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Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired



The Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, formerly known as the Peoria Area Blind People's Center, has been a hallmark of the Peoria community since 1955. Nicknamed the "Home of the White Cane," the Center houses the original white cane, created in 1930. That year, Peoria became the very first city in the United States to establish an ordinance granting blind and visually impaired pedestrians special protections and the right of way while carrying a white cane.

Eighty-two percent of the people living with blindness are age 50 or above, with many of them suffering from age-related blindness, cataracts, glaucoma and macular degeneration. The Center is the only not-for-profit organization in the Peoria area that specifically targets blind and visually impaired citizens to meet their emotional, educational and social needs.

The Center provides a building with programs and services that bring the blind clients out of their homes and into our Center, connecting them with others who also have a vision disability. Our Center provides access to resources and support for blind and visually impaired patrons and their families; assists patrons with living an independent life by finding affordable housing, products that aid with independent living, etc.; and increases their opportunities for success by ensuring social inclusion and needed education.

The staff and Board of Directors believe each service and intervention offered at our Center promotes increased independence, communication, socialization and the ability

of our patrons to feel that they are important as human beings. The opportunity to feel involved in the community—whether through participation in a Center activity or event or elsewhere—gives them a sense of value, meaningful participation and visibility in the community in which they live.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jam Session

Third Saturday of each month
 Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

May 6, 2017
 Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Annual CICBVI Golf Outing

June 6, 2017
 Weaver Ridge Golf Course

Run the G.I.G

September 30, 2017
 Chevy Uftring, Washington

Annual Fundraising and Recognition Dinner

March 30, 2018
 Barrack's Cater Inn

Annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

May 5, 2018
 Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Annual CICBVI Golf Outing

June 5, 2018
 Weaver Ridge Golf Course



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Executive Director

Michelle Shute

Mission

The Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired provides programs that meet the emotional, educational and social needs for the blind and visually impaired of central Illinois

Vision

We will serve the blind and visually impaired people by enhancing and supporting their independent living abilities.

How to Help

The Center depends on the generous donation of time and physical labor from local organizations and volunteers. The Center is always in need of volunteers to help with the following tasks: serving meals to the blind and visually impaired on Wednesdays, assisting office staff, helping with fundraisers, helping with classes at the Center, helping with indoor and outdoor maintenance, and a variety of other projects. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the office at (309) 637-3693.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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