



AROUND THE CENTER

CICBVI NEWS July, 2022

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INDEPENDENCE AND LIBERTY FOR ALL

Happy Birthday America! As we celebrate Independence Day for our country, let's think about independence in general. After all, that is one of the goals of the CICBVI – to promote independence and ability with and for our patrons.

Independence can come in different forms. There is the obvious: a newly formed country, or a young person first moving out of their parents' home and living on their own. Or even a baby taking his or her first steps. For our patrons, the feeling of independence – and the ABILITY to be independent - are life skills the CICBVI works very hard to enhance. We are pleased to be able to offer professional Long White Cane training – along with a free white cane for participants. That training alone can lead to greater mobility in public and at home. We also direct patrons to resources for things such as magnifiers or audio devices and more – all of which enhance our patrons' abilities to carry on doing things they enjoy. We promote programs that accommodate learning environments specifically for blind and visually impaired. As you learn more, you become more independent.

These examples are not all-inclusive. We offer so much more, specifically tailored for individual needs. We also strive to increase independence by encouraging decision making, independent thinking and creating while providing fun and interesting programs and activities. Hope to help you soon!

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOTE: It is extremely important that you call in your reservations for any of our events as soon as possible. The deadline is the FRIDAY before the event unless otherwise noted. Since we are purchasing and preparing food, tickets, or other materials, plus scheduling transportation, we really need to stick to this deadline and, as much as we would like to do so, are unable to make exceptions. Also, reservations must be made by calling the Center – 309-637-3693. Our drivers are NOT responsible for taking and tracking reservations.

July 11th : Rescheduled from last month: 11:00 AM Participate in a drum circle and experience a variety of instruments either by listening or playing them! Led by Natasha, this promises to be a fun event. Not only that, we're having lunch first! DEADLINE to reserve is Friday, July 9th.

July 20th – National Hot Dog Day. 11:00AM. This is a day to invite your friends and family to join us. Every patron that brings a BRAND NEW person to the Center will get a prize. The person does not have to be visually impaired. The public is welcome to attend and any proceeds will go towards programs for the center. Reservations are required and are due by Friday, July 16th. We will have hot dogs, chips, a side dish, dessert and drink.

July 28th – Peoria Heights Farmers' Market – 3:00 PM followed by dinner at a place to be determined. This event will be canceled if it is raining. Reservations are due by Monday, July 25th

IMPACT GRANT RECEIVED

As you all probably know, we have been working through the application process to receive a grant from Impact, Illinois. Several months ago, Felisa filled out all the paperwork and we were suddenly in the running.

Once we passed that initial level, next up was a site visit, attended by a committee from Impact, Steve, Felisa, Paula and Kurt. Representatives from Impact toured our facility and heard the story of the CICBVI. A week later we were given the news we were a finalist!

The next step was a little trickier. We had to write a summary of how we would use the grant and the impact it would have on our organization. With input from Steve & Kurt, Paula put together a narrative and Felisa used her layout and graphic skills to put it into a one page, double sided promo piece that was shared with the Impact group's membership.

Finally, Steve, Paula, Kurt and patron Connie attended the final stage, which involved going to their annual meeting (about 200 members were there), setting up an informational table (our pop up sign was super nice!) and a verbal presentation which was provided by Paula. After all the finalists' presentations, the Impact group took a vote - using paper ballots, no less - and the announcement was made: **WE WON!** \$20,000 which will go towards updating our kitchen and our tech center. June 30th Kurt and Felisa will meet with representatives from Impact to learn how the grant will be disbursed and details on utilization reporting. Paula will be working with Facility chair, Dave Murphy, on the actual physical project to renovate our kitchen and tech area.

We are so thankful to Impact for this opportunity and look forward to years of benefit to the CICBVI and patrons from this grant.

YOU CAN HELP!

The WEEK of JULY 4th, the CICBVI will benefit from items sold at the Peoria Heights Helping Hands resale shop. You can help in two ways:

1. Donate your no-longer-needed items or garage sale leftovers this weekend (that way they will be on the floor for our sales week).
2. Shop at the store Tuesday, July 5th – Saturday July 9th.

They especially can use clean, gently used clothes, kitchen items, small appliances, furniture, etc. and accept donations during open hours, Tuesday – Saturday. They are located right on War Memorial Drive. Check our Facebook page for a video preview of some of the awesome items available.

PATRONS: During the next several weeks, you may get a call from Jamie or Paula asking to update your information for our records. It is very important that we have accurate phone numbers, addresses, birth dates, etc. so please be ready to help us out when we call!

WATCH YOUR MAIL: Flyers for the golf outing will be in your mailbox soon. This is an important fund raiser for the CICBVI and we hope you will get a team together and/or be a sponsor. A copy of the information including a QR code to register is included in this newsletter.

SAVE THE DATE: October 15th is National White Cane Day. Peoria Mayor Rita Ali issued a proclamation recognizing this day – which is not only important for us, but for Peoria, since the Long White Cane was actually invented in Peoria. The Murray Baker Bridge will also be lit in honor of this every year on October 15th. This year, we will be having a special dinner at the Peoria Riverfront Museum to watch the bridge light up, learn more about the White Cane and have a great time. Save the date! More information will be coming out soon.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- July 4 Happy Birthday America!
- July 5 – 9 Shop at Helping Hands to benefit the CICBVI
- July 6 Happy Birthday Ken Gray
- July 8 Happy Birthday Connie Phillips
- July 11 Drum Circle and Music Day at the CICBVI – Lunch first then making music! Reservations due Friday July 8th
- July 12 National Bookstore Day – remember, we have books on CD for you to borrow – just give us a call
- July 13 Food Bank pick-up – if you would like to receive a food basket, call the Center
- July 14 – 16 Food Basket delivery – please be sure to answer your phone!
- July 14 Happy Birthday Sharon Colburn
- July 16 Happy Birthday Susan Schoenbein
- July 20 National Hot Dog Day – join us at the CICBVI for a hot dog lunch and fun with friends! A prize for any patron who brings a guest who has never been to the center before! Reservations due Friday July 16th
- July 26 CICBVI participating in ADA event at the Civic Center
- July 28 Happy Birthday Mary Turner
- July 28 Trip to the Peoria Heights Farmers' Market followed by dinner at restaurant to be determined. Reservations due Monday, July 25th

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



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

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Quote for the Month

- “Never depend on anyone to make you happy....You are responsible for your own happiness.” -**Rashida Rowe**