

# Urbana School District 116

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## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Area Low-Vision Students Receive Home-Repair Lessons *U of I Sorority Hosting October 22 Event***

Low-vision students will have the opportunity to learn basic home skills at the 11th annual Central Affiliation of Special Education (CASE) Fall Low-Vision Activity. The event entitled "Home Maintenance and Repair" will be October 22, 2007, at the Delta Gamma Sorority House, 1207 West Nevada, Urbana, from 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. CASE serves low-vision students in 14 area counties, and is based in the Urbana School District. Students from Thomas Paine, King, and Leal Elementary Schools along with Urbana Middle School will attend the event.

CASE Vision Coordinator Pam Duda says, "Our students with visual impairments often need instruction in the expanded core curriculum areas such as daily living skills, recreation and leisure, and socialization. The skills that normally sighted children learn through observation alone needs to be deliberately taught and guided for their peers who are visually impaired. The parameters of the typical school day often prohibits teachers of the visually impaired to address the vast needs in the expanded core curriculum. Hosting vision activity days was founded in order to address these needs."

Student will learn how to change a light bulb, fix a dripping faucet, hang a picture, unclog a toilet, and change batteries. "A primary goal is to provide students with visual impairments with new experiences which will allow them to engage in physical exercise, positive social interactions, recreation and leisure activities, and self-help skills," Duda says. She continues, "Ultimately we strive for our students with visual impairments to develop skills to help them become powerful self-advocates and contributing members of society."

Media wishing to cover the CASE Home Maintenance and Repair event please contact Mark Schultz at 384-3650.

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