

BELL PROGRAM



LEFT: GROUP PICTURE OF PARTICIPANTS AND MENTORS OUTSIDE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH.



RIGHT: ELENA ENJOYS THE BEACH BALL FILLED WITH SPAGHETTI.

2015 BELL Program- Springfield

The National Federation of the Blind, of Illinois, hosted their first BELL Program in Springfield this summer. The program took place Monday through Friday from July 20-24. A total of 6 children ages 9-13 participated in the program.

The first day, teachers Amy Lund and Samantha Voll assessed their braille reading and writing skills in

order to determine what concepts and lessons needed attention. Many of the participants were brand new to braille, and we had a few that we could rely on as braille experts.

We are very glad to have had several amazing mentors help us out this week; without them, this would not have been possible.

Special thanks to Alyssa, Bill, Charlene, Katie and Pam.

The Springfield program also had an added parent component. The parents had the opportunity to tour the Illinois Assistive Technology Program, adapt common board games for low vision/blindness, hear about career planning, and enjoy a travel experience with the whole group.



BILL, PAM AND AUSTON READ A STORY TOGETHER.



THE GROUP WALKS TO THE HOTEL ALL USING THEIR CANES.



AMY HELPS AARON MAKE A SMOOTHIE AS A SNACK.

PHOTO'S FROM BELL 2015



TOP 10 BELL RINGERS OF 2015

1. YMCA ACTIVITIES
2. SMOOTHIES
3. OLIVE GARDEN
4. TAKING THE BUS
5. SPAGHETTI BEACH BALL
6. BEEP KICKBALL
7. LEARNING NEW BRAILLE LETTERS
8. MEETING NEW FRIENDS
9. SNACK MIX
10. FABULOUS MENTORS!

Letter from the teachers....

Dear Parents and Participants,
We wanted to take a quick moment to thank you for trusting us with your children. We know that encouraging independence is always a nice goal, but often very hard to follow through with. Each of your children have grown in so many ways: socially, emotionally and educationally.

All of the activities planned were designed to encourage braille literacy, skill acquisition or maintenance, and FUN! Please enjoy the book that your child brings home to read with you. We hope that this sparks a continuation of braille reading in your child's life.

Please stay in touch and we hope to see you at BELL 2016!

Amy Lund and Samantha Voll