

# Thank You, Dan Oates

By Mike McGowan, NOAH Executive Director



After nearly eight and a half years, Dan Oates stepped down from the NOAH board of directors this spring. Dan's down-home and unassuming manner masks his many talents and extraordinary record of service to blind and visually impaired students, particularly students with albinism. Dan admits that he has had a special interest in albinism for many years.

Dan is an accomplished educator. He holds a Masters in Education from the University of Pittsburgh and has held state and national certifications in teaching the visually impaired, orientation and mobility, and low vision therapy. He had a long and distinguished career at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind. Dan was Educational Outreach Specialist at the time of his well-deserved retirement.

*But wait, there's more.*

As if dedicating your entire career to the blind and visually impaired weren't enough, Dan found time to be a driving force behind Space Camp. Dan has been the coordinator of Space Camp for Interested Visually

Impaired Students (SCIVIS) in Huntsville, AL for thirty years and has been instrumental in bringing thousands of visually impaired students to spend a week in space. He was selected to the inaugural class of the Space Camp Hall of Fame in 2007.

*But wait, there's more.*

In addition to serving on the NOAH board for over eight years, Dan...

- organized the first ever Family Albinism Day in West Virginia in 2009,
- presented at several NOAH conferences,
- coordinated the teen and tween program at NOAH conferences,
- worked on NOAH parent book projects,
- wrote for Albinism InSight.

While Dan is leaving the board, his connection to NOAH continues. The SCIVIS scholarship program will continue.

Dan, your dedication to NOAH is out of this world. Thanks very kindly for all you have done. We wish you all the best.



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**We wish you all the best.**