

## Sight Night

I am twelve years old and I live in Calgary with my parents and two older brothers. I have lived here all of my life. Even though I have some vision that helps me get around, I use braille for reading and writing, as well as a laptop computer with JAWS, a software program that reads what is on my screen in synthetic speech. Being able to do things for myself is very important to me. I like animals and especially like reading about and drawing pictures of wolves and dogs. I also like reading and listening to stories about vampires. There are times, however, when I just can't sit still, and then I like to be with my friends, running, biking, swimming, playing dodge ball and just being active.

At the end of August, a very exciting, but yes, scary, adventure begins—junior high school. This new one is a lot bigger than my elementary school. Instead of moving between three or four rooms during my school day, getting to each class often involves finding my way to a different part of the school. Change and being in unfamiliar situations can be uncomfortable and stressful.

Thank goodness for a few familiar things I can still count on, like the Alberta Sports and Recreation Association for the Blind. Here, I can get together with kids my own age, who face many of the same challenges I have; we understand each other and can work through them together. We participate in all kinds of sports, individually and in teams, like skating, biking, and running; our competitions are fierce but friendly. I am on the youth goalball team and really look forward to our weekly practices. My world would be a lot smaller and a lot less fun without the opportunities that ASRAB is offering me.

This is why I am proud to co-chair Sight Night on November 19 2011 with past Mayor Dave Bronconnier. Please support us as we raise money so that all visually impaired and blind Albertans can take to the trails, feel the thrill of the ride and the challenge of competition in whatever sport they choose.

Run alongside us, donate or volunteer. Come have fun. Run after dark. I hear vision is optional! Though we may not see you, we will know you are there.

I ran in last year's Sight Night event and so I am aware of just how generous Calgarians can be in helping sports minded people with little or no vision. Thank you for stepping up once more.

Caitlin Higgins