



# December 2020

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## BCB Receives Employer Recognition Award

The Bluegrass Council of the Blind has received the 2020 Annual Employer Recognition Award from the Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation (SCVR). The award



recognizes employers who work closely with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and who make it a priority to hire persons with disabilities. We could not be prouder! More than 75% of BCB board of directors and staff are blind or visually impaired and we absolutely would not be able to fulfill the work of BCB without them. Thank you to our wonderfully committed staff! Pictured with the award is Executive Director Theresa Thomas.

## **Sam Seavey Returns to BCB; Richard Sizemore Takes on New Role**

Two big changes are happening in December here at the BCB offices! Richard Sizemore, who has served as the Assistive Technology and Training Program Coordinator for the last 1 ½ years, will be putting his extensive computer skills to work now as BCB's new IT & Security Manager. IT is Richard's primary skill set and we are so lucky to have someone of his caliber to keep the BCB office running smoothly and securely.

With Richard off working among the keyboards, cameras and hard drives, we are happy to announce that our new Assistive Technology & Training Coordinator is ... actually not new at all. Sam Seavey, who previously held this position for 3 years, will be rejoining the BCB staff in that capacity. Sam is the founder and creator of The Blind Life YouTube Channel, which, according to a recent article from the Foundation Fighting Blindness, "is currently the largest resource for assistive technology on the internet."

"We are so fortunate to have these very skilled people on our staff here at BCB," said Theresa Thomas, BCB Executive Director. "Both Sam and Richard have experienced trying to fulfill the IT and AT roles by themselves. And the fact that we can now have a separate person for each role is very exciting – for them and for us!"

Please join us in congratulating Richard and welcoming Sam back. The process for making an AT appointment will remain the same. You can call the office at 859-259-1834 or email us at [info@bcbky.org](mailto:info@bcbky.org).

## **We Need Your Help for the Good Giving Challenge!**



The [Good Giving Challenge](#) is happening Dec. 1-7, and BCB is participating this year! Please join us!

The Good Giving Challenge is a week-long online giving campaign designed by the Blue Grass

Community Foundation and supports local nonprofits. Contributions are amplified

through sponsored endowments and matching incentives. The 2020 Good Giving Challenge runs from 9 AM Tuesday, December 1, to 11:59 PM Tuesday, December 7.

### **Wondering how you can get involved? Keep reading!**

1. **If possible, make a donation on Friday, Dec. 4, from 10 to 11 AM.** The Good Giving Challenge has matching opportunities throughout the week, but the matching window from 10-11 AM on December 4, gives us a one-to-one matching opportunity along with prize drawings. You can [click here to donate on BCB's Good Giving Web page](#)! Or make a donation anytime between 9 AM December 1 and at 11:59 PM December 7.
2. **Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and share our Good Giving posts on your social media accounts.** We need to get the word out to as many people as possible and you can help us!
3. **Tell your friends and family!** Talk about BCB to your family and friends! Ask that they also share BCB's posts and consider donating.
4. **If you aren't online and want to contribute, simply mail in your donation and mark the envelope GGC for Good Giving Challenge.** Our mailing address is: Bluegrass Council of the Blind, 1093 S. Broadway, Suite 1214, Lexington, KY 40504

We are so excited about the opportunities available to us through the Good Giving Challenge and hope you will join our team!

## **Thanksgiving Delivery from BCB**

Each month, with the help of dedicated volunteers, Board members and staff, BCB distributes food to our consumers, too many of whom are isolated at home! In November, we were able to offer a complete holiday meal, including a whole chicken; canned pears, peaches, carrots and green beans; packages of mashed potatoes, stuffing and Jell-O; corn muffin mix and some fresh produce! Thank you to sponsors, donors, volunteers and staff that help us



regularly provide this good and necessary service! [Pictured: BCB Board Members Pat (left) & Zadie Ryan]

## **December Food Distribution Schedule**

Due to the holidays, food distribution is scheduled for the third Wednesday, December 16, from 3 to 6 PM.

## **Are You Ready to Party? Here Are Two Opportunities!**

### **BCB's Quarterly Membership Meeting and Holiday Party:**

BCB Members, you are cordially invited to our quarterly membership meeting and holiday party, via Zoom, on Wednesday, December 9, at 1 PM

There will be holiday music, door prizes, memorials, volunteer recognition, entertainment and more. Please dress in your favorite holiday hats, sweaters or festive-wear and join by phone or video! We would love to see you for the holidays!

**When:** Wednesday, Dec. 9 at 1 PM

**Location:** Zoom

**RSVP:** Call BCB at 859-259-1834 to register and receive the zoom link.

### **Kentucky Council of the Blind Holiday Party**

The Greater Louisville Council of the Blind invites everyone to our virtual Christmas with the Council party, coming up on Saturday, December 5. Just dial your phone and get in on the fun; the festivities begin at 7 PM Eastern Time (6 PM Central) and will continue until 9 to 9:30 PM.

Each part of the evening is being presented by a different KCB chapter or partner. Enjoy a Christmas story from the Library Users; a holiday game from KCCLV; unusual Christmas Disney decorations from the Bluegrass Council; yummy recipes from SAVI of Owensboro; and Christmas music coordinated by the Guide Dog Users. Other groups will be sharing Christmas trivia and memories and much

more. Santa will be stopping by at 8:30; have the little ones close by so they can make sure Santa knows what's on their list.

[Click here to join the Zoom call](#)

Or use One Tap:

16699006833,,,,86298896972# to dial directly from your mobile device.

Phone users may also dial 669-900-6833 and enter 86298896972 as the meeting ID.

Passcode 975864

**When:** Saturday, December 5

**Time:** 7:00 PM until 9-9:30 PM

**Location:** Zoom

## **BCB's 2021 Membership Drive Is Underway!**

BCB is the only nonprofit exclusively meeting the needs of adults who are blind or visually impaired in Central Kentucky. We are here to help people with low to no vision cope and navigate these times, and we want you to join us. Thank you to those friends who have already responded to this Membership Drive! Connect and support BCB's efforts by becoming a Member for 2021 or renewing your current membership for 2021. We're here and ready when you are!

Connection is just a click away! Dues are \$10 per person (additional donations are welcome). You can join or renew your BCB membership by [clicking through to our Web site here](#) and selecting the "Donate" button (please type "2021 membership" in the comment box). You can also mail a check to the office at 1093 S. Broadway, Suite 1214, Lexington, KY 40504 and note that it is for your 2021 Membership or call 859-259-1834 to pay by credit card.

## **BCB December Assistive Technology (AT) Seminar**

In this month's AT seminar, we are going to cover programmable keyboards and mice. You can purchase mice and keyboards you can program with accessibility shortcuts to make your life easier. In this seminar, we will demonstrate some of the cool things you can do with these devices.

**Date:** Tuesday, December 8

**Time:** 7 PM

**Presenter:** Richard Sizemore, BCB Acting Assistive Technology and Training Program Coordinator

**Location:** Via Zoom meeting at the link

below: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEgdu2qrzMoG9JsUkCi9nODeXxgwfn\\_pTP](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEgdu2qrzMoG9JsUkCi9nODeXxgwfn_pTP)

## **BCB December Focus Group**

If you have received services in the past six months, please come help us help you. We are holding a focus group to better our organization, and we need your feedback. During the first hour, the group is focusing on the Peer Support Program. The second hour focus will be on the Assistive Technology Program. All participants will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a \$50 gift card.

**Date:** Tuesday, December 15

**Time:** 7 PM to 9 PM

**Location:** Via Zoom Meeting

**Registration:** To participate, please contact the office for the zoom link information or you can preregister at the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpdO6rqDMpHNOF0cFdEGCdleQZI-fil4pT>

## **BCB January Lunch & Learn**

**Date:** Wednesday, January 27

**Time:** 1 to 2 PM

**Location:** Via Zoom meeting

**Speaker and Topic:** TBA

**RSVP:** Call the office 859-259-1834 for Zoom access info. Remember you can use an ordinary telephone as well as a computer or tablet to access a zoom meeting.

## Book of the Month:

### *The Queen's Gambit*

**By:** Walter Tevis

**Book Number:** DBC17656

**Read by** Joyce Honaker



**Reading time:** 9:30:46



Shy, plain Beth Harmon loses her mother, at the age of 8, in Lexington, Ky. In an orphanage, an old janitor teaches Beth the rules of chess and soon realizes she is a chess genius. She

becomes obsessed with the game and, at age 16, is competing in national chess competitions. While she rises in the ranks of the professional circuit her personal and emotional life suffer. Basis for the popular 2020 Netflix series.

***Disclaimer: The book recommendations and opinions from staff and others do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Bluegrass Council of the Blind, Inc.***

## BCB DECEMBER CALENDAR

### December

National Human Rights Month

**December 1:** Giving Tuesday

**December 1-7:** [Good Giving Challenge](#)

**December 3:** National Disability Day

**December 6:** [St. Nicholas Day](#)

**December 7:** [National Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance](#)

**December 10-18:** [Hanukkah](#)

**December 20:** [National Ugly Sweater Day](#)

**December 24-25:** BCB office will be closed for the Christmas holiday

**December 24-** Christmas Eve

**December 25:** Christmas

**December 31:** New Year's Eve

**BCB December AT Seminar:**

**Date:** Tuesday, December 8      **Time:** 7 PM

**BCB Quarterly Membership Meeting & Holiday Party:**

**Date:** Wednesday, December 9      **Time:** 1 PM

**BCB December Focus Group:**

**Date:** Tuesday, December 15      **Time:** 7 to 9 PM

**BCB December Food Distribution:**

**Date:** Wednesday, December 16      **Time:** 3 to 6 PM

**Giving Tuesday:**

**Date:** December 1

The kick-off to the BGCF Good Giving Challenge and your chance to help BCB by sharing our social media posts and spread awareness of the services available to Kentuckians affected by vision impairments. [Click here to visit BCB's Good Giving page.](#)

**Good Giving Challenge:**

**Dates:** Tuesday, December 1 – 7

An online event to raise awareness and funds for the Bluegrass Council of the Blind and other worthy charities in our community. [Click here to visit BCB's Good Giving page.](#)

**January**

**January 1:** The BCB office will be closed for New Year's Day

**January 27:** BCB January Lunch & Learn