



EDUCATIONAL CENTER FOR THE
VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Impact Report

FIRST QUARTER 2023

A message from Peggy



It's Personal – You Give because you care about helping others who are blind or visually impaired. We are very grateful for your financial support and ask that you consider donating at ecvispringfield.org so that we can continue to serve & support people with visual impairment.

There are many reasons why people lose their eyesight. Some are born without eyes like our student, Kainen; some have age-related eye diseases like Juanita who was told her eyesight will continue to get worse; and some experience a spike in blood

pressure like John who lost his eyesight on his 40th birthday and did not know how to live life without his vision.

We have helped hundreds of individuals in Central Illinois since 2016 and with your support, we can help hundreds more in the future. They have learned new skills to independently walk safely in familiar or unfamiliar environments or use their smartphone to keep connected with family and friends. In addition, our workshops and Friendship Fridays provide social opportunities where people who are facing similar challenges can learn from each other and connect socially.

You may know someone who struggles with life because they cannot see. Let them know that we are here to help to reduce their frustrations and gain confidence to live independently. Thank you for your support.

ibeacons at Lincoln Gardens



ECVI students can now experience Lincoln Memorial Gardens through ibeacons! The beacons, along with an app through Sensible Innovations, provide detailed descriptions of nature and the scenes around them. For the visually impaired and ECVI students, ibeacons provides an experience that they wouldn't otherwise get!

ECVI students who were part of "Friendship Fridays" were the first to try out the new beacons with bone conduction headphones.

Thank you 4th quarter donors

Randy Germeraad Family
MB Nelson Family
Todd & Linda Reid
Jill Steiner
Rod & Rosemary Buffington
John Williams
Don Achas
Levi, Ray and Shoup Foundation
Carole Riech in Memory of J.D. Molick
Warren-Boynton State Bank
Paul & Patricia Wappel

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Lee Perrin
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Julie Fleischer
Athens Lions Club
Sergio Pecori
Raymond & Carol Poe
Staab Enterprises

Harvard Keefe
John Hill & Family
Cynde McCluskey
J. Richard Schien
Dan Yuhas & Karen Munoz
Kathy & Jim Kramer
Jeanette & Fred Westlake
Clay & Jane Bahlow
Linda Lybarger
Donna Solon

8 exciting accomplishments in 2022!

1

Ibeacons installed at Lincoln Memorial Gardens!

ECVI collaborated with Lincoln Memorial Garden and Sensible Innovations to install beacons for the visually impaired to describe 12 points of interest. ECVI received \$3,000 from the Access for Recreation Fund to promote the project.

3

Improved health and wellness for women!

ECVI provided \$8139 in health and wellness kits for 21 women. ECVI also received a \$8000 grant from the Women to Women Fund through the Community Foundation and will be adding a Health & Wellness workshop to our learning opportunities.

5

Marketing efforts increased and we're getting the word out!

We expanded our social media and marketing efforts thanks to Dave Newton, Independent Contractor. We increased our social media reach, sent out regular emails, added staff/student videos and we'll have a new website in 2023.

7

Provided customer service sensitivity training

ECVI provided Customer Service Sensitivity Training to the Illinois National Bank (INB) staff. They created and distributed Low Vision Kits for their customers who are blind or visually impaired at every bank location.

2

Improved skill development and support for Seniors

We provided skill development for 67 students in 2022 and spent 784 hours working with them. We worked with 39 seniors for a total of 439 hours through a \$5000 grant from the King's Daughters Organization. We broadened our outreach to Jerseyville, Macoupin, Pike and Macon Counties.

4

Total donations increase by 45%!

Total Donations in 2022 were \$171,597! This was a 71% increase from 2021 (\$98,713). Our annual August fundraiser was very successful and the amount of funds raised was \$44,219. We are starting 2023 with \$171,597 in the bank!

6

Tandem bike project set to start in 2023!

We received a \$5,000 Grant from the Randy Germeraad family to complete the Tandem Bike project in 2023! SB Insurance hosted a Golf Outing and raised \$2,000 and we received other donations for the project as well! We're ready to go in 2023.

8

Our ECVI team expanded in 2022!

Our ECVI team is bigger! Presently, the ECVI Team consists of 10 board members, an Executive Director, three Personal Vision Coaches, an administrative assistant, several volunteers and a marketing director.

By the numbers!

150

Students served
since 2016

784

Students learning
hours in 2022

862

Mission hours in
2022

In the Community



John shows
off another
award at
an Archery
competition



Low vision
kits provided
by INB to
their visually
impaired
customers



Carole and
Ann checking
out the
ibeacons at
Lincoln
Memorial
Gardens



Peggy and
Evelyn at the
ECVI
Christmas
Party!

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