

AROUND THE CENTER

CICBVI NEWS

July 2024



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Paula Balistreri, Editor

There is so much in this newsletter, be sure to check it all! First, let's look ahead: Our famous golf outing is July 15, and a flyer is included with all the information. There are still a couple team spots left so it isn't too late to sign up. If you can't (or don't) golf, you can still support this event – all the details are on the flyer.

Also looking ahead, we have another White Cane Training scheduled for July 12 here at the Center. Call to save your spot – and if you are local, we can provide free transportation. We also have smart phone training coming up – if you are interested, call the center to arrange a date.

Then there's the rest of the "fun stuff" – on July 18 we'll have lunch at the Center. On July 23, we've scheduled a field trip to the Morton Farmer's Market followed by dinner out. Don't forget the Ladies' Lunch on July 2nd.

We were able to obtain a limited number of tickets to the Red Hot Chili Pipers – (NOT the Peppers!) This is a concert by the famous bagpipe/Scottish drum group at Five Points in Washington on August 2nd. They play contemporary and rock music – on the bagpipes!! Tickets are first come first served so call the center ASAP!

WE COULDN'T DO WHAT WE DO WITHOUT YOU!

Most of you know that two years ago, the CICBVI was the fortunate recipient of a grant from Impact Central Illinois that was designated to kick start our renovation efforts in our kitchen and the Uftring Technology Center. Impact Central Illinois is a women's collective giving organization seeking to make a positive impact in their communities and they have made a HUGE impact on the Center. Their gift created a snowball effect, with donations coming in from Rotary Peoria-North, the Indo-American Society of Peoria, Verizon, the employees of the Uftring Auto Group, the Pilot Club of Peoria and several private individuals.

Thanks to these grants and gifts, we were able to update counters and equipment in the kitchen, install new flooring in the tech room, paint AND purchase new equipment specifically designed for the blind and visually impaired with professional trainers available to provide education on their use. We were also able to update our loaner program so more individuals can benefit from the latest assistive technology.

This is a project with no end in sight – we envision a future where we will be able to share technology in all its forms – from specially designed labeling and identification systems to apps for a smart phone or computer, to GPS enabled canes to readers and magnifiers and more.

Two years after that first grant, we held an Open House June 25th to show off what was accomplished and what the Central IL Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired is all about – helping people with visual impairments live life to the fullest. We could not do this without you – thank you from the bottom of our hearts – from the patrons, staff and board of the CICBVI.

PATRON OF THE QUARTER

Our 2nd Patron of the Quarter has been named – it is Delilah Russell! Delilah was actually nominated by several people, and she is very deserving. A career heavy equipment operator, Delilah can come up with the most amazing facts. She is always smiling and a great cheerleader for the CICBVI. Delilah is eligible for Patron of the Year and nominations are now open for 3rd quarter. Just call the Center.

SPECIAL MEMORIAL

We received a very special letter this last month from Mike Dailing. He described his father, Mr. Dan Dailing, as a Veteran who was visually impaired for most of his life and completely blind for the final two years. During his life, he was the recipient of various assistive devices, including a white cane. He passed away May 9, 2024, and his son wanted to recognize an organization that provided the sort of assistance his father received. He came upon our web site (www.cicbvi.org) and, in his words, “knew we were the one.” His friends and family (listed below) gifted the CICBVI with donations in memory of his father. We are so appreciative for both the gifts, which will be put to good use, but for his father’s service and the fact he was able to receive assistance. Donors were: Joanne Spillman, Alan & Judy Vandebroe, Donald & Norma Heckenkamp, Jr., Ruth Ann Armbruster, Debra Stark, JA & AL Eberhardt and David & Linda Carper.

WHITE CANE TRAINING

Receive a free long white cane and training provided by Mobility Specialist Monica Vandeven on Friday, July 12. Call to save your spot no later than July 9 – 309-637-3693.

LAST MONTH

The Ladies' Lunch group served a lunch of pulled chicken sandwiches to a group of about 50 volunteers at Midwest Food Bank. As you know, our food baskets are made possible in part due to donations from the Food Bank so we were happy to "give back." We will be doing this again in August.

Also, last month we took a fun trip to the Caterpillar Visitors Center where we were able to climb on, sit on, feel and hear all about the equipment made by Caterpillar. Afterwards, we had lunch at Avanti's. You can view pictures of our trip on our CICBVI Facebook page.

Our big event of the month was our Open House, of course!

NEXT MONTH

For July, the Ladies' Lunch will be meeting Tuesday, July 2 at Perkins – if you are a patron and need a ride, please call the center no later than July 1. On Thursday, July 18, we will have lunch at the Center and on Tuesday, July 23 we will visit the Morton Farmers' Market, followed by dinner at Cracker Barrel. NOTE: Dinner will be "on your own" so plan accordingly.

Our Big Event in July is our 17th Annual Golf Outing. This is one of our most fun and exciting events and there is still room for a couple more teams (and sponsorships!). The outing includes lunch, prizes, swag bags and more – you can check out the details and register your team using the flyer included with this newsletter or by visiting our website at www.cicbvi.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Did you know June is National Eye Exam Month? Even if your eyes seem “healthy” it is important to get them checked regularly.

- July 2nd Ladies Lunch at Perkins’ Restaurant
- July 3rd Happy Birthday Crystal Scott & Carol Turner
- July 4th Happy Birthday America!
- July 5th Happy Birthday Jean Sheets
- July 6th Happy Birthday Ken Gray
- July 7th Happy Birthday Beverly Sundlie
- July 8th Happy Birthday Connie Phillips & Adrian Garner
- July 9th CICBVI Board Meeting & Food pick-up at Midwest Food Bank
- July 10-11th Food Basket Distribution
- July 12th White Cane Training at Center – 10am
- July 13th Happy Birthday Jonathan Gorman
- July 14th Happy Birthday Daniel Wilhelm & Ora Gardner
- July 16th Happy Birthday Susan Schoenbein
- July 17th Happy Birthday Brandon Love
- July 18th Lunch at the Center – rsvp by July 15
- July 22nd Happy Birthday Geneva Dozard
- July 23rd Happy Birthday Beverly Robertson
- July 23rd Trip to Morton Farmers’ Market, followed by dinner at Cracker Barrel (on your own). RSVP by July 18
- July 27th Happy Birthday JT Taylor
- July 28th Happy Birthday Mary Turner

REMINDER

The week of August 6-10 the CICBVI receives a portion of the profits from Helping Hands resale shop on War Memorial in the Heights. Helping Hands' mission is to help various organizations by donating the proceeds of their sales. Please consider donating close to "our week"- the more they have, the more they sell. The best items to donate are gently used clothing items, household décor, small appliances, books, and those "white elephant but really cool" vintage items or whatever you have that is in good condition but no longer needed by you. Don't forget to shop that week! Shopping at Helping Hands is like treasure hunting - you never know what you might find! They often have new items, and they ALWAYS have something fun!

OUR CONDOLENCES

We'd like to express our deepest sympathy to the family of Mark Fagerburg, who passed away last October. You may remember Mark as a volunteer driver who helped us out for several years. His family said he thoroughly enjoyed his time with us and wanted us to know they will be having a memorial service for him in Bloomington on July 19 at 10:30am. At Kibler-Brady-Ruestman Funeral Home, 1104 N Main St, Bloomington, IL. You can find his obituary at this link:

<https://www.kiblerbradyruestman.com/obituaries/Mark-D-Fagerburg?obId=32090148>.

Mark was a beloved member of our CICBVI family and will be missed.



FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

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Quote for the Month

Hello July!

J – Just be you because you are
U – Unique, wondrous and amazing.
L – Live every day to the fullest because
Y – You deserve the all the best in life!