-It is with great sadness the CSC office announced that Nicole Kahn passed away on Friday, October 21st after a very brave 27-month fight with cancer. Nicole worked at Cleveland Sight Center for over 10 years and her roles in her career at CSC included starting as a Peer Support Provider and then being promoted to Employment Specialist/Registration Coordinator – both in Employment Services Department – then later promoted to Assistive Technology Trainer in the Vision Rehabilitation Department.

Services for Nicole were held on Sunday and Monday. For those of you who were not able to attend, here is a link to the recording of it. Select “Live Streaming” and then scroll down to “Chapel.” Her service is one of the selections on the right side of the screen. Nicole’s obituary can be found here.

Nicole was a wonderful colleague. She shall be missed.

Image is a photo of Nicole Kahn
Strengthening Partnerships and Educating the Community:

-Tom Saywer (Outreach Specialist) represents Cleveland Sight Center as he talks with Joey Tomsick, director of the Lake County Council on Aging and host of “Our Aging World” radio program, airing this Saturday October 29th at 2:00pm on WINTEGRITY Radio 101.5fm 1330am. In addition, Tom presented a “Tips Talk” which included an agency overview and the Independent Living Older Blind programs at a luncheon for seniors at the Village of Walton Hills Community Center.

-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://wwwartistsarchivesorg/event/w-o-limits/, email Megan Alves, programs@artistsarchivesorg or call 216-721-9020

What’s Happening at Cleveland Sight Center:

-Construction continues on the part of our building that will integrate the retail store, clinic and occupational therapy service areas. The renovated space will be open, bright and truly a one-stop shop for devices, glasses and services. Once complete, sometime in spring 2023, this project will allow us to serve our clients in a more comprehensive way that enhances their experience.

Recent updates include the installation of all plumbing in the area including four sinks and new water lines and drains, the moving and replacement of an industrial 6-inch plumbing pipe, installation of all door frames and backing mounts for all cabinets, and about 85% of electric work has been completed. Workers also began the construction and installation of the architectural ceiling and counter structures in the retail area, which will feature circular ceiling fixtures and circular counter spaces. Image of workers designing the circular frame for the ceiling fixtures
The preschool class had some special guests visit them at Cleveland Sight Center this week, as they welcomed some animal friends from Maple Crest Farm in Brecksville. Stacey and Meredith Giere talked to the students about the different animals they brought including Inka the pony, Bubble the dog, and chickens Judy and Bloom. The preschool staff collaborated with the Early Intervention (EI) team to include some EI clients (and potentially future CSC preschoolers) and families in the event. Image is a preschooler looking at the camera and smiling as he brushes the pony. Image is two preschoolers sitting in a red wagon petting one of the chickens being held next to them.

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. Currently five children are expected in attendance, but treats will be collected for others not able to make it or if someone misses class on Monday. There are no food allergies aside from one student who is lactose intolerant. If weather cooperates, students will walk about the courtyard and playground area with their parents and teachers to collect treats. If weather will be an issue, students will walk through the CSC building – mainly the 2nd floor of the administrative offices and the lobby area of the 1st floor. A final determination about location will be made Monday morning.

October is Blindness Awareness Month:

In addition to celebrating White Cane Awareness Day on October 15, the month of October is Blindness Awareness Month. From the website of New England Low Vision and Blindness: Blindness Awareness Month was launched in October 2009 by The Little Rock Foundation, an organization in Voorhees, New Jersey, dedicated to serving families with blind or visually impaired children. Tina and Rocco Fiorentino formed The Little Rock Foundation one year after the birth of their child, Rocco, who was born four months premature and blind. As Ambassador for The Little Rock Foundation, Rocco has shown that world blindness doesn’t prevent people from living life to the fullest.

Blindness Awareness Month seeks to accomplish many things:

- Education: Companies around the world teach the public about good eye health and the latest research and innovations in the treatment of eye disorders.
- Inspiration: Stories are shared about blind or visually impaired people accomplishing incredible things most sighted people do not attempt.
- Advocacy: Organizations garner support for more resources, research, access, and laws that enable people with visual impairments to live fully productive lives and contribute equally to their communities.
#GivingTuesday is November 29:

-#GivingTuesday is right around the corner on Tuesday, November 29!

#GivingTuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Over the past nine years, it has grown into a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate and celebrate generosity.

Be on the lookout for information on how you can support this year’s #GivingTuesday initiative and the impact donations will make.

Did You Know:

-Did you know the world record for the heaviest pumpkin weighed at 2624.6 pounds and the world record for the fastest pumpkin carving is 16.47 seconds.