



## Keeping You “In the Know...” 10/5/18

### Spellbound Celebrates 32 Years and Raises Over \$317,000!

- CSC’s annual fundraising gala, Spellbound, was held Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at Windows on the River in downtown Cleveland. This year marked the 32<sup>nd</sup> year for the event and featured guest speaker Rebecca Alexander ([www.rebalexander.com](http://www.rebalexander.com)). The Bridge View Room at Windows was captivated by Rebecca’s remarks and electrified with a spirit of giving, celebration and a sense of real impact on the programs and services offered by Cleveland Sight Center. Thus far, through many wonderful gifts, Spellbound revenues have topped \$317,000...**thank you for your support!**

Upon arrival at Windows on the River, guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d’oeuvres during the meet-and-greet hour with Rebecca Alexander and reception. The cocktail hour also featured a photo screen and silent auction with over 40 great packages to bid on including a trip to Bali, autographed memorabilia, wine packages and tickets to concerts, Cleveland Browns and Cleveland Indians games, to name a few.

Attendees then were seated for dinner as the program began with Board Chair Sheryl King Benford welcoming all guests and thanking the evening’s committee, sponsors, board trustees, staff and clients. After dinner, the program resumed with CSC President and CEO Larry Benders offering some remarks and welcoming the evening’s featured speaker, Rebecca Alexander. Rebecca’s remarks included her personal story living with Usher syndrome type III, the leading genetic cause of blindness and deafness. She talked about her first experiences using a white cane in public – leading her to tears but remembering her personal mantra of “Breathe In Peace, Breathe Out Fear” – then overcoming her insecurities. For Rebecca, her white cane

is so important, as it gives her more information than any technology device or app could. Rebecca spoke highly of CSC after her visit with the agency, calling it “the leadership and model of excellence we need to guide all organizations that serve people with visual impairments.” After Rebecca’s remarks, Larry Benders concluded the program with thoughts on the importance of white canes and vision rehabilitation services, including House Bill 587 and the need to support the work of Cleveland Sight Center. Guests were moved during a bell ringing ceremony that focused on some success stories of clients, staff members and supporters of CSC. Donors then generously raised their bid numbers to support CSC’s programs and services, with bids being matched two-dollars-to-one thanks to the generosity of Board Trustee and Event Chair Sara Parish. The evening concluded with dancing and great music from The Chozen Few Band while the Terminal Tower was illuminated in white and red lights to resemble a white cane in support of Cleveland Sight Center.

Many thanks to the Spellbound Committee for their commitment and hard work in preparation of this year’s event: Board Trustee and Event Chair Sara Parish, Board Trustee Mary Bookman, Board Trustee Susan Harnden and Board Trustee Lynn Heiligenthal-Showalter. Thanks to all staff members that had a part in the planning of the event and those who worked that evening to make it such an inspirational and unforgettable night.

Check out a photo gallery on CSC’s Facebook page by [clicking here](#).



Spellbound logo in burgundy and silver



Board Trustee and Spellbound Chair Sara Parish, Board Chair Sheryl King Benford and Board Trustee Karen Assink



Board Chair Sheryl King Benford welcomes Spellbound attendees



Spellbound speaker Rebecca Alexander applauds



Spellbound speaker Rebecca Alexander listens to remarks



CSC President and CEO Larry Benders introduces Rebecca Alexander



Spellbound speaker Rebecca Alexander discusses the importance of her white cane



The Terminal Tower in white and red lights

### Educating and Engaging the Community:

- Bryan Manthey recently talked about CSC's Independent Living programs to Low Vision support groups at Independence Village in Avon Lake and St. Mary of the Woods in Avon.
- Alicia Howerton and Tom Sawyer attended the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging's new facility at Reserve Square in downtown Cleveland this week. Ohio legislators Senator Matt Dolan, Representative David Greenspan, Representative Stephanie Howse and Representative Kent Smith were welcoming speakers and had a chance to connect with Alicia and Tom.

- Barbara Piascik attended the Rootstown site for Ohio AT Conference and Vendor Fair to showcase CSC's Eyedea Shop and assistive technology products.
- Jessica Polack represented CSC at Rockwell Automation in Mayfield Heights via a United Way Speakers Bureau's request to highlight CSC's programs and services.
- Alicia Howerton, Tom Sawyer and volunteer Linda staffed a health fair at Arcelor Mittal this week. The crew was set up by 5:45 a.m. and coverage lasted until after 4:00 p.m., ensuring reach to all three shifts of workers at the company.
- A group of optometry residents from Ohio State University visited CSC over a two-day span this week to learn about the agency and working with patients with visual impairments. Many CSC staff members and departments were involved with presenting overviews to the residents, including Karen Hiller, Alicia Howerton, Moreed Kamal, Laurie Schlickman, Erin St. Denis and Tom Sawyer.
- Alicia Howerton and Tom Sawyer presented "Blindness Basics" to three groups of staff members at the Marriott hotel on West 150<sup>th</sup> Street in preparation of the hotel hosting the AVRT Conference for Vision Rehabilitation Therapists in November.
- Barbara Piascik and Tony Becker represent CSC at the East-West Eye Conference October 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> at Cleveland Convention Center. For more information on this annual conference, visit <http://www.eastwesteye.org/>.

### What's Happening at CSC:

- Cleveland Sight Center recently hosted the Kelvin and Eleanor Smith Foundation for a site visit. As a result, the agency was awarded a \$40,000 grant to be used for general operations.

- The Call Center recently began handling voter registration calls and general inquiries about the upcoming November election for the Office of the Secretary of State Jon Husted.
- Students in Bright Futures Preschool had another busy week at CSC! They took a field trip to Luther Farm in Richfield to learn what life is like living and working on a farm.



Preschoolers in the maze of hay and straw bales



Preschoolers and staff walking through the corn field



- Social Recreation activities this week included Line Dance, Crochet, Game Day and Music Group. The attendees have been very engaged and the volunteers helping with the activities are bringing something special to the table with Social Recreation.
- Cleveland Sight Center welcomed Zachary Barr, Michelle Stern, Craig Smith and Ellen Leys in a Volunteer Orientation on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. The group left excited about the CSC community and ready to give back during their time at the agency!



Volunteer group photo in front of the CSC sign in main lobby

- The Fiscal Management team has begun the 2019 fiscal budget process. Planning meetings and reviews with individual departments began this week and will continue into next. Ultimately, the 2019 fiscal budget will be presented to the Finance Committee in November and Board of Trustees in early December for review and approval.
- The United States Association of Blind Athletics (USABA) is hosting its annual National Fitness Challenge! Participants with vision loss across the country are teaming up to get fit! Each participating city receives 25 Fitbits to be passed out to help participants track their daily step count on their smart phones. If you are interested in joining the USABA National Fitness Challenge, please email Mollie Evans at [mevans@clevelandsightcenter.org](mailto:mevans@clevelandsightcenter.org) or call 216-658-4597 to learn about receiving a Fitbit and/or joining the NFC Fitbit group!

- The Development team will host a Donor Recognition event on Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> in the ballroom at Judson Manor. Major supporters of Cleveland Sight Center have been invited to an evening of food, beverage and entertainment, highlighted by a guest appearance by Rick Jackson, the award-winning senior host and producer of Ideas and NewsDepth news programs on WVIZ/PBS and the Friday host of The Sound of Ideas® on 90.3 WCPN. Rick Jackson has 30+ years experience in local and network television; both public and commercial radio; and in hosting the nationally syndicated public affairs series Village America, previously seen on PBS. He was honored as a 2001 inductee into Ohio's Broadcasting Hall of Fame. He is also an of Emmy Award recipient, and has won awards from the Society of Professional Journalists, a Communicators Award, Women in Communications Awards and from the Associated Press. For more information on this event, contact Karen Hiller (216-791-8118).
- The CARF team continues preparations for the CARF Surveyors visit to CSC on November 29<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup>. CSC has been assigned these surveyors:

James W. Baxter, Ph.D, CPHQ, CBHE, Administrative Surveyor, Team Coordinator/Report Compiler (St. Paul, MN)

Marcia L. Echavarria, MPH, M.S. Ed., CVRT, CLVT, Program Surveyor  
Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center-Advanced HOPTEL  
Outpatient Blind Rehabilitation Clinic (VISOR) (Houston, TX)

Sharon Duke, M.S., CRC, Program Surveyor  
Goodwill Industries of Kentucky (Louisville, KY)

### This Week in the Eyedea Shop: Holiday Cards!

- Pre-orders are now being taken for this year's Holiday Cards! Cover images with authors are listed below, so take a look and pick your favorites to place an order. Store associates are happy to assist! Also,

some cards from previous years have been selected and are now reduced in price...10 cards for \$5.00. Any questions that come to mind can be answered if you contact the Eyedea Shop (216-791-8118). Online orders of Holiday Cards can be made by [clicking here](#).



"Holiday on the Square" by Regina Dorfmeier



"Winter Trees" by CSC's Bright Futures Preschool class



"Holiday Shopping" by Mike Sager



"Acacia Winter Mist 2" by Stuart Pearl

- The Eyedea Shop has new product catalogs! Thanks to the creative team at Dealer Tire for the excellent new design and layout of the catalog. Stop by the store to get some and pass out to clients, family, friends and business associates.

Items of Note:

- October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. To learn more, [click here](#).
- It's time for the annual Delta Gamma Celebrity Bartender Fundraiser sponsored by the Cleveland West Shore Delta Gamma Alumnae Chapter! Members of the Delta Gamma chapter will hold this fundraiser on Thursday, October 11th from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Around the Corner, located at 18616 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. A portion of the proceeds from this event benefit Cleveland Sight Center.