



AROUND THE CENTER

CICBVI NEWS March, 2022

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MARCHING FORWARD!

Have you ever wondered just what goes on here at the CICBVI? We are only two months into 2022 and some high points of our activities include the following:

We have reached 34 brand new contacts – every new contact has the potential to help us reach new patrons we can serve. These are people who have heard about the Center from various sources, including our social media presence (Facebook, our web page, You Tube, etc.), this newsletter or a current patron or associate has spread the word that we exist. If you are sharing about the Center – keep up the good work! It is very much appreciated!

We have provided 46 services or referrals. This includes pointing people in the right direction to find assistance we do not provide directly, sharing the availability of resources such as the Library for the Blind or places to purchase assistive devices. It also includes times when we have been able to provide items directly, such as audio books, Braille material, magnifiers and more.

We have given away four long white canes plus have held one clinic on how to use it. (More on that elsewhere in this newsletter.)

We have delivered 52 food baskets to patrons. These baskets contain a variety of food and sometimes other common household needs such as paper goods or soap.

We have provided three sessions of one-on-one training here at the Center to help individuals learn how to use technological devices plus three home visits to provide a needed assistance.

We have hosted 5 events here at the Center (and anyone is welcome to join us at future events!)

Of course, this list doesn't include the day-to-day administrative work of the Center, nor does it include the ongoing work to increase our visibility in the community or raise the funds necessary to keep us going. It goes without saying, without this work, we wouldn't be able to exist, so we especially thank our donors who support our efforts. Because of our donors and supporters we are able to make a real difference in the lives of people with no or low vision. THANK YOU!

DID YOU KNOW During his television show, Mr. Rogers always commented out loud when he was feeding his fish. The reason he did so is that he had received a letter from a young boy who was blind, but always listened to the program (Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood) and wanted to be reassured Mr. Rogers' fish were okay.

PUTTING THE FUN INTO FUND RAISING!

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our Spring Fund Raiser being held on April 21, 2022. Invitations are in the mail so watch your mailbox and RSVP right away – seating for this event is limited! So, what makes this event so special? Obviously, reason number one is that it supports the services of the CICBVI. But reason number two is that we not only will have a good meal, there will be entertainment provided by “Howlin’ on the Water” dueling pianos. This is an energy-filled, fun program with music for every taste. In fact, you are challenged to find a tune the pianists don’t know! The event is taking place at The Broadway Lounge in the Maxam building downtown Peoria with doors opening at 5:45 PM. The buffet meal will start at 6:30 PM with the show starting at 7:30 PM. Again, seating is limited, so please RSVP as soon as you get your invitation or check it out on our website and reserve your seat.

NEW THIS YEAR!

For the first time, the CICBVI will be participating in the annual Peoria St. Patrick’s Day parade. We will be driving our bus, all tricked out in Irish green décor and just need some passengers! If you would like to ride in the parade, wave at the bystanders and wish everyone a happy St. Patrick’s Day, please call the Center and save your spot. NOTE: this is an early morning adventure since we have to line up prior to the parade start time of 11:00 AM. We also won’t know where we are in the line-up so we may be on the bus for quite some time before we are able to get off. After the parade, the plan is to go to Pizza Ranch for some Irish Pizza (which is really just regular pizza trying to honor the day). If you would like to be included, please call the center and reserve your spot.

WHITE CANE / MOBILITY CLINIC

This past month we held our first White Cane/Mobility Clinic of the year. Six individuals attended the event, which was led by Sean Johnson, OEM from the Rockford Sight & Hearing Center. Attendees learned how to use their cane along with other helpful tips in being independently mobile around their home as well as out in the community. Those who needed one, received a free long white cane specifically measured to properly fit them. The plan is to have another clinic during the summer months.

SYMPATHY EXTENDED

Our deepest condolences go out to our driver, Artie Fowler, who's mother passed away. Artie described his mom as feisty but in these last several months frail, and she will be missed. Our prayers are with Artie and his family during this time.

A CHARMING GOOD LUCK LUNCH!

Please join us for a Lucky Lunch here at the Center on March 9th. In honor of St. Patrick's Day, please bring a lucky charm. Arrive here around 11:30 AM – eat at noon. Menu will be Irish Goulash, salad, roll, relishes and dessert.

DID YOU KNOW A baby has around 30,000 taste buds. They aren't just on the tongue but also on the sides, back and roof of the mouth. Adults have about 10,000 taste buds.

IMPORTANT DATES

- March 2nd Ash Wednesday
- March 8th Happy Birthday to Fiona Barke
- March 9th Lucky Lunch at the Center featuring Irish Goulash.
Please call in your reservation by March 5th.
- March 11th Happy Birthday to Gayle Workman
- March 13th DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
- March 14th Happy Birthday to Felisa Durr
- March 16th Midwest Food Bank pick-up
- March 17th St. Patrick's Day Parade – please call in if you want to ride along (see info elsewhere in this newsletter). Irish Pizza lunch at the Pizza Ranch following the parade
- March 17 – 19 Food basket deliveries
- March 19th Happy Birthday to Ed Myers
- March 20th First Day of Spring
- March 23rd Dinner at the Center – details to be determined
- March 28th In 1797, a version of the washing machine was patented
- March 30th Happy Birthday Evon Dixon

DID YOU KNOWon March 2nd, 1829, The Perkins School for the Blind in Boston, Massachusetts was the first in the United States? Its original name was the New England Asylum for the Blind.

FIRST CANE & ABLE EVENT

April 6th – Lunch at the Center with Evan Schwerbrock. You will learn basic exercises for those with limited mobility plus get a fitness program to take and use at home. The emphasis will be on techniques that can be done by persons with low or no vision.

Central Illinois Center
for the **Blind**
& **Visually**
Impaired



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**Free Matter for the Blind &
Visually Impaired**

Quote for the Month

“ May leprechauns strew happiness wherever you walk each day. And Irish angels smile upon you, all along the way.”

– Irish Blessing