Hello all! We at the TAPVI Board are hoping you are all safe and healthy, and finding some solace during this time of social distancing, school and business closures by spending more time with close loved ones.

Perhaps you are working from home and enjoying not having to drive into work, or struggling to work from home while homeschooling. You might be finding time to do those household chores and projects that you've been meaning to get to for a while, or even better, making time to make valuable memories for your family.

We all have to find ways to cope with this new lifestyle for a while longer yet. The TAPVI board is spending more time working to ensure that you are provided with the links to tools and resources that can help you manage this time. Please see our social media sites at TAPVI FAMILIES CONNECT and TAPVI FAMILIES. We invite you to share your ideas and resources on those pages as well, to benefit all our families! Some of those are listed below, but please share the info you know with us as well! That's what we are all about here at TAPVI!
In January, TAPVI was excited to host a group of families at the Houston Museum of Natural Science where kids learned up close about Paleontology and dinosaurs! The docents explained in great detail about the various artifacts to which the kids were exposed, and passed around everything so it could be examined by the attendees. After, TAPVI provided light refreshments for our guests and families were able to enjoy the museum a little more at their leisure. We look forward to hosting more events very soon!
TAPVI board members attended this year's TSBVI Texas Focus Conference and were on hand to answer questions posed by education professionals and parents. This year's conference theme was "Self Determination" with keynote speakers focusing on how we can help our children and students become self-determined individuals in a wide variety of areas from mobility to learning. TAPVI also hosted a family gathering where we were able to really connect to Texas families one-on-one and socialize.
Robert is a 15-year old active, friendly, and energetic teenager that lives in Houston, Texas. He has one older sister who absolutely adores him and has been a great encouragement to him since the day he was born. Robert is in the ninth grade this school year. His favorite subjects are definitely Math and Science, since he likes to learn how things work and is fascinated by the stars and the universe. He has participated in a youth bowling league as a member of the United States Bowling Congress for the past 2½ years. His bowling average has increased by over 50 points during this time! He likes to watch videos of pro-bowlers to get new ideas to help him improve his bowling techniques. Way to go, Robert! He participates in a variety of group activities in his community such as Creating with Blind Abandon meetings (which meets to create tactile art in accessible formats with students who are blind or visually impaired). He also enjoys traveling to new places all throughout Texas and the United States with his family. In the past several years, he has traveled to Florida, California, and even Washington, D.C. However, he says he would much rather fly on an airplane than drive those long distances!
We WANT you!
TAPVI's fiscal year runs from July 1 - June 30 each year. New board members are added for the start of each fiscal year, though an election among all TAPVI members in the May-June timeframe.

All board positions are for a term of three years. You can find information on our website at http://www.tapvi.org/our-board/ about our current board members and positions, and about the roles, duties and responsibilities of all board members.

We currently need to bring onboard a new Secretary, President-elect, and several new Board Members at Large. We prefer that board members be parents of children (all ages) who have blindness or visual impairment (with or without additional disabilities), but have at times had professionals on our board as well.

If you are interested in joining our board, please email Alison Smith at smith_alison@hotmail.com. We don't have an application process, but please do include in your email some information about yourself and whether you have any previous experience on non-profit boards.

We are looking forward to hearing from you!
Resources for Students in Public School amid the COVID-19 Outbreak

Disability Rights Texas
https://www.disabilityrightstx.org/en/handout/3880/

Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates

Texas Education Agency

U.S. Department of Education

Free Audible Books
https://stories..audible.com/start-listen?
mi_cmp=98ba55cbab885926&mi_ecmp=486885180&mi_s
c=t&mi_u=amzn1.account.AFJV2WVV3M7DDV5C2B6CEPQ
NRTJA
Summer Resources

Disclaimer: We at TAPVI are not encouraging travel or socializing with others not in your family, but if your family chooses to venture out resources are below. Please practice social distancing measures and local government restrictions. Stay Safe!

NFB Bell Academy- At Home Edition

US National Parks- Offer Virtual Park Tours
https://www.nps.gov/index.htm

Texas Parks and Wildlife
https://tpwd.texas.gov/

Arts and Crafts