



# AIDB's Regional Center sets sights on summer camp

1747  
With a \$10,000 EyeSight Foundation of Alabama award and through collaboration with the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry and School of Education, Special Education, the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind Birmingham Regional Center will conduct a summer camp for students 6 to 13, who are blind/low vision.

Sponsored in part by the AIDB Foundation, the Summer Chill Out will host 20 students who are visually impaired/blind from Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair and Walker counties on select dates in June and July. UAB Special Education students, in conjunction with the UAB School of Optometry, will aid in supervising the camp and implementing student activities as a component of their graduate studies.

"It is crucial that graduate students participate in academic and leisure activities with students with special needs during their professional studies," said Mary Jean Sanspree, Ph.D. research professor and associate scientist, UAB School of Optometry. "The collaboration between UAB Program for the Visually Impaired and AIDB "Chill Out" camp is the perfect venue for the campers to have summer fun and the graduate students to learn from the campers."

The expansion of outreach services for blind and visually impaired students served in public schools is a priority in AIDB's strategic plan, said Lynne Hanner, AIDB Foundation executive director and AIDB Office of Institutional Advancement director, who expressed her appreciation to the internal and external agencies

involved.

On-site activities include hands-on assistive technology and musical presentations by AIDB's E.H. Gentry Facility and Alabama Symphony Orchestra. Education Director Meaghan Heinrich. Field trips include Alabama School of Fine Arts, Lakeshore Foundation, Birmingham Zoo, McWane Center, Birmingham Farmers' Market and East Lake Park and AIDB's Mariana Greene Henry Special Equestrian

and ASB programs. The camp will end with a carnival and awards day at the AIDB Birmingham

Regional Center.

Registration ends June 20 or when the 20 slots are filled.