



APRIL 2018 NEWSLETTER

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Helping Hands Resale Shoppe

Helping Hands Resale Shoppe is a retail shop in Peoria Heights that donates all their proceeds to local charities. The Center is grateful to be the recipient of the proceeds that will come from the store during the week of March 27th – March 31st. The store sells a wide variety of donated second-hand items, such as clothes for all ages, electronics, furniture, books, toys, tools, household items and more. Many Center patrons donated items to the shop, so there will be more to choose from when shopping. The shop is opened Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located at 1003 E. War Memorial Drive, Peoria Heights, IL. Please consider shopping this week to support the Center!

C.I.C.B.V.I. 11th Annual Golf Outing

It's that time of the year again to get your golf game in gear. The Center's 11th Annual Golf Outing will be held at WeaverRidge Golf Club on Tuesday, June 5th. If you would like to register a team of four to play, the cost is \$400. To register as an individual, the cost is \$100 and you will be added to a team. The cost also includes a hot buffet dinner at the end of the game. Sponsorship of the event is also available. Please contact the Center's office at 637-3693 to register or for sponsorship information.

Beginner White Cane Clinic

Are you or do you know someone in need of long white cane training? Are you unable to access services through the Department of Rehabilitation Services? Then this training is for YOU!

With the success of our first clinic, The Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (C.I.C.B.V.I.) is happy to host our second Beginner Cane Clinic! There is no minimum age requirement, however, you must not be receiving Orientation and Mobility services through the state of Illinois. The clinic will be hosted at the C.I.C.B.V.I. by two Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists on Saturday, June 9, 2018 from 9am-12pm. During this time, we will cover basic and advanced human guide, how to manipulate the long white cane in a variety of situations, and basic cane technique to navigate your environment (e.g. up and down stairs, around the block, etc). Family members are encouraged to join; we ask that if you are bringing a family member that he/she transport you to and from the clinic. For those who are attending solo, the C.I.C.B.V.I. will provide transportation if you need it.

In order to participate, please call Michelle Shute at the Center at 309-637-3693 to reserve your place and to schedule a time to be fitted for your cane no later than May 24, 2018. This will guarantee you have a cane in your hand to use for the clinic. Also, please indicate if you will be needing a ride to the clinic. Please contact Michelle with any additional questions. We look forward to seeing you!

eSight

On April 5th, the Center will have a representative from eSight come and give a short presentation at 9:30 a.m., as well as be available for

one-on-one meetings. The ideal candidate is an individual that is comfortable with technology and is able to learn new technology. ESight glasses were made for people with central vision loss, which is not to say they can't help others, but historically speaking they have seen a high success rate with those who have eye conditions with central vision loss. Some of the eye conditions that have had good success rates are Stargardts, Macular Degeneration, Ocular Albinism, Optic Atropy, and Retinopathy of Prematurity. Esight has helped people between 20/80 to 20/800. Ideally, individuals that have 20/100 to 20/400 have seen the most benefit from eSight. Although their oldest active user with eSight is 101 years old and their youngest is 4 years old, most people between the ages of 8 to 65 are able to learn the technology of the glasses pretty well and benefit from the glasses greatly. Furthermore, individuals who are using CCTVs, computer magnifications, handheld magnifiers and or smartphones are good indications that eSight will be beneficial to them. At the end of the day, eSight hopes to help more people see better.

Recycle Old/Broken Electronics

During the month of April, patrons can bring electronic items to the Center, which will then be picked up and taken to a local recycling company. Whether your electronic device is old, broken and/or not in use, this is a great and easy opportunity to get rid of electronic items and reduce any clutter in your home. Here is the list of items that you can drop off: computers, printers, copiers, monitors, keyboards, speakers, computer mouse, cables, video cassette recorders, radios, stereo equipment, tape recorders, record players, telephones, answering machines, cell phones, pagers, typewriters, calculators, digital cameras, scanners, mp3 players, and electronic keyboards.

Center's Eighth Annual Recognition Banquet Report

The Center's Eighth Annual Recognition Banquet was held on Friday, March 23rd at Barrack's Cater Inn. Over 100 people were in attendance, and among the audience were business and community leaders, Center patrons, volunteers, and staff. Our Master of Ceremonies was Ann Hagemann. Ann is a professional actress and proud member of SAG-AFTRA (Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists).

This year's keynote speaker was Dr. Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat, Superintendent of Peoria Public Schools District 150. Dr. Desmoulin-Kherat's extensive experience in education includes serving the Tri County Urban League as a middle school teacher, principal of the U.S. Department Blue Ribbon Award winning Whittier Primary School, assistant principal of Roosevelt Magnet School, principal of Manual Academy, Transformation Officer for Springfield Public Schools, and Danville Associate Superintendent. She is a Common Place Love in Action Award Recipient, a Hult Center for Healthy Living Illinois Educator of the Year, a Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Peoria Most Valuable Citizen Award recipient, and a U.S. Department of Education Exemplary Leadership Award winner. Her community service includes the Board of Trustees at Bradley University, Heart of Illinois United Way Board of Directors, Tri-County Urban League, Women United (a part of the United Way) Steering Committee, Bradley University's College of Education and Health Sciences Advisory Council, and Alignment Peoria.

Board Secretary Molly Pasley, provided guests with an opportunity for experiential learning, which was appreciated by our patrons. Molly helped our guests learn proper etiquette for approaching and offering assistance to a person who is blind or visually impaired. Molly is

completing her Ed.D. at Illinois State University with a focus in Visual Impairments and Blindness. She has taught in public schools across Illinois as a Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI) and Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS) for 12 years and currently provides adult mobility services through the Bureau of Blind Services in the Bloomington/Normal and Peoria areas.

Linda and Earl Kalb were the recipients of The Carol Warren Volunteer of the Year Award. Linda has been a volunteer with the Center for over five years. She came to the Center to help out when a friend of hers was losing her sight, and has volunteered at the Center ever since. Linda convinced her husband, Earl, to attend and help with a few Open House meals. The Center was looking for a driver, and after retirement, Earl stepped in to help. Besides driving for the majority of Center events, he also helps with the Center's building and vehicle maintenance, and any other odd jobs that need to be completed. Linda and Earl are not only quick to volunteer their time and money to the Center, but they also freely donate their time to patrons who need rides around town. They have transported patrons to and from the grocery store and hospitals and nursing homes to visit friends. This couple is very deserving of the title "Volunteers of the Year"!

A new award introduced this year was The Bob Smith Special Recognition Award. The recipients of this award were Ann Hagemann and Julie Walker (Julie K. is her stage name). Last year, when the Center was a finalist of the R.K. Dixon Make My Nonprofit Run Better Contest, with a chance to win a new copy machine, we had to make a video to put on YouTube. Ann and Julie collaborated and donated their time and talents to create an awesome and memorable video. While the Center did not win the contest, the video drew a lot of attention to the Center thanks to Ann and Julie.

Thank you to all of our sponsors: Gold Sponsors – Melody and Ken Gray; Silver Sponsors – AXISCADES Inc., Jyothi and Prasad Parupalli, and Mary and Rob Johanssen; Table Sponsors – Sharon and John Amdall, and Lynette and Kurt Norris; and Bronze Sponsor – FIT America Inc.

Thank you to the following individuals and businesses who made in-kind donations: Caterpillar for a Caterpillar Golf basket, a Caterpillar Merchandise basket, and a scale model; Linda and Earl Kalb for a Summer Fun basket, Pamper Me basket, Movie Night basket, and two solar garden lanterns; Molly and Jeremy Pasley and Lynette and Kurt Norris for a Coffee and Tea Lovers basket; Jyothi and Prasad Parupalli for the Seventh Inning Stretch basket and Beer Lovers basket; Mary Beth Cooper for a Wine and Wash basket; Angela Cochran for a 90 Minute Massage; Leslie Paulson and Steve Pierz for an authentic Italian Pizza Party for up to 20 people; Abby Shute for two original paintings; Travis Goff for a \$25 gift certificate to Publik House; Maui Jim for sunglasses; Krishan Bedi for an autographed copy of his book, “Engineering a Life”; Ken and Melody Gray for a Wine Lovers basket; Jill Wakefield for \$500 coupon towards a family portrait package; and beautiful flower center pieces from Margie Toniny.

Safety At The Center

To ensure the safety of patrons, staff, and volunteers at the Center, an important reminder to please follow the safety procedures below. During days and times of normal Center operations, the front door will be unlocked by the executive director. When the Center is closed and during Jam Sessions and other events not normally scheduled, this door is to remain locked at all times. It is not to be propped open at all. The door between the front entry way and the hall is to be

locked at all times. If you would like to go to the front of the building, you may exit and return through the side door. If you would like to go to the back of the building, you may use either the side door or the back door located down the stairs in the dining area. When returning through the back door, that door must be locked. Again, these procedures are to ensure the safety of the patrons, staff and volunteers at the Center. If you have any questions about this, please call the office. Thank you for your cooperation in this important safety matter.

Upcoming Events, Meetings, Fundraisers, And Holidays

Wednesday, April 4th – Open House – Noon

Thursday, April 5th – eSight Visit – 9:30 a.m. at C.I.C.B.V.I.

Tuesday, April 10th – Board Meeting – 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 11th – Open House – 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 18th – Open House – Noon

Saturday, April 21st – Jam Session – 1 p.m.

Wednesday, April 25th – Open House – 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 26th – Cardinals vs. Cubs game in St. Louis

Saturday, May 5th – All You Can Eat Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

Friday, June 1st – Catch a Wave concert at ICC – 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 5th – C.I.C.B.V.I. 11th Annual Golf Outing – WeaverRidge Golf Club

Saturday, June 9th – Beginner White Cane Clinic at C.I.C.B.V.I – 9 a.m.

June 17th – June 23rd – Camp Helen Keller

April Birthdays

April 2 – Melody Walker

April 5 – Joe Carrier and Deborah Ice

April 7 – Tomas King

April 18 – Ora Thompson
April 22 – Eileen O’Connel
April 26 – Robert Allen

April Anniversaries

April 23rd – William and Sharon Pfeifer

Meal Menus for April

April 4th – Open House – Noon – Chili/hot dogs, chips, Jell-O, and brownies.

April 11th – Open House – 5:30 p.m. – Ham steaks with pineapple, au gratin potatoes, green bean casserole, salad, cake, and ice cream.

April 18th – Open House – Noon – Chicken salad on croissants, fruit salad, chips, bean salad, and pudding.

April 21st – Jam Session – 1 p.m. – Hamburger tater tot casserole, tossed salad, brownies, and ice cream.

April 25th – Open House – 5:30 p.m. – Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, baked beans, slaw, and pie.

Bingo will be played at all Open Houses unless otherwise noted.
Reservations need to be called in no later than noon on the day before the Open House.

Donations – Monetary And Other

Thanks to the following for their monetary donations: Mary Sanders-Turner

Thanks to the following for their in-kind donations: Leia Stewart, Gyla Grigsby, and Gayle Workman – Bingo prizes; Tom Vogel – soda.

Thoughts and Prayers

Please keep the families of the following individuals in your thoughts and prayers. We are sad to report that Mildred Teague passed away, in addition, Dena Lybarger's mother passed away and Sue Schoenbein's son-in-law passed away.

Annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

The Princeville Lions Club will be grilling farm fresh sausages and flipping pancakes again for the Center's Annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast. This event will be held on Saturday, May 5th, from 7-11 a.m. All you can eat is priced at \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under the age of 12. Please contact the Center's office to purchase tickets in advance or you may pay at the door on the day of the event. Admission is free to all Center patrons and patrons will need to contact the Center's office to reserve their space and transportation by Thursday, May 3rd, by 12 p.m.



Free Matter for the Blind & Visually Impaired

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Quote for the Month – “Spring is nature’s way of saying let’s party!”
By Robin Williams