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NJLBH NEWSLETTER

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Special Edition

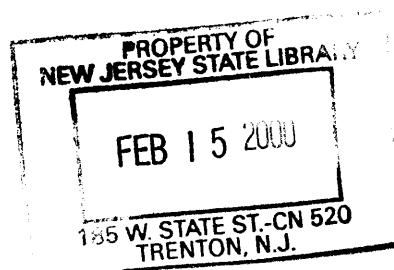
January, 2000

During the year 2000, the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired will be celebrating its 90th anniversary.

They are planning several special events to commemorate this very special year: a theater party, a workshop for seniors, a medical symposium and a baby picnic, to name a few. The celebration will be capped by a two day learning event and awards banquet at Harrah's Hotel & Convention Center in Atlantic City on November 1, and 2, 2000.

All events will highlight the various partnerships the Commission has and is developing with consumers, public and private agencies and organizations, particularly those of and for the blind. They are celebrating, in part, the evolution of the service delivery system from a paternalistic (we'll tell you what you need) to consumer driven (tell us how we can best assist you) system. They aren't there yet, but Jamie Hilton Executive Director of the Commission believes they are moving in the right direction.

She sincerely urges every one to join in the yearlong festivities. They need each and every one of you to participate.



90th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION NJ COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Theme: “Envisioning the Future”, The New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired 90th Anniversary – *A Celebration of Partnerships.*

In the year 2000, the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired will proudly celebrate 90 years of dedication to our mission to ensure that every individual living in New Jersey who is blind or visually impaired has access to independence and quality of life.

This very special year will be commemorated through several activities and special events:

- **September 1999 to February 2000 – “Creative Expressions” - A contest for children with vision loss:** Participants will be invited to submit expressions of creativity through art, music and writing. The entries will be judged in the following age groupings: 0-8, 9-13 and 14-18. Also included will be an Alternative Expressions component for children who have multiple disabilities. Each student who enters the contest will receive a gold embossed certificate of recognition. Juried winners will receive their awards at a luncheon in Atlantic City in November 2000.
- **January - February, 2000 – Art of the Eye II Exhibit:** A national touring display of outstanding art pieces created by visually impaired artists. The exhibit is designed to illuminate the multiple and sensitive contributions of people who are blind, while exposing the public to the nuances of visual perception within multimedia art’s creativity. Art of the Eye will be exhibited at Blair Academy in Blairstown.
- **February 6, 2000 – Theatre Party for Seniors:** Fifty CBVI consumers age 60 and over will attend a special audio-described presentation of the play, “Syncopation”, at the George Street Playhouse in New Brunswick. The production will be followed by an awards reception celebrating those who have done much to promote access to theater for people with vision loss.

- **March 29, 2000 – Medical Aspects Seminar:** Professionals in the field of vision loss, consumers and other interested individuals will be invited to participate in this seminar where the latest advancements in vision loss prevention, low vision enhancement and research in both of these areas will be presented by recognized authorities. Site: Woodbridge Hilton
- **May 6, 2000 – Independence for Seniors:** Seminars on recreation, nutrition, diabetes management and other issues related to maintaining and/or regaining independence for seniors who have experienced vision loss will be presented. Site: The Chateau Grande, Lakewood, NJ
- **June 2000 – Family Day:** This event will be for families of infants and toddlers with vision loss and will be held at Concordia House in Jersey City, a state-of-the-art residential school for children with multiple disabilities.
- **July 29, 2000 – Athletic and Recreational Event –** This event will be presented at Camp Marcella in Morris County where, for over 50 years, children with vision loss have been able to enjoy the experience of sleep-away camp and all of the fun activities that involves. Adult alumni of Camp Marcella and the families of children attending the Y2K session will be invited to participate in sporting events, a barbecue and dancing.
- **August 18, 2000 – Puppy Raiser Appreciation Day at Seeing Eye -** Families, students and their teachers will be invited to participate in this annual event sponsored by Seeing Eye in Morristown. Individuals will have the opportunity to tour the facility and ask questions relative to providing keys to independence for young people with vision loss.
- **November 2000 – Mega Event, At An As Yet Undesignated Hotel and Conference Center in Atlantic City:** This event will feature a variety of workshops, exhibits and an awards banquet. A luncheon during this event will feature the presentation of awards to the young people who excelled in the “Creative Expressions” contest. **Governor Whitman is to be honored during the awards banquet for her actions to ensure equal access to technology for people with vision loss.**

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