



Keeping You “In the Know...” 6/14/19

Strengthening Partnerships and Educating the Community:

-CSC participated in the annual “Parade the Circle” community event at Wade Oval on Saturday, June 8th. Visitors to the CSC activity table enjoyed an activity titled “Braille by Sight” as part of the event’s theme “Mythology by Illusion.” Tom Sawyer and Alicia Howerton, along with a strong contingent of engaged and active volunteers, engaged many with a variety of Braille-like activities and information about CSC. Braille by Sight was enjoyed by adults and children alike, many remarked on how interesting/educational the activity was for them. Some attendees requested information about CSC and a few called the agency this week to learn more about programs and services. A huge THANK YOU to everyone for their contribution in making CSC’s Parade the Circle 2019 effort a tremendous success.



Parade the Circle attendees try the activities at CSC's tent

-The Outreach team had another busy week, attending the Cleveland School of Science and Medicine's 2nd Annual Health and Wellness Day, speaking to The Rotary Club of Cleveland with attendance of 75 people and attending an Eldercare Professionals of Ohio networking meeting at Independence Village in Avon Lake.

-Curtis Warren from MetroHealth System will visit CSC on Wednesday, June 19th at 2:00 p.m. to say thanks to CSC staff for helping him with his research project on software design to help people with visual impairments with their medications. MetroHealth has recently added the ScripTalk software into their mail order pharmacy and would like to educate CSC staff on this offering now available as an option for CSC clients. All staff are welcome to attend this presentation with supervisor approval.

What's Happening at CSC:

-The Social Work Department is pleased to announce last Friday was the inaugural meeting of a new support group called TLC Plus. The group is comprised of 15 clients who are recent graduates of the well-established TLC (Transitional Life Counseling) support program.

TLC Plus is a pilot program that will give continued support to clients new to vision loss or blindness. After recently graduating from the eight-week TLC group, they will now participate in an after program that will meet once a month through November 2019. Attendees will benefit from speakers providing education on such topics as managing successful social outings, music therapy and safety in the community, in addition to continued peer support regarding coping strategies for feelings of anxiety, anger and depression as they adjust, adapt and thrive in their new journey in life. Special thanks to Alicia Howerton for being the first guest speaker.

TLC Plus is being led by CSC staff members Stephanie O'Donnell, LSW and Angela Sciara, COTA/L. For more information, contact Stephanie or Angela (216-791-8118).

-Summer programs in the Children & Young Adult Services (CYAS) department have officially kicked off! A group of 13 participants arrived on Sunday, June 9th and began the Summer Youth Work Experience (SYWE) program this week, which is a summer transitional program for young adults who are blind or visually impaired. It is a five-week residential program providing a paid work experience, instruction in job readiness and “soft skills”, one-on-one or small group instruction in the areas of orientation and mobility, computer skills and activities of daily living. For most participants, this program is his or her first real job and first opportunity to experience independent living. The participants are engaged in their activities with the support of seven interns gaining valuable experience this summer. It has been a busy week with assessments and ‘getting to know you’ activities. Events this week included a trip to Wade Oval Wednesday with staff and interns, tie-dying t-shirts, planting individual herb gardens and a picnic with the Visionaries.



SYWE participants show their potted plants

-CSC’s Visionaries, the agency’s young professional group that works to support CSC’s mission, hosted a dinner social event with the SYWE participants on Thursday evening. The Visionaries group hosts a cookout each year (although this year Mother Nature forced the event indoors) with the SYWE participants in a fun and relaxing social environment to help them feel more welcomed and comfortable as they settle in. As young professionals, the Visionaries shared their experiences and information

about their careers and professions, learning more about them, their interests and career aspirations.

-Also starting this week: Bright Futures Preschool Day Program for children with blindness or a visual impairment who will be entering or returning to preschool in the fall. The program includes occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech pathology, instruction in TVI (teacher of the visually impaired) and O&M (orientation & mobility) and welcomed 10 excited campers on Monday!



A little boy in the Bright Futures Preschool Day Program enjoys the Empowerment Park playground

-The leadership team at Highbrook Lodge has settled in for the summer camp season and they welcome staff members arriving Friday and through the weekend. Staff will go through a variety of orientations and trainings early next week as they prepare for the first campers of the season on June 22. To see more about Highbrook Lodge, [click here](#).

-There are still openings for Working Adults Weekend (for those eligible) being held at Highbrook Lodge on June 22 – June 23. Come enjoy a relaxed weekend at camp where you will take a trip to the drive-in on Saturday night, a canoe trip on Sunday, where the pool will be open most of the time and where you'll get to choose your own activities and just hang out in the beauty of the outdoors! For more details, contact Jenny Schaeffer (216-791-8118).

-The Low Vision Clinic begins patient satisfaction surveys today through a recently-oriented volunteer to CSC! In addition, surveys will be administered to doctors as a way to further engage and increase referrals to the Low Vision Clinic.

-This week's Social Recreation activities included Line Dance, Crochet, Chess Club and Yoga. Book Discussion Group met at CSC on Tuesday and discussed the book Evicted by Matthew Desmond.

-Ryan Ellis, Recruiting Manager from Lincoln Electric, will present to the Job Club group meeting at CSC on Thursday, June 20th from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Ryan will inform attendees about job opportunities available at Lincoln Electric and discuss general information about the company. For more information, contact Nicole Kahn (216-791-8118).

-CSC Volunteer Ally Fedor went above and beyond to create an interactive activity for preschool and camp participants, creating wooden corn hole and ring toss activities for kids to play with and use to work on goals in the classroom. A huge shout out of thank you to Ally for her hard work and creativity in making these fun activities!



Volunteer Ally shows the rings and board she made for CSC clients

Cleveland Sight Center is Hiring!

-Do you have low vision or blindness and would enjoy working in an inbound call center position? Do you know someone who might be a good fit? CSC's Call Center is looking for motivated difference-makers to join the team! Applicants who are part of the community we serve are preferred, but all are

welcome to apply. To learn more, [click here](#).

Items of Note:

-Last call for White Cane Walk funds! Be sure to turn in any additional donations for the White Cane Walk by Friday, June 21st in order to qualify for the additional paid time off incentive!

-The Children & Young Adult Services (CYAS) team is collecting empty plastic coffee cans. The Early Intervention staff members use them with CSC's youngest clients. Please bring them to Lorie Marsalis.

-Officer David Rios was recently highlighted on WJW Channel 8's "Cleveland's Own" segment. For the article, which also features a short video clip, [click here](#).