

AROUND THE CENTER



CICBVI NEWS December 2023

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

This time of year is full of holiday celebrations such as Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Chinese New Year and more. Not only that, the CICBVI has plenty to celebrate outside of the holidays, too!

We have been extremely fortunate to have been awarded new grants plus new and ongoing partnerships with over 20 community organizations. This is a reason to celebrate not only for the financial support but for the opportunities afforded to us to spread the word about what we do to serve the blind and visually impaired. Our growth in so many areas has been record-setting in 2023! Coming right out of Thanksgiving we want to express our deepest thanks to all of you and celebrate our good fortune as we look ahead to an even more successful New Year!

No matter what official holiday you celebrate this time of year, we all hope you will celebrate the CICBVI with us! Thank you!

LAST MONTH'S ACTIVITIES

We had a delicious and fun Ladies' Lunch at Woody's in Groveland. There will be no Ladies' Lunch in December – look elsewhere in this newsletter for info on January's lunch.

We also had an opportunity for patrons, volunteers and staff to volunteer at the Peoria Dream Center. If you check the CICBVI Facebook page you will see pictures of our group packing meal boxes and more for their clients. We also had the chance to see their Thrift Shop and were invited to have a personalized shopping experience there in the Spring.

The big news in November was that we were awarded a grant from the Community Foundation of Central Illinois for our transportation service expansion. We celebrated with a reception and media event at the Center and are looking forward to being able to offer more transportation services in 2024. Again, check out our Facebook page for more information and pictures. Right after that, Paula B was invited to be on the Craig Collins program on WMBD Radio to talk about the Center and our work. Here is a link to that interview if you would like to listen.

<https://omny.fm/shows/the-craig-collins-show/paula-balistreri-joins-us-to-discuss-the-important>

We held our first iPhone training session specifically designed to help iPhone users with applications designed specifically for the visually impaired. This was led by our own Deanna Bruce and was very helpful. We will be offering this training again and will have details in future newsletters.

Other activities included a non-traditional Thanksgiving Feast featuring lasagna instead of turkey (yum!) and sharing our story with 100 students, teachers and parents at the Peoria Library.

Everyone is welcome at our events
Call the Center to reserve your spot!
309.637-3693

COMING IN DECEMBER

First up is our Christmas Lunch to be held at the Farmington Pizza Company on December 12th. Call in your reservation right away so we can give them a head count and put you on the transportation list if needed. We will be meeting there at 11:45 AM if you drive on your own.

Next is the Christmas Program at Northwoods Church on the evening of December 20th. This is a popular event, and we were only able to get a limited number of tickets so reservations are on a first come/first served basis. If you are interested, be sure to call the Center right away!

COMING IN JANUARY

Ladies Lunch on the first Tuesday – January 2nd – at Jack's in Tremont. Since it is so early in January, don't wait to get your reservation in to join the group!

Set up accessibility on your iPhone: Saturday, January 20, 2023 – 1:30pm at the Center. This class is specifically designed for iPhone users with a visual impairment. You will learn the VoiceOver, gestures, and the Magnifier. Training provided by Deanna Bruce, ATI of D&B Accessible Technologies. No previous experience necessary. This is a beginner course. Must have an iPhone, not Android or other cell phone devices. Caregivers are welcome to attend. Limited to 4 students. Transportation provided to CICBVI patrons within the 15-mile radius. RSVP by Wed 1/17/24.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

It is that time when the walkways become snowy and/or icy and pose a slip and fall risk. So, here is our annual reminder to WALK LIKE A PENGUIN – try not to carry a lot of “stuff” so you can leave your arms free to stick out a bit

from your sides (helping to provide balance) and waddle your way along instead of striding! Please be careful and don't be shy about asking for help!

CICBVI LOANER PROGRAM

One of the services we offer is the opportunity to borrow assistive devices and equipment specifically for the blind or visually impaired. This can include magnifiers, Alexa devices, WeWalk GPS enabled canes and more. These items can be expensive and generally are not covered by insurance, yet they can be extremely beneficial. One of our goals is to help make them available as much as possible. If you have a need for such an item, please call the center to learn more about our program.

A limited number of BRAILLE AND LARGE PRINT CALENDARS for 2024 are available now. Call the center to get yours!

PATRON OF THE QUARTER

We will be starting a new program for 2024 recognizing a "Patron of the Quarter." Our patrons are an important part of our family and there are many out there who go "over and above" in their efforts to support the CICBVI and our work. With that in mind, we thought it would be appropriate to give out some recognition. Criteria considered for selection are attendance at CICBVI sponsored events; participation in service, volunteer or work days either at the center or at one of our partners; positive support of the CICBVI through words or actions; and helpfulness to other patrons. Each quarter one patron will be selected by a committee made up of a Board Member, a Staff Member and at least one other patron or volunteer. The person selected will win a gift card, recognition in the Around the Center newsletter and on social media and our undying gratitude for their support! Anyone can nominate a patron – just call the center and ask for a nomination form.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Dec 1	Happy Birthday Ar'Mand Erving
Dec 2	Happy Birthday Gyla Grigsby
Dec 7	Happy Birthday Christina Hite Hanukkah begins at sundown
Dec 11	Happy Birthday Linda Eddy
Dec 12	Patron lunch at Farmington Pizza Co. Call the center for reservations – deadline Dec. 7
Dec 12	5:30 PM – CICBVI Board
Dec 13	Happy Birthday Ron Selby
Dec 13	Food Basket pick-up at MW Food Bank
Dec 14-15	Food Basket deliveries
Dec 15	Happy Birthday Melinda Sell
Dec 17	Happy Birthday Ashley Edwards
Dec 19	Happy Birthday Dean Lybarger
Dec 20	Christmas program at Northwoods Church – reservations are limited and on a first come/first served basis - call the center right away.
Dec 25	Merry Christmas!
Dec 26	Happy Birthday Keith Nielson
Dec 30	Happy Birthday Bill Harrell
Jan 2	Ladies' Lunch at Jack's (Tremont)
Jan 20	iPhone Training for VI



***FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND
AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED***

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Happy Holidays to all of our patrons, friends, and CICBVI family!

Quote for the Month

***“May your walls know joy, may every room hold laughter, and
every window open to great possibility.”***

~ Mary Anne Radmacher ~