

Keeping you
"in THE"
know.



10/21/22

Strengthening Partnerships and Educating the Community:

-Case Western Reserve University's (CWRU) Case for Sight club held their annual "Dinner in the Dark" fundraiser and awareness event the evening of Friday, October 14th. Representing Cleveland Sight Center included Kristen Callahan (Manager, School Age Educational Services) who presented on how the Children & Young Adult Services department advocates for children with visual impairments, highlighted roles like teacher of the visually impaired and children's case manager, and shared some examples of advocating for students. Proceeds from the event support Cleveland Sight Center and a note received into the CSC office from the students stated, "Thank you so much for speaking at Dinner in the Dark and shedding light to such important and relevant topics. We are incredibly grateful and have received wonderful feedback about the speech from attendees. We look forward to keeping in touch and collaborating!"

Image of two attendees wearing blindfolds as they eat their meals at Dinner in the Dark





Image is a group photo of guests and CSC representatives smiling and seated around a table at Dinner in the Dark



Image is another group photo of CSC representatives smiling and seated around a table at Dinner in the Dark

-Alicia Howerton (Strategic Partnerships Manager) participated in a seminar titled "Disability: Part of the Equity Equation" held Wednesday evening by The National Federation of the Blind of Ohio Employment Committee. Four panelists talked about the equity equation, barriers faced and how each achieved his or her current roles.

-It was a very busy week for Tom Sawyer (Outreach Specialist) as he had five engagements in the community!

Tom visited Pleasant Valley Elementary STEM School on Monday to talk with 75 4th graders who are studying the five senses. Many of them were eager to participate in activities and were engaged in the presentation by answering questions throughout the talk.

With a special thank you to Jim Hlavaty (Manager of Registration) for facilitating a connection, Tom was invited to Benjamin Rose to present a program on "Blindness and Low Vision Etiquette" for the Volunteer In-Service monthly meeting with 46 people in attendance on Tuesday. He also talked about some "Did You Know" tips and Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB) programs for individuals and groups as these senior volunteers provide help to other seniors living throughout Cuyahoga County. A number of the volunteers approached Tom with questions after the talk and to collect CSC collateral as resource materials for their seniors.

Tom traveled to the Medina County Office for Older Adults on Wednesday to speak with 20 members of their "Friends N Focus" low vision group. The "Did You Know" tips were well received and attendees thought the blind and low vision etiquette, CSC programs and services overview that included the ILOB Individual and Group programs were extremely helpful to give to their families. One of the members is a retired emergency room nurse of 32 years who is the caregiver for her 100 year old aunt who is blind; she was very excited to put the information she had learned into practice with her aunt as well as share information about Cleveland Sight Center to others.

Tom spent Thursday afternoon presenting a “Tips Talk” with an overview of CSC programs and services including ILOB programs in the Independence Place Community Center that serves three senior apartment buildings in Parma Heights. After the presentation Tom scheduled time to be available to talk one-on-one with individuals who didn’t want to ask questions in the group settings.

To close out the week, Tom speaks at a luncheon for 80 plus seniors at the City of Independence this afternoon about CSC’s programs and services, vision health as well as tips, techniques and tools to live well.

-Cleveland Sight Center partners with The Artists Archives of the Western Reserve for their newest exhibit titled “W/O Limits: Art, Chronic Illness, & Disability” curated by Megan Alves and Mindy Tousley. One of the pieces being featured is by artist and friend of CSC Chapelle Letman, Jr., who’s “Vertical Predator” sculpture is being loaned to the exhibit from its permanent home at Highbrook Lodge. Several of Letman’s sculptures will also be on display. The exhibition will feature braille tags, large text hand-outs and a selection of touchable sculptures for visitors to explore. Descriptive tours are available by appointment for those with visual impairments. Information about the gallery and hours is as follows:

The Artists Archives of the Western Reserve
1834 E. 123rd Street, Cleveland OH 44106
Gallery Hours: Wed – Fri 10:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m., Sat 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

For more information, visit <https://www.artistsarchives.org/event/w-o-limits/>, email Megan Alves, programs@artistsarchives.org or call 216-721-9020

What’s Happening at Cleveland Sight Center:

-Please note the Eyedea Shop is closed for 30 minutes from 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. daily. Any questions, contact x4666.

-Preschool open enrollment is ongoing. For more information, contact Susie Meles (x8747).

-Don’t forget the preschool students will be having their annual Halloween event on Monday, October 31 starting around 12:45 p.m.

-Leisure and Lifestyle Services (LLS) continues to host and engage clients through recreation and socialization programs on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays! Volunteer Fred Discenzo, who along with his wife Dianne, usually instruct ballroom dance lessons...but this week he switched it up a bit and introduced the group to their first tap dance class!



Attendees also spent time painting Halloween pumpkins to get ready for the holiday. Contact Gabriella Drago for more information and please note: due to limited capacity, individuals interested in attending programming must call or email Gabriella (Leisure and Lifestyle Specialist) at 216-658-4598 or gdrago@clevelandsightcenter.org.

Image of recreation program attendees practicing their music on the keyboards

Welcome to Cleveland Sight Center:

-Let's welcome Mary Puzder who started Monday, October 17 as Marketing Content Specialist in our Marketing and Communications department.

Image is a photo of Mary



Items of Note:

-The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) recently announced its Digital Inclusion Toolkits, a set of free resources to create, encourage, and advocate for more digitally inclusive classrooms. Designed for school administrators, teachers, families, and students who are blind or have low vision, the toolkits include planning tools for educators and administrators; information and resources for families and students with visual impairments that are designed to help them connect with others; advocacy tips; and lists of support organizations, hotlines, and other helpful resources. To access the toolkit, [click here](#).

-Smartphones have gradually become more useful for people with a range of physical abilities, thanks to tools like screen readers and adjustable text sizes. With the recent release of Apple's iOS 16 and Google's Android 13 software, even more accessibility features have been introduced or upgraded, including improved live transcription tools and apps that use artificial intelligence to identify objects. When enabled, your phone can send you a visual alert when a baby is crying, for example, or a sound alert when you're approaching a door. And many accessibility tools, old and new, make using the phone easier for everyone. To read more from this article posted in The Seattle Times, [click here](#).

Did You Know:

-Did you know Halloween is the second largest commercial holiday in the country, ranking second only after Christmas. Consumers spent approximately \$9 billion on Halloween in 2019, according to the National Retail Federation. Spending was down a bit in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but Americans still forked over \$8 billion overall, or an average of \$92 per person.