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**CLEVELAND SIGHT CENTER RECEIVES \$750,000 GRANT FROM
THE CLEVELAND FOUNDATION
AS PART OF \$47 MILLION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

**Funds Needed to Help Rebuild Organization's Main Campus Building and
Residential Camp to Assist Greater Cleveland's Blind and Visually Impaired**

CLEVELAND (*June 24, 2008*) -- The Cleveland Society for the Blind, dba Cleveland Sight Center, has received a \$750,000 capital grant from The Cleveland Foundation, making it one giant step closer to raising the projected \$47 million it needs for its "Fund for the Future" capital campaign. Of the total campaign, more than \$25 million is designated for construction costs at the organization's main campus building at 1909 East 101st Street in Cleveland and at its residential camp, Highbrook Lodge, in Chardon.

"We are very happy that The Cleveland Foundation chose to support our cause in such a big way," said Michael Grady, president and executive director of Cleveland Sight Center. "We have a tremendous need to expand in order to help the growing number of people who are blind or visually impaired in our area. In addition to serving a larger number of people, our facilities require updating. Built in 1964, our main building needs to be renovated to better serve our clients functionally and through expanded program services."

The new facility, which is being designed by Paul Westlake of Westlake Reed Leskosky, will represent a state-of-the-art, environmentally innovative structure that features customized design elements to help orient clients to their surroundings. The existing facility will be expanded by 15,000 sq. feet to reflect the growing need for services as our population continues to age and experience vision loss that can not be corrected by corrective eyewear.

“We recognize Cleveland Sight Center as meeting a critical need in our community and are proud to be able to support its Mission of restoring independence and a sense of dignity to the thousands of clients it serves each year,” said Robert Eckardt, senior vice president for programs and evaluation at The Cleveland Foundation.

Although Cleveland Sight Center is still in its “quiet phase” of the capital campaign, it already has approximately \$21 million committed to its goal. Ground is expected to be broken for the building additions in July 2009 with the goal of completing the project by July of 2011.

Cleveland Sight Center has served Northeast Ohio residents for more than 100 years. It is unique inasmuch as it is one of only a handful of centers in the U.S. to provide comprehensive services to individuals of all ages who are blind or visually impaired. Services include prevention, education, rehabilitation, employment assistance, assistive technology training and other support programs designed to enable clients to live more independently and productively, regardless of their level of impairment.

Most of the services provided by the non-profit agency are not classified as medical care and are, therefore, not reimbursable through Medicare, Medicaid or most private insurers. As a result, a majority of the services provided are subsidized by Cleveland Sight Center, with only 11 percent of its total operating income represented by fee-for-service revenue.

Currently the organization serves nearly 31,000 people annually through direct service, community outreach and its radio-reading service. According to Prevent Blindness Ohio, more than 187,000 Ohioans age 40 and older suffer from low vision or blindness. Research conducted by Johns Hopkins University projects that the number of blind persons in the U.S. will increase by 70 percent by 2020, largely as a result of our maturing “baby boomer” generation.

For more information on services provided by Cleveland Sight Center or to learn more about the organization’s ongoing capital campaign, visit www.clevelandsightcenter.org or call 216-791-8118.

