

CAMP M.O.V.E

(Mobility, Opportunity, Venture, Explore)

Case For Support





Photo Credit: Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children

The Need:

With over 54,000 students across the United States identified as blind or visually impaired, the need for specialized support during their crucial teenage years is immense. Recognizing this critical gap, and with a tentative launch date set for the week of July 20, 2026, Pilot Dogs Camp M.O.V.E. will step forward as a vital resource.

For students aged 14 to 17, our unique, completely free, week-long program will stand as one of only three in the nation dedicated to providing comprehensive orientation & mobility and guide dog readiness training in a focused summer camp environment.

Without access to specialized training, many teens face significant barriers to independence, leading to limited opportunities and reduced quality of life.

**In 2022- 54,840 Students
were reported blind or visually
impaired in the United States**

About The Camp:

Pilot Dogs Camp M.O.V.E., serving teens aged 14-17 within a 450-mile radius of Columbus, Ohio, provides expert-led O&M instruction, simulated guide dog experiences, and connections with successful blind and visually impaired teenagers. We are proud to partner with the following schools to reach and serve these students:

- Tennessee School for the Blind (Nashville, TN)
- Ohio State School for the Blind (Columbus, OH)
- Kentucky School for the Blind (Louisville, KY)
- West Virginia School for the Deaf & Blind (Romney, WV)
- Indiana School for the Blind & Visually Impaired (Indianapolis, IN)
- Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children (Pittsburgh, PA)

Photo Credit: Hondanews.com



Only 1 of 3
programs like it in the United States

About The Camp:

Camp MOVE is more than a camp. It's a catalyst for personal growth. This immersive experience actively fosters independence by equipping teens with practical skills and a mindset of self-reliance.

It's a dynamic space where lasting connections are forged with peers who share similar experiences, fostering a powerful sense of belonging and mutual understanding.

Ultimately, Camp MOVE is dedicated to preparing these young adults for a future brimming with possibilities, laying a strong foundation for greater independence as they transition into college, embark on their chosen careers, and actively participate within their broader communities.



Life Skills & Independence

- **Guide Dog Readiness Training:**
 - Guide Dog 101: How-to's, what to expect.
 - "Juno Walks" (simulated guide dog experiences).
 - Individual assessments for guide dog readiness.
 - Solo walk for those who demonstrate interest and readiness.
- **Orientation & Mobility (O&M) Skills:**
 - Cane techniques for different terrains (sidewalks, grass, stairs).
 - Navigating intersections and traffic.
 - Using public transportation.
 - Utilizing GPS apps (Blindsquare, Lazarillo).
 - Spatial awareness and environmental analysis.



The Curriculum:

- **Recreation & Adventure**

- Swimming at Dodge Pool.
- Field Trip to the Center of Science and Industry (COSI).
- Fishing with Steve.
- Hiking / Nature Walks with the GDMI team and Guide Dogs.
- Sound-based tag, Guide Dog Trivia.
- Campfire Activities: Singing, storytelling, and s'mores led by Jim.
- Team building activities.

- **College Prep:**

- Information about disability services and academic accommodations.
- Self-advocacy skills.
- Navigating campus resources.
- Panel discussion with current college students with visual impairments.

**Recreation, Adventure
& College Prep**

The Curriculum:

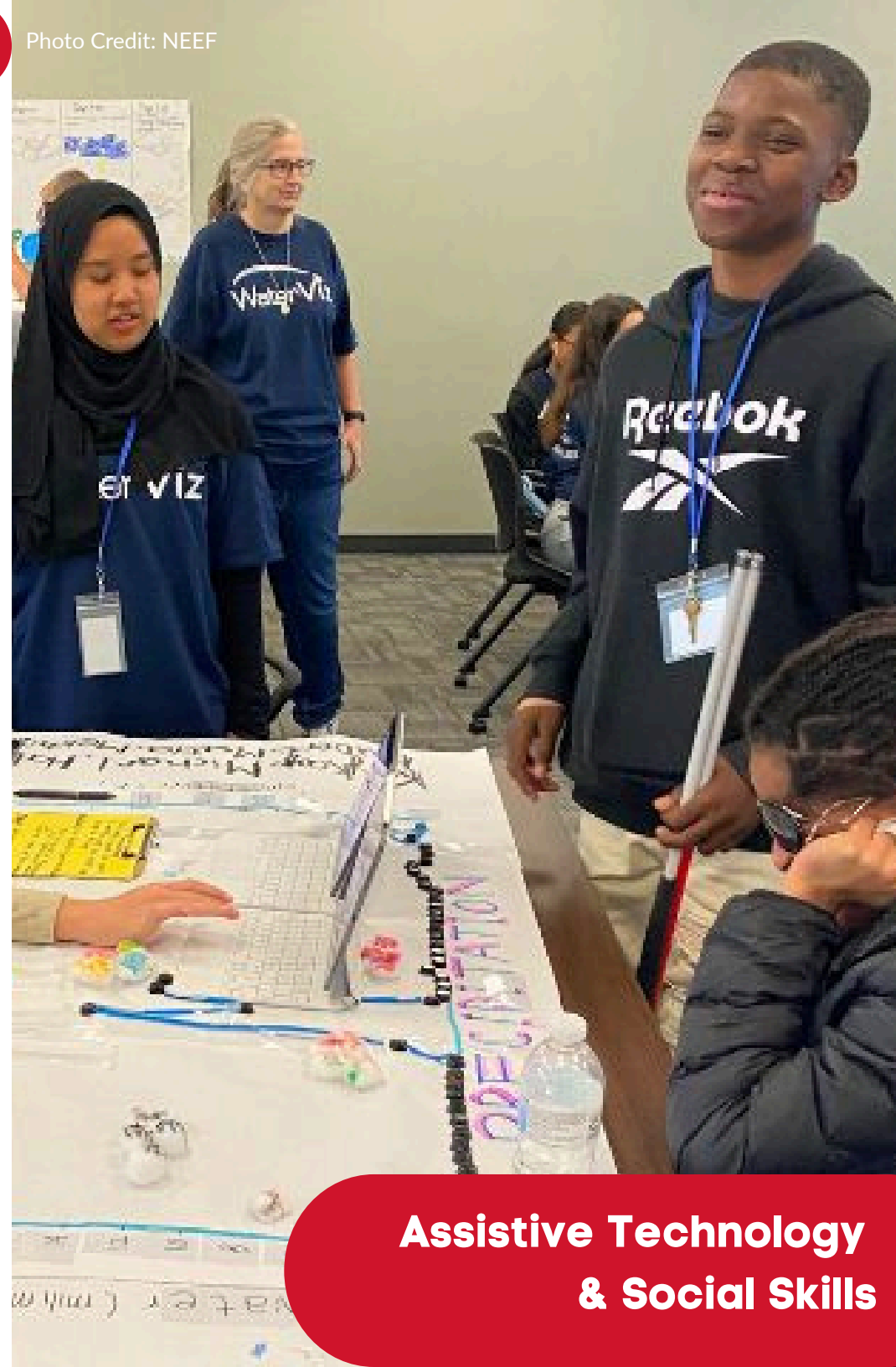
Photo Credit: NEEF

- **Assistive Technology:**

- Screen readers (JAWS, NVDA) on computers and mobile devices.
- GPS apps (Blindsquare, Lazarillo) for navigation.
- Braille displays and notetakers for reading and writing.
- Optical character recognition (OCR) software for reading printed materials.
- Smart home devices and voice assistants for independent living.

- **Social Skills:**

- Communication skills (verbal and nonverbal).
- Conflict resolution and problem-solving.
- Building and maintaining relationships.
- Role-playing scenarios for social interactions.



**Assistive Technology
& Social Skills**

The Curriculum:

Creative Arts:

- Storytelling/Drama: Creating and sharing stories and skits.
- Tactile Arts & Crafts: Clay, textured painting, beading.
- Music Making: Singing, simple instruments, soundscapes.
- Performance at the end of the week.

Braille & Literacy (if appropriate):

- Braille Introduction: Basics of braille.
- Story Reading: Read aloud, braille books.
- Tactile Maps: Creating tactile maps of the camp.
- Using braille displays and notetakers.

Mentorship:

- Formalized mentorship program pairing campers with successful blind or visually impaired adults.



Creative Arts, Literacy & Mentorship.



Philanthropic Goal
\$150,000

Funding Needed:

To make Camp MOVE accessible to all eligible teens within a 450-mile radius of Columbus, regardless of their financial situation, we are seeking an initial investment of **\$30,000** to launch this life-changing and completely free program for visually impaired 14-17-year-olds in July 2026.

Furthermore, to provide consistent and impactful support for these young individuals as they transition into adulthood, we aim to secure a total funding of **\$150,000** to sustain the program for a crucial five-year period.

Your generous support will directly empower these young adults to navigate their future educational pursuits, career aspirations, and community involvement with greater confidence, unwavering self-determination, and a profoundly renewed sense of possibility.

Projected Budget:

This budget was created based on years of experience, and represents the realistic costs associated with running this comprehensive program.

Expenses	Details	Participants	Cost Per	Total Cost
Student Transportation	Round Trip & Camp Transportation	17	\$400	\$6,800.00
Student Housing	17 people, for 5 nights		\$500	\$8,500.00
Food	\$30 per day per person for 7 days (Students and Staff)	23	\$200	\$4,600.00
Program Supplies	Art supplies, Braille materials, tech supplies	17	\$100	\$1,700.00
Activities and Field Trips	COSI, pool, fishing, etc. (Students and Staff)	17	\$100	\$1,700.00
PD Staff				
Camp Director	Steve Hoyt - Program oversight and leadership	1	\$1,500	\$1,500.00
Chef	Shelby Zakany - Meal preparation and dietary needs	1	\$750	\$1,500.00
Camp Coordinator	Cindy Rawlins - Logistics and daily operations	1	\$1,000	\$1,500.00
Facilities	Dawn Dent - Facility management and support	1	\$500	\$500.00
Overnight Staff	2 staff members providing overnight supervision	1	\$700	\$700.00
Specialized Instruction				
Sensory Instructor	Instruction in the use of senses for navigation and daily living.	1	\$250	\$250.00
Technology Instructor	Instruction on assistive technology and software.	1	\$250	\$250.00
Arts Instructor	Instruction on tactile arts and creative expression.	1	\$250	\$250.00
College Prep	How to navigate College with a disability.	1	\$250	\$250.00
Annual Cost				\$30,000.00
Total 5 Year Cost				\$150,000.00



Photo Credit: Indy Star @ Indiana School for the Blind



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