



Crossroads

WINTER 2010

Welcome to the new electronic Crossroads!

SBAIL is now publishing Crossroads electronically on the SBAIL website in response to the requests of many members and to adapt to the rapidly transforming communications environment.

Other communications and announcements will be posted on the SBAIL website more frequently, so please check our site for the most up-to-date news. You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter.

In order to continue receiving regular communications from SBAIL, please—if you have not already done so—forward us your e-mail address.

Please contact us at sbail@sbail.org with your name and e-mail address.



Mark Your Calendar

Attend the Chicagoland Bowl-A-Thon



Join us for on Saturday, April 10th at the Poplar Creek Bowling Alley in Hoffman Estates from 2pm to 4pm for the Chicagoland Bowl-A-Thon.

A \$25 bowling fee includes 2 hours of bowling, soda and free pizza. Bowl for free by raising \$25 or more.

SAVE THE DATE:

- ▶ What: Chicagoland Bowl-A-Thon
- When: Saturday, April 10, 2010
- When: 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- Where: Poplar Creek Bowl
- Cost: \$25 - raise pledges & bowl for free

March 6 First Saturday Session	March 27 SBAIL Spring Conference	April 3 First Saturday Session	April 10 Chicagoland Bowl-A-Thon	April 24 Emerald Isle Fundraiser
May 1 First Saturday Session	June 5 First Saturday Session	June 26 Pony Up for Spina Bifida	June 27-30 National Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio	August 1 Windy City Corvette Raffle

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome to the Electronic Crossroads.....1

Attend the Chicagoland Bowl-A-Thon.....1

 Mark Your Calendar.....1

President’s Message.....3

 2010-2011 Scholarships.....3

 2010 Spring Workshop.....4

 Windy City Raffle Tickets.....4

From the Desk of the Executive Director.....5



New & Upcoming



Edison Park Turkey Trot5

First Look for Charity Event6

Bloomington Candlelight Bowl.....6

 Family Holiday Party.....7-8

 Anixter Village Holiday Party.....8

 Fall Family Classic a success.....9

Record set at Bloomington Memorial Walk.....9

 NICB Raises Money for SBAIL.....10

 SB Genetics Update10

 Design for Well-Being class at RIC11

Sport & Recreation Programs from CPD11

Conductive Education Summer Camp..... 12

Join the Junior Wheelchair Bulls.....12

Recent News

More Info



President's Message



By Mark Bernstein

Greetings. This is our annual message to let you, the people we serve, know where we have been and where we are going. During the last year, there were many successes for our organization, but also some struggles. We continue to make great strides as an organization in broadening our reach and services.

This year, we are partnering with the YMCA's Camp Independence to provide a summer camping experience. Camp Independence is located at Camp Duncan in Ingleside, Illinois, and is a brand new facility designed specifically for those with disabilities. Look for the camp application which should be arriving soon. We are also providing support to Anixter Village in Chicago, the only housing dedicated to support the transition of adults with Spina Bifida to independent living in the community. Through both of these programs, we will provide not only direct services to improve the lives of those who are affected, but also important information about how to make other and future programs better.

We have also continued the new programs that were started last year to provide direct services to families affected by Spina Bifida. The meeting groups and workshops have been a success and participation is growing. The groups are informative in an enjoyable social setting. We encourage you to use these programs as a resource.

Like all non-profit organizations, however, the

current economic troubles have affected our association. We continue, however, to expand our reach and seek new partners and supporters. There is no other organization in Illinois that is dedicated to serving people affected by Spina Bifida. Your continued support is therefore critical to our continued success, and we ask that in the coming year you resolve to get more involved with our organization. There are always opportunities and a need for volunteers and supporters.

We look forward to seeing and hearing from you during the coming year. In the future, where possible, we plan to communicate by e-mail so please forward your e-mail addresses so we can stay in touch. Best wishes for a safe, happy and healthy year.

Apply for a Scholarship from SBAIL

Now is the time to fill out an application for an SBAIL scholarship for the 2010-2011 academic year. If you are a young adult with Spina Bifida or a high school senior planning to attend college or other post-secondary school, or if you're currently enrolled in one, you are eligible to apply.

The deadline for applications is April 16, 2010.

Scholarship guidelines and applications are available [here online](#).

Please call the SBAIL office at 773-444-0305 for an application by mail or for answer to questions about application guidelines.

Follow SBAIL online



SBAIL Announces Spring Workshop



On Saturday, March 27th, SBAIL will be sponsoring a special day-long workshop that parents from every family should attend.

“Your Journey Through an Eight Step Special Needs Planning Program” will be presented by Mary Anne Ehlert, President and Founder of Protected Tomorrows.

The interactive family seminar will address issues important to you regarding your family member with Spina Bifida.

Topics include:

- *Potential Funding Sources
- *Legal Options
- *Choosing Future Care People
- *Family Communication
- *Wills and Special Needs Trusts

Space is limited - [register today](#)
 \$70 by March 15th
 \$85 after March 15th

▶ SAVE THE DATE:

What: SBAIL's Spring Workshop
 When: Saturday, March 27, 2010
 When: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
 Where: LifeCare Center at Protected Tomorrows
 Cost*: \$70 if registered by March 15
 \$85 March 16 to March 23rd

*For a family of two

2010 Windy City Raffle Tickets

Bill Kay Chevrolet and [Windy City Corvettes](#) have announced that Sunday, August 1, 2010 will be the date for the next Corvette Show and raffle.



For the past 18 years, the Windy City Corvettes Organization has been an incredibly strong supporter of the Spina Bifida Association of Illinois. Since the first raffle in 1992, the Windy City Corvettes have donated more than \$550,000 to support SBAIL.

Tickets for the 2010 Corvette raffle will again be \$100 each and cash prizes will be awarded. **Only 899 tickets will be sold** and proceeds will be presented to Spina Bifida Association of Illinois.

Raffle drawing will be held at the Bill Kay Chevrolet Corvette Show at 2pm.

Tickets can be [purchased online via Pay Pal](#) or via mail. [Download a form to return via mail](#). Please make checks payable to Windy City Corvettes Charity Account.



Friends from the Windy City Corvettes serving food at the Fall Family Classic

From the desk of the Executive Director



By Amy Maggio

The Spina Bifida Association of Illinois marks its 41st year of operations by expanding its program services to include programming at Anixter Village, the nation's first apartment building for adults with Spina Bifida! Over the past year, the board and staff of SBAIL have worked closely with Dr. McLone from Children's Memorial Hospital, Dr. Grayson Holmbeck, Loyola University and Dr. Sue Murkajee from the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago to assume the day to day program operations at Anixter Village which currently serves eighteen adults with SB.

SBAIL is in the process of hiring a full-time program coordinator who will be housed at Anixter Village and who will work closely with the adults by developing individual programs that are uniquely tailored to their needs and supports the ultimate goal of transition and housing in the community. Anixter Village's housing units are funded by a long-term grant from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development and the maintenance and upkeep of the apartment building is managed by Anixter Corporation, the largest provider of housing services in Chicago to individuals with special needs. Look for an announcement in the spring inviting everyone to our Open House.

I would also like to thank each of you for your generosity and support over the past year! In a very difficult economy, many of you have reached a bit deeper in your pockets and have given so much toward our sustainable programming and operations. This year already

appears a bit brighter and we hope that each of you will continue your unwavering support!

Have a wonderful, warm winter and best wishes for a great spring!

SBAIL Receives \$50,500 from the 2009 Edison Park Turkey Trot

The Spina Bifida Association of Illinois was recently awarded \$50,500 as the recipient of the 2009 [Edison Park Turkey Trot](#).



2009 was the 13th year of the Edison Park Turkey Trot, an event each year which is held on Thanksgiving morning that now draws over 3,500 participants. In addition to the standard 5k walk/run, the Turkey Trot also features a Gobble Gallop Race for children ages 3 to 12 at various distances per age group.

The Edison Park Turkey Trot has now raised more than \$300,000 for worthy charitable causes like SBAIL. Our sincerest thanks to the Edison Park Chamber of Commerce and everyone involved with the Edison Turkey Trot.



Friends from Edison Park with SBAIL Board President Mark Bernstein and Executive Director Amy Maggio

In this photo (l-r): Carolyn Lindberg, Dave Zimmer, Peter Heneghan, Rita McGovern, Amy Maggio, Mark Bernstein, Jim Martin.

2010 First Look for Charity



Members from SBAIL's Board of Directors

In this photo (l-r): Dr. Lynn Grabher Bradtke, Dan Hill, Scott Munkvold and wife Rachel, Peter Billmeyer.

The Spina Bifida Association of Illinois was once again honored to be one of eighteen charities benefiting from the 2010 Chicago Auto Show's [First Look for Charity](#), presented by the Chicago Automobile Trade Association.

Held on Thursday, February 11th, attendees at had the opportunity to preview the auto show before it was open to the public. SBAIL hosted a private pre-party with a complimentary cocktails and a silent auction prior to the opening of the show.

More than 325 individuals purchased tickets for this event and selected SBAIL as the beneficiary. In addition, the Windy City Corvettes, longtime SBAIL supporters, were the event's exclusive Grand Benefactor sponsors. Thank you so much for your support. We look forward to seeing you at next years event.



Members of the Windy City Corvettes at the First Look for Charity Event

Bowlers Pack the Lanes for the Candlelight Bowl



The 2010 Candlelight Bowl was held on Saturday, February 6th at AMF Circle Lanes in Bloomington for the Spina Bifida Association of Illinois. More than \$5,000 was raised by bowlers at this year's event. In addition to bowling, children, adults and families that attended enjoyed pizza, popcorn and the raffle.

The Candlelight Bowl wouldn't be possible without the support of our wonderful committee members; Dr. Lynn Grabher Bradtke, Bob Bradtke and Kathie Evans, as well as a special thanks to Jim and Maggie Merica, Josh and Keri Tucker and emcee Tim Rood.



Funds raised will be used for direct services to people with Spina Bifida and their families, through Scholarships, Family Outreach Program, Adult Transition Programs and educational and social events.

A special thank you to [all of our supporters!](#)



2009 Family Holiday Party



The Family Holiday Party was held on Saturday, December 5th at the John G. Coyers Learning Academy in Rolling Meadows for the Spina Bifida Association of Illinois.

More than 250 children and adults attended and enjoyed the day's festivities, which included arts and crafts, a visit from Santa, and presents for all adults and children with Spina Bifida and their siblings age 12. Attendees also enjoyed music was provided by Rollin Music, a Professional DJ service located in Oak Lawn and food from Perry's.

The family party wouldn't be possible without all of the wonderful volunteers, particularly Linda Faust, Family Holiday Party Committee Chair and her family, that contributed their time to make this a special day for everyone.

[See more event photos on our facebook page.](#)

A special thanks to all our generous supporters:

Amvets Post #66
 Case Paper Company
 Cobra Electronics
 E-Scent-lals
 Eden Supportive Living
 Olympic Chiropractic
 Perry's Catering & Ristorante
 Ms. Tracy Gebhardt
 unisource
 Woodland Foods



Behind the scenes: Pictures from the 2009 Holiday Party

[More "Behind the Scenes" photos and others from past SBAIL events on our facebook page.](#)



Wheaton High School Hockey Team throws Anixter Village residents Holiday Party



Anixter Village residents with members from the
Wheaton High School Hockey Team

By Carolee Laird

On December 19th, a local Wheaton High School hockey team shared some Holiday spirit with the tenants of Anixter Village. As part of their community service requirements for graduation, the hockey team threw a Holiday party for the tenants of Anixter Village.

The party was attended by approximately 30 people, including the players, coaches, parents of the players and of course the tenants. The party was filled with lots music, food, and a surprise at the end of the night - a brand new Nintendo Wii System!



Friends from the FBI came over to help
decorate the community room

Fall Family Classic



The Fall Family Classic held on Sunday, September 27th at the Center in Palos Park, raised more than \$22,000 – a new record, for the Spina Bifida Association of Illinois.

More than 200 individuals participated in the Walk-And-Roll-A-Thon and Family Picnic, and many of this year's attendees raised funds online prior to the event, customizing a webpage and sending out emails to friends and family for support. Funds raised go directly to providing a number of services like a regional educational conference and social events that help individuals with Spina Bifida and their families.

Members of Windy City Corvettes, a major event sponsor, were on hand to help greet guests and grill hamburgers, hotdogs and brats. For the past 18 years, the Windy City Corvettes Organization has been an incredibly strong supporter of the Spina Bifida Association of Illinois. In addition to their support of the Fall Family Classic, the Windy City Corvettes raffle off a new Corvette to raise money for SBAIL.

A special thanks to our generous sponsors:

Enterprise Rent-A-Car
SB Genetics
Windy City Corvettes

12th Annual Memorial Walk

The 12th Annual Memorial Walk-And-Roll-A-Thon held on Sunday, September 20th at Tipton Park in Bloomington, Illinois raised more than \$14,000 – a new record, for the Spina Bifida Association of Illinois.

The early afternoon rain couldn't keep away 145 individuals who participated in the 12th Annual Memorial Walk-And-Roll-A-Thon, honoring the lives of Emma Kenny, Shannon Kolodzieski, Kaylin Rood, and Sarah Whitted. All of the participants did a wonderful job raising pledges for this record-breaking event, including six Walk-And-Rollers who raised more than \$500, and will receive an iPod shuffle!

Funds raised go directly to providing a number of services like a regional educational conference and social events that help individuals with Spina Bifida and their families.

A special thanks to our generous sponsors:

Avanti's Italian Restaurant
Central Illinois Corvette Club
DJ Peter's Orthopedics
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Pepsi Americas
R&R Certified Automotive
Swim America



Walk-And-Rollers at the starting line of the 12th Annual Bloomington Memorial Walk-And-Roll-A-Thon

NICB Raises Money for SBAIL in Naperville Sprint Triathlon



Photo: Bob Florian
NICB Team at Naperville Triathlon

Members of the National Insurance Crime Bureau participated in the Naperville Sprint Triathlon on August 9, 2009, and generously donated the proceeds from their fundraising efforts to SBAIL. The three teams organized by NICB that participated in the event raised over \$1,200 for SBAIL.

The National Insurance Crime Bureau put together three teams of three individuals each, one person for each leg of the relay. The participants, all at different skill levels, each set goals for themselves and aimed to reach them on race day while hundreds of people—their teammates included—cheered for them from the sidelines. It was a fun and rewarding event for the participants as well as a successful day for SBAIL and those affected by Spina Bifida.

A division of NICB called Strategic and Tactical Information (STI) started a program last year called “STI Gives Back.” The Naperville Sprint Triathlon, a large race that attracted about 2,000 participants last year alone, was one of the fundraising events that “STI Gives Back” chose to participate in and SBAIL is thankful to receive the proceeds NICB raised from the event.

Update from the Spina Bifida Genetics Project

A message from Bruce Cohen of Vitapath Genetics, sponsor of the Spina Bifida Genetics Research Project:

We’re almost there!

Along with our collaborators at UC Berkeley, Stanford University, UC San Francisco and Children’s Hospital Oakland Research Institute, we are still seeking 100 more mothers of children with Spina Bifida to enroll in a study.

Research has shown that genetics play a role in Spina Bifida. We are developing a ground-breaking genetic test that will enable doctors to identify women at high risk for Spina Bifida. With this advanced knowledge, doctors will be able to safely treat these women with high-dose folic acid.

Join 900 other mothers who have already enrolled. Participants will be asked to provide a saliva sample with a simple at-home kit and answer a few brief questions. For more information or to enroll, go to www.sbgenetics.org or e-mail info@sbgenetics.org.



Volunteer at SBAIL

SBAIL is always looking for volunteers in several areas:

- Office Administration
- Public Relations and Marketing
- Information Technology
- Fundraising

[More information about volunteer opportunities.](#)

Interested? Contact Chris Byrne at 773-444-0305 or cbyrne@sbail.org.



Interested in Art? Participants needed

The [Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago](#) and the School of the Art Institute are looking for people to participate in a Design for Well-Being Class. Participants will work in a collaborative team with an art therapist and design student to create a one-of-a kind object that enhances physical and emotional well-being and improves the quality of life for people with disabilities. Participants will be given the finished object in appreciation of their time and participation.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Therapeutic Recreation, at 312-238-6168 or jbeemer@ric.org.

Requirements:

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Must be a former patient of RIC or current outpatient
- Must have a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Must be able to commit up to five meetings between March 8 – May 10, 2010
- Must be able to participate in small group discussions with students

All sessions are held in the LIFE Center, first floor, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, 345 E. Superior, Chicago, IL 60611 on the following Mondays:

- March 8, 2010 – 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm
- March 22, 2010 – 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm
- April 12, 2010 – 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Final presentation of projects:

- May 3, 2010 – 12:30 pm to 2:30pm
- May 10, 2010 – 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm

New Sport and Recreation Programs from the Chicago Park District



We are pleased to announce the opening of several new Special Recreation locations that are designed to serve individuals with physical disabilities and visual impairments. Programs will be housed on the Northside at Chase Park (4701 North Ashland Avenue) and on the Southside at Davis Square Park (4430 S. Marshfield Ave/ 4429 S. Paulina).

Both locations will specialize in offering recreation and adaptive sport programs for youth, teens and adults. Any individual with a permanent physical disability is welcome to participate. Programs are specifically designed to meet the needs of individuals who use wheelchairs, have visual impairments or have any mobility related disabilities that impact one's ability to participate in traditional sports programs.

Each park will offer an Inclusive Park Kids program which will provide homework assistance, games, recreation. Sport opportunities designed specifically for individuals with physical disabilities and visual impairments will also be available. There is no charge for pilot programs, but we will have a fee in the fall. The program does require registration prior to arrival.

If you have additional questions or would like to enroll in Inclusive Park Kids, please contact your nearest park or visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com.



Conductive Education Summer Camp for Children with Spina Bifida or Cerebral Palsy



Camp Dates: June 21st – July 16th
July 20th – August 13th
Monday through Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm

This summer the [Center for Independence through Conductive Education](http://www.Center-for-Independence.org) is pleased to announce Intensive Group Motor Training Camps offered to children with physical disabilities between the ages of 2 and 10 years old.

Our unique programs are based on Conductive Education, a group method of teaching children with physical disabilities. Activities will stress daily life skills like walking, sitting, eating and dressing independently. Our program is fun! Conductive Education relies on music, games and structured activities to improve movement, life skills and most importantly, self-reliance and self-confidence!

Eligible candidates are children between the ages of 2 – 10 years whose primary disability is cerebral palsy or spina bifida. Children with physical disabilities should have fair cognitive, auditory and visual skills. For more information on the program, please contact Patti Herbst at (708) 588-0833.

Countryside, Chicago and Lake Zurich locations

The Center for Independence
through Conductive Education
100 W. Plainfield Rd.
Countryside, IL 60525
(708) 588-0833

www.Center-for-Independence.org

Recruiting Aspiring Athletes!



Ever wanted to be part of a basketball team?

NEDSRA's Junior Bulls are looking for aspiring athletes of all ages for their wheelchair basketball team.

Practices are held weekly in Addison.

Games and tournaments are played locally and throughout the Midwest!

Players use sports wheelchairs; loaners are available.

No experience necessary.

We will be planning practices and developing skills based on each individual's level.

For more information, contact Adam Kramer at 630-620-4500 x 137 or akramer@nedsra.org.



NEDSRA
1770 W. Centennial Place
Addison, IL 60101
www.nedsra.org