



OUR MISSION

To provide and promote opportunities that empower people with disabilities to achieve their potential.

Learn more about the League
by visiting our Web site:
www.the-league.org

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5821 South Anthony Blvd
Fort Wayne, IN 46816
260-441-0551 voice/TTY
800-889-3443 voice/TTY
Fax: 260-441-7760
E-mail: the.league@verizon.net



5821 South Anthony Blvd
Fort Wayne, IN 46816



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The Voice of Opportunity

April 2010

Blues & Soul Food Bash 2010



Chicago Blues music filled the Arts United Center on February 20 as Bill Lupkin and the Chicago Connection took center stage. Local musicians Tom Costanzo on guitar and Dr. Jon Walker on bass helped bring a Fort Wayne flavor to the music.



The smell of lemon chicken, rice, and collard greens met guests as they arrived for the sold out concert. Silent auction and brown bag raffle items tempted concert-goers to try for diamond necklaces, Vera Bradley bags, and golf packages.



Did you miss out on the fun this year? Make plans to join us **February 12, 2011** when the fun continues next year! Send your email address to: the.league@verizon.net to be added to the update list for next year.



*See you
next year!*



Celebrating 60

It has been over 60 years since community leaders began to question how best to serve people who were blind. That question led to the decision that we needed a new agency. That decision led our founders to bring Helen Keller to Fort Wayne where she challenged the community to support that new agency. That challenge brought forth the creation of the Allen County League for the Blind in 1950 (now the League for the Blind & Disabled).

Throughout the years we have expanded on the vision of those pioneering community leaders. We have grown to serve all people with severe disabilities while maintaining a core strength in serving those who are blind. We have added a wide variety of new programs and services that promote personal independence. We have helped shape new laws, statutes, and policies that remove barriers that people with disabilities find in their communities. And we established the first Center for Independent Living in Indiana.

This year we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the League's creation. A creation that started with two staff members and an annual budget of \$3,500 per year. But it's not about the staff, or the budget, or the building we now occupy. It's about the people we serve, the lives we help change, and communities that become friendlier to those who have disabilities. It's about you and where you live.

The League's 60th anniversary celebration will last just a short time while the needs of those we serve will last a lifetime. So while we celebrate today, we know that there are lifetimes of service yet to come. With your help and support, the League will be there stronger than ever!

David A. Nelson, CRC
President/CEO



Hats off to the Fort Wayne Fire Department!!

The Fort Wayne Fire Department received a **\$40,000** federal grant from FEMA's Fire Prevention and Safety Grants Program to purchase 129 smoke alarms for people who are hearing impaired.

As they did last year, the fire department will partner with the League's DeafLink division and the Delta Gamma Chapter of Psi Iota Xi to coordinate installation of the smoke alarm systems.

In 2009, 16 units were installed in homes. In 2010, 129 units will be installed which is an 88% increase in the number of homes protected!

When you see a firefighter, say thank you!!

In Memory

Thank you to the families who remembered the League in their time of loss with a memorial. There were 87 memorials given totalling \$6,737.00 from January 2009 - April 2010. Thank you to all those who honored their loved ones' lives with a gift.

*Flo Coghill
Raul Cuellar, Jr.
Olan Dalton
Natalie Feiertag
Paul Gasparini, Jr.
Helen GiaQuinta
Val Heinkel
Olga Michaels
Ruby O'Connor
Lawrence Scrogam
Mary Webster
Mildred Zurbrugg*

Save the Date!

Southside Block Party
Saturday August 28
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
@ the League



Volunteers Needed

The League needs volunteers with good computer skills, experience with spreadsheets, databases and/or proofreading skills. Please call Mark to apply.

Want to learn sign language?

Introductory American Sign Language (ASL) Class

DATE: April 27 - June 15, 2010

8 week Tuesday sessions

TIME: 6:00 - 8:00 PM

COST: \$50

LOCATION: The League



Teacher is Jill Lehman, staff interpreter at the League

Recycle for a Cause



The League is a donation site for the following items:



Orange prescription bottles with lids - clean, labels removed

White tipped canes

Used prescription eyeglasses

Empty paper towel tubes (Block party)



The prescription bottles benefit *Matthew 25*. White tipped canes are utilized by the *Workers for the Blind*. The local *Lions Clubs* take charge of the eyeglasses. The paper towel tubes will be part of a craft project at the *Block Party*.



At the League

Structured Support Group

First Thursday
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Consumer Education Group

Second Thursday
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Social/Recreational Group

Fourth Thursday
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.



Monthly Support Groups

In Your Neighborhood

Couples Support Group

Second Monday

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Good Shepherd United

Methodist Church

Fort Wayne

Second Tuesday

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Shepherd of the Hill

Kendallville

Third Tuesday

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Woodcrest Retirement Center

Decatur

First Wednesday

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Cameron Woods

Senior Living

Angola

Third Wednesday

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Miller's Merry Manor

LaGrange

Third Thursday

1:15 - 3:00 p.m.

Heimack Center

Auburn