



MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER

2905 W Garden St., Peoria, IL 61605

Phone: (309) 637-3693

Email: info@cicbvi.org

Website: www.cicbvi.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cicbvi

Executive Director To Move On

With bittersweet emotions, the Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired announces the resignation of Executive Director Michelle Shute. Michelle has served the Center and its patrons well since joining our team in April 2016. Her 30 years of experience serving people with disabilities, compassion for our patrons and tireless energy will certainly be missed. Michelle contributed to the ongoing success of the social and cultural aspects of the Center's mission, purposefully grew our education and training programs and helped preserve the ongoing financial viability of our privately funded effort.

As sad as we are about her departure, we are delighted for Michelle and her family that she has accepted a Special Education Teaching Position at Quest Charter Academy High School, Peoria's School for Math, Science and Technology. There is little doubt Quest's students and faculty will quickly come to appreciate Michelle as much as the Center will miss her. Michelle's last day as Executive Director will be July 12, 2018.

The Board's Human Resources Subcommittee will conduct a search for her replacement beginning immediately. While we are losing Michelle from the day-to-day role of Executive Director, we are also pleased to announce her election to our all-volunteer Board of

Directors, effective August 1, 2018. Join us in congratulating Michelle on both of her new roles and in wishing her and her family the very best. If you or someone you know would like to apply for this position, please visit our Facebook Page at:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/cicbvi/jobs/172037563498542/?source=post_homepage_stream, or go to Indeed.com and search Executive Director.

\$10,000 Hole-In-One Contest at C.I.C.B.V.I. 11th Annual Golf Outing

On June 5th, the Center will be hosting our 11th Annual Golf Outing at WeaverRidge Golf Course. There will be a \$10,000 Hole-In-One Contest! The cost is \$400 per team of four, which includes golf, practice range, cart with GPS, buffet dinner, plus prizes and awards.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

12:00pm: Check In & Range Open

1:00pm: Shotgun Start

5:30pm: Buffet & Awards

Registration fee requested by May 25, 2018. Payment can be arranged via one of two contacts. Register online via this link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/1Y9owe8iTvaEQcuy2> or email Michelle at info@cicbvi with the following information: Name, email, and phone number for each member of the team.

Gold Seal Recognition

The Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired was recently recognized for our transparency with a 2018 Gold Seal on our GuideStar USA Nonprofit Profile! GuideStar is the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations. More than 8 million

visitors per year and a network of over 200 partners use GuideStar data to grow support for nonprofits.

To earn the 2018 Gold Seal, the C.I.C.B.V.I. shared important information with the public using our profile on www.guidestar.org. Now our community members and potential donors can find in-depth information about our goals, strategies, capabilities, and progress. We're shining a spotlight on the difference our volunteers and supporters make for people who are blind and visually impaired living in Central Illinois. Please visit our GuideStar Nonprofit Profile and tell us what you think: www.guidestar.org/profile/37-0771361

Beginner White Cane Clinic

Don't forget—the next Beginner White Cane Clinic will be held on Saturday, June 9, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.! 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 downstairs, 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!

Caterpillar Foundation Matching Gifts Program

On April 17th, we were delighted to learn the Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired now qualifies for the Caterpillar Foundation Matching Gifts Program.

The Caterpillar Foundation supports U.S. employees, retirees and directors in their contributions to worthy causes. The program matches dollar for dollar contributions made by employees, retirees and directors to eligible colleges and universities, arts and cultural organizations, as well as public policy and environmental organizations in the United States.

The gift must be at least \$50 and no more than \$2000 per institution, per calendar year, per individual. Gifts must be personal financial contributions actually paid, not merely pledged or an in-kind gift. There is no limit to the number of organizations an employee, retiree or director can support. In other words, eligible Caterpillar employees, retirees and directors are not forced to choose the C.I.C.B.V.I. for matching over any other institution(s) they choose to support.

For well over half a century, people who are blind and visually impaired living in Central Illinois have benefited tremendously from the energy and support of Caterpillar people who care about the C.I.C.B.V.I.'s mission. We could not be more thankful for the additional support from the Caterpillar Foundation. For more information and to enroll in the matching gifts program, visit:

<http://www.caterpillar.com/matching-gifts>

eSight Visit Report

An important aspect of the C.I.C.B.V.I.'s training and education mission is our growing effort to inform people who are blind and visually

impaired about technologies that may help solve problems they face in their daily lives.

We were delighted to host Toronto-based eSight in our Uftring Technology Center on April 5th. The day began with an open meeting for the public followed by ten private one-on-one evaluations of the technology with patrons throughout the remainder of the day. At the risk of over-simplifying, eSight makes electronic glasses that can help the legally blind see. It's important to note the C.I.C.B.V.I. is not being compensated to promote eSight products nor are our employees, volunteers or patrons, and we did not compensate eSight to visit. Bringing eSight, whose mantra is #EveryoneDeservesToSee, to Peoria supports our vision of a future where people who are blind and visually impaired have equal opportunities to engage independently with our great Central Illinois community.

Results were normally distributed with some really liking eSight and others not as much. Of our ten participants, two believe the technology is life-changing. Three found it did not work well for them. In fact, as well as our Treasurer Xin Lu could see with eSight, she left the session with a headache. We learned later, headaches are common when people are beginning to learn how to use this new technology. While the technology helped the other five, all five believe the price tag to be nearly or completely insurmountable. While the cost of these units has fallen from \$25,000 in 2007 for eSight1 to \$10,000 for the newest eSight3, that's still far more than most people with low vision can manage. We clearly have work to do on the financial aspects of solutions like this, but the technology is very encouraging.

If you are interested in learning more, please visit eSight's website: eSightEyeWear.com. You can also watch and listen to Gyla Gribsby's eSight3 test drive on the CICBVI's new YouTube channel here: <https://youtu.be/rP4N5ekB49M> Check out Xin Lu's test drive here: <https://youtu.be/vaMD8Yhhesw>

Helping Hands Resale Shoppe

On March 27th, the Center took patrons to the Helping Hands Resale Shoppe in Peoria. Helping Hands is a resale shop that sells a wide variety of donated second-hand items like clothes for all ages, electronics, furniture, books, toys, tools, household items and more. It is located at 1003 E. War Memorial Drive in Peoria Heights. The Center took donations from patrons and others to the shop the week prior to our visit. Proceeds from the week of March 27th through March 31st came to the Center. We were grateful to receive \$200 from this venture. Please consider dropping off donations to Helping Hands Resale Shoppe as all proceeds benefit different nonprofit organizations around the Peoria area.

Cracker Barrel Outing

We will be having an outing at Cracker Barrel in Morton on Thursday, May 17th at 1 p.m. The Center will provide transportation for patrons, but the cost of the meal will not be covered. Please bring about \$25 - \$30 to cover the cost of your meal, a drink, and tips. Cracker Barrel already has large print and Braille menus so the Center will not be providing these. To make reservations for this outing, please call the Center's office by Thursday, May 10th at noon.

Walmart Shopping Trip

We will have a Walmart shopping trip in East Peoria on June 19th at 2 p.m. Patrons who will be shopping will be responsible for their own purchases. There will be volunteers to assist patrons with shopping and the Center will also provide transportation. There will be no lunch or dinner with this shopping trip. If you are interested in attending this outing, please contact the Center no later than June 12th by 3:00 p.m.

Thoughts and Prayers

Please keep Darwin Koehler's family in your thoughts and prayers. He has passed away.

Cook News

While Becky Williams is no stranger to the Center, we want to acknowledge everything she has been doing around the Center. Becky is a patron, but even more than that, she is an excellent cook! She has been cooking for the Jam Session for over a year now and she has agreed to help out with Open House meals when a substitute cook is needed. Thank you Becky!

Upcoming Events, Meetings, and Holidays

Wednesday, May 2nd – Open House – Noon

Saturday, May 5th – Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser – 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Tuesday, May 8th – Board Meeting – 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 9th – Open House – 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 16th – Open House – Noon

Thursday, May 17th – Cracker Barrel Outing – 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 19th – Jam Session – 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Wednesday, May 23rd – Open House – 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 30th – Open House – Noon

Friday, June 1st – Catch a Wave Concert at I.C.C. – 7:30 p.m.

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

June 17th – June 23rd – L.I.F. Camp Helen Keller in Ingleside, IL

May Birthdays

May 7 – Brenda Pierce
May 9 – Constance Lucia
May 11 – Mahlon Blumeshine
May 12 – Bob Coney
May 19 – David Williams, Sr.
May 20 – Cora Quinn
May 24 – Robert Williams
May 26 – June Ward
May 28 – Don Reichert

Anniversaries

May 17 – David and Michele Williams

Meal Menus for May

May 2nd – Noon – Goulash, coleslaw, bread/butter, Jell-O, and cookies.

May 9th – 5:30 p.m. – Pork roast, potatoes, carrots, rolls, and dessert.

May 16th – Noon – Chicken nuggets, tater tots, coleslaw, cottage cheese, and cake.

May 19th – Jam Session – 1 p.m. – Meatloaf, baked potatoes, lima beans/corn mix, tossed salad, banana cream pie, and chocolate.

May 23rd – Lasagna, garlic bread, salad, and dessert.

May 30th – Ham, au gratin potatoes, corn, and dessert.

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

Donations – Monetary and In-Kind

Thanks to the following for their monetary donations: Mary Sanders-Turner; Kurt & Jane Ehnle; Jennie Brosman; Kevin and Sara Martin; Universalist Unitarian Church; and Sally Yocum.

Thanks to the following for their in-kind donations: Esther Knott – Bingo and raffle prizes; Gayle Workman – Bingo prizes.

Interesting Dates Throughout the Month of May

May 5 – Cinco de Mayo. On May 5, 1862, the Mexican army defeated the French army at the Battle of Puebla. This single military battle signified defeat of a European colonial power, and a victory for the Mexican people. This single battle was the roots of Cinco de Mayo. Note: Cinco de Mayo is not the celebration of Mexican Independence which is celebrated on September 16th. What Cinco de Mayo has come to be, is much more than one battle in the colonial history of Mexico. Rather, it has come to signify Hispanic and Mexican pride and a time to celebrate the rich culture.

May 13 – Mother's Day. The first Mother's Day was May 10, 1908 in Philadelphia. Celebrate Mother's Day by doing something special for your mom to show your appreciation for her.



Free Matter for the Blind & Visually Impaired

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Quote Of The Month – “Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.” By Mark Twain