



Keeping You “In the Know...” 7/19/19

Cleveland Sight Center to Receive Funding in Ohio Budget:

-This week the State of Ohio Legislature successfully passed the state's biennial budget and Governor Mike DeWine signed it into law. The work Cleveland Sight Center provides for clients who are blind and visually impaired will greatly benefit from certain provisions of this budget over the next two years. First, client families who receive services around their 0-3 year-old child will greatly benefit from services provided by CSC's Early Intervention program. This will be made possible by funding provided by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. Second, CSC clients over 55 years-old will benefit from Independent Living services provided in coordination with the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities. Cleveland Sight Center would like to thank the members of the Ohio House and Ohio Senate and the offices of Lieutenant Governor Jon Husted and Governor Mike DeWine for their commitment to support funding for services for people who are blind or have low vision.

CSC's Golf Classic is Monday, July 22nd at Westfield Country Club

-The annual CSC Golf Classic will be Monday, July 22nd at Westfield Country Club. For the fifth consecutive year, this tremendous fundraising and awareness opportunity is the result of CSC's strong partnership with Westfield's human resources department. The day features an 18-hole scramble format, continental breakfast, lunch on the course, contests and activity stations on certain holes and an awards reception. Thanks to CSC's friends at Westfield for their sponsorship of the outing!



Golf Classic logo



WESTFIELD[®]
COUNTRY CLUB

Westfield Country Club logo

Strengthening Partnerships and Educating the Community:

-This week's ADA Day Resource Fair at University Circle's Wade Oval Wednesday was postponed due to weather. The new date is Wednesday, August 7th and in addition to the Resource Fair, it will be "Cleveland Sports Night" including the Cleveland Cavaliers "All for Fun" Tour, Cleveland Indians Hot Dog Mascot Race around Wade Oval, a concert at 6:00 p.m. and the film "Captain Marvel" will be shown at 9:00 p.m.

-Cleveland Sight Center and the work done for a client in partnership with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and the Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB) Program was recently highlighted in a newsletter. John, who is legally blind due to complications from glaucoma, hard of hearing and has paraplegia that resulted from a motorcycle accident, successfully completed activities of daily living and rehabilitation teaching services through Cleveland Sight Center to help him achieve his independence goals. He learned to use assistive technology on his iPad to

improve his communication abilities, and a talking watch to hear the time and date. John learned how to use FaceTime and exchange photos via text with his family on his iPad. He also learned how to use a low vision application called Seeing AI to identify product labels and colors, as well as read his mail and prescription labels. To read the full article, [click here](#).

-Volunteers from Hyland helped with various cleaning projects at Cleveland Sight Center on Friday, July 12th. During their time at the agency, volunteers not only cleaned the Low Vision Clinic and PREP areas to make them more welcoming for clients, but also cleaned low vision aids that will be distributed to clients who are unable to afford them. Thank you Hyland for your hard work on these projects!



Hyland Software volunteers wearing "Here to Help" t-shirts in front of the CSC logo in the front lobby

-CSC's Outreach team met with Heidi Parries, PC Scholars Coordinator at The Presidents' Council, to arrange a student visit to CSC and possible partnering to make scholarships available to students with vision loss. The PC Scholars Program is designed to create a unique support infrastructure for African-American high school students and provide ongoing support in their development as the next generation of leaders and entrepreneurs. This program works with 10th, 11th and 12th grade African-American high school students from Cleveland area high schools, focusing on leadership, academic achievement, career preparedness and life skills.



The Presidents' Council Foundation logo

-Teachers and school personnel are offered various opportunities to expand their knowledge regarding students who are blind or visually impaired throughout the year at Cleveland Sight Center. The 2019 "See What's Possible" workshop for educators, teachers and staff will be Friday, August 9, 2019. For program information, [click here](#).

-Cleveland Sight Center will be the host site for a Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Question and Answer Forum on Tuesday, September 17th. The forum will be from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and RTA representatives will be present to answer questions about Paratransit, fixed route buses, trains and other public transportation questions. Contact Scott Williams-Riseng (216-791-8118) with any questions.

What's Been Happening at Highbrook Lodge:

-The Low Vision Support Group's Special Event Day was held on Monday, July 1st at Highbrook Lodge. Clients from various low vision support groups including VIP (Visually Impaired Person) that meet at Murtis Taylor, TLC (Transitional Life Counseling) and the Caregiver and Family support group (both held at CSC) attended – in total 34 enjoyed this special day at camp!

Attendees started their morning at Cleveland Sight Center with a greeting from CSC President and Chief Executive Officer Larry Benders then enjoyed a relaxing summer day at camp with terrific weather. After a warm welcome from the Highbrook Lodge staff, they were able to socialize together while participating in bowling, line dancing, arts and crafts and bingo. Massages, manicures, chair exercises and the chance to learn how to play chess were also available thanks to some generous volunteers. Clients were provided additional information about CSC's Registration department, Share the Vision program and Employment Services courtesy of presentations by CSC staff members Kimberly Hudson, Moreed Kamal and Kanden Tolbert.

Special thanks to CSC staff and volunteers Monica Avery, Anna Hlavaty, Mike Musgrave, Debbie Peterson and Scott Yerger for their efforts to make this a memorable day for CSC clients. This event is fondly organized annually by Toni Catron-Andrews who made sure everyone felt they went home a winner as she personally wrapped approximately 100 gifts that were given as game prizes and giveaways. All attendees said they can't wait to participate again next year!

-Attendees of last weekend's sold-out Bright Futures Weekend enjoyed an "Under the Sea" theme and spent quality time with one another and meeting new friends. Activities included yoga, arts and crafts, swimming and a pirate-themed scavenger hunt.



Bright Futures Weekend campers and parents try the "parachute" on the lawn at Highbrook Lodge

-This week at Highbrook Lodge the team is hosting the Youth Week 1 session! Both returning and first-time campers are staying at camp Monday-Friday. So far the campers have already made tie-dye shirts, learned knot tying, practiced swimming lessons, made orange brownies over the fire, went on a 'counselor hunt' and composed original campfire songs. Additional activities in this action-packed week include archery, a canoe trip and a visit to a local farm park!



Campers seated in a circle around the campfire



Counselor Andre practicing different knots by allowing campers to tie him to a tree

-Help Highbrook Lodge end their summer session with a bang by attending the End-of-Summer BBQ. This event will take place on Sunday, August 11th from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. During this special event, Highbrook Lodge will provide delicious picnic foods, activities for 'campers' of all ages (including swimming), and an amazing atmosphere with incredible company. The cost is only \$5.00 per person, which can be paid at the Eyedea Shop. You can either make your own way up to Chardon or ride with Highbrook Lodge staff departing from Cleveland Sight Center. If you are riding with staff, plan to

arrive at CSC by 10:30 a.m. and be prepared to be dropped back off at CSC at 4:00 p.m. To RSVP, call Jenny at 216-658-4596 or email jschaeffer@clevelandsightcenter.org.

What's Happening at CSC:

-The Recreation department's July Bike and Hike for east side residents took place on Saturday, July 13th in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Participants were able to get out on the tandem bicycles, walk to the beaver marsh and spend some time enjoying treats at Szalay's Market.



Bike and Hike participants enjoy a break and snacks in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park

-CSC is holding an open computer lab for clients who would like to practice their computer skills! If you have clients who could benefit from practice and additional work on the computer, have them stop by Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. CSC's new volunteer Santhi will be there to greet them and will assist with any questions or difficulties they have. Have your clients take advantage of this wonderful service and thank Santhi when you see her in the hall. For more information, contact Susie Meles (216-791-8118).

-Dr. Lidija Balciunas will present "Low Vision Principles" to all interested

CSC staff on Tuesday, August 27th from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Working with CSC's patients and clients often involves reading electronic medical reports from eye doctors or gathering information from CSC eye reports. Sometimes that information can be difficult to interpret. The "Low Vision Principles" presentation will cover the basics about how to understand and interpret data such as visual acuity, visual fields, refractive errors for glasses and bioptic telescopic spectacles. All are welcome – please make sure you have supervisor approval. Come prepared with your questions or email [Dr. Balciunas](#) specific topics you would like her to cover.

Eyedeas Shop's Product of the Week: Sun Visor for the Car

-Summer can be a great time of year but that sun can be blinding when driving. Sunglasses of many types and styles can be a great solution but how about a sun visor for your car? The newest item in the Eyedeas Shop clips to a car's visor and provides glare elimination for day and night. Get one for the passenger side of the vehicle as well. Even though they may not be driving, glare can cause squinting and sometimes headaches for passengers as well. The store's price is \$10.00.



Car visor with black shade and yellow shade

Congratulations, You're Awesome!

-Congratulations to the following CSC staff members for winning the Random Acts of Awesome Awards:

- Tony Becker, nominated by Keith Filip and Dorota Tomaszewska
- Steve Miller, nominated by Barbara Piascik



Steve Miller and Larry Benders

Items of Note:

-Check out this article on Melanie Knecht, who was born with spina bifida, and Trevor Hahn, who lost his sight because of glaucoma five years ago. Together, they're climbing to the mountain tops. For the full article, [click here](#).

-The last time she could see her family, her animals or her beloved flowers

was when she was 11. Monique Van den Abbeel, born with congenital glaucoma that resulted in optic nerve damage, was blind in her right eye by age 4 and lost sight in her left eye seven years later. Several operations over the years had not changed anything for the girl from Bruges, Belgium. Check out how AI has helped her and others by reading [the article here](#).