

Registration Fee: \$15 per adult - children. Zoom will only be available during the CVI presentation, with no registration fee.

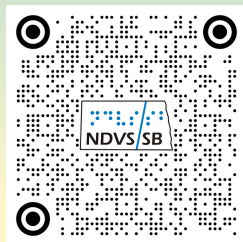
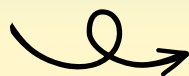
Checks payable to: ND School for the Blind Foundation. (PayPal available, must add 3% Fee: ndsbfoundation@gmail.com)

Registration Deadline: March 24th

Accommodations: A block of rooms are reserved under ND School for the Blind at the Hampton Inn, with a rate of \$119 plus tax per night for double queen or single king room. Rooms will be reserved until **March 21st**. To ensure you get the reduced rate, please call the hotel directly: Hampton Inn & Suites (701) 838-1400. *If you are not able to attend in person, there will be virtual sessions available through Zoom at no cost.*



Scan QR Code for online registration



NDVS/SB is a Division of the ND Department of Public Instruction
Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent
Paul Olson, Superintendent

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OUR MISSION

Is to empower families so that they may access information on topics relating to their child's visual impairment, develop an awareness of services and resources available on a regional and national level and become more effective advocates for their child.

WHAT IS FAMILY WEEKEND?

This is an opportunity for families who have a child with vision loss (including those with additional disabilities) to listen to informational speakers, and one can meet other families from across North Dakota and staff from North Dakota Vision Services/School for the Blind.

NORTH DAKOTA VISION SERVICES/SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND PRESENTS:

ALL ABOARD FOR FAMILY WEEKEND 2025

April 4th - 6:00PM

The Hampton Inn & Suites
1400 North Broadway
Minot, ND 58703

April 5th - 8:00AM

Bishop Ryan Catholic School
316 11th Ave NW
Minot, ND 58703

Scholarships are available to assist families with transportation & room costs. Please contact your local vision teacher to request assistance.



PRESENTERS

LOUIE MCGEE



Louie McGee studied Psychology and Communication at the University of Minnesota and is a current law student at the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law. He grew up in Saint Paul, Minnesota where he was diagnosed with Stargardts disease at age 5 and has progressively lost peripheral vision. Louie has worked in advocacy locally through the State Services for the Blind of MN all the way to international work at Blind in Business UK, supporting young blind individuals' career paths. He completed an Ironman triathlon in 2019 and speaks about possibility in a world where self advocacy is essential.

LACEY SMITH



Lacey is a CVI Parent Community Manager for the CVI Center at Perkins School for the Blind. Lacey has worked closely with young children with visual impairments, multiple disabilities, rare diseases, and dual sensory loss, providing consultation and support to the students, families, and their teams. Lacey has a Bachelor's in General Studies with a Concentration in Early Childhood Education from the University of Kansas, a Master's in Education as a Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI) from UMass Boston, and a Graduate Certificate in Cortical/Cerebral Visual Impairment (CVI) also achieved at UMass Boston. Lacey's interest was inspired by her 13-year-old daughter's diagnosis of CVI, and an ultra rare genetic diagnosis of Ogden Syndrome. She continually strives to learn more and support families with all she has learned along her own journey.



HILDA & ASHTON DUNFORD

Ashton was born blind with Septo Optic Dysplasia and his mother Hilda Dunford has always encouraged him to do everything he loves. He is now 13 and has grown up in Utah skiing, skateboarding, running cross country, and he has also acted in a movie and been interviewed for many TV segments to share and advocate for Blindness Awareness. His mother Hilda shares his story on social media on their page @Ourblindside. She loves to advocate and support other families of children who are also blind. Hilda has been on many TV segments including Dr. Phil and Good Morning America sharing the message that blind children are just as capable as everyone else. She has two other girls who also love supporting their brother. Hilda is married to her husband who also grew up in Utah. Their family loves living in the mountains and being able to take their kids on so many adventures and sharing their life on their social media pages. Hilda hopes that Ashton's story will inspire and encourage other parents who are also raising blind children.

Family Weekend Sponsors

- ND School for the Blind Foundation
- The Wollan Family on behalf of Lowry Engineering
- The ND State Council on Developmental Disabilities under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill Of Rights Act.

Friday, April 4th

The Hampton Inn & Suites
- Agenda

- 6:00 to 8:00 Supper & Social
- Dessert in the Dark & FUN!

Saturday, April 5th

Bishop Ryan Catholic School
- Agenda

- 8:00 - 8:30 Registration
- 8:30 - 9:30 Family Time
- 9:30 - 10:15 Hilda Dunford & her son Ashton Dunford
- 10:15 - 10:30 Break
- 10:30-11:30 Breakout Sessions -
 - Hilda Dunford
 - Lacey Smith (CVI)
- 11:30 - 12:30 Lunch
- 1:00-2:00 Louie McGee
- 2:00 - 3:00 Panel
- 3:00 - 3:30 Evaluations & Closing

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
CONTACT LANNA SLABY**

(701) 840-7939 or lslaby@nd.gov

Event schedule is tentative and may vary.

