**May 23rd 2023**

Howdy Federation Friends and Followers!

I hope you all took the weekend to rest, refresh and get ready to
enjoy the introduction of some beautiful weather on the horizon. While
we do this, take some time to get excited about this new update from
our state Youth and Family Committee, it's pretty important:

The NFBMI Raising Expectations Accessing Life (R. E. A. L.) Program
takes place June 23-25, 2023, in Flint, Michigan at the beautiful
Hilton Garden Inn. This weekend event provides younger blind children
a chance to work on science experiments themed around space and work
on self-confidence, while providing transition-aged students
opportunities for social activities and professional development.
It is not too late for students and blind children to register for
this informative and beneficial program. The extended deadline for
NFBMI R. E. A. L. is June 15, 2023. There are still plenty of
scholarships available for blind children and their families to
register and attend this event. Transition-aged students that are
customers of BSBP are also encouraged to register for this program, as
it is sponsored. To register or for more information, please visit
[www.nfbmi.org/real](http://www.nfbmi.org/real) . If you have any questions about this program,
please feel free to attend the Youth and Family Committee call this
evening at 7pm or email President@nfbmi.org. I’ve also included our
flyer in this thread for your convenience.
Finally, I wanted to leave you all with a message of thanks. Thanks to
the membership that has been attending committee calls and pushing the
program and to the members of chapters that have been communicating
about the program after they come from committee calls to their fellow
members. Our state committees are the backbone of how our affiliate
does the work of the Federation and a huge reason why many of the
chapters can continue to operate. I leave a simple challenge for each
of you reading: SUPPORT. I challenge our members to forward our NFBMI
REAL flyer to their BSBP counselor, reminding them of the importance
of the work of the Federation and urging them to forward the flyer and
the registration deadline to students it may benefit on their case
load. With this small piece of advocacy, you become the change in our
program, something we would welcome openly.

With Love,

Robert Parsons, Jr.
President, National Federation of the Blind of Michigan