



Independence for the Blind

Dear Friends,

Independence for the Blind has been providing training to hundreds of legally blind teens and adults, in all 10 counties of Northwest Florida for many years. Now our dream of having a program for children aged 5 to 13 has finally come to fruition. In January of this year, with your help, we started the VIP Children's program for visually impaired 5 to 13 year old children, to teach them skills they will need to become independent and also to have a lot of fun along the way. At our parent orientation in February, a parent, and grandparent told me "Thank you. "Our child has needed this program for a long time." [Read More, Click Here](#)



OUR "NEW" VIP CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

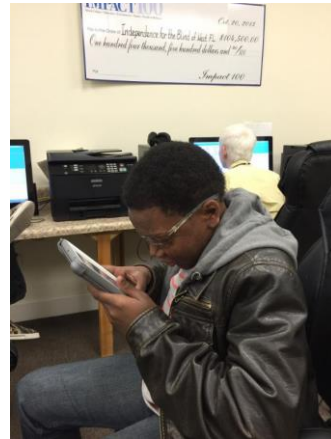
The VIP Children's Program is designed to teach visually impaired children the necessary behaviors they will need to succeed in life.

Training in technology and life skills are the core of the program and fun activities and outings give the students the chance to have experiences out in the community and to demonstrate their skills.

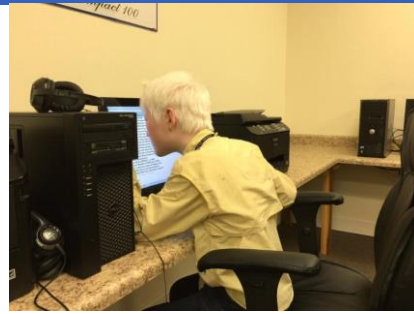
One day we will host onsite activities and training and at least one day will be devoted to activities in the community. Already this year the students visited the Zoo and Big Kahuna's Water Park. [Technology and Life Skills Training...Read More.](#)



Lucas, J.C. and Riley in the Impact 100 Assistive Technology room



A.J. is learning new techniques on the Ipad.



Noah working on his computer assignment.

(Left) Erica preparing spring rolls for dinner!



Presidential Insights

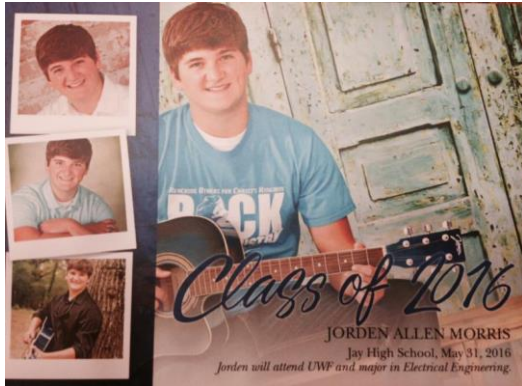
Gayle Crume, is legally blind. She says she thinks outside the box, and it is hard for her to think inside the box. She is very outgoing, and she thinks about life in stories.



To find out more about Gayle's journey into Blindness and her involvement with Independence for the Blind, including her goals as President of the Board of Directors Click here

**Our Transition Program for Teens is a success!
Many thanks to our Donors who have supported
our program.**

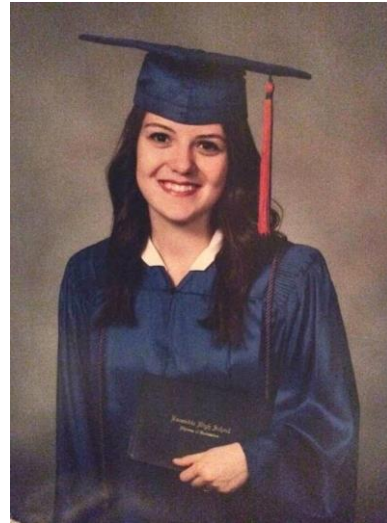
Meet our Graduates...



**Jordan Morris,
University of West Florida**



**Kathy Eilers,
University of Florida**



**Emma Rogers,
South Arkansas University**

89 percent of our Transition Students go on to college or start work immediately.

[See more of what's happening with our Transition Program, Click Here](#)

Blue Angels on the Beach!



**Beautiful
Balcony to
watch the
show!**



Win a three night stay at the beautiful Hilton Pensacola Beach Gulf front during the weekend of the Blue Angels Airshow July 14, 15, and 16, 2016!!!

Last year's winner, Margaret Donigan from Speed-D-Print enjoyed her weekend immensely. Margaret says, "My husband and I had a wonderful time and would do it again in a heartbeat. The balcony was perfect to view the majority of the Air Show. We really enjoyed the hotel hot tub and pool in the evening after most the kids had left."

Independence for the Blind is selling Blue Angels on the Beach **Tickets** for 1-\$5, 3-\$10, 6-\$20, 15-\$50, and 30-\$100 in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties. Tickets can be purchased from April 1-June 28, 2016, online at <http://www.ibwest.org/angels-on-the-beach> or by calling Sally McConnell 850-477-2663.

The drawing will be held Tuesday June 28th at Bands on the Beach on Casino Beach, Pensacola Beach- you do not have to be



present to win. All proceeds benefit the Blind and Visually Impaired of Northwest Florida.

Visit our website for tickets

**Publix, "where shopping and sprucing up
Jean's Garden, is a pleasure!"
Thank You Publix
On 9 Mile and Pine Forest Road**



Jean's Garden had a beautification day, thanks to The "A" Team from Publix



Thanks to the Publix "where shopping is a pleasure" crew after the wonderful day making our Jean's Garden beautiful!



Independence for the Blind, invites you to support the Independence for the Blind C.W. Gemmill Training Center by purchasing a commemorative BRICK displayed in the garden. To purchase (\$150.00) an engraved brick for a beloved friend or family member, please call Sally McConnell 477.2663 for additional information.

New Health and Fitness area for our Children, Teens and Adults

We are pleased to announce the development of new property adjacent to our offices, designed for our clients of all ages. We envision a playground for our children, walking path for all ages, a garden, "beep ball", base ball & basket ball courts, benches and a safe place for the Blind and Visually impaired to exercise.



There are many projects of that we need funding for....

- Perimeter fencing**
- Gazebo**
- Landscaping**
- Playground equipment**
- Benches**
- Garden materials**
- Walking Path**
- T-Shirts for the
VIP CHILDREN'S
PROGRAM**



Phone message....This is Garlan Chaudron in Brewton Alabama, Frances Atkinson's Cousin (who is Blind). I just wanted to tell you that she appreciated you calling her. She thanks you for doing all you are trying to do to help her and I appreciate your helping her too! And to all of the Staff at Independence for the Blind, you have a great day.

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