

APRIL 2025

NDVS/SB OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

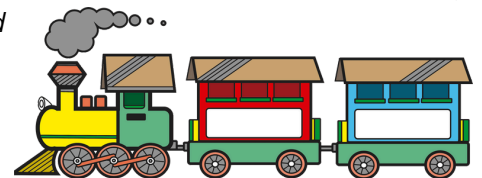
NDVS/SB provides individualized services and resources to infants, children, and adults with visual impairment to empower them in achieving their goals.

All Aboard! 19th Family Weekend in the Books!

NDVS/SB's 19th Family Weekend was held April 4 & 5 in Minot. On Friday night, families gathered to eat dinner and socialize at the Hampton Inn. Amy Osvold led a Dessert in the Dark activity. Those who were sighted wore a blindfold while decorating cookies. On Saturday, families gathered at Bishop Ryan Catholic School. Parents heard from our keynote speaker Hilda Dunford and her teenage son, Ashton, who is blind. Hilda shares her family's story on Instagram [@OurBlindSide](#). The kiddos had a very busy day playing, crafting, meeting two therapy dogs, and visiting the Magic City Discovery Center and the Taube Art Museum. Whew! What a wild, fun weekend! Mark your calendars for our 20th Family Weekend, April 10 & 11, 2026 in Fargo!



Top Row: Families gathered at the Hampton Inn Friday night for dinner and conversation. Two sisters and a high school volunteer from Bishop Ryan Catholic school build at the Magic City Discovery Center. A young boy uses magna-tiles at the Discovery Center. Middle Row: Hilda Dunford and her son, Ashton, pose in front of the Family Weekend banner on Friday night at the Hampton Inn. Students are kept busy all day Saturday. Here, they work on crafts in a classroom at Bishop Ryan. Ann Jussop and her dog Journey entertained the kids Saturday after lunch. Bottom left: Two brothers pose in front of a Minot "M" sign in downtown Minot while visiting the Taube Art Museum Saturday afternoon.



Explore Tactile Graphics at the VRC Resource Spotlight

by Michele Willman, Vision Resource Specialist

The Vision Resource Center (VRC) has two new collections, 3D Models and Tactile Graphics, and we would love to share them with you! These items are not new to NDVS/SB, but we have made them more accessible by housing them together in the VRC and making them searchable in our online catalog.

In this issue, I'd like to highlight the Tactile Graphics collection. Tactile graphics can include maps, diagrams, graphs, or pictures with raised surfaces that convey non-textual information. As early as the 1830s, Samuel Gridley Howe, the founder of the Perkins School for the Blind, produced two atlases to help visually impaired individuals obtain information that sighted people get from looking at pictures. Today, tactile maps and many other tactile resources are being produced to aid individuals with visual impairments in accessing information about math, science, art, and the world around us. A student's ability to understand and create graphics is essential for their success, and our goal is to make their use in the classroom as easy as possible.

The VRC Tactile Graphics collection includes maps and diagrams produced in our own Braille Access Center as well as graphics created by outside organizations such as NASA. We have maps of the United States and regions of the world which can be used by students studying geography or history. Graphics of moon phases demonstrate how the moon waxes and wanes. Fractions are shown in bar graphs. Users can even explore the embossed outlines of dinosaurs like the tyrannosaurus rex and triceratops.

To find these items, or anything else from our collection, you can search the online catalog from our [website](#). Scroll down to the button "[Search Library Catalog](#)" to see what we have available. Then, you can fill out the [VRC Materials Request form](#) to request materials. You can also contact librarian Michele Willman directly at mwillman@nd.gov or 701-795-2781. I am happy to help you find what you need. Most materials can be mailed out and returned with no cost. Happy Reading!

Top Right: Tactile graphics on display in the VRC include Touch the Earth and one created by NASA about the "Blue Marble" known as Earth. Middle Right: A student reading Touch the Earth during an STP week. With large print, braille, and tactile images, this resource can accommodate many different learners. Bottom Right: Mrs. Williams watches as a student explores some of the tactile graphics available in the VRC.

