

Press Release

Seniors With Low Vision Offered Option For Reading Local Newspapers

5 January 2010

Arlington Heights, IL —“A fellow resident was telling me what a hard time he was having reading the newspaper because of vision problems,” says Carole Nolan, resident of The Moorings of Arlington Heights retirement community and former general manager and founder of Chicago Public Radio. “So, I told him about a news reading broadcast channel we established at WBEZ in 1979 for the visually impaired. We developed Chicagoland Radio Information Services or ‘CRIS Radio’ with the help of the Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind and similar organizations, and it’s still broadcasting today.” In 2005, after 25 years as an independent agency, CRIS was acquired by Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind.

Ms. Nolan, who retired from WBEZ in 1997, continued “The resident was very interested, so I suggested it to Jody Benson, occupational therapy manager at The Moorings.” Ms. Benson and Ms. Nolan arranged for CRIS radio staff to present the service and distribute free CRIS radios to residents who have low vision on Tuesday, January 5, 2010. The presentation will be part of this month’s wellness program at The Moorings, in which its Clarity For All low vision support program for residents, will participate.

“We were aware of CRIS radio and had already distributed a few, but we hadn’t known its history until Carole Nolan brought it to our attention,” said Ms. Benson. “It was through her enthusiasm for the program, her CRIS contacts and her desire to inform people about helpful resources that we are presenting this in a larger way.”

According to Bonnie Barnes, program director for CRIS radio “The news reading program can be heard online at www.chicagolighthouse.org or on one of the free radios we provide. Each radio has only two channels, CRIS and WBEZ. On CRIS, we offer verbatim reading of the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Defender and The Daily Herald as well as other local newspapers and magazines.”

To receive a free CRIS radio, a person may call Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind at 312-666-1331 to request an application and establish that they have vision impairment. The organization always needs volunteers to read on the CRIS broadcast between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind at 1850 W. Roosevelt Road in Chicago. Contact Dick Carlson, volunteer coordinator, for more information.

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About The Moorings of Arlington Heights

The Moorings of Arlington Heights, a member of Presbyterian Homes, is a continuing care retirement community located on Central Road just east of Arlington Heights Road. The Moorings provides independent living in apartments or villas, assisted living apartments, skilled nursing care, specialized Alzheimer's care, rehabilitation services and adult day services.

About Presbyterian Homes

Founded in 1904, Presbyterian Homes is a not-for-profit, non-sectarian organization with a national reputation for creating extraordinary retirement communities. Presbyterian Homes serves older adults through its residential and healthcare programs on campuses in Evanston, Lake Forest, Arlington Heights and Chicago. The organization is accredited by the Continuing Care Accreditation Commission, the nation's only accrediting body for retirement communities.

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