



# News & Views



October-December, 2021

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## Contact us

Give us a call for more information about our services or an article you've seen in the newsletter.

Illinois/Iowa Center for Independent Living

501 11th Street

Rock Island, IL 61201

Phone: (309) 793-0090

Visit us on the web at [www.iicil.com](http://www.iicil.com)

Like us on Facebook at **Illinois/Iowa Center for Independent Living**



## **Holiday Carnival 2021**

**Due to COVID and keeping everyone safe & healthy, we have decided NOT to have the Holiday Carnival as we have in the past. We have decided to partner with BHASED and the Mississippi Bend AEA to distribute gift cards like we did last year. We will have some gift cards here at the office to distribute for those who are not involved with either agency. Please call our office (309) 793-0090 to have your child's name placed on the list. Hopefully, we will be able to have an "in-person" Holiday Carnival next year!**

**Remember!!!! Our office will be closed from Wednesday, December 22, 2021-Sunday, January 2, 2022. We will return to the office on Monday, January 3, 2022.**

**Have a safe and joyous holiday season**



**Board & Staff of the IICIL**

## Tips to Avoid Becoming the Victim of a Scam

Written by: Don Wirth (Iowa Council of the United Blind)

Submitted by: Thandra Ritchie



Recognize the "red flags" of a scam:

1. You didn't initiate the communication.
2. You are made to feel excited alarmed, scared, or panicked.
3. You are asked to provide payment through online transfers, gift cards, or reloadable money cards. Don't send money to strangers, to sellers who Insist on using the using the methods above for payment, or to anyone who claims to be a relative or friend in an emergency and wants to keep the request a secret.
4. Be wary of anyone asking for payment in gift cards.
5. If you are contacted by a known company and asked to provide any form of payment or personal information, discontinue the contact, and call the company yourself.
6. Do not use the contact information provided by the caller.
7. With internet phone services, it is difficult to tell where a call is coming from. It is a good idea to search online for the company name, website, and phone number.
8. Do not send money or give out personal information unless you initiated the call.
9. Government agencies such as the IRS will not contact you and/or accept payment by phone to pay fines, fees, taxes etc.
10. If you are informed via phone or email that you have an arrest warrant, it is probably a scam. Law enforcement will not contact you to demand money for violations you may have committed.
11. Some scams involve an email or text message from a bank or other institution. Computer repair scams can be used to access your personal information. If you think there may be a problem with your computer, that you can't fix, take it to a trusted, local repair business. Don't allow anyone to access your computer remotely.
12. If someone offers to pay more than they owe you, with the request that you send a portion to someone else, it is probably a scam.
13. If someone tells you that you have to pay to receive money you have won or been awarded, it is probably a scam



If you think you may be the victim of a scam please call your local police department.

## Social Security COLA increase

There will be an 5.9% cost of living increase for social Security beneficiaries beginning in January 2022. The cost of living increase was based upon the consumer price index as determined by the Department of Labor Bureau of Labor statistics. Notices regarding changes in benefits will be received in early December.



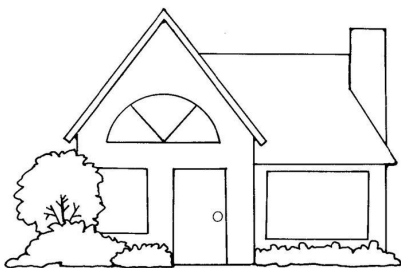
On July 26, 2021, we hosted a Johnson & Johnson vaccination site in partnership with the Illinois Department of Public Health. It was held in conjunction with our Annual ADA celebration. We had about 100 people in attendance. While it wasn't our typical celebration ex: bouncy houses, dance & drum groups, Police & Fire Department displays and the ever popular BINGO. It was still a way to commemorate the day with hot dogs/brats, chips and a drink to go. Hopefully next year, we will be able to have our full celebration.

At the end of August, we wished David Stewart "Good Luck" as he entered the world of Retirement. He didn't stay retired for too long though. He can now be Spotted working at his part-time, keep from going insane job. We thank David for his work with the Reintegration program and wish him good luck on his future endeavors.



On Saturday, October 23, 2021, the IICIL participated in the Mississippi Bend AEA Trunk or Treat event at the AEA. A good time was had by all of the trick or treaters.

There were lots of creative costumes that day. Including two Beekeepers with their cute Bees.



## Illinois Rental Assistance

The application window for rental assistance has been changed. It is now from December 6, 2021 to January 9, 2022. This was due to a switch with the application portal. You can apply through an IDHS provider agency. You can find a list of provider agencies, help with utility assistance, legal aid and other services at [www.illinoisrentalassistance.org](http://www.illinoisrentalassistance.org). Tenants can apply for up to 12 months of past due rent and up to three months of future rent payments. As of now, there is no date set for assistance with Mortgage payments.



# Welcome



Johnnie Woods

Johnnie Woods is our new Administrative Assistant. She joins us after working as a Family Therapist/Social Worker for over 30 years. She is a life-long resident of Rock Island and graduate of Augustana College. She currently represents District 20 on the Rock Island County Board. She is the mother of 3 and has 10 grandchildren.



Destiny Gleason

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Destiny Gleason has recently joined the IICIL as our Community Reintegration Advocate. Prior to joining IICIL, she worked at Friendship Manor as a Nursing Scheduler/Payroll Manager for 6 years. She was also a Program Coordinator for Individuals with Brain Injuries, Behavioral and Mental diagnosis. Healthcare and helping others has been a career of choice for over 14 years.

With this position, Destiny is responsible for providing assistance to individuals with disabilities who are interested in transitioning from nursing homes to Independent Living.



Lory Van Blair

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Lory Van Blair is our new Staff Associate/Driver. She joins the IICIL with over 27 years working in administration. Lory is responsible for assisting our advocates with needed transportation on their day-to-day schedules. She provides support to our Staff Assistant by handling incoming calls, information and referrals, interpreter requests, ITAC phone interviews along with appointments and duties throughout the center as needed.

Jeffrey Spencer is our new Independent Living Advocate, focusing on Physical disabilities and access. Jeffrey is responsible for community information and referrals, ADA ramp compliance, assistive technology, accessibility audits and consumer workshops. Jeffrey has B.S. in Consumer Affairs and a minor in Business Administration from Eastern Illinois University. He brings a wealth of knowledge from his previous experiences in the social field and has a drive to assist his team to ensure each project is successful.



Jeffery Spencer

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## Assistive Technology Funds Available

In collaboration with the Iowa Department of Aging, Easterseals Iowa is offering Iowans funding to obtain assistive technology.

- funds are available to obtain assistive technology for Iowan with disabilities over the age of 18 or Iowans over the age of 60
- the assistive technology must help an individual to increase their independence in activities of daily living, remain in their home, and/or have access to the community
- the assistive technology remains the property of Easterseals but can be used as long as a person needs the device
- an application is required
- there is a \$750 limit per person
- funds are limited and are on a first come first serve basis
- Easterseals team members are available to assist with identifying assistive technology solutions

*The project is funded through COVID19 Coronavirus Relief Funds and monitored by the Iowa Department of Aging.*

For more information or an application, visit: <https://es.easterseals.com> or contact:

**Tracy Keninger**

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## QUAD CITIES DEAF CLUB... WE'RE BACK!!

Submitted by: Cassie Alexander QCDC member

We are pleased to announce that we are rebuilding our club, Quad Cities Deaf Club, after over a year of inactivity due to Covid-19. We recently hosted our first Deaf community event: the Deaf Community Halloween Party on October 23, 2021, since March 2020. Guests came and socialized. I was happy to see people connecting face to face. We also have appointed a few new officers for the club. We are still seeking for one more position to be filled. Please tune into our Facebook page for updated information on who our new officers are.

My goal is to host more events in the future, along with providing support for the Deaf community and providing a safe place for everybody to meet up and connect, and more.

We will be hosting a Christmas party this year. We will be posting announcements and updates on our Facebook page. Please come and check out our page: Quad Cities Deaf Club. We can also be reached through email: [qcdeafclub@gmail.com](mailto:qcdeafclub@gmail.com)

Feel free to messenger us through the page if you have any questions or want to connect with our community.

W e l c o m e





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Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 216  
Rock Island, Illinois

**Addressee or Current Resident**

