



PATHS OF POSSIBILITIES



Report to the Community

January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

As we reflect on the past year and forge ahead into another, we are filled with hope and gratitude. Hope for all of the possibilities that this next year will bring and gratitude for our fierce supporters, board members, staff, clients and volunteers.

While our services have required a different approach these past two years, your support enabled us to still make an immense impact on the community. Thousands of people continue to be served through direct services and outreach designed to engage, educate, empower and employ members of the blind and visually impaired community.

Because of you, we are stronger than ever – focused on why Cleveland Sight Center exists. We are here to partner with our clients to show the vast possibilities available to them. Then, we assist them with the right tools, training and resources needed to empower them to achieve their goals.

We will highlight many of these possibilities in the stories that follow about Stacia, Moreed and Athina, a few of the incredible people we've had the opportunity to partner with during their journeys with vision loss.

Thank you for helping pave these *paths of possibilities*.



Bonita G. Teeuwen

Bonita G. Teeuwen
Chair, Board of Trustees



Larry Benders

Larry Benders
President and Chief Executive Officer

ABOUT CLEVELAND SIGHT CENTER

Founded in 1906, our team of optometrists, vision rehabilitation therapists, teachers, employment specialists and other staff are dedicated to helping clients reach their individual and unique goals. Our wide variety of client-centered services are available for all ages and are designed specifically for each client to find solutions to help them do what they want to do.



PATHS OF Possibilities

Every person's journey through vision loss is different. Some people are born without sight and others lose it over time. Regardless of where someone's journey starts, we are honored to partner with each of our clients on [their path to achieving their goals.](#)

In the stories that follow about Stacia, Moreed and Athina, you will read about the vast services, resources and tools available to our clients of all ages and stages of vision loss.

Most importantly, you will learn that it is possible for someone with vision loss to achieve their goals – [the path to get there just might be different.](#)



Many people imagine blindness as complete darkness – but did you know:

- Only a small percentage of people who are blind can't see anything.
- The term "blindness" covers a broad spectrum of visual disability, from when your sight is impaired just enough to interfere with daily activities like reading, cooking or driving, up to total blindness.
- Eye diseases can be caused by trauma, health, age or genetics and impact everyone differently.
- Some eye diseases primarily impact central vision, while others affect peripheral vision.
- Some individuals with vision loss are able to see bright lights or changes in lighting.

“We have grown into confident parents of a beautiful, happy 2.5-year-old boy because of CSC’s Early Intervention program.”

– Parents of Early Intervention client

482 children received services through our Children and Young Adult Services Department.

Hosted **2,510** client experiences through our Leisure and Lifestyle Services programs like music group, yoga, book discussions and other social activities.

Over **\$72,000** distributed to 263 clients through the Empowerment Fund, a donor-funded financial assistance program – an average of \$275 per client.

“I believe I made the best decision for my daughter when I chose Cleveland Sight Center’s preschool. I have seen so many exciting changes in her.”

– Mother of preschool student



STACIA'S *Journey*

At the age of eight, Stacia’s vision began to deteriorate. After 10 eye surgeries and frequent visits to the doctor, she lost vision in her right eye and has 20/400 remaining vision in her left eye due to multiple eye diseases.

She describes her remaining vision as only being able to read words on someone’s shirt if they are within two feet of her.

Now, at age 13 and in eighth grade, Stacia is [learning to adapt and thrive despite her vision loss](#). She works with a case manager from our Children and Young Adult Services Department who connects her with services, tools and technology to help maximize her remaining vision.

She uses a closed-circuit television (CCTV) to magnify the print on her textbooks onto a large monitor so she can do her homework. The CCTV, along with other low vision aids, were provided to Stacia through a donor-supported client financial assistance program called the Empowerment Fund. Stacia’s case manager continues to advocate for her within her school district to ensure she receives all of the accessible materials she needs to succeed.

Since becoming involved with CSC, she has attended our summer camp, Highbrook Lodge, in Chardon, OH and various recreation programs through our Leisure and Lifestyle Services Department where she has made many friends.

“My favorite part about Cleveland Sight Center is the people there and the sense of self I have gained. I now have friends with the same disability as me. I know now that I am not the only one with this disability. I have learned to accept that my disability is a part of me.”

MOREED'S Journey



At 23 years old, Moreed lost his sight due to glaucoma. In an instant, his life changed.

How would he live with vision loss?

In the beginning, he struggled and had very little hope. He dropped out of college. He didn't think he could live the life he wanted.

With the help of his family, friends, doctors and Cleveland Sight Center, Moreed challenged himself. He worked with CSC to learn how to use a computer screen reading software, read braille and advocate for himself in the workforce. He wanted to prove to himself, and the world, that he could achieve his goals.

"I don't consider myself disabled thanks to Cleveland Sight Center. I can do anything someone who has 20/20 vision can because of CSC's programs and services," Moreed said.

After receiving his Master's Degree in Social Work, he began his career at Cleveland Sight Center as coordinator of Share the Vision, a peer-to-peer mentoring program for people who are adapting to vision loss and blindness. He used his own experience as a way to offer hope, help and support to others.

"The members of the blind and visually impaired community are human beings just like everyone else. We are intelligent. We can talk, hear, smell and feel," Moreed said.

Recently retired, Moreed looks forward to the next chapter of his journey as he plans to spend his time in retirement with his family. Not surprising to anyone who knows him, he also plans to speak publicly about blindness in an effort to change the narrative and show the world that members of the blind and visually impaired community can reach their goals and be productive members of society just like everyone else.

"CSC's Employment Services Department is the best service I have ever been involved with!" – Client who secured employment

Our Call Center, with a workforce of 60 customer service representatives, handled **692,748** calls for the state of Ohio and local partners with a 95% satisfaction rate from callers.

Transportation Services drove **56,000** miles, totaling over 1,100 trips for clients, removing transportation barriers.

"I lost my sight, but I gained insight. The Share the Vision program helped me gain my confidence back." – Client and volunteer in Share the Vision

957 clients

were served through the Low Vision Clinic.

The Eyedea Shop provided low vision aids to over **450** new customers to help maximize their remaining vision.

390 adult clients received vision rehabilitation services including braille classes, independent living, assistive technology training and more!

5,648 people reached through direct services and engagement.



ATHINA'S *Journey*

Athina has been living with macular degeneration for the past six years and her left eye is beginning to worsen and fog. As a life-long quilter and bookworm, she became frustrated when these hobbies became too hard for her due to her declining vision.

After a visit to the Low Vision Clinic, Athina met with an occupational therapist on staff and was taught to use a CCTV magnifier, stand magnifier, lamp and bump dots to help her do the daily activities that she loves.

With the help of the stand magnifier and CCTV, she is able to read and quilt again without frustration, and is currently making a quilt that she will give to her granddaughter when she graduates high school – a tradition she has gifted to each granddaughter upon graduation.

The low vision aids and subsequent trainings on how to use them allowed Athina to have hope, enjoy her favorite hobbies again and continue to create beautiful gifts for her family.

“I am just a little old lady. I am 85 and I never thought I would live this long, but thank goodness for Cleveland Sight Center because they have truly made these last years so wonderful.”

DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

Because of you, we are able to partner with individuals like Stacia, Moreed and Athina through their journeys with vision loss.

With your support, we will continue to be with them every step of the way, empowering them to achieve their goals.

In 2021, \$3,822,264 was donated and over 5,750 volunteer hours were completed in support of the blind and visually impaired community.

Thank you for your generosity and the impact made in 2021.

2021 SOURCES OF SUPPORT	AMOUNT	PERCENT
Individuals	\$2,264,817	59%
Beneficial Trusts	\$1,042,428	27%
Foundations	\$400,168	11%
Organizations/Corporations	\$114,851	3%
Total	\$3,822,264	



“Our son passed away from cancer in 2010. CSC Braille Services, along with other services, made it possible for him to learn and grow into a happy, healthy and independent adult. He loved to read and he loved knowledge. In his honor, we continue to donate to CSC to ensure clients’ needs are met and their lives are enhanced, just as braille enhanced his.” – Marlene and Darrell Smith, longtime donors and friends of Cleveland Sight Center

The complete Honor Roll of Donors and Volunteers, including the names of Giving Society Donors within each Giving Society can be viewed online at:

<https://www.clevelandsightcenter.org/annual-report>

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THE VISIONARIES

The Visionaries is a Young Professionals group that works to support CSC's mission while raising awareness and funds through events that involve the community. Members develop leadership and networking skills that will prepare them to be the next generation of board leadership at Cleveland Sight Center.

Visionaries Leadership:

Caitlin Beck, *President*
 Joe Schafer, *Vice President*
 Erin Chelune
 Jenny Sheehe
 Kevin McKinnis

Zac Stanley
 Zak Benmerzouga
 Allison Prelosky-Leeson
 Evan Leeson

LEADERSHIP STAFF

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President and Chief Executive Officer

Charlotte Fornal,
CPA, MAFIS, Controller

Steven Frohwerk,
MBA, MSA, Director of Marketing, Communications and Special Events

Chris Gruber,
Director of Facilities and Transportation Services

Marcia R. Houston,
Manager of Board Relations

Kevin R. Krencisz,
CPA, MBA, Executive Vice President

Susie Meles,
Vice President, Rehabilitation Services

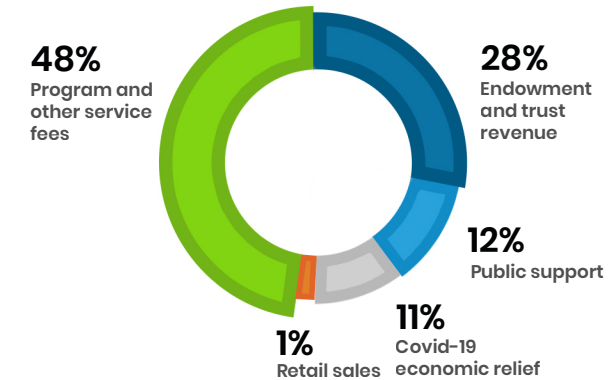
Jassen Tawil,
MNO, Vice President, Strategic Initiatives

Judith Weyburne,
Vice President, Client Operations

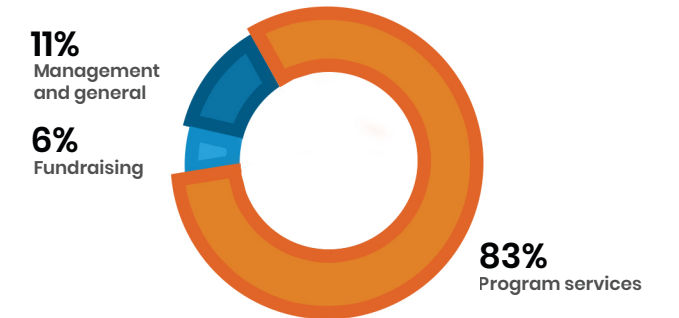
FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial results are for the period January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021.

Revenue \$10.87 Million in 2021



Expenses \$10.96 Million in 2021



Balance Sheet

Assets	
Cash, receivables, inventory and prepaids	\$4,626,928
Endowment and beneficial trust investments	\$120,557,563
Property and equipment	\$9,668,566
TOTAL ASSETS	\$134,853,057
Liabilities	
Payables and accrued expenses	\$769,409
Donor annuities	\$180,336
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$949,745
Net Assets	
Without donor restrictions	\$69,601,820
With donor restrictions	\$64,301,492
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$133,903,312
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$134,853,057

Statement of Operations

Revenue		
Public support	\$1,268,133	12%
Retail sales	\$108,473	1%
Covid-19 economic relief	\$1,247,158	11%
Program and other service fees	\$5,224,421	48%
Endowment and trust revenue	\$3,017,863	28%
	<u>\$10,866,048</u>	<u>100%</u>
Expenses		
Program services	\$9,045,567	83%
Management and general	\$1,211,998	11%
Fundraising	\$700,730	6%
	<u>\$10,958,295</u>	<u>100%</u>
Loss from Operations	<u>(\$92,247)</u>	

Empowering people with vision loss to realize their full potential and shaping the community's vision of that potential.



REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

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