: 12%
- Complications of Prematurity: 11%
- No Determination: 16%
- Information Not Provided: 3%
2011 DeafBlind Census
Ages 0-21 by County

Source: December 1, 2011 DB Central Census

County Counts
Allegan: 3  Kent: 23
Alpena: 1  Lapeer: 5
Arenac: 1  Livingston: 7
Baraga: 1  Macomb: 15
Berrien: 4  Manistee: 1
Branch: 3  Marquette: 2
Calhoun: 5  Mecosta: 2
Cass: 2  Midland: 1
Cheboygan: 1  Monroe: 14
Chippewa: 2  Montcalm: 2
Clare: 1  Muskegon: 5
Delta: 3  Newaygo: 1
Dickinson: 1  Oakland: 26
Eaton: 1  Oceana: 1
Genesee: 36  Otsego: 1
Grand Traverse: 2  Ottawa: 16
Gratiot: 8  Saginaw: 13
Hillsdale: 1  Sanilac: 5
Huron: 1  Shiawasee: 1
Ingham: 16  St. Clair: 7
Ionia: 2  St. Joseph: 2
Isabella: 3  Tuscola: 3
Jackson: 9  Van Buren: 6
Kalamazoo: 6  Washtenaw: 11
Kalkaska: 1  Wayne: 52

Total: 336
2010 Census Findings vs. 2011 Census Findings

Top 10 Chromosomal Causes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Other</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 CHARGE Syndrome</td>
<td>CHARGE Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Usher I Syndrome</td>
<td>Usher I Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Stickler Syndrome</td>
<td>Stickler Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Cornelia de Lange</td>
<td>Cornelia de Lange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Usher II Syndrome</td>
<td>Dandy Walker Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Dandy Walker Syndrome</td>
<td>Goldenhar Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Wolf-Hirsschhorn Syndrome</td>
<td>Wolf-Hirsschhorn Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Trisomy 13 (Trisomy 13-15, Patau Syndrome)</td>
<td>Trisomy 13 (Trisomy 13-15, Patau Syndrome)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Pierre-Robin Syndrome</td>
<td>Leber Congenital Amaurosis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top 5 Prenatal Causes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Other</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Microcephaly</td>
<td>Microcephaly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Cytomegalovirus</td>
<td>Cytomegalovirus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Hydrocephaly</td>
<td>Hydrocephaly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Maternal drug Use</td>
<td>Maternal drug Use</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top 5 Postnatal Causes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Asphyxia</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Hydrocephalus/Brain stem deterioration</td>
<td>Asphyxia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Severe head injury</td>
<td>Severe head injury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Meningitis</td>
<td>Meningitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Encephalitis</td>
<td>Encephalitis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which counties changed over the last year?

- Arenac +1
- Baraga -2
- Clare -3
- Delta +3
- Genesee +4
- Gratiot +2
- Ingham +1
- Isabella -1
- Jackson +1
- Kalamazoo -1
- Kent -1
- Lenawee -1
- Macomb +3
- Montcalm +1
- Oakland -1
- Ontonagon -1
- Ottawa +1
- Saginaw +8
- Sanilac +2
- Shiawasee +1
- Wayne +1
Children’s Books About People Who Have Disabilities

| Views From Our Shoes: Growing up with a Brother or Sister with Special Needs |
| General Disabilities |
| Kids Explore the Gifts of Children with Special Needs |
| General Disabilities |
| One TV Blasting and a Pig Outdoors by Abbott, Deborah |
| Hearing Impairments, Deafness |
| Secret Aren’t (Always) For Keeps: Featuring Jennifer Hauser (The Kids on the Block) |
| by Aiello, Barbara |
| Learning Disabilities |
| Mom Can’t See Me by Alexander, Sally Hobart |
| Visual Impairments and Blindness |
| Knots on a Counting Rope by Archambault, John |
| Visual Impairments and Blindness |
| Under the Shadow of Wings by Banks, Sara Harrell |
| Intellectual Disabilities, Down Syndrome, and Brain Damage |
| The Berenstain Bears and the Wheelchair Commando by Berenstain, Stan and Jan |
| Physical Disabilities and Wheelchairs |
| Going Places: Children Living with Cerebral Palsy by Bergman, Thomas |
| Cerebral Palsy |
| On Our Own Terms: Children Living with Physical Handicaps by Bergman, Thomas |
| Physical Disabilities and Wheelchairs |
| Meeting the Challenge: Children Living with Diabetes by Bergman, Thomas |
| Diabetes |
| Moments That Disappear: Children Living with Epilepsy by Bergman, Thomas |
| Epilepsy and Seizure Disorders |
| Finding a Common Language: Children Living with Deafness by Bergman, Thomas |
| Hearing Impairments, Deafness |
| Seeing In Special Ways: Children Living with Blindness by Bergman, Thomas |
| Visual Impairments and Blindness |
| Long Shot for Paul by Christopher, Matt |
| Intellectual Disabilities, Down Syndrome, and Brain Damage |
More Children’s Books About People Who Have Disabilities

Special Parents, Special Children by Bernstein, Joanne E.
General Disabilities

A Pony for Keeps (Pony Pals) by Betancourt, Jeanne
Dyslexia

My Name is Brain Brian by Betancourt, Jeanne
Dyslexia

Living With Diabetes by Bryan, Jenny
Diabetes

Saddle Sore (Saddle Club) by Bryant, Bonnie
Cerebral Palsy

Riding Class (Saddle Club) by Bryant, Bonnie
Physical Disabilities and Wheelchairs

Falcon’s Wing by Dawwna, Buchanan, Dawwna, Lisa
Intellectual Disabilities, Down Syndrome, and Brain Damage

Our Mom by Burns, Kay
Physical Disabilities and Wheelchairs

Summer of the Swans by Byars, Betsy Cromer
Intellectual Disabilities, Down Syndrome, and Brain Damage

Melanie by Carrick, Carol
Visual Impairments and Blindness

Aunt Morbelia and the Screaming Skulls by Carris, Joan Davenport
Dyslexia

The Great Quarterback Switch by Christopher, Matt
Physical Disabilities and Wheelchairs

Catch That Pass! by Christopher, Matt Physical Disabilities and Wheelchairs

Shoot For the Hoop by Christopher, Matt
Diabetes
What’s Happening!

Zach S. at his prom!

Heather, Zach, & Kim.

MADB Scholarship Information

MADB has a limited amount of funds available for 2012 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 bigellje@cmich.edu
Here are some examples of the apps you will find at One Place for Special Needs website:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special needs apps</strong></td>
<td>These apps are specific to the special needs population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special needs apps (alls)</td>
<td>Activity schedule apps, American sign language apps, Assistive technology apps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability specific apps</td>
<td>These apps have been identified for a specific disability by the app developer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADHD apps</td>
<td>Autism apps, Down syndrome apps, Learning disability apps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills acquisition apps</td>
<td>These apps work on a variety of skill sets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditory processing apps (all)</td>
<td>Behavioral apps (all), Cognitive thinking (all), Fine motor apps (all), Social skills apps (all)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational apps</td>
<td>Apps broken out by curriculum and learning concepts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art apps</td>
<td>Constellations apps, Grammar apps (all), Math apps (all), Music apps (all), Physical education apps, Reading apps (all)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health apps</td>
<td>Variety of apps on medical, wellness and fitness issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health apps (all)</td>
<td>Asthma apps, Calorie counter apps, Decibel levels apps, Diabetes apps, First aid apps, Fitness apps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parenting apps</td>
<td>Apps to assist parents in raising their children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parenting apps (all)</td>
<td>Back to school apps, Chore charts apps, IEP apps, Internet safety apps, Parenting teens apps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapist tools apps</td>
<td>Apps for therapists and educators to aid in working with their clients.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapist tools (alls)</td>
<td>Age calculators apps, Case load tracker apps, Data collection apps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
July 8-13, 2012
The Holley Family Village Family Week One
Reading Strategies at Home
Where: The Holley Family Village at De Sales Center, Brooklyn, MI
For more information: www.holleyfv.org

July 8-14, 2012
Bear Lake Camp-Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth Session
Where: Bear Lake Camp, Lapeer, MI
For more information: www.bearlakecamp.org

July 9-13, 2012
DHHS’ 4th Annual Kids Kamp 2012
Where: Grand Rapids, MI
When: 9:00-12:00 each day
Registration available at www.deafhhs.org

July 10, 2012
Where: Hawk Island County Park, Lansing, MI
When: 10:00-3:00pm
For more information, please contact Tracy Vincent at vincenttr@michigan.gov

July 13-14, 2012
The Southeast Regional Weekend for Families and Professionals
Where: Franklin, TN
Speakers: Robbie Blaha, Kate Beals, John Halloran, Millie Smith
For more information: www.treds-deafblindproject.com

July 13-15, 2012
National Family Association for Deaf-Blind 2012 Symposium
Preparing Leaders for Today and Tomorrow: Leadership in the 21st Century
Where: Austin, Texas
For more information contact Janette Peracchio 860-742-8612 or jbperacchio@gmail.com

July 15-20, 2012
The Holley Family Village Week Two
Culture and Language “R” Us
Where: The Holley Family Village at De Sales Center, Brooklyn, MI
For more information: www.holleyfv.org
### Upcoming Events

**July 15-21, 2012**  
**Bear Lake Camp-Visually Impaired and Blind Youth Session for First time Campers**  
**Where**: Bear Lake Camp, Lapeer, MI  
For more information: [www.bearlakecamp.org](http://www.bearlakecamp.org)

**July 15-28, 2012**  
**Bear Lake Camp-Visually Impaired and Blind Youth 2-week Session**  
**Where**: Bear Lake Camp, Lapeer, MI  
For more information: [www.bearlakecamp.org](http://www.bearlakecamp.org)

**July 22-27, 2012**  
**The Holley Family Village-Art & Drama Week**  
**Where**: The Holley Family Village at De Sales Center, Brooklyn, MI  
For more information: [www.holleyfv.org](http://www.holleyfv.org)

**August 1-5, 2012**  
**The Holley Family Village-Deaf-Blind Week**  
**Where**: The Holley Family Village at De Sales Center, Brooklyn, MI  
For more information: [www.holleyfv.org](http://www.holleyfv.org)

**August 5-10, 2012**  
**The Holley Family Village-ASL Week**  
**Where**: The Holley Family Village at De Sales Center, Brooklyn, MI  
For more information: [www.holleyfv.org](http://www.holleyfv.org)

**August 10-12, 2012**  
**Camp Chris Family Weekend**  
**Where**: Camp Tuhsmeheta, Greenville, MI  
For more information: [www.michdhh.org](http://www.michdhh.org)

**August 24-27, 2012**  
**Third Annual Michigan Girls with Disabilities Event - Her Power! Her Pride! Her Voice!**  
**Where**: Camp Fish Tales in Pinconning, MI  
DeafBlind Resources

DeafBlind Central: Michigan’s Training and Resource Project
Project Director: Beth Kennedy
Family Support Coordinator: Jennifer Bigelow-Stambaugh
Administrative Secretary: Amanda Patterson
DeafBlind Central
Central Michigan University
Sloan 105
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859
Phone: (989) 774.2725
Toll-Free: (888) 758.0508
VP: (989) 546.4626
Fax: (989) 774.1572
Email: dbcen@cmich.edu
Website: www.dbcentral.org

Michigan Families for Hands and Voices
“Hands & Voices
What Works for your Child is what makes the Choice right”
Michigan Hands and Voices
P.O. Box 10038
Lansing, MI, 48913
Phone: (517) 241.7066
Email: info@mihandsandvoices.org
Website: www.handsandvoices.org

Michigan Commission for the Blind: DeafBlind Services
Michigan Commission for the Blind
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 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
Phone: (989) 855.2430
Email: MPVI@intergate.com
Website: www.mpvi.org

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

Self Help for Independency 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