



AROUND THE CENTER

CICBVI NEWS November, 2021

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Paula Balistreri, Editor

A MONTH IN THE LIFE OF THE CICBVI

(or, do you know where we are going and what it takes to get there?)

The CICBVI is a lot of things for a lot of people. One of the most important things we do is help provide direction for people who are unsure where to go for assistance or to meet particular needs as a person with low or no vision. In just the last few weeks we were able to provide direction for the new-to-the-area family of a three year old blind child. We were also able to direct people to resources to find specific equipment to help them enjoy various activities. The CICBVI offers “Tech Tuesdays” on our web page, Facebook page and YouTube to introduce and briefly explain and demonstrate how technology can enhance the lives of people with low or no vision. We replaced the white cane for an individual whose current cane was worn out and broken.

In October we also were featured on the WTVP television “Consider This” program with Christine Zak talking about the center and the history of the white cane. We also hosted a White Cane Day celebration in Tower Park with food trucks, music and demonstrations of white cane use by Jenn Reeder and working with a leader dog by Terry Lopez. We were present at the Peoria City Council meeting

when Mayor Rita Ali issued an official proclamation recognizing October 15th as White Cane Day.

In October we also visited several area Lions Clubs to talk about what we do and how we can continue to partner with those groups. We visited eye care providers to offer our services to their patients.

Also, in October we finalized plans for one of our three major fundraisers of the year, the Dinner in the Dark. We picked up, packed and delivered food boxes to nearly twenty patrons. And, on top of all this, we hired an additional driver, provided training and still managed to get some social activities in with a field trip to Tanner's Orchard and dinner at Pizza Ranch plus a dinner hosted at the center.

Of course, this doesn't even include all the effort, time and expense that goes into identifying, applying for and providing all the necessary paperwork for our grants and other funding sources. Nor does it include the general administrative activities required to keep the office running – everything from processing invoices, payroll, daily communications and newsletter publishing to scheduling fire inspections, building maintenance and the bug guy.

We do all this on a reduced budget, following Covid-19 safety precautions and with a limited amount of staff availability. More importantly, we are making every effort to do this while keeping an eye on the future – future growth (which includes increasing number of patrons served) as well as being able to offer more vital services that actually address the immediate needs of more people. We HAVE to keep moving in the right direction so our center will be vibrant and continue to be in step with current times.

But, just like a child who grows and constantly changes everything from shoe size to food preferences, we are sure to experience growing pains, and some might not be very comfortable for a time. That makes it even more important to focus on the positive things we do, promote the Center in a positive manner (every person you meet could be a potential patron, volunteer or donor), and help keep us heading in the right direction. We have many things for which to be thankful and heading in the direction of a strong, bright future is definitely one of them.

HELP GET THE WORD OUT!

Please visit our social media pages. Every “like” and visit helps us become more visible and, in turn, gets the word out about our services. You will find fun posts, videos, Tech Tuesdays, news about upcoming events, pictures and more!

Website: www.cicbvi.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/cicbvi

Did you know our website has a tab called “Resources” where you can find a list of places to go for all your specialized needs from Braille adapted cooking utensils, magnifiers, books, social welfare services and more.

IDEAS FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

TERRILYNN NUTS AND SWEETS

Feeling a little nutty? Or sweet? Shop this TerriLynn link for some goodies and benefit CICBVI at the same time.
<https://www.cicbvi.terrilynn.com>.

IMPORTANT DATES!

November 1 st	Happy Birthday to Deb Conklin
November 3 rd	Pizza Lunch at the Center Happy Birthday to Patty Woodworth and Brenda Lenne
November 4 th	Dinner in the Dark
November 7 th	Daylight Savings Times End – turn your clocks back an hour Happy Birthday to Elaine Ahten
November 10 th	Dinner at the Center – menu to be determined – be sure to call in your reservations by November 8 th
November 11 th	Veterans' Day
November 10-13	Food Bank pick-up and deliveries
November 13 th	Happy Birthday to Mark Furgenberger
November 15 th	Happy Birthday to Randall Deemie
November 17 th	Lunch at the Center – menu to be determined – Be sure to call in your reservations by November 15 th
November 18 th	Happy Birthday to Winfred Oglivie
November 19 th	Happy 56 th Birthday to Pop Tarts
November 20 th	National Clean Our Your Refrigerator Day
November 23 rd	Happy Birthday to Jamie Lang
November 25 th	Thanksgiving
November 28 th	Hanukkah begins
November 29 th	Happy Birthday to Terry Cooper

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS and CALL IN YOUR RESERVATIONS
FOR NOVEMBER 10TH (DINNER) AND NOVEMBER 17TH (LUNCH)
AT THE CENTER!**

CICBVI IN THE NEWS

The CICBVI was honored to be a part of a proclamation by city of Peoria Mayor, Rita Ali, recognizing National White Cane Day October 15th. In conjunction with that, CICBVI hosted an event at Tower Park in Peoria Heights featuring live white cane and guide dog demonstrations, music and food. The event was broadcast through the Peoria Public School's media and CICBVI was featured on WTVP television. The actual proclamation is being framed and will be on display at the Center. Additionally, we are pleased to announce that every year on October 15th, the lights on the Murray Baker Bridge over the Illinois River will be lit up in recognition of White Cane Day.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

This is very simple but greatly appreciated. If you receive food bank deliveries, we really need to have the boxes and totes returned to us. We specifically purchased the totes so we wouldn't have to scramble for boxes – they were not purchased for you to keep – and are marked with CICBVI. To date, we have not received any back so are asking you to search for yours and have it ready to give to the driver this month. Thanks!

HUNGRY? Craving a certain something lately? If you have a menu idea or request, please be sure to share that information with the Social Committee (you can call Cora at 309-863-1820).

DID YOU KNOW that from now on when you make a phone call you have to always include the area code? If your phone contacts don't already include the area code, you might want to update them now.

WELCOME OUR NEW DRIVER, KATHY SMITH

We are pleased to announce Kathy Smith as our new driver. She will mostly be driving the bus, but Kathy is a “woman of many talents” so you will also see her in the van, plus she has agreed to help us with our housekeeping needs at the Center. Not only that, she will be present at our events as a guide and helper.

Kathy is a self-professed “muscle car lover” and takes great pride in being able to maneuver nearly any vehicle. (You will never see her pull into a parking spot front first – she ALWAYS backs in!)

In her “previous life,” Kathy worked as a professional respiratory therapist so has a lot of experience interacting with patients and people with a variety of needs. We are so happy she has joined our team and I know you will all enjoy getting to know her!

Hi! Its Paula B.

Time to put away the tricks and treats, take a deep breath before the Christmas chaos and think about all the things that bring you a feeling of thankfulness. Have you ever made an actual list of things? Obviously, we all are thankful for our health, our families, having a roof over our heads, etc. but what about the little things that we frequently take for granted? Here is my list, and if you make one, please share!

- The U.S. P. S. (I love to get mail and my son is a mail carrier!)
- Starbucks Mocha Frappuccino
- The low fuel light in my car
- Tweezers
- Clean underwear
- Not ever being forced to eat pickles

Peace, Love & Laughter to you all - - - - Paula B



Free Matter for the Blind & Visually Impaired

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Quote for the Month

“May your stuffing be tasty, your turkey be plump. May your taters and gravy have nary a lump. May your yams be delicious, your pie take the prize. May your Thanksgiving dinner stay off your thighs.”