

# AROUND THE CENTER



## CICBVI NEWS

January 2024

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Paula Balistreri, Editor

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Last month we reviewed how the year has gone for the CICBVI. This month, let's look ahead. We are on a very positive trend and have no reason to slow down now! Of course, at the top of our list is to increase the number of low and no vision individuals we serve. We KNOW there are people out there, especially those who have or are experiencing later-in-life vision loss that we can help. We doubled our patron list in the last 18 months – by the end of the year we want to at least add another 20%.

We also added new programs and have several more waiting to roll out. New in 2023 was iPhone training specifically designed for low and no vision individuals and that will continue, along with WeWalk cane and other tech training, our loaner program, our Long White Cane initiative and more.

On the “fun” side, we have several interesting and fun events both at the center and as field trips. Everything will be promoted in this newsletter, and we hope you will join us!

## WILL YOU DONATE A CONVERSATION?

One of the reasons the CICBVI had a great 2023 is the increase of community awareness and in order to keep this increasing, your help is needed. This newsletter reaches nearly 1000 people. Just imagine if every one of you had JUST ONE conversation about the CICBVI. The word could spread like wildfire! Not sure what to talk about? Here are some ideas:

- The CICBVI has a loaner program for magnifiers and other vision-specific assistive devices
- The CICBVI will give away a free long white cane (and the associated training) to anyone who is visually impaired
- The CICBVI has fun social events that are open to any visually impaired person and often includes their family or caregiver
- The CICBVI offers food basket delivery for individuals who are visually impaired and live within our service area.
- The CICBVI can help low & no vision individuals navigate the technology world through classes and one-on-one training
- Share your own story about you and the CICBVI!

So, will you help us spread the word? Or, if you have a group or organization that would like to learn more, give us a call and we can come to you with a short program that includes hand-outs and interactive learning opportunities.

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

309.637-3693

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## COMING IN JANUARY –

First up is the **Ladies' Lunch** on January 2nd at Jack's in Tremont. The next one (on February 6th) will be at Jubilee Café. As always, transportation is provided for patrons.

NEW – on Tuesday, January 16th, we will be doing a **Peoria Thrift Shop Hop** and visiting a number of area thrift shops. We will be stopping at a minimum of three shops, possibly more so be prepared to be on your feet. We will also have a lunch break (cost on your own) at a nearby fast-food restaurant to be determined. Our Shop Hop starts by meeting at the Center at 10:00 AM; reservations are due by January 11th.

WE DID THIS BEFORE and it was so popular we are doing it again: The CICBVI Soup & Stories – this year called “**Chili and Chatting**” - will be Wednesday, January 31st at the Center starting at 5:30 PM. Be prepared to tell a story – preferably about YOU – and enjoy a light supper. Reservations are due January 24th.

LOOKING FORWARD TO – plans are in the works for a CICBVI **game night** in February!

## IPHONE TRAINING

We still have one spot open – call now to get this free training!

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 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. Transportation provided to CICBVI patrons. RSVP by Wed 1/17/24.

## WHITE CANE TRAINING!

White Cane Training – Friday, February 9, 2024 – 10am - at our Center.

Training is free and done by a certified orientation and mobility specialist and includes a free long white cane. Free transportation for visually impaired individuals within our service area. **Reservations are required** - either e-mail [info@cicbvi.org](mailto:info@cicbvi.org) or call 309-637-3693. Family members and/or caregivers are welcome to attend.

## SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, April 18, 2024 is the date for our 2nd Annual Trivia Night. The theme this year is Through The Decades – with prizes for the winning team AND the best dressed team. Mark your calendars now, you won't want to miss this fun event!

## PATRON OF THE QUARTER NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

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

January 2	Happy Birthday Karen Sanders
January 4	Happy Birthday Terri Roark
January 5	Happy Birthday Paul White
January 6	Happy Birthday JoAnn Cass
January 7	Happy Birthday Pat Helsel
January 9	CICBVI Board Meeting
January 9	Happy Birthday Tom Vogel, Becky Williams & Joan Bartlett
January 10	Midwest Food Bank pick-up
January 11	Happy Birthday Dennis Jurewicz
January 12	Happy Birthday Gregory Rudd
January 13	Happy Birthday Dean Eric Collins
January 16	Thrift Shop Hop / Lunch (rsvp by 1/11)
January 18	Happy Birthday Alice Lopez
January 19	Happy Birthday Brenda Dunniway
January 20	iPhone Training – 1:30pm (rsvp by 1/17)
January 20	Happy Birthday Dale Anderson
January 22	Happy Anniversary Bret & Deanna Bruce
January 23	Happy Birthday Allison Puetz
January 24	Happy Birthday Keith Bowen
January 27	Happy Birthday Otto Johann
January 29	Happy Birthday Carol Klockenga
January 30	Happy Birthday Kurt Vanaken
January 31	Chili and Chatting at Center (rsvp by 1/24)
January 31	Happy Birthday Duran Schmidt
February 6	Ladies Lunch at Jubilee Café
February 9	White Cane Training – 10am (rsvp required!)



## FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

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### *Quote for the Month*

*"New year – a new chapter, new verse, or just the same old story? Ultimately, we write it. The choice is ours."*

*~ Alex Morritt*

*"You are never too old to set another goal or dream a new dream."*

*~ CS Lewis*