



AROUND THE CENTER

CICBVI NEWS August, 2022

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Paula Balistreri, Editor

TIME FOR AN UPDATE!

Last March, we reported on what the CICBVI had accomplished during the first two months of the year. Now we are just over halfway through the year so time to fill you in on high points since that time:

Since March, we have reached an additional 128 contacts. These are people who have heard about the center and wanted to know more. This does not include even more people who have heard Paula B speak about the Center (such as at the Impact Grant meeting, at which there were about 200 people, or at events such as National Eyewear Day where we had a table set up for people to visit).

Since March, we have provided 106 services or referrals. This could include directing people to resources where they may find help that we don't provide (such as housing, financial or other services), answering basic questions for non-patrons or even, in some cases, providing Braille services. This often involves individuals from outside our service area.

We have given away 12 long white canes – making a total of 16 for the year so far. We held another white cane training clinic that was attended by 10 people. We have given away an additional 88 food baskets and 11 assistive devices such as magnifiers or talking clocks. We also made six home visits to provide a needed assistance (such

as setting up an Alexa device or a phone), plus referred another six potential home visits that were beyond our service guidelines.

We made our presence known in the community in a big way: We drove our bus in the St. Patrick's Day parade. We had a table set up in front of Hy-Vee to collect eyeglasses for National Eyewear Day and were featured on Mix 106.9 radio station that entire weekend, leading up to live interviews at the actual event. We also had a table at the City Link sponsored event celebrating the 30th anniversary of the ADA held at the Civic Center. We held our first major fund-raiser at the Broadway Lounge, featuring Dueling Pianos as entertainment and we were live on the WMBD-TV morning show to promote it. We have increased our presence on social media, particularly Facebook, and regularly get over 500 views for each of our posts.

Finally, we hosted 13 social events (everything from hot dogs to Elvis) here at the Center, plus took 4 field trips (including restaurants, a museum and a farmers' market) and held a work day in conjunction with the Dream Center of Peoria to accomplish much needed yard work.

We've made some physical improvements, too. Thanks to grants, we were able to replace our roof and about half of our windows. These projects were much needed and we should reap benefits from not only the improvement in looks, but in having our building be more energy efficient. We also enlarged the garage door to make it easier for our drivers to park our vehicles.

And right on the horizon are our final two fund raisers of the year: Our annual golf outing (September 19th) and our celebration of White Cane

Day, which will be a banquet held on October 15th at the Peoria Riverfront Museum. A golf flyer is included with this newsletter – and you are all invited to participate or sponsor this awesome event. There will be more information about White Cane Day coming next time so stay tuned!

And last, but certainly not least, none of this could be accomplished without our amazing staff, board and participants. We are all in this together and every time you support the Center's efforts – either with your time, your networking to tell our story, or your monetary donations, you are helping us to serve an ever growing community of people with low or no vision. THANK YOU!!

COMING UP IN THE COMMUNITY

August 6th, the CICBVI will participate in the Outdoor Marketplace, sponsored by the Black Business Alliance and the Minority Business Development Center. This event is held twice a year and takes place from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at 2139 Adams Street.

Peoria is known for hosting ethnic festivals on the Riverfront and this year CICBVI will be present at the India Fest on Saturday, August 14th. The organizers are earmarking \$1 from every ticket sold to go to the CICBVI. Please try to make this event to enjoy good food, music, educational experiences AND benefit the Center!

Peoria Browse is an event held at Bradley University to help introduce services and area opportunities to incoming students. This year it is on Monday, August 22nd from noon to 3:00 PM and the CICBVI will have a table there to pass out information about the Center.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

We will be holding a class for volunteers on Wednesday, August 10th at 11:00 AM. This is an opportunity to learn more about the Center and how you can help. You will hear about volunteer opportunities, plus you will receive training on how to best guide and assist individuals with low or no vision. You will also have the chance to sign up to be a guide on an upcoming field trip. If you would like to attend, please call the Center at 309-637-3693. If you get voice mail, please be sure to leave a message with your name and phone number.

IMPORTANT REMINDER ABOUT FOOD BASKET DISTRIBUTION

Please remember to return your basket to the driver or bring with you to an event at the Center. The CICBVI has purchased these baskets to make delivery easier and we really need them returned every month.

Also, our drivers call you AND go to your home on delivery days. If you must be away, please call the center and let us know so we don't make an unnecessary trip. Please understand if we are unable to reschedule a drop-off, you may miss that month (and we don't want that to happen if we can help it!) The next few months, we will be adding fresh items to each basket, which makes it even more important that you are available on drop off days.

CHECK THIS OUT: Our next field trip will be to the Peoria Zoo on August 23, followed by lunch at the 460 Pizza Buffet. (Note: this is a Tuesday!) This will be a hands on, classroom style, experience – the zoo folks will have several items we can hold and their experts will tell us about everything from a Kookaburra bird to furry creatures. This is a morning program, so it will be a fairly long day, and while there will be a little bit of walking, we won't be walking around the zoo. Be sure to get your reservations in on time! Call the center no later than Friday, August 19th!

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- August 1 Happy Birthday Terry Lopez
- August 4 Happy Birthday Chicago (198 years old!)
- August 9 In 1790, the Columbia became the first ship to carry the American Flag around the world. It took three years.
- August 10 Volunteer Training Class at the Center 11:00 AM
(call to reserve your spot!)
- August 10 Food Bank pick up
- August 11-12 Food Basket delivery days
- August 16 Happy Birthday Priscilla Whipp
- August 17 Lunch at the Center – Kathy’s Special Surprise! Call in your reservations no later than Friday, August 12
- August 20 Happy Birthday Eliza Barke
- August 20 WWJ Radio of Detroit became the first radio station to broadcast daily (1920)
- August 22 In 1902, Theodore Roosevelt became the first president to ride in a car
- August 23 Field Trip to the zoo & 460 Pizza for pizza buffet lunch. Reservations must be called in no later than Friday, August 19th
- August 28 More herbs, less salt day. Be a healthy eater!
- August 29 Happy Birthday Courtney Harper
- August 31 Dinner at the Center – Bodacious Bingo Bash – we will play Bingo, but be prepared for some surprises! This will NOT be your ordinary game! You MUST call in your reservation no later than August 26th!



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Free Matter for the Blind & Visually Impaired

Quote for the Month

- “Happiness is not the absence of problems, it’s the ability to deal with them.” – Steve Maraboli
- “Action may not always bring happiness, but there is no happiness without action.” – William James