



AROUND THE CENTER

Paula Balistreri, Editor

CICBVI NEWS November, 2023

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THANKSGIVING IS A YEAR-ROUND ACTIVITY!

The CICBVI has so many reasons to be thankful! Last month we held our annual National White Cane Safety Day and it was a huge success but it couldn't have happened without our sponsors, donors, volunteers and staff. Sponsors this year were Illinois Eye Center, Tippy Creek , Gary F. Stella, RLI Corp., Uftring Auto Group, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Knecht and Mr. and Mrs. Gabe Dubois. Our amazing volunteers included Toni Moretti, Jamie Lang, Marilyn Dye, Ashley Schreck for her great photos, Deanna and Brett Bruce, Darrel and Lysette Hughes, Dave Murphy, Deb Conklin, Jamie and Chad Mammen, Steve Knecht, Kurt Norris and Mark Bean. Staff included Jill Owen, Paula Balistreri and Kathy Smith. And of course special thanks to Dexter O'Neal & the Funkyard for great entertainment, the Peoria Riverfront Museum for the beautiful venue, Two Blind Brothers for their special message and Barrack's Cater Inn for the delicious food. But most of all, thank you to everyone who attended and gave so generously. With your help, the CICBVI is making a difference and serving our blind and visually impaired community. If I've left someone off this list, my deepest apologies and let me know so I can correct the omission. You are ALL appreciated!

our sponsors

Thank you for your event
sponsorship and being an
integral part of its success. Your
support and enthusiasm were
truly remarkable.

GOLD \$3000



Illinois Eye Center

Mr. Gary F. Stella



Tippy Creek

SILVER \$2000



RLI Corp



Uftring Auto Group

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Knecht

Mr. & Mrs. Gabriel DuBois

SPECIAL THANKS

Peoria Riverfront Museum
Barrack's Hospitality Group
Two Blind Brothers

IF YOU MISSED LAST MONTH YOU MISSED...

We had a delicious and fun Ladies' Lunch at the Original Pancake House (see info elsewhere in this newsletter for November's location). We also had an opportunity for patrons, volunteers and staff to volunteer at the Midwest Food Bank serving lunch to their volunteers. The Midwest Food Bank supplies us with food for our monthly food basket delivery. Would you like to be added to our list? Just call the center and sign up! We deliver to the Peoria area once a month.

We also had a great National White Cane Day celebration. You won't want to miss next year – mark October 15th on your 2024 calendar right now!

Do you visit our Facebook page? If not, why not? One of the most fun things this month was a visit from Wild Times Exotic Animals – we all had a chance to hold animals and learn interesting facts about them. You can see pictures and read about it on Facebook. You will also find White Cane Day pictures there! Check it out!

No October would be complete without a Halloween party. Patrons and friends enjoyed a meal and Trick or Treat Bingo!

We also held a White Cane Training day in October. Did you know we give away free white canes to those who need one plus provide the associated training by an O & M specialist. We offer this about 4 times per year so if you or anyone you know needs one, give us a call. We also offer free replacement canes once a year for those who have already received the training.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Mark Fagenburg. Mark passed away October 15th. He was a strong presence at the center, serving as a special volunteer and driver. He will be deeply missed by the CICBVI family.

COMING IN NOVEMBER

First up is the patron-led Ladies' Lunch November 7th at Woody's in Groveland. Please sign up by calling Connie at 309-232-9002. If you are a patron and need transportation, please call the center at 309-637-3693.

Next up is another volunteer opportunity to pack items in Blessing Boxes for the Peoria Dream Center on November 10th at 9:00 AM. Did you know the Dream Center sends us volunteers at least twice a year to spruce up our center? This year they did yard work, planting and cleaned out our tech center in preparation for renovation) Because the CICBVI receives so much, we are happy to return the favor by having our patrons help them out. Please call the center to save your spot as a part of our volunteer crew and to get on the transportation list.

Our Thanksgiving feast will be AFTER Thanksgiving this year due to scheduling conflicts. We will gather on November 29th at 5:30 PM for an Italian Thanksgiving! Reservations are due November 21st so sign up now!

On November 14th we will hold a special reception in honor of receiving a grant from the Community Foundation of Central Illinois. The reception begins at 4:00 PM and will feature representatives from the Community Foundation, presentation of a “big check,” special remarks and more. Anyone is invited to attend. If you are a patron and need transportation, you must reserve your spot no later than November 9th. This grant will allow the CICBVI to kickstart our expansion of transportation services.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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|----------------|--|
| November 1 | Happy Birthday Deb Conklin |
| November 3 | Happy Birthday Brenda Lenne Happy Birthday Patti Woodworth |
| November 5 | Daylight Savings Time Ends – Turn your clocks back an hour (and enjoy an extra hour of sleep!) |
| November 6 | Presentation to Peoria Homeschool students & parents |
| November 7 | Happy Birthday Elaine Ahten Ladies' Lunch at Woody's Restaurant – 11:30am (Call the Center for transportation) |
| November 10 | Volunteer at Peoria Dream Center – 9am Happy Birthday Robert Gosack |
| November 12 | Happy Birthday Mary Barnett |
| November 14 | Community Foundation Grant reception 4pm – rsvp by 11/9 CICBVI Board Meeting |
| November 15 | Happy Birthday Randall Deemie Food Bank pick-up at MWFB |
| November 16-17 | Food Basket distribution |
| November 17 | Happy Birthday Sharon Weber |
| November 18 | Happy Birthday Winfred Ogilvie |
| November 20 | National Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day |
| November 23 | Happy Birthday Jamie Lang Happy Thanksgiving! |
| November 27 | Presentation at Peoria Academy |
| November 29 | Happy Birthday Terry Cooper Italian Thanksgiving Feast at the Center 5:30pm – rsvp by 11/21 |



FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

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Quotes for the Month

“Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving.” - *W. T. Purkiser*

“We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives.” - *John F. Kennedy*