



AROUND THE CENTER

CICBVI NEWS – April 2021

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Paula Balistreri, Editor

NO FOOLING! LOTS OF ACTIVITY AROUND THE CENTER!

First of all, on April 6th at 9:00 AM, the Unity Point Well Mobile will be in the Center's parking lot offering screenings to anyone who wants to take advantage of this service. Screenings include blood pressure, basic vision, spirometry (lung function), cholesterol and blood glucose (sugar). These screenings are free and open to the public. As a patron, if you call the center at 637-3693 and let us know, we will provide you with free transportation to take advantage of this service.

It was such a success the last time we did this, we have scheduled another trip to the Share 'n Spare Thrift shop in Gridley for April 29th. There are more details on this elsewhere in the newsletter so check it out!

The Social Committee has started planning other excursions for this summer and fall AND best of all started planning for reopening the Center in-house activities. The plan is for the Board to finalize opening dates (your patience is appreciated – there is a LOT we have to have in place to do this safely and within all mandated guidelines) so you will probably hear more about this in the next newsletter. Stay tuned! Special thanks to Cora Quinn for chairing this committee!

UFTRING TECHNICAL CENTER

One of the positive things resulting from our pandemic closing is that there has been time to update and organize the Center's tech center. Board members Jenn Reeder and Emily Schuman, along with assistance from Lance Barke have spent time going through what we have and determining ways to best utilize the space and equipment. New and up-to-date items have been added and will be available to current and new patrons along with scheduled training opportunities. Very soon there will be training videos shot right here at the Center and posted on our Facebook and web pages. These videos may contain training on anything from the latest technology to showcasing new assistive devices available. Your suggestions on what you would like to see are very welcome – just call the Center!

KROGER CARD UPDATE

Did you know you can specify the Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired on your Kroger card and a percentage of your purchases will be donated by Kroger to the Center? We have learned, however, if you are not already signed up for the Center in order to do so you need to go on-line to the Kroger website. You can also shop using Amazon Smile (check out the link on our web page) and a portion of your purchase will be donated as well. That's like FREE MONEY to support our efforts!

Check out our Facebook page and our Web Page. You will find lots of information there – and coming soon, there will be videos describing some of the products and assistive devices available to you. Website: www.cicbvi.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/cicbvi.

Please keep Leia Stewart in your thoughts and prayers as she has been under the weather lately. She is home now if you would like to send a card.

SPOTLIGHT ON EARL AND LINDA KALB

Each month the Spotlight shines 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 a very special couple – Earl and Linda Kalb.

If you have ever used Center transportation, visited the Center or gone on one of the Center sponsored trips, then you probably know Linda and Earl. Earl is our go-to guy for keeping the Center clean. Not only that, he's our Lead Driver and picks up patrons for events, trips and more, plus organizes the Midwest Food Bank pick up and delivery. Linda has been our Lead volunteer and has been responsible for finding unique destinations, organizing Center events and keeping much of the Center's social life on track.

What you may not know is that one of the reasons our Center is so nice is due to the experience Earl brings to his job from many years as a Crew Manager with Vonachen Cleaning Services. And Linda has been volunteering since she was 15 years old so along with her background in the finance business and experience as a warehouse manager for Frito Lay she has super organizational skills.

Linda has been involved with the Center since 2014 after helping a friend find services for her daughter. But even before that she says she recalls her dad dropping a friend off at the Center for activities so, as a life-long Peorian, she has been aware of the center nearly all her life. She credits her parents for her love of serving others and remembers going with her mother to help around Peoria from a very young age. Earl got involved with the Center in 2016 (and I have a feeling Linda was instrumental in this) and does way more than cleaning and driving. He frequently calls patrons and on his own helps them in a multitude of ways. (continued on next page)

(SPOTLIGHT continued from previous page)

When they do have some extra time, Linda likes to preserve her family history and is a scrapbook artist. Earl says he loves doing yard work of any kind and likes to feed the critters – mostly birds and squirrels. Both Linda and Earl are looking forward to a new family member in the next few weeks – an adorable “pocket beagle” puppy named Hunter.

Linda and Earl are valuable assets to the center and are two of the most reliable and giving people around. We are looking forward to what the future holds and can't wait for the next adventure!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND OTHER SPECIAL APRIL DATES

April 1st – a day for jokes, pranks and foolishness

April 1st – in 1778 Oliver Pollock, a New Orleans businessman, created the dollar sign \$

April 5th – Happy Birthday to Grace Barke

April 4 – 10 is officially Talking Book Week (did you know the center has audio books you can borrow? – just call!)

April 10 – Happy Birthday to Lance Barke

April 15 – Happy Birthday to McDonald's Restaurants (1955)

April 20 – Happy Birthday to Brandy Foiles

April 22 – Earth Day – please care for our planet

April 25 – the first seeing eye dog (his name was Buddy) completed training and was given to his new owner in 1928.

April 27 – Happy Birthday to Dustin Cather

Deepest Sympathy goes to the family of Kim Smith, who passed away February 28th. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Mike and her entire family. She will be missed.

THANK YOU'S

It is with much appreciation that the Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired received gifts from:

The Peoria Suburban Lions Club
The Creve Coeur Lions Club
The First Baptist Church of Peoria

With the support of these friends and partners the Center would not be able to provide the services it does. Thank you so very much!

ON THE ROAD AGAIN ! We are planning an excursion to the Share & Spare Thrift shop in Gridley, Illinois April 29th. Transportation will be provided, but you must reserve your spot by calling the center no later than April 26th. The plan is to arrive at the shop around 9:30 AM, spend time there then move on to lunch (on your own) then visit a second thrift shop and possibly a stop at Bob's Ice Cream stand in Eureka. **DON'T FORGET TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!** Once we know who needs transportation you will be given information on pick up time.

APRIL STANDS FOR:

A = a new month

P = push yourself

R = rejuvenate

I = inspire others

L = laugh lots

Hi! Its Paula B.

This time of year is so full of hope and promise and new beginnings and it seems that the activities of CICBVI are also full of hope, promise and new beginnings. Soon we will be open – but it may not be exactly “Business as usual.” Our favorite activities will still be there, as, hopefully, will our favorite friends, but you may notice a new sense of freshness and excitement in the air. Obviously, the center has been freshened, cleaned and painted. The tech area is reorganized and offices have been cleaned up. There is new comfy furniture around the edges for you to enjoy. And plans are in the works for additional activities and programs as well as delicious food for you to try. We may need to ease into all this one step at a time, but by doing so we will be safe and will be able to build a strong foundation allowing our center to meet the needs of our current patrons plus attract new patrons to join our family.

In an effort to expand our visibility, I have been speaking at area Lions Clubs. The Lions are long standing partners and as part of their mission they serve the blind and visually impaired. It has been fun to tell them about the Center and look for ways to continue to work together.

And, just because I know you care, I have gotten BOTH my Covid vaccinations as have several patrons that I know about. If you haven't gotten yours yet and need transportation, please call.

Meanwhile, continue to be patient just a little while longer and soon we will be together to share a meal and Bingo and music and conversation and all the good stuff that makes us who we are. And that's no April Fools' joke!!!!

-Paula B



Free Matter for the Blind & Visually Impaired

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Quote for the Month

Winter's done, and April's in the skies,
Earth, look up with laughter in your eyes!

Charles G.D. Roberts