

## Keeping you “In the Know...” 5/1/15

### Welcome Larry Benders!

CSC welcomes Larry Benders, the agency's 10<sup>th</sup> President and Executive Director. Larry began Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> and was welcomed at a breakfast gathering by CSC staff, followed by some special guests from Bright Futures Preschool who delivered a warm welcome to his office.



Preschoolers and Larry Benders with a welcome sign



Larry Benders shakes hands with preschoolers

### Annual Meeting is May 13<sup>th</sup> at Corporate College East:

CSC's Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at Corporate College East beginning at 12:00pm. Join us as President and Executive Director Larry Benders is introduced. Anne Goodman, President and CEO of Saint Luke's Foundation, will deliver the keynote address titled "The Performance Imperative: A Framework for Social Service Excellence." Tickets are \$35; CSC staff can attend for \$20. Contact Melanie Sliman (x4561) to RSVP.

### Educating the Community:

Steve Frohwerk was a guest on WTAM 1100s "Wills and Snyder in the Morning" show Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> to promote CSC and this year's White Cane Walk & 5K Run. The audio, now posted to the CSC website, can be found here.

The Terminal Tower was lit in white and red lights resembling a white cane and to raise awareness for CSC on Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. WKYC Channel 3 covered the opportunity, click here for a link to review their coverage. Thanks to Kevin Krencisz, Meghan Hanrahan and Steve Frohwerk for canvassing downtown Cleveland Monday evening to collect photos, some of which are below:



Close-up of the Terminal Tower



Terminal Tower from West 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Superior Avenue



Cleveland's three tallest skyscrapers at dusk



Cleveland's three tallest skyscrapers at dark

### Exploring New Opportunities and Strengthening Partnerships:

Night at the Races, hosted by Delta Gamma Cleveland East Alumnae, was held at CSC on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. The Clyde E. Williams, Jr. Auditorium was transformed into a horse racing emporium for the evening, complete with food, drinks and exciting horse racing action. Thanks to all who had a hand in making the event such a success:

- Planning Committee: Board Member Susan Harnden, Cynthia Collyard, Shelley Sedlacek and the countless Delta Gamma volunteers.
- Attendees and CSC Staff: Board Member Wally Anders and wife Becky, Board Member Tom Furnas, Board Member Howard Lichtig and wife Kitty O'Neill, Board Member Mary Tookman and husband Ned, Greg McGrath and wife Patti, Sylvia Snyder and husband Richard, Amy Mullen and husband James, Cathy Javorsky and husband Chuck, Lindsay Lowe and Joe Svarovsky, Marcia Houston, Theresa O'Neal, Desmond Kennedy, Alicia Howerton, Mike McManamon, Chris Gruber, Scott Malone, Ted Sanders, Amos Grant and Officer Art Chenevey.



Group photo of the ladies of Delta Gamma



Ned Tookman and Tom Furnas

The Supported Employment/Individualized Placement and Support (SE/IPS) program had a follow-up meeting with Avtron Aerospace, Inc. on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Avtron Aerospace manufactures aircraft test equipment, specializing in the testing of electrical, electronic and hydraulic systems. All members of the SE/IPS team visited Avtron's site in Independence to learn the specific job duties required of assemblers. Avtron is committed to working with CSC and hiring individuals who have disabilities.

Jennifer Dean and Alexis Vinick visit the Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) located in downtown Cleveland's Anthony J. Celebrezze Federal Building on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. DFAS is an agency of the United States Department of Defense that provides finance and accounting services for the civil and military members of the Department. DFAS-Cleveland reached out to CSC for a worksite assessment for a new employee who has a vision impairment. This is a great opportunity to build a relationship with a potential employer of CSC clients.

Also on May 1<sup>st</sup>, CSC and grant writing partner Grants Plus submit a grant proposal to The Abington Foundation, which was established to support organizations that promote education, health care, economic independence and cultural activities primarily in Cuyahoga County. The proposal is for funding to support the peer mentor position, a vital component in CSC's evidence-based Supported Employment/Individualized Placement and Support (SE/IPS) model and helps CSC maintain fidelity.

On Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> the Supported Employment/Individualized Placement and Support (SE/IPS) team will attend the Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI) staff meeting at the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) Lakewood office. The meeting will provide a forum to discuss services and provide feedback. This is a great opportunity for CSC to promote effective collaboration with OOD, the major funder of our vocational rehabilitation services, and a partner of CSC for decades.

### **CARF Corner:**

CARF is the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities and its mission is to promote the quality, value and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process and continuous improvement services that center on enhancing the lives of persons served.

Over the next weeks, four parts of Performance Improvement will be reviewed.

Performance Improvement – Important Points and Questions (Part 1):

The best organizations are dynamic and responsive to the needs of their customers. What is your system for tracking the results of your services in the lives of persons served? Is follow-up information collected to assess long-term benefits of services? After all, the ultimate measure of quality services is the impact of those services on the quality of life of the person served.

### **From the Facilities Department:**

Improvements to the north parking lot began this week which will include asphalt removal and paving. There should be no disruption to parking but please be aware of your surroundings.

For the safety and health of all of our guide dogs and guide dog users, staff and visitors are asked to please pick up all waste and dispose of appropriately in the outdoor trash receptacle located near the guide dog relief pad on the north/east side of the building by the Residence Center.

In an effort to assist with this request, the Facilities staff has installed a pick-up bag dispenser located south of the dog relief pad. A guide rail has been installed to aid in the location of the dispenser.

### **Items of Note:**

The Recreation team launches this year's sailing program Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> with training at CSC. Team assignments will be made for the upcoming season, which is funded in large part by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Contact Desmond Kennedy (x4595) to get involved.

Check out Jennifer Dean's creative approach to fundraising for her White Cane Walk team – click here. Have you started a team yet?

Register now for the White Cane Walk & 5K Run, held at Legacy Village in Lyndhurst on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>! The event is presented by the Association of Indian Physicians of Northern Ohio and through a generous challenge grant from the SWP Foundation, the first \$30,000 raised this year will be matched dollar for dollar! This year, we celebrate 10 Years Walking!

Save the Date: Bright Futures Preschool graduation is Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am – 12:00pm in the Clyde E. Williams, Jr. Auditorium.

Applications for the Joseph Roeder Assistive Technology Scholarship are now available on the NIB website by clicking here. The scholarship provides a one-time award of \$2,500 for an individual who is blind to pursue education in computer science, information systems or a related field leading to a career in access technology. Applications and supporting documents must be submitted online no later than Friday, May 29, 2015 and the winner will be announced in June 2015.

The scholarship is named for Joe Roeder, senior access technology specialist at NIB from 1997 until his death in 2010. Roeder was instrumental in the development of the Section 508 electronic and information technology accessibility standards of the Rehabilitation Act, which require all federal government agencies to provide accessible data and information for employees with disabilities.

Click here for an article in The Wall Street Journal that discusses the puzzling increase in children with nearsightedness and techniques being used to battle this spike.