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# Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired



The Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, formerly known as the Peoria Area Blind People's Center, has been a hallmark of the Peoria community since 1955. Nicknamed the "Home of the White Cane," the Center houses the original white cane, created in 1930. That year, Peoria became the first city in the United States to establish an ordinance granting blind and visually impaired pedestrians special protections and the right of way while carrying a white cane.

Eighty-two percent of the people living with blindness are 50 or older, with many of them suffering from age-related blindness, cataracts, glaucoma and macular degeneration. The Center is the only not-for-profit organization in the Peoria area that specifically targets blind and visually impaired citizens to meet their emotional, educational and social needs.

The Center provides a building with programs and services that bring the blind or visually impaired out of their homes and connects them with others who also have a vision disability. Our Center provides access to resources and support for patrons who are blind or visually impaired and their families; assists patrons with living an independent life by finding assistive technology to help with their vision loss, products that aid with independent living, etc.; and increases their opportunities for success by ensuring social inclusion and needed education.

The staff and board of directors believe each service and intervention offered at our Center promotes increased independence, communication, socialization and the ability of our patrons to feel that they are important as

human beings. The opportunity to feel involved in the community, whether it is participation at a Center activity or event, or elsewhere in the community or state, gives them a sense of value, meaningful participation and visibility in the community in which they live.

## SIGNATURE EVENTS

### Monthly Jam Session

*Third Saturday of each month*

Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

### Weekly Open House Meal

*Every Wednesday*

Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

### Annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

*May 5, 2018*

Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

### Annual CICBVI Golf Outing

*June 5, 2018*

Weaver Ridge Golf Course

### Annual Fundraising and Recognition Dinner

*March 30, 2019*

Barrack's Cater Inn

### Annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

*May 4, 2019*

Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

### Annual CICBVI Golf Outing

*June 4, 2019*

Weaver Ridge Golf Course



## Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

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[info@cicbvi.org](mailto:info@cicbvi.org)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/cicbvi](https://www.facebook.com/cicbvi)

**Twitter:** @CICBVI55

**Instagram:** @cicbvi

### Executive Director

Michelle Shute

## Mission

The Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired provides programs that meet the emotional, educational and social needs for the blind and visually impaired of central Illinois.

## Vision

We imagine a future where the blind and visually impaired have equal opportunities to participate independently in our great Central Illinois community.

## How to Help

The Center depends on the generous donation of time and physical labor from local organizations and volunteers. The Center is always in need of volunteers to help with the following tasks: serving meals to the blind and visually impaired on Wednesdays, assisting office staff, helping with fundraisers, helping with classes at the Center, helping with indoor and outdoor maintenance, and a variety of other projects. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the office at (309) 637-3696.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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