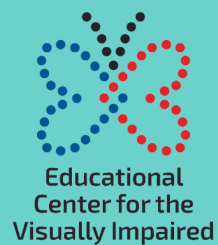




EDUCATIONAL CENTER FOR THE  
VISUALLY IMPAIRED

# Impact Report



Educational  
Center for the  
Visually Impaired

SECOND QUARTER  
2023



# A Message from Peggy



Most of our referrals come from family members because they “see” the struggles and frustrations their loved one is facing. Recently, a family member sent a thank you letter to Evelyn Brandt Thomas. I share this letter because it explains the impact we can have with someone who is blind or visually impaired.

“Thank you (Evelyn Brandt Thomas) for establishing the Educational Center for the Visually Impaired. I am able to see the benefits of this Center on a regular basis through my sister who regularly participates in numerous programs offered. This Center has truly enhanced my sister’s life.

She taught elementary students for 29 years at Christ the King School. Her vision declined to such a degree that she made the hard decision to retire. The Educational Center for the Visually Impaired came into her life at the perfect time. Recently, she attended a (pilot) program for 'Cooking with Confidence' and because she loves to cook, she was glad to learn safer ways.... My sister also enjoys socialization through the Center’s book club, crafts, archery, movies with audio descriptions, and programs such as self-defense.... I could go on and on...just an excellent organization”.

If you have a family member or friend who is visually challenged and might be interested in hearing more about our free services, please let us know by either email [pdyson@edcentervi.org](mailto:pdyson@edcentervi.org) or calling 217-303-9062. We are here to reduce fears and frustrations for people who are visually challenged.

## Wellness Mondays



ECVI programs help the visually impaired navigate everyday life! One of our most important programs is Wellness Mondays. The program was created for visually impaired women and helps them with health, wellness, budgets, living skills and more with weekly speakers and valuable information. Students talk about their physical health, their emotional health, their financial health, and share tips and tricks on how they maintain their own health and wellness.

Workshops include sessions on exercises, food, eating right and more. Speakers include occupational therapists, LLCC professors, nurses, psychologists, financial advisors, and more.

If you know someone who could benefit from the program (maybe it's you!) email Peggy Dyson at [pdyson@edcentervi.org](mailto:pdyson@edcentervi.org).

“I love the program. The little things they’ve done have helped me stay in my home longer. I’m going to be 90 years old next month. I want to stay there as long as I can!”

--Juanita, a Wellness Monday student

# Thank You 1st Quarter Donors

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Baker,  
Elks Lodge #158  
Dorothy McVeigh  
Janet Zeigler  
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Denniss

## Ann's Story



After teaching special education students for 33 years, Ann had to step away from a career she loved due to vision loss. She credits ECVI with helping her with orientation and mobility and how to use technology to communicate with her iPhone and iPad.

"It's a place where you can receive the help you need and they focus on what's important to you," said Ann. That includes her love of pasta! An ECVI personal vision coach placed markers on her stove to help with setting the temperature, and bump dots were placed on her microwave. Ann was provided with cooking tips and taught techniques to help her stay independent while still being able to cook the food she loves.

"One of the best things is being with people who know what you're going through or have experienced it and sharing frustrations and ideas"

--Ann, ECVI student

## By the Numbers!

28

Students served  
in 2023

176.5

Student learning  
hours in 2023

100+

Mission hours in  
2023

# In the Community

## ECVI's Craft & Vendor Show Fair

The event at Christ the King in March was a success with over 25 vendors and the opportunity to spread the word about ECVI's free services for the blind and visually impaired. Thanks to Ed & Lucy Bobitt, our Craft Event Coordinators, for volunteering. Donations from the event will help further the work of ECVI.



## Thank You Evelyn!

At Friendship Friday, students shared their stories of vision loss with Evelyn Brandt Thomas and thanked her for her support of the programs and services available through ECVI.

## Beware of Scams

Detective Aimee Robinson and Carolyn Yuroff from Adult Protective Services listen to members talk about scams they've experienced. They also explained new and old scams for everyone to be aware of!



## At the Movies

Our Friendship Friday group enjoyed the movie *A Man called Otto* and used specialized headphones that described the silent parts of the movie. This made the experience special for people who cannot see the screen!

## New Cabinets

Thanks to board member Phil Brooks who coordinated the purchase, refinishing, and installation of new cabinets; Kenneth Piek from Fine Finishes Inc. who stained them; and Jerry Atkinson from Aggressive Electric for installing the electrical outlets.



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