



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Koula Callas
216.658.4575
kcallas@clevelandsightcenter.org

Cleveland Sight Center Partners with Local Organizations to Help Blind and Visually Impaired Teens Prepare for College and Employment

Indians, Library for the Blind, Museum of Natural History, Orchestra, Rock Hall, Science Center and Sherwin Williams Support "Fundamentals for Success" Program

CLEVELAND, OH – July 7, 2009 – Cleveland Sight Center's 2009 session of Fundamentals for Success, a transitional daily living and vocational skills educational program for blind and visually impaired teens and young adults, is in progress. This year's program offers some exciting work experience with the Cleveland Indians, the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, The Cleveland Museum of Natural History, The Cleveland Orchestra, The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, The Great Lakes Science Center and Sherwin Williams.

Cleveland Sight Center has more than 30 years of experience teaching teens and young adults who are blind or visually impaired critical daily living skills in a comprehensive summer program to help them successfully transition from high school to college, or directly to employment. Students began this six-week program with a week of evaluations to develop a customized plan for each student participant. Some of the students have other disabilities in addition to having vision loss, which is taken into account in developing these customized plans.

Fundamentals for Success promotes independent living via a residential apartment setting, teaches job-readiness skills and cutting-edge assistive technology, all under the instruction and supervision of trained rehabilitation professionals, many of whom are also blind. The students learn to maintain their efficiency apartments located at Cleveland Sight Center, balance a budget, grocery shop, safely navigate their environment, and take public transportation, among other important daily living skills. For many of the students, the work experience they obtain as part of this program will be their first. Job responsibilities vary widely from being a greeter to retail to office work and food service, complemented by job shadowing. The program is supported by The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission's Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI).

The parent of a Cleveland State University student who was a past participant commented, "He is living on his own in college, getting a taste of his own life. He is grateful he got practice in a non-pressure situation."

Fundamentals for Success also offers participants an opportunity to have some fun, including a trip to Cedar Point and Blossom Music Center, a Cleveland Indians game as well as golf, tandem cycling and other recreational activities that are part of Cleveland Sight Center's core offerings for its clients.

- more -

About Cleveland Sight Center

Cleveland Sight Center, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) agency founded in 1906, provides people of all ages who are blind or visually impaired with educational, rehabilitative, preventative and many other vision support services. These services also include recreational activities, such as sailing, golf, tandem cycling, crafts and more, and a camp, Highbrook Lodge, in Chardon where campers of all ages can enjoy summer fun. Cleveland Sight Center is a CARF-accredited vision rehabilitation facility and depends on the generous support of corporations, foundations and individuals to provide life-changing services to individuals and families impacted by sight loss.

For more information visit clevelandsightcenter.org, or call 216.791.8118.

###