



Empowerment Park Grand Opening

**A Partner
for Life**
Cleveland Sight Center
Annual Report 2013

An Historic Year at Cleveland Sight Center

Hello!

Cleveland Sight Center has a long list of accomplishments over the past year to celebrate. We marked a significant milestone with our **Vision 21 – A Fund for the Future** campaign coming to an end and surpassing its \$17 million goal by more than a million dollars.

We marked our first full year of delivering services after a \$10 million renovation. This has transformed the way we deliver services, and improved the lives of our clients.

Outside the building, 2013 marked the completion of our Empowerment Park, a playground and recreation area designed to help clients of all ages who are blind or have low vision, develop independence skills.

We also were very pleased by the continued expansion of our Call Center, which provides employment for clients who are blind or have low vision. We provide services for the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Tourism and Recreation. The call center created 20 jobs over 18 months.

We are proud of the accomplishments highlighted in this report and hope you continue to partner with us as we aim to make the lives of our clients better, and our community a better place as we Educate, Empower and Employ.

As always, we thank clients, staff, donors and volunteers for making 2012-13 a successful year!

Sincerely,



Steven M. Friedman, PhD
President and Executive Director



Andrew L. Sikorovsky
Chair, Board of Trustees

- CSC celebrated the largest gift in the agency's history through the generosity of Corinne and Al Reid. A \$2 million gift to endow the position of Director, Children & Young Adult Services.
- Our "Supported Employment" initiative was awarded "Best in State" by Center for Evidence Based Practices at Case Western Reserve University.
- CSC assisted over 450 clients work toward employment, partnering with 29 businesses that are willing to hire individuals with low vision.
- Our Call Center secured contracts with the Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Health to achieve increased employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The Call Center agents hired 21 new agents in 2013.
- Our Community Outreach Program reached over 13,000 people offering information regarding CSC's services and living with disabilities.
- Our Eyedea Shop sold over \$500,000 of merchandise to empower our clients in their daily lives.
- Over 300 CSC volunteers conducted preschool vision screenings for over 7,500 children at over 220 preschools and Head Start programs throughout greater Cleveland.
- In a record breaking year, CSC expanded services to children in 18 school districts.
- CSC launched a joint fitness challenge initiative with the United States Association of Blind Athletes to ensure vision loss does not limit the recreational opportunities afforded to individuals.
- Our Low Vision Clinic optometrists, trained in low vision techniques, served over 800 patients.
- Our "Share the Vision" program provided over 700 hours of peer support to new clients who have low vision.
- CSC celebrated the 85th anniversary of our residential camp at Highbrook, in Chardon, Ohio. Highbrook is one of the oldest facilities in the country providing camping experiences to people with low vision. Over 230 campers were served this year.
- In the agency's effort to have a regional presence, partnerships with the Akron Blind Center and the Akron Children's Hospital were launched.
- Over 17,650 volunteer hours of service were donated to CSC by over 250 volunteers.



United Way of Greater Cleveland

Cleveland Sight Center is a United Way Partner agency.



Cheryl Fields

To **Cheryl Fields**, Cleveland Sight Center (“CSC”) is like a second home. Cheryl first came to the center as a frightened young mother more than 25 years ago.

She had lost her vision suddenly due to optic nerve damage. She had two young children to take care of, and a husband who did not want her to learn new skills or socialize with other people who are blind.

Cheryl was determined to overcome her challenges and CSC helped her do so.

She has since become immersed in daily life at the agency, as leader of the consumer counsel, a member of the Board of Trustees and participant of many programs and activities. Cheryl says the building renovation completed in 2013 has been a crowning achievement, making life better for her and others who depend on the agency.

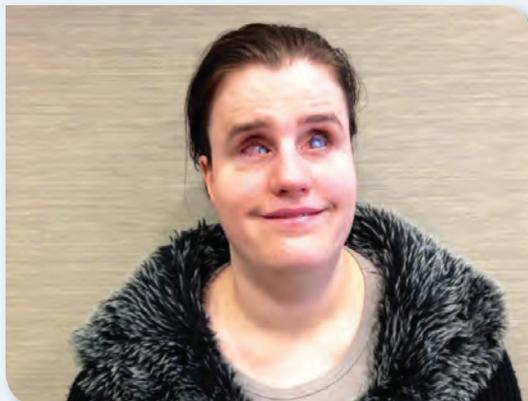
Access to services became easier, new spaces opened up and programs such as the computer lab expanded. Way-finding features, including textured walls and floors, help people with vision loss navigate the building.

“But the absolute pride and joy of the building is the children’s wing,” said Cheryl.

“The building renovation has made a huge difference,” she said. “Usage of the same space is much better. It was time—it was past time.”



Cheryl Fields



Chelsea Dye

Chelsea Dye

The renovation also allowed for expansion of training and employment services at CSC. The Call Center, which provides customer service for outside organizations, created 20 jobs since 2012 – at a time when Cuyahoga County lost thousands of jobs.

Chelsea Dye is among the beneficiaries. Chelsea entered the call center training program, and began working at the center in November 2012. She moved from Summit County to Cuyahoga County for the job. It was her first job, after having been discouraged by other employers due to her disability.

“They wouldn’t or couldn’t come out and say they wouldn’t hire me due to vision loss, but I could just tell that was the demeanor,” she said.

“Cleveland Sight Center has done a lot for me to be able to be independent.”

Stats Ky Bey

Employment has also been a game-changer for **Stats Ky Bey**. She had stopped working several years ago, after her vision declined rapidly as the result of juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. She entered the call center training program in 2009 and has risen to where she now is a trainer in the program. Her work has helped her trainees land jobs across the state at other call centers.

Stats Ky believes that for people with vision loss, “Employment is a big piece of feeling normal.”



Stats Ky Bey

Please see a full list of donors online . . .
www.clevelandsightcenter.org/sightFY13

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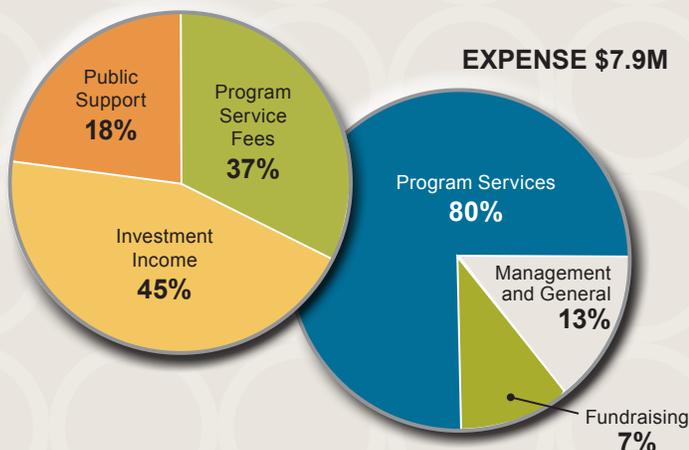
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FINANCIALS: FISCAL YEAR 2013

REVENUE \$8.5M



**A Partner
for Life**
Cleveland Sight Center

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