

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

### Annual Meeting a Success:

Nearly 125 guests registered for CSC’s Annual Meeting, held Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at Corporate College East. Those in attendance included members of the Board of Trustees, CSC staff, community and business partners and friends of CSC. In addition to official business and nominations of the Board of Trustees, Board Member Dr. Ken Koster was presented with the Partner for Life Award, President and Executive Director Larry Benders outlined his goals for the agency, keynote speaker Anne Goodman presented “The Performance Imperative” and outgoing Board Chair Bill Spring officially turned over the gavel to incoming Board Chair Tom Furnas. To close out the program, Board Member David Cook and Board Chair Tom Furnas presented the agency with a \$50,000 gift from The Ralph and Lucille Schey Foundation in honor of Bill Spring’s leadership and dedicated service to CSC.



Guests socialize before the program begins



Larry Benders outlines his goals for the agency

### Strengthening Partnerships:

Alexis Vinick participated in the Supported Employment/Individual Placement Support (SE/IPS) Leaders Meeting in Columbus on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Over a dozen agencies from around the state who implement the Evidence-Based Practice model were in attendance. Agenda items included sites updates, outcomes collections and calcification on fidelity ratings. In addition, the meeting is a great opportunity to network with other organizations and share best practices related to the SE/IPS model.

Dr. Alex Yuan, Dr. Aleksandra Rachitskaya and Meghan Marino of Cleveland Clinic’s Cole Eye Institute visited CSC on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> to meet Larry Benders and to discuss CSC’s collaboration with the Institute on Argus II. The Argus II consists of an electronic retinal implant that receives information from an eyeglass-mounted camera that is designed to help patients with Retinitis Pigmentosa detect light and movement. Also present at the meeting were Dr. Lidija Balciunas, Erin St. Denis, Amy Mullen and Joel Zureick. After Drs. Yuan and Rachitskaya have surgically implanted the Argus II’s 60-electrode array on a patient’s retina, CSC will provide vision rehabilitation services to help the patient learn to interpret and effectively use the visual percepts generated by the Argus II. We believe that helping people who are blind or have low vision to learn how to use the new technology of devices such as the Argus II will be an important part of the future of vision

rehabilitation services. Drs. Yuan and Rachitskaya expect the Cole Eye Institute's first implant surgery to take place this summer.

Congratulations to Brian Peebles, who was presented with the Partnership Award at the end-of-tax-season celebration of the Cuyahoga Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition. The program, in its 11<sup>th</sup> tax season offering free tax preparation services to low-income families, completed 13,124 tax returns, over 1,000 more returns than were completed last year. This brought back over \$18 million in federal and state refunds to the local economy.

CSC provides technical support, data and volunteer management to over 300 volunteers and 22 tax sites throughout Cuyahoga County and provides guidance to more than 51 tax sites in Cuyahoga County, Lorain County and Toledo. Said Brian, "This would not have been possible without the dedication and teamwork from Brooke Dowdy and Jennifer Dean. Thank you both for your unconditional support and efforts throughout this tax season, I could not have done it without you! I cannot thank you enough."

## All Aboard!

The Recreation team continues to stay active this spring. On Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, volunteers in the Sailing Program launched CSC's fleet into the water for the season. Speaking of the water, check out the photo below of Team VIPER (Visually Impaired Persons Enjoying Rowing) with oars in the water at a recent rowing practice and their mention in the May newsletter of the Western Reserve Rowing Association. [Click here for the newsletter](#).



Sailboat lowered into the water



Team VIPER practices rowing

## 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 3):

The persons served are your customers. Customer satisfaction is important. To find out how you are doing, answer the following questions: Do you ask persons if your services are meeting their needs for today? Do you ask persons if your services are helping them reach their goals for the future? Do you use what you learn to make changes in services when needed? Does your organization listen to and learn from others?

### **Consumer Council Corner:**

The National Council on Disability (NCD), an independent federal agency that advises the President, Congress, and other federal agencies on disability policy, released a comprehensive assessment of surface transportation for people with disabilities titled, "Transportation Update: Where We've Gone and What We've Learned."

Shalin Shah, a high school student, designed an iPhone app for people who are blind or have low vision. Help encourage him by testing his app and give him feedback. The app will assist a user to take a picture of a page containing text and will also:

- tell the user if the focus is correct
- adjust for brightness
- adjust for a picture of text on a curve such as a can label
- take the actual picture when auto settings are acceptable
- run optical character recognition on the picture
- read the resulting text using text-to-speech software

[Click here for the link](#) and [click here to email feedback](#).

### **Items of Note:**

Volunteers contributed 208 hours to CSC last week, a value of \$4,690!

Labels for Education is offering bonus points for all labels and caps submitted. Please bring in your labels or send them to [Lorie Marsalis](#) (x8768) by June 12<sup>th</sup> to help Bright Futures Preschool.



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!