Dear Friends

former clients of the NCBVI with the help of Fontenelle Tours and arrow Bus Line are excited to offer an opportunity to the blind, visually impaired and physically challenged individuals to travel to the week-long Black Hills Ski for Light winter event in Deadwood, south Dakota January 25-30,2015! I have participated in the *Ski for Light*  program for several years now. Kim Richards and I were the only Nebraskans attending the event when we first participated and we have been trying to get our Nebraska friends to join us each year ever since! Our group has now grown and includes Kim and I, Steve Senteny, Carolyn Schaeffer, George Fisher ,Warren Bennet and Deb Mauer. Any of us would tell you of the value of this program. The week-long program is of course a lot of fun but more than that it is the most inspiring and motivating event I have ever participated in. the goals of the NCBVI center around career building and life skills for the blind and visually impaired. Clients of the NCBVI are absorbing the skills necessary to live and work in a sighted world. The Ski for Light program builds confidence and the wonderful feeling of independence that is often lost to the blind and physically challenged as they deal with the problems dealt to them by an often prejudice society . To be successful in this sighted world we as blind people need to build our own self-esteem and find the freedom of independence. This program is exactly that. As usual though the transportation to such an event is difficult. With the help of Ward and Kathy Kinney of Fontenelle tours and Arrow Bus Line there will be a bus leaving Omaha on January 25 to the Black Hills of south Dakota to attend this event. The bus will return on January 30. We will make stops across Nebraska to pick up interested participants. You need to make arrangements now with Fontenelle Tours to reserve your seat on the Bus!

The week-long event each January offers lodging, meals, entertainment, all ski equipment, lift ticket, sleds, snowmobiles, all in city transportation and a banquet ticket for each participant  at the cost of $200 or if individuals qualify they may receive financial aid and then the cost is $100 for the week. Our bus arrangements will not handle the application for the program so you will need to do this by contacting the Black Hills Ski for Light office to apply and to fill out a short form for financial assistance. (See BHSFL contact info below

**Now is the time to contact Fontenelle Tours to reserve your space on the bus. We are asking for a $50 deposit which will be applied to the total of the cost of your travel. At this time the round-trip cost is $200 but we are working on grants and donations to lessen this expense.).**

The Ski for Light program is also open to physically challenged individuals and our reserved bus is wheel chair equipped. So spread the word! If you know of anyone who would like to attend as a volunteer and especially those who can ski. Volunteers in the program get a reduced rate of $200 for the lodging and will receive meals if they pay for the meal package which is $78 for the week. They also have all ski equipment and lift tickets paidVolunteer cost total for the event is $278. They are welcome to join us on the bus at the rate offered to everyone.

**To hold a seat on the bus each participant should send a deposit of $50 to :**

**Fontenelle Tours**

**2008 W. Broadway #329**

**Council Bluffs, Iowa  51501**

**Phone: (712) 366-9596**

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(This deposit is part of the $total expense of the bus transportation)

**For more information or to apply for the week-long event (last week in January) go on line at: bhsfl.org**

**Mailing address: BHSFL**

**PO Box 3707**

**Rapid City, South Dakota 57709-3707**

**phone number is 1-605-341-3626:**

For further information contact:

Karen Lemmon

phone 308-667-2054

email: [klemmon@bbcwb.net](mailto:klemmon@bbcwb.net)

      or

Warren Bennett

308 991 8212

Please help us get this information to the blind, visually impaired, physically challenged or volunteering individuals who are interested in this awesome event.

*Getting out and participating in activities that most people think blind individuals are not able to do is what builds my confidence. I hope you will choose to give this program a try and I believe once you go you will look forward to it each year!*

Thanks

Karen Lemmon