



APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER

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Center's Ninth Annual Community Banquet Report

We want to take a moment to thank everyone--including our 113 guests--who helped make our Ninth Annual Community Banquet a success. The event raised over \$20,000 for the Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. We want to express our appreciation to IBM Fellow and TED Speaker Dr. Chieko Asakawa for keynoting the program, Master of Ceremonies Mike Dimmick for his preparation and for keeping the program moving right along and to harpist Deb Beyer for setting the mood. The Mt. Hawley Country Club was the perfect venue, from valet parking to the beautiful ballroom overlooking the Illinois River Valley to the delicious menu to their outstanding service. An event like this was successful because of volunteers including Lana Frake, Lanna Scannell, Rob Johanssen, Prasad Parupalli, Molly Pasley, Katie Sturgell, Melody Gray and Dr. Pete Lagorous. We are already looking forward to next year's event!

Molly Pasley is the 2019 Carol Warren Volunteer of the Year!

On March 7, 2017, people who are blind or visually impaired living in Central Illinois lost arguably their strongest advocate when Carol Warren passed away at age 91. Carol was a founding member and past President of the Peoria Area Blind Center, predecessor of the Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and the

Illinois Social Club for the Blind and was also the 2014 recipient of the Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired Founder's Award. She worked tirelessly for seven decades supporting people who are blind or visually impaired in our community. Well into her 90th year, Carol was an active participant on the Center's Board of Directors, continued to participate in Center events and served as a constant reminder of what it means to serve the community.

In the spring of 2018, the Board of Directors elected to rename the Volunteer of the Year Award in Carol's honor. Furthermore, it was decided that the award would not necessarily be given annually, but only on those occasions when a volunteer or volunteers exemplified the determination, dedication and compassion we believe Carol would expect of us toward people who are blind or visually impaired living in our community.

One of the highlights of our Ninth Annual Community Banquet, which was held March 1st, was the announcement that Board Executive Secretary Molly Pasley is the 2019 recipient of the Carol Warren Volunteer of the Year Award. Molly has worked tirelessly in a wide variety of areas supporting the Center and our patrons, including grant writing, fundraising, revamping the C.I.C.B.V.I. website, invigorating our social media presence, automating our mailing list, contributing in so many ways to our growing training and education program, and most recently, taking on the role of newsletter writer (but she did not write this article) as we work to replace our Executive Director. She has truly exemplified Carol's spirit in every way.

If you have not done so already, please take a moment to thank Molly for her contributions and congratulate her for this well-deserved recognition.

eSight Playing in Peoria Again?

Are there 8-10 people in Central Illinois who would like to try eSight? If so, eSight is willing to come back to the Center to demonstrate their innovative technology for us. At the risk of oversimplifying, Toronto-based eSight makes electronic glasses that can help people who are legally blind see. They are a relatively small company, so they focus on large opportunity cities, the closest to us being Chicago, St. Louis, and Indianapolis. Last spring, we thought that if we could generate enough local interest, perhaps they might visit us in Central Illinois—and we were right!

Unfortunately, as great as the day was last April, not everyone who was interested in trying eSight was able to join us. So, we would like to try it again, and eSight wants to come back!

So is eSight right for you or someone you know? The ideal candidate is comfortable with and enjoys learning about new technology. While the technology may help others, eSight has a high success rate for people with central vision loss. Examples of the eye conditions that have enjoyed a good success rate include Stargardts, Macular Degeneration, Ocular Albinism, Optic Atropy, and Retinopathy of Prematurity. Historically, eSight helps people with acuity between 20/80 and 20/800; however, individuals in the 20/100 to 20/400 ranges seem to benefit the most. While the oldest active eSight user is 101 years young and the youngest is only four years old, most people between the ages of eight and 65 can learn the technology well enough to potentially benefit significantly. Furthermore, good eSight candidates are individuals who benefit from CCTV's, computer magnification, handheld magnifiers and/or smartphones.

One of the challenges with eSight has been affordability. At \$9,500, this solution was out of reach for many, if not most, people who need it. Some GREAT news since their visit last spring is eSight has announced a dramatic price reduction from \$9,500 to \$5,950. While that's not pocket change by any means, that sort of price reduction certainly does put eSight within reach of more people.

Are you or someone you know interested in trying eSight? If so, message the Center on Facebook, call the Center at (309) 637-3693 or email us at info@cicbvi.org. If there is enough interest, we will find a date that works for as many as possible.

C.I.C.B.V.I Reaches Social Media Milestone

The C.I.C.B.V.I. reached a social media milestone when Caterpillar's Gene Stage became the 700th person to like our Facebook page! We want to thank Gene and all of our supporters. Page likes, follows and shares are important tools for sharing the Center's vision, mission and activities. So, while 700 likes might not sound like a lot, for a small but mighty organization like ours, this is a really big deal! Thanks again to everyone who engages with the Center on social media for all of your support!

C.I.C.B.V.I. 12th Annual Golf Outing

It's that time of the year again to get your golf game in gear! The Center's 12th Annual Golf Outing will be held at WeaverRidge Golf Club on Tuesday, June 4th. 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 Elizabeth Aguas by phone at

(309)451-5583 or by email at Elizabeth.aguas@randstadusa.com to register or for sponsorship information.

Open House Reservations

The Center offers weekly Open House meals for patrons, families, and community members. The cost to participate is \$6 for the meal, \$1 for Bingo, and \$3 if you utilize the Center's van for transportation. The times rotate each week to accommodate differing schedules. To participate in Open House, it is imperative that you call and reserve your place by noon on Tuesday **before** the Wednesday Open House you plan to attend. This helps us with planning the appropriate number of meals to accommodate the number of reservations. Unfortunately, folks have been showing up without a reservation, which forces some people who have reserved a meal to go without. We ask that you call the Center at (309) 637-3693 or email us at info@cicbvi.org to RSVP. When making your reservation, please also indicate if you are a patron living within 15 miles of the Center and need a ride to and/or from the event. Thanks for your cooperation and we hope to see you at our next Open House!

Upcoming Events, Meetings, Fundraisers, and Holidays

Wednesday, April 3rd – Open House – Noon

Friday, April 5th – Matt Stein at the Apollo – 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 9th – Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 10th – Open House – 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 13th – B.I.G. Spaghetti/Chili Dinner – 1:00

Wednesday, 17th – Open House – Noon

Saturday, April 20th – Jam Session – 1 p.m.

Wednesday, April 24th – Open House – 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 4th – C.I.C.B.V.I. 12th Annual Golf Outing –
WeaverRidge Golf Club

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'Connell

April 26 – Robert Allen

April Anniversaries

April 23 – William and Sharon Pfeifer

Meal Menus for April

April 3rd – Open House – Noon – Chili/hot dogs, chips and pudding.

April 10th – Open House – 5:30 p.m. – Ham, au gratin potatoes, mixed vegetables, salad and Texas cake.

April 17th – Open House – Noon – Tuna and noodle casserole, cottage cheese and pineapple dessert.

April 20th – Jam Session – 1 p.m. – Meatloaf, macaroni and cheese, green beans, rolls and fruit cup.

April 24th – Open House – 5:30 p.m. – Lasagna, green beans, garlic bread and cheesecake.

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

A big thank you to all the sponsors from the Ninth Annual Community Banquet. They include Platinum (\$5,000) Sponsor: Shared Blessings of Peoria; Gold (\$3,000) Sponsor: Illinois Eye Center; Silver (\$2,000) Sponsor: Maui Jim; Copper (\$1,000) Sponsors: the Uftring Ambassador Initiative, TADA Cognitive Solutions, LLC. and six Central Illinois families that would like to remain anonymous; and Individual (\$500) Sponsors: Edison Awards, Ellex Medical, Raymond James Hilltop Wealth Management and Magnified Vision.

We would also like to thank the following for their in-kind donations of Bingo prizes during Open House events: Leia Stewart, Gayle Workman, and Mark Fagerburg.

Thoughts and Prayers

Please keep the Center in your prayers as we continue with our search for an Executive Director.



Free Matter for the Blind & Visually Impaired

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Quote for the Month – “Spring is the time of plans and projects.”
By Leo Tolstoy