



Keeping You “In the Know...” 2/10/17

Educating and Engaging the Community and Strengthening Partnerships:

- Youth from the program Urban Squash Cleveland visited CSC on Saturday, February 4th for a service learning day with Volunteer Manager Melissa Bresnahan. The group learned about CSC, assistive technology products and completed a volunteer project with the Facilities department cleaning various areas of the building. This is the third service learning project with Urban Squash Cleveland, a group introduced to CSC last year by Board Trustee Rob Hartford.
- Two new groups of students from John Carroll University attended volunteer orientation at CSC this week as they begin work with the Adult Literacy program for the spring semester. The John Carroll University students assist in the classroom as the Adult Literacy students complete coursework towards a general education degree.
- Sylvia Snyder attended a Transition Fair for high school students in Lorain County on Tuesday, February 7th. The fair was hosted by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and located at the Lorain County Educational Service Center. Sylvia had the opportunity to discuss CSC’s Summer Youth Work Experience (SYWE) and Career Exploration (CE) programs with students (potential participants) and their parents. The Summer Youth Work Experience program will be held June 11th – July 14th and Career Exploration is scheduled for July 17th – August 4th. Details on all the CYAS summer programs can be found [here](#).
- Lisa Cellura, Cathy Javorsky and Avenue visited St. Christopher’s School in Rocky River on Wednesday, February 8th where they

presented a program on blindness basics and guide dogs to 60 fourth-graders and staff.

- CSC's Braille department will be completing the 508 accessibility work for NASA Glenn Research Center's yearly report for the second year in a row! This is their yearly reporting about what they are doing and the community impact they have which is posted to their website as well as internal reporting at NASA.

Camp Registration is Now Open!

- Registration for upcoming summer 2017 camp sessions at Highbrook Lodge is now OPEN! Are you or a family member interested in spending time outdoors, making new friends and much more? Highbrook Lodge utilizes the benefits of the natural environment to promote friendship, growth, independence and self-sufficiency through traditional camp activities adapted to the needs of campers. The 2017 schedule with additional information is posted on the Highbrook Lodge pages of CSC's website, [click here](#). Any questions, contact the Camp team at 216-791-8118.

This Week in Bright Futures Preschool:

- Students are keeping busy and warm in preschool. This week they learned about Groundhog Day and explored their own shadows inside the classroom and on the playground. They also opened a Sandwich Shop, which is open daily from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., has a variety of (pretend) sandwiches, provides excellent service and will remain open for another week. The class also made a snowman in the CSC courtyard and are preparing for next week's Valentine's Day party and upcoming visit to the Cleveland Botanical Gardens.



Students make shadows against the wall



Images of the Sandwich Shop with signage on the window



Sandwich items and toppings



Snowman in the courtyard

Eyedeas Shop's Featured Product of the Week:

- This week's featured product of the week is the store's assortment of Braille watches. The Eyedeas Shop has always carried the traditional

round face Braille watch in men's and ladies for \$73.25. But now there are two NEW watches to choose from in the store! One is the new TALKING Braille Watch in men's and ladies for \$73.25, which has a round face and a silver tone expansion band. The second is a NEW Braille watch featuring a rectangle face with a black leather buckle band. This watch is attractive and stylish enough for both men and women. The cost is an amazing \$35.00. Stop in and see the great selection today!



Assortment of new Braille watches

- Can't make it to the Eyedea Shop at CSC? Then check out the product offerings online at www.eyedeashop.com and purchase items from the comfort of wherever you may be!

Reminders about What's Coming Up at CSC:

- Want to know about 2017 cost of living changes for your Social Security benefits? Still feel unsure about SSI, SSDI or how working may affect your benefits? Come to February's Job Club meeting when

CSC welcomes Brandon Smith, Cleveland Public Affairs Specialist for the Social Security Administration. The group will meet on Thursday, February 16th at 10:00 a.m. in CSC's Clyde E. Williams, Jr. Auditorium. For more information, contact Nicole Kahn (216-791-8118).

- A reminder Winter Weekend will take place at Highbrook Lodge the weekend of February 24th – 26th. Cost of the weekend is \$60/camper. Transportation to/from CSC is provided for an additional \$15/camper. To register please call the Camp Department (216-791-8118).

Congratulations, You're AWESOME!

- Congratulations to Lisa Cellura, winner of the Random Acts of Awesome Award, who was nominated by Larry Benders. Congrats to semifinalist Scott Malone, who was nominated by Jessica Howiler and Dr. Anthony Easley.

Items of Note:

- RTA has contracted with [vRide Inc.](#) to market and operate a commuter vanpool program called VanShare. VanShare provides vanpooling opportunities as an alternative means of commuting to and from work. Each vanpool must either have a destination in Cuyahoga County or the driver and all riders must be residents of Cuyahoga County. Any individuals, agencies, or companies wishing to explore VanShare can contact either Jill O'Barske (jill.obarske@vride.com or 317-646-2133) or Chad Davis (chad.davis@vride.com or 248-797-4425). For more information on VanShare, [click here](#).
- Engineers in Australia have developed a prototype for an electronic device that can identify obstacles white canes can't pick up. The prototype developed at Melbourne University uses a series of cameras and lasers to scan the ground around the user searching out dents,

dips and drop-offs. An auditory or vibrating alert is then sent to the user so they can avoid the potential pitfall. To read the full article, [click here](#).

- With the way the weather has been lately, it's great to look forward to summer, including CSC's Summer Youth Work Experience (SYWE) program! The program will run from June 11th through July 13th and recruitment is underway for Job Coaches, Program Assistants, Activity Leaders and more. If you know someone who would be interested in one of these seasonal positions, please pass along this link to apply: <https://csc.trackingtalent.com/opportunities>
- It's tax season. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs help people every year. Through these IRS-sponsored programs, millions of lower-to-moderate income individuals and families get their taxes done free. The IRS works with local community groups to train and certify VITA and TCE volunteers to offer this service. Eligible taxpayers, including those with disabilities or limited English, should take advantage of these free programs. Here are several important details about VITA and TCE:
 - **VITA.** VITA offers free tax return preparation to eligible taxpayers who generally earn \$54,000 or less.
 - **TCE.** TCE is mainly for people age 60 or older but offers service to all taxpayers. The program focuses on tax issues unique to seniors. AARP participates in the TCE program through AARP Tax-Aide.
 - **Local Sites.** The IRS works with community organizations to offer free tax services at thousands of sites nationwide. These sites usually open in late January and early February.
 - **Free Electronic Filing.** VITA and TCE provide free electronic filing. E-filing is the safest, most accurate way to file a tax return. Combine e-file with [direct deposit](#) for quicker refunds.
 - **Tax Benefits.** VITA and TCE volunteers help people to get all the tax benefits for which they are eligible. These include the [Earned Income Tax Credit](#), [American Opportunity Tax Credit](#), the [Child Tax Credit](#) or the [Credit for the Elderly](#).
 - **Bilingual Help.** Some VITA and TCE sites provide bilingual help.
 - **Help for Military.** Many military bases have VITA sites that offer free tax assistance to members of the military and their families.

Volunteers can help with [military tax topics](#). Some of these include special rules and tax benefits that apply to those serving in [combat zones](#).

- **Self-Preparation Option.** At many VITA sites, people who earn \$64,000 or less may be able to prepare their own tax returns using free web-based software. This option is for those who do not have a home computer or do not need much help.
- **Site Information.** Taxpayers can find the nearest VITA site by using the [VITA Locator Tool](#) at IRS.gov or by downloading the IRS2Go app. Site information is also available by calling the IRS at 800-906-9887. Find more on AARP Tax-Aide locations at by using [the AARP Tax-Aide Locator](#) by calling 888-227-7669.

All taxpayers should keep a copy of their tax return. Beginning in 2017, taxpayers using a software product for the first time may need their Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) amount from their prior-year tax return to verify their identity. Taxpayers can learn more about how to verify their identity and electronically sign tax returns at [Validating Your Electronically Filed Tax Return](#).

IRS YouTube Videos:

- Free Help Preparing Your Tax Return – [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [ASL](#)

Did You Know?

- Valentine's Day is Tuesday, February 14th. Courtesy [stvalentinesday.org](#), here is the most enjoyable and unbelievable collection of Valentine's Day Fun Facts. Share these fun facts with your friends to amaze them this Valentine Day.
 - About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged in US each year. That's the largest seasonal card-sending occasion of the year, next to Christmas.
 - Women purchase 85% of all valentines.
 - In order of popularity, Valentine's Day cards are given to teachers, children, mothers, wives, sweethearts and pets.

- Parents receive 1 out of every 5 valentines.
- About 3% of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets.
- Valentine's Day and Mother's Day are the biggest holidays for giving flowers.
- Worldwide, over 50 million roses are given for Valentine's Day each year.
- California produces 60 percent of American roses, but the vast number sold on Valentine's Day in the United States are imported, mostly from South America. Approximately 110 million roses, the majority red, will be sold and delivered within a three-day time period.
- In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week. To wear your heart on your sleeve now means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling.
- The Italian city of Verona, where Shakespeare's lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives about 1,000 letters addressed to Juliet every Valentine's Day.
- Richard Cadbury invented the first Valentines Day candy box in the late 1800s.
- Alexander Graham Bell applied for his patent on the telephone, an "Improvement in Telegraphy", on Valentine's Day, 1876.
- The oldest surviving love poem till date is written in a clay tablet from the times of the Sumerians, inventors of writing, around 3500 B.C.