



## NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

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Paula Balistreri, Editor

### 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing is Big Success

In spite of these challenging times, the CICBVI September 22 Golf Outing was another success story. Beginning with a box lunch provided to all golfers prior to the shotgun start, 24 teams with 96 golfers played all 18 holes at Weaver Ridge. Afterwards, everyone assembled on the clubhouse deck for prizes. To date, the grand total of donations is \$24,210!

Of course, this would not be possible without the organizing committee, volunteers and most importantly our sponsors. A huge thank you goes out to:

**GOLD SPONSORS:** Illinois Eye Center, Uftring Auto Group and Randstad Technologies

**BRONZE SPONSORS:** Merrill Lynch, Shared Blessings, The Morey Corporation and IASP

**HOLE SPONSORS:** Scott Communications, Betty Ekstrand, Ron's Carpets, Darlene Violet, Illini Golf, Sunit Sachdev, Ron Gebhardt, Hediger & Meyers, and Dr. Jay Salimath

**TEAM SPONSORS:** Merrill Lynch, The Morey Corporation, Belcan, Dan Ekstrand, Randstad, Illinois Eye Center, Uftring Auto Group,

Shared Blessings, Verheyen Family, Neighborhood House, Kurt Norris, Cat Community Relations, Cepoch LLC, DSM-H Consulting, ACC Electronix and MAGID.

**VOLUNTEERS:** Dan Ekstrand, Cameron Durr, Paul White and Donna Hughes who all assisted with registration, photography and the Patron Hole.

**COMMITTEE:** Prasad Parupalli, Lanna Scannell, Felisa Durr, Darlene Violet, Ericka Arreola, Elizabeth Aguas, Brett Berns and Dan Ekstrand

Thank you to all the individuals and business who donated in-kind or monetary gifts.

## **CAN YOU HELP?**

A group of Bradley University students is working on a way to redesign the popular game of “Corn Hole” or, as it is otherwise known, “Bags” to make it more user friendly and fun for visually impaired or blind people. They would like to know what design elements could be incorporated that would be helpful. Then, once they have our input, they are going to get to work on putting the ideas into use. For example, is it helpful to have sound activated when the bag lands in the target? A different sound when the bag lands near the target but not in it? A shorter distance between boards? Please think about this, ask your family and friends, too, and call the center with your thoughts. Thanks!!

**PLEASE VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!**

## **Hi! Its Paula B!**

I could hardly believe it when I went outside the other day and felt SNOW! Yes, it was mixed with rain, but I am a summer person and dread the thought of cold and ice. Luckily there have been some things going on that should make us all feel warm and fuzzy! The first thing was the picnic. We had a great group and, while the weather was a little misty, the good conversation and wonderful entertainment and food made up for it. So many people were happy to get together after so long of being quarantined.

Then, we had White Cane Day. Special thanks go to Mark Bean and the Lions' Club for organizing this informational day held at Tower Park. Also thanks to Leia Stewart for bringing Mojave, her service dog and for Joyce Feix for demonstrating use of the white cane. By the way, you can view and hear the "Objectively Speaking" video featuring the history of the White Cane (narrated by me!) by going to the CICBVI Facebook Page or visiting the Peoria Riverfront Museum website. The Center received \$100 in donations at this event.

And to round out our October events, we had a group visit Tanner's Orchard and enjoy lunch at the Pizza Ranch. Thanks to Linda Kalb for organizing this, Earl Kalb for getting us there safe and sound and to everyone who came out to enjoy the day. There were a lot of donuts, cider and other goodies making their way home with us!

So, what's next? There are several things in the planning stages. No, we have no firm "opening date" for the center to resume it's usual schedule. Yes, we will recognize the holiday season in some manner. No, we are not going on a group trip to the Caribbean. Yes, we miss everyone and hope to have another socially distant, following all the restrictions type get together soon. Meanwhile, mask up and wash your hands.

## **SPOTLIGHT ON PAUL WHITE!**

Each month the spotlight will shine on a person connected in some way to the Center. It may be a patron, volunteer, employee or board member. This month the spotlight is on Paul White, one of our patrons.

Paul was born in Kansas City, MO and his life travels took him to many places. Most recently, prior to coming to Peoria, he lived in California. He says he came to Peoria because of his sister, Donna Hughes, but when he got here he thought it was pretty boring – that is until he got involved with the Center. He has been involved with the Center for about 2 years and enjoys all the activities and visiting with other patrons.

Another thing Paul enjoys is golf! This year at the golf outing he manned the 18 th hole as the “Patron Putter” giving players the opportunity to have him putt for them. He also plays golf specifically designed for persons who are blind or have a visual impairment. He goes to a special course in the Chicago area for this.

These days, when not hanging out at home with his sister and his Chihuahua, ‘Rita (short for Margarita), Paul works doing maintenance for the VA in Danville three days a week. Paul is a veteran Marine and we thank him for both his service in the military and for being an integral part of the Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

If you would like to be featured in the Spotlight, or if you have a suggestion for a future Spotlight, please call the Center!

## **DONATIONS RECEIVED RECENTLY –**

- Medical equipment, including crutches, a bedside toilet seat, and a walker
- Braille paper for use in the embosser
- Vision simulator cards
- Two boxes of audio books (if you would like to borrow any, please call the center)
- Braille 2021 Calendars (If you want one, please call and request)

## **CHAIN OF HEARTS**

The month of September the Olympia Sports Bar and Grill on Pioneer Parkway sold hearts to benefit the Center. The hearts were on display at the restaurant and sales resulted in a \$385 donation! Thanks to Darlene Violet for organizing this. As a special thank you to the Olympia, our “resident artist,” Mike Waldron, made a special penny art plaque featuring their logo.

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:**

November 1 – Deb Conklin

November 3 – Brenda Lenne

Patricia Woodworth

November 7 – Elaine Ahten

November 15 – Randall Deemie

November 18 – Winfred Ogilvie

November 29 – Terry Cooper

## **AMAZING ANIMAL FACTS**

- A goldfish has a memory span of 3 seconds
- A flea can jump 350 times its body length. That is like a human jumping the length of a football field.
- An ostrich’s eye is bigger than its brain.
- On average, cows poop 16 times a day

## **BITS OF HISTORY**

I have been sorting and organizing items around the Center and have run across a number of historical items. I have found a cookbook produced by the Center back in the nineties, lots of pictures and news articles and a handwritten thank you note that is undated but is so cute I have to share. On the note there are hand drawn pictures of dental floss, mouthwash, toothpaste and a toothbrush. Around the pictures are the words “cool man,” “auwsem,” “nice,” and “thanks A lot.” The body of the note reads “Thanks for the neet puppet show. What does “PY-CO-Pals” mean. One of the ladies wanted to hug me. I don’t like hugs.” And it is signed “I’m Todd Lively.” I’ve typed all the words using the same spelling and capitalization the artist did. Isn’t it adorable? Does anyone recall what event this may have been? There is no date on the note.

## **IN SYMPATHY**

Deepest condolences are extended to Director Emeritus Ken Gray and his family at the passing of his mother, Ina F. Gray. A private graveside service has been held and a celebration of life is planned for summer, 2021. A memorial has been set up benefitting the Institute for Vision Research in her name. Donations can be sent to The University of Iowa Center for Advancement, Institute for Vision Research, PO Box 4550, Iowa City, IA 52244-4550, with your check marked “in memory of Ina F. Gray.” Donations can also be submitted on line by going to [www.givetoioowa.org/IVR](http://www.givetoioowa.org/IVR) and selecting the Institute for Vision Research Fund.



## Free Matter for the Blind & Visually Impaired

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### **Quote for the Month**

“A negative mind will not give you a positive life.” -source unknown

### **GOT NEWS?**

If you have something you would like to have printed in the newsletter, please let us know by calling the center (309-637-3693).