



Keeping You “In the Know...” 5/3/19

CSC Holds Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees:

-CSC’s Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees was held Thursday, May 2nd at The Tudor Arms Hotel. Board Trustees, staff, donors, volunteers and many other friends of CSC enjoyed this evening reception event. The meeting began with Board Chair Sheryl King Benford welcoming all and was followed by Board Trustee and Immediate Past Board Chair Tom Furnas, who presented the report of the Board Development and Governance Committee and presented the slate of Trustees for the coming year. CSC welcomes Rebecca Alexander, Brent Buckley and Dr. Ronald Posner as new members of the Board of Trustees and congratulates Thomas W. Cristal, John M. Saada, Sr., Gordon H. Safran, Susan H. Kimberly Turben, PhD and Frances R. Zverina (deceased) on their election as Trustee Emeriti. Larry Benders followed with his remarks on the last year and where the agency is headed in 2019. The Board then held the election of Officers and members of the Executive Committee. Congratulations to the new officers of the Board:

- Howard A. Lichtig, Chair
- Nathan Kelly, Vice Chair
- Erin C. Ploucha, Vice Chair
- Bonita G. (Bonnie) Teeuwen, Vice Chair
- Wally Anders, Treasurer
- Joan U. Allgood, Secretary

The evening’s program concluded with the Partner for Life Award presented to Board Trustee Sara W. Parish and a wonderful conversation with Marcia Houston and Alicia Howerton, who spoke about her involvement with CSC first as a client and now employee and advocate for the agency.

Thanks to those who attended and assisted with the Annual Meeting. The room was full of energy, excitement and great spirits as CSC continues to move forward!



Board Chair Sheryl King Benford calls to order the Annual Meeting



The Crystal Ballroom at The Tudor Arms Hotel



Trustee Tom Furnas presents the list of new trustees



President and CEO Larry Benders gives his remarks



President and CEO Larry Benders and Board Chair-Elect Howard Lichtig present Immediate Past Chair Sheryl King Benford a glass vase



Partner for Life Award Winner Sara Parish and her husband Dave



Marcia Houston and Alicia Howerton discuss CSC's outreach efforts

Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose Visits CSC:

-Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose visited Cleveland Sight Center this week as he and some of his staff members toured the building, had a sighted guide experience while blindfolded, listened to calls and met many of the Call Center staff handling the Business Services Division communications for his office.

The visit started with a tour of the agency with Larry Benders and Alicia Howerton. Secretary LaRose then toured the Call Center, where he met various Customer Service Representatives handling calls for his office, and then knelt down next to Dana Olesen and put on a headset to listen to Dana handle calls. Dana was doing next-level multitasking – handling calls, using JAWS, answering the Secretary of State's questions...all while keeping cool and sipping coffee. Secretary LaRose was impressed by the work and also that CSC has work-at-home CSRs and wanted to make sure the work-at-home team knows he appreciates their work.

After the visit, Secretary LaRose shared the following on his social media accounts: "Good customer service is essential to our office. Today I had a chance to meet some of the professionals who make that happen. [@ClevelandSight](#) allows persons who are blind or have other disabilities find meaningful, competitive employment. They do an outstanding job!"



Secretary LaRose wearing a headset with Dana Olesen, Calvin Turner and Nick Rothermel



Secretary LaRose shaking hands with Stats Ky Bey



Secretary LaRose with Larry Benders reviewing Call Center statistics

Strengthening Partnerships and Educating the Community:

-Last Friday, the Children & Young Adult Services (CYAS) Department hosted their first workshop on Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) to 13 attendees from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District's Preschool Assessment Team. CVI is a term used to describe visual impairment that occurs due to brain injury, and it is now the most frequent cause of visual impairment in children in the United States. Several disciplines of professionals attended the workshop, including occupational therapists (OT), speech & language pathologists (SLP), intervention specialists and special education administrators. CSC's Perkins-Roman CVI Endorsees, Monica Owen and Barb Williams, led the main session with an overview of CVI, then participants were broken up into their respective fields led by Colleen Hunter (SLP), Monica Owen (OT) and Barb Williams (Early Intervention Specialist). Case Managers Kristen Callahan and Laurie Schlickman, along with Early Intervention Specialist Jessica Howler assisted during the breakout sessions. The workshop concluded with a PowerPoint covering the Expanded Core Curriculum for students with visual impairments and featured the importance of Orientation and Mobility (O&M)

for students with CVI. Prior to the workshop, CSC's Keith Filip, Physical Therapist and Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist) collaborated with Kristen Callahan to film an interview and a short O&M lesson with one of our Bright Future's preschoolers. The video was incorporated into the PowerPoint Slide and was well received by the attendees. Evaluations showed that 94% of the attendees rated the workshop as excellent and 100% indicated that the information presented was very helpful to their professional role at Cleveland Metropolitan School District. The Director of Preschool Education for Cleveland Schools expressed interest in having all of her 140 preschool teachers attend this workshop in the future! Congratulations, team!

-CSC hosted a group of employees from Ability Works, Inc. this week for training on sighted guide, blindness basics, rehabilitation services, employment services and accommodations. The company recently began receiving authorizations from Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) to place clients in jobs and requested CSC's expertise in working with people who are blind or have low vision.

-Mary Jo O'Neil from Hickman & Lowder Co, LPA, a firm serving the Cleveland area in Administrative Law, Civil Rights and Disability Law cases, visited CSC this week for a tour of the agency, "Blindness Basics" training and discussion about what to do when you meet a person who is blind with Tom Sawyer and Alicia Howerton. Additionally, Sylvia Snyder met with Ms. O'Neil to talk about children's services and vision impairments in children.

-Chris Gruber and volunteer Lisa Cellura represented CSC at the groundbreaking event at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes for the new All People's Trail on Tuesday, April 30. CSC provided accessibility consultation during the design and construction of the new trail.



The Board Chair of the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes makes remarks from the podium by the pavilion and trail

-Highbrook Lodge hosted 50 volunteers from Progressive on Thursday, as the group worked on a number of projects to help get the grounds ready for camp, including painting, gardening and cleaning.

-John Naples and Jenny Schaeffer attend the Columbus Blind Sports Weekend hosted by USABA this weekend. They will be participating in a full-day goalball clinic hosted by the US Paralympic National Team and be introduced to blind soccer.

What's Happening at CSC:

-The Recreation team hosted a Golf Program informational meeting for the 2019 season at CSC this week. Clients and volunteers were invited for some snacks and to discuss the upcoming golf season. Susie Meles, Vince Williams and Melissa Mauk presented to the attendees at the meeting.

-Social recreation activities continued this week with Line Dance, Crochet, Music Group and Yoga. An impromptu session of Game Day broke out towards the end of the day as a group waiting for various transportation

rides gathered in the Recreation room for an enthusiastic and entertaining round of games!



Group around a table playing games



Attendees of the impromptu Game Day laugh and smile

-Students in Bright Futures Preschool spent a very busy week getting ready for Mother's Day and celebrated the arrival of their caterpillars. They have been watching the caterpillars each day as they learn and anticipate the soon-to-be butterflies!



Preschool students look at the caterpillars in their container

-With spring finally here, temperatures are beginning to rise and our Fitbitters are increasing their steps! As part of the Anthem/USABA National Fitness Challenge, CSC's participants have been getting out and staying active. Recent activities have included walks around Wade Oval and the lagoon in front of the Cleveland Museum of Art, yoga and other small group walking events around CSC.

-This Saturday marks the season's first Bike and Hike outing at the Hunt Farm in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. For more information, contact Vince Williams or Alicia Howerton at 216-791-8118.

-Bright Futures Preschool graduation will be Thursday, May 23rd at 10:00 a.m. in the Clyde E. Williams, Jr. Auditorium at CSC.

-Winners Club will meet at CSC on Thursday, May 30th and will feature a performance by the Music Group that meets at CSC on the first and third Tuesdays (4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.) of every month. For more information on both Winners Club and Music Group, contact Alicia Howerton (216-791-8118).

-Dr. Mark Bobofchak and Betsey Hallenburg from Eye Care for Animals will be at Cleveland Sight Center to conduct eye exams for service dogs on Thursday, May 30th from 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Please notify Lorie Marsalis

(216-791-8118) if your dog will be participating. Please share this information with clients who have guide dogs.



ACVO/StokesRx

Logo for National Service Animal Eye Exams

Eyedeas Shop's Product of the Week:

-The newest item in the Eyedeas Shop is the Silicone Oven Rack Edge Protectors and Mini Mitts Set. It includes four silicone pieces that slip over the edge of the oven racks to help prevent burns as you put items in or out of the oven. The set also includes two mini silicone oven mitts to also prevent burns. The items are washable, dishwasher safe and stain resistant. The shop's price is \$16.50.



Silicone oven protectors and handles in red

Items of Note:

-CSC's 2018 Impact Reports have arrived! Thanks to the Marketing and Development teams for their collaborative effort in getting the annual report piece produced as well as all CSC departments for providing data and content to continue to tell the CSC story. Hard copies will be delivered to work areas in the next few days and additional copies will be available in copy centers at the agency.

-Services for Independent Living (SIL) will host the May 21st "Celebrating Inclusion: Beyond the Basics" conference. As individuals with disabilities, family members and professionals, people often get so caught up in access to the basics: healthcare, housing, employment and more that they forget about the things that feed the soul and make life meaningful. It is with this thought in mind, this conference has been developed. Attendees are welcome to join the conference for a full day of enlightenment, fun and skill building as they learn from professionals and individuals directly impacted by disability. Continuing education credits will be offered and panels include the following topics:

Access to Travel

Access to Arts, Leisure & Recreational Opportunities

Assistive Technology

Civic Engagement

Parenting & Personal Relationships

Real-Life Stories: "You Are Not Going to Believe This!"

The conference will be Tuesday, May 21, 2019 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Registration at 8:00 a.m.) at the Holiday Inn Rockside, 6001 Rockside Road, Independence, Ohio, 44131. For more information or to register, [click here](#) or contact Laura Gold at lgold@sil-oh.org or at 216-815-0015.

-Stop by the Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood between now and July 1st to check out friend of CSC's Owen McCafferty's "Owen's Gallery of Visual Art" on display in the music & dance building behind the theater. The gallery features acrylic paintings, textural artwork and digital artwork. The exhibit is open Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and located at

17801 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood OH 44107.