2024 BELL Summary

 We held the 2024 NFBI Braille Camp August 5-9 in Des Moines. Three students enrolled in the program; however, one had to withdraw at the last minute due to a family emergency. The students came from across Iowa, east and west, and utilized local hotels and other housing arrangements to be able to participate.

 Activities during the camp focused on helping students develop their blindness skills and self-confidence. Some of the activities held as part of the program included traveling by bus to Casey’s General Store and Dairy Queen, making daily snacks, solving braille riddles and tactile puzzles, reading books, playing Uno, and making slime. During the final day of the camp a program was held for parents to share resources and discuss specifics about each child with each family. One of the students was so sad for the week to come to an end that he cried, warming the hearts of all the program volunteers.

 While fewer students attended the program than had been desired, this was a great start for a program that had not been held since 2017, and we learned much for expanding the program next year. We have already begun planning for next year’s program so that it can be more impactful. We thank the commission board for contributing funds from G&B that allowed the students who participated to learn and have fun.

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| Item | **Cost** |  |
| Classroom | $1,250.00 |   |
| Primary Driver | $86.00 |   |
| Other Drivers | $158.00 |   |
| Background checks | $211.50 |   |
| Groceries, | $264.97 |   |
| Supplies | $206.12 |   |
| Friday Lunch | $227.88 |   |
| DQ | $27.97 |   |
| Casey’s | $61.35 |   |
| Bus fare | $35.75 |   |
| **Total** | $2,529.54 |   |