

Keeping you “In the Know...” 12/16/16

Board of Trustees Meets to Review Strategic Planning Process:

- Nearly 25 members of the Board of Trustees attended a retreat at CSC on Wednesday, December 14th to review the progress to date on the agency’s strategic plan. The agenda for the day covered a strategy overview and priorities for 2017; program-focused breakout sessions in the areas of education, empowerment and employment; function-focused discussion including development, marketing, client experience and metrics; and next steps looking ahead to the next few months. Thanks to the members of the Strategic Planning Committee chaired by [Jill Marcotte](#) including [Sheryl King Benford](#), [Tom Furnas](#), [John O’Brien](#) and [Jim Sacher](#) for their leadership in this process as well as the staff of CSC, who have provided significant information, input and feedback to the plan.



Strategic Planning Committee Chair Jill Marcotte addresses the group

Creating Awareness and Strengthening Partnerships for CSC:

- [Lindsay Lowe-Svarovsky](#) visited with 30 members of the Kiwanis Club of East Geauga Tuesday evening to speak about [Highbrook Lodge](#), the camper experience and how the Kiwanis Club can support camp. The invitation came from Sandra Stocz-Fenton, who has volunteered with Progressive Insurance at [Highbrook Lodge](#) over the last several years.
- The third and final group of students from Hawken School visited CSC earlier this week to learn about CSC and technology.

The Gong Returns!

- The December [Job Club/Holiday Extravaganza](#) was held Thursday, December 15th at CSC. The house band, made up of CSC's [Randy Knapp](#), [Stephen Miller](#), [William Walls](#) and [Moreed Kamal](#) conducted by [Ralph Johnson](#) performed in addition to many talent acts including singing and stand-up comedy. Thanks to all who participated and attended this festive holiday gathering of quality entertainment! Contact [Nicole Kahn](#) (216-791-8118) for additional information on the next [Job Club](#) gathering, which will be held on Thursday, January 19th at CSC.



Nicole Kahn welcomes the crowd
Town



CSC's house band performs Santa Claus Is Coming to

Ho Ho Holidays at CSC and Highbrook Lodge:

- Despite the first snowfall of the year, 22 campers, staff and volunteers enjoyed a day out at camp for the annual [Holiday at Highbrook](#). Campers spent time shopping for holiday gifts prior to enjoying lunch and activities at [Highbrook Lodge](#). Save the date – the next camp event is [Winter Weekend](#) from February 24-26!



A volunteer assists a camper with a holiday craft snow



The grounds at Highbrook Lodge covered in snow

- Saturday's [CYAS Cookies with Santa](#) event hosted CSC's young clients and their families for holiday cheer. Over 200 people attended and enjoyed arts & crafts, holiday treats, and a visit from jolly Santa Claus! Thanks to the entire team for making a very memorable experience for the families...the staff, volunteers and family and friends. And a big thank you to all who purchased tickets and/or contributed items for the raffle. It was very successful and helps the [CYAS](#) team continue to provide events like the holiday party to families.



Lots of presents on carts and shelf



A family is all smiles as they await a visit with Santa



A youngster enjoys a sprinkle-covered donut



Santa Claus passes out toys

- Friend of CSC Donald Taylor and his parents stopped by [Bright Futures Preschool](#) on Wednesday, December 14th for their annual visit and to distribute gifts to the youngsters, read books, and sing songs.



Donald Taylor and his mother read to the students and juice



The Taylor Family with preschoolers as they enjoy donuts and juice

Eyedeas Shop's Featured Product of the Week:

- The Eyedeas Shop's item of the week is the "Flip It". It's a 430 Lumen LED light that can be installed where a light is needed where there isn't one already. Flip It includes hook and loop double sided tape and 2 magnets for easy mounting options, as well as 2 drywall screw holes for permanent mounting. No tools, no wires, no fuss! When needed, just stick it and Flip It. Great for dark closets, next to the fuse box, the garage or shed...or anywhere you just need light! A pack of two lights is \$15.00. Stop in the Eyedeas Shop for a look!



Two-pack of the Flip It lights

- There's still time to purchase [Holiday Cards](#)! Stop by and check out the great selection to send a warm welcome to family, friends and colleagues over the next couple weeks.
- Can't make it to the [Eyedeas Shop](#) at CSC? Then check out the product offerings online at www.eyedeasshop.com and purchase items from the comfort of wherever you may be!

Item of Note:

- For all you online shoppers, remember CSC is a participating charity of [AmazonSmile](#), where online retailer [Amazon](#) donates 0.5% of the

purchase price of eligible products to charitable organizations selected by the customer. CSC is listed as **Cleveland Society For The Blind** by AmazonSmile. Visit the [website here](#) and pass along to family and friends to select Cleveland Society For The Blind as the recipient of a donation on your next AmazonSmile purchase!

Did You Know?

- Courtesy earthsky.org, the December Solstice 2016 arrives in the Northern Hemisphere at 5:44 a.m. on Wednesday, December 21st and marks the first day of winter...or summer for those who live in the Southern Hemisphere. Late dawn. Early sunset. Short day. Long night. For us in the Northern Hemisphere, the December Solstice marks the longest night and shortest day of the year because the Northern Hemisphere of Earth is leaning most away from the sun. Above the Arctic Circle, there is 24 hours of darkness. Meanwhile, the Southern Hemisphere and Antarctic are bathed in sunlight.

On the bright side, from this point the amount of daylight begins to get longer!