

KIWANIS CLUB OF NORTHEAST SPOKANE (NEK)

.... assisting children locally & worldwide

Editor: Catherine Roginski

August 2017



***Working together to
accomplish what one
person cannot
accomplish alone.***

AUGUST SPEAKERS

- 4—Martin Luther King Center**
Freda Gandiy
- 11—Elevations**
Mary Ann Robbins, Exec Dir
- 18—Project ID Spokane**
Bob Hutchinson
- 25—Meals on Wheels**
Molly Dolpae

UPCOMING EVENTS

8/27

Syrian Refugee Dinner

For details call or email:

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(509) 990-1408
craig.landron@gmail.com

-OR-

Dennis Roginski
(509)990-7156
denniscr@vorpahlwing.com

A Man With Vision

By Catherine Roginski

Greg Szabo is a man in his thirties with a winsome spirit, easy laugh, and—even though he's blind—great eye contact. He was robbed of his sight by Retinitis Pigmentosa, a disease that gradually took his vision after being diagnosed when he was just five years old. Greg inspires me, not just because he is blind, but because he has the vision to live fully; to see beyond his limitations; to hone his gifts in the service of work and others.

He throws himself in the path of “missiles”.

A sports lover growing up, Greg both played and watched football, basketball, and baseball. Born and raised in Aurora, Illinois, outside of Chicago, he regularly attended Cubs and Bulls games with his father, and he played on teams at his school. So when a guy loves playing sports the way Greg does, worsening blindness didn't stop him from participating. These days he bowls, plays softball, and throws himself into the path of oncoming balls in a game called Goal Ball (the opposite of Dodge Ball where the aim is to get *hit* by the ball to score).

It began with a Muppet Baby drum set.

Music is Greg's greatest joy. At age five he received a Muppet Baby drum set that met its demise when his father, a drummer, rocked out too hard. Then at thirteen he got his first guitar, the instrument he loves most. He has played concerts and shows, but now mostly enjoys just “getting together with fellow musicians to have fun playing music.”

School Days

As his eyesight worsened, Greg's parents decided to keep him in public school rather than enroll him in a school for the blind. He credits his parents' decision for his ability to communicate and “to fit in with society,” as well as “develop good social skills.” The only drawback to attending public school, he says, was that he could have been introduced to sports for the blind sooner, such as Goal Ball, and would probably have trained for the Special Olympics.



Finn the guide dog, a.k.a. chick magnet!

I imagine most of us would hesitate to approach Greg if he was holding the white cane of the blind. But exchange the cane for a handsome, well-mannered black lab named Finn and Greg

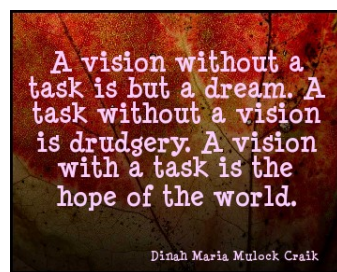
has a built-in conversation starter, not to mention a chick magnet. Yep, Finn earns his keep in more ways than helping Greg navigate the world. (Wish I could interview the canine for an insider's scoop!)

Would you give a power saw to a blind person?

Would you put a blind person anywhere near any power tools? Well, they do at Inland Northwest Lighthouse for the Blind, where they hired Greg to run a power saw in the manufacturing plant. He took mischievous delight in scaring his grandmother with this news. Hey look Grandma, buzzzzzz! Read about this wonderful organization at: <https://www.spokanejournal.com/local-news/lighthouse-nearly-set-to-expand/>

The blind leading the blind.

It wasn't long before the Lighthouse moved him into Public Relations and Development, something he never imaged doing and now can't believe he gets to do everyday. Always putting himself in situations that challenge him to grow and survive, he now faces public speaking, grant writing, and power meetings. But with the "eyes" to see his possibilities, he has met these challenges by joining Toastmasters and enrolling in Eastern Washington University, where he is working on a degree in communications. He now sits with elected officials in Washington DC advocating for the blind. He gives fund-raising speeches at benefits he organizes. He leads the way for the blind workers at Lighthouse.



QuotePixel.com

Part of the Northeast Kiwanis family

With all he is doing, Greg makes time to be a member of the Northeast Kiwanis Club. His vision goes beyond his own goals and to those of this community

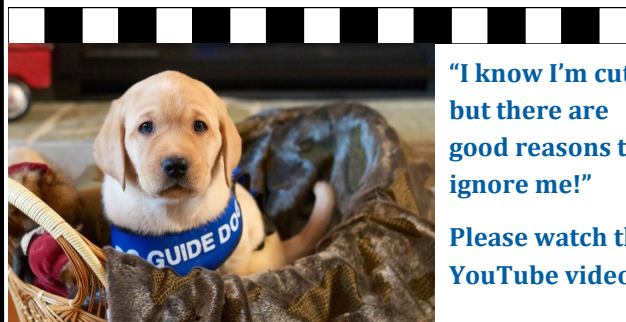
and the children it serves. His eyes may only see shadows and darkness, but his heart and mind are full of light.

PET PEEVES OF THE BLIND:

<http://www.thriftyfun.com/Interacting-With-Blind-People.html>

<https://ludicrousfirewo55.jimdo.com/2015/03/23/pet-peeves-of-the-blind-and-visually-impaired/>

<http://www.perkins.org/stories/ten-quirky-things-that-really-annoy-people-who-are-blind>



Please watch this YouTube video."

<https://youtube/WP9Irc8m6qi>

Another Great NEK Social Event



Father's Day at a Spokane Indian's Baseball Game

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Where we gather:

Perkins Restaurant
12 E. Olive Ave., Spokane

When:

Friday mornings
6:45a—8:00a

Please visit our website for more information:
www.spokanekiwanis.com

Some of our Sponsored Projects

- Camp For Kids Christmas Breakfast
- Big Brothers & Sisters Bowling for Kids Sake
- Hearth Homes Room Sponsorship
- 2nd Harvest Food Bank
- Catholic Charities
- Boys and Girls Club
- Camp Sweyolakan & Camp Dart-Lo
- Meals on Wheels
- CKI (Circle K International)—GU, Whitworth, EWU