**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](mailto: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