1/10/20

Happy New Year!

-Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year! Another brand new year is here so recharge your energies and get set to enjoy. Thanks for your great work in 2019 and all the best in 2020!

Strengthening Partnerships and Educating the Community

-Amanda Grandjean, Esq., Director of Elections and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State along with Dave Ward, Director of Constituent Affairs for the Office of Secretary of State Frank LaRose visited CSC on Friday, January 3rd for a tour of the agency with Alicia Howerton and visit to the Call Center with David Magyar and Jassen Tawil. The representatives engaged CSC’s team in preparation for the upcoming primary and presidential elections in which CSC’s Call Center will help callers determine their voter registration status and their polling location and also discussed current call handling and capabilities and services.

-A consultant for a renovation project at Notre Dame College visited CSC on Friday, January 23rd for a tour of the agency with Chris Gruber and Alicia Howerton. The tour highlighted accessibility within the building and design features to assist with navigation for staff, volunteers and guests who have blindness or low vision. The consultant was quite impressed by all the design features and nuances that are incorporated into CSC’s main building and intends to put this new knowledge to good use on future projects.
Dawn Kendrick, a local media personality and creator of “The Good Stuff” social media program, visited with Larry Benders and Alicia Howerton on Monday, January 6th for a tour of the agency. Ms. Kendrick was accompanied by CSC Board Chair Howard Lichtig and was eager to learn more about CSC and the clients served. She spent some time in PREP with Annette Jakse and shared her experience on Facebook (click here).

Ohio Senate Bill 135, passed in 2018, allocates funding to all 88 Ohio counties for the purchase of voting systems. The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections this week contacted CSC to provide feedback for the purchase of new election equipment. A group of CSC staff members will spend time with other user groups at a meeting today with the vendors, see and touch the equipment, ask questions and provide comments to assist the County in their decision-making process. Vendors will showcase precinct scanners and ADA ballot marking devices. For more information, click here.

Tom Sawyer visited and spoke with staff members at five MetroHealth facilities this week – Cleveland on Broadway Ave, Bedford on Rockside Rd, Brecksville on Treeworth Blvd., West Park on W. 150th and Middleburg Hts. on Pearl Rd, distributing information about CSC programs, services and how to refer patients to the agency. Tom also attended the Eldercare Professionals of Ohio network meeting at Southwest General Hospital and talked with members about CSC services and programs.

Winter Weekend Planned at Highbrook Lodge

Adult Winter Weekend will take place from Friday, February 7th at 5:00 p.m. through Sunday, February 9th at 12:00 p.m. at Highbrook Lodge. The cost for this snowy weekend getaway session is $75 without transportation, $90 with. CSC staff members are encouraged to spread the word about this session to their adult clients. CSC staff members living with vision loss or blindness are also invited to attend as participants. If you are interested in volunteering for the weekend (or for just a few hours), please contact Jenny Schaeffer (x4596). Spots are limited and will fill up quickly - so please start sharing news about this opportunity!

What’s Happening at CSC

The upstairs Call Center will be undergoing a much-needed refresh. In fact, the work has already begun. Please pardon our dust and construction as this area will be painted and new carpet and workstations will be installed. Updates and changes include new cubicles similar to those used in other areas of CSC, replacing the dry-erase board with a computer monitor to display the daily statistics and a new waiting area at the entrance of the Call Center. The Call Center timeclock will also be moving just a few feet away next to the copy machine.

CSC’s Call Center has grown very successfully since its inception in 2010, and specifically this past summer in negotiating new contracts with our business partners. Our Board of Trustees was pleased to reinvest in the call center business and approve these capital improvements in our 2020 budget.
The project is expected to take approximately two weeks. Thanks in advance for your patience, understanding and cooperation as we make these workspace enhancements. Please direct any questions to David Magyar (dmagyar@clevelandsightcenter.org).

-CSC’s Employment Services department recently received notification from the Social Security Administration’s Ticket to Work Program that the agency scored 100% as part of their random Services and Supports Reviews, going over requirements and processes in areas including ticketholder’s employment goals, career planning, job placement assistance and ongoing employment support.

-Students in Bright Futures Preschool returned to the classroom this week after their holiday break and had lots of fun while learning...Play-Doh crafts, music, exploring ice, active board, learning with the iPad, and winter play on our playground were some of the highlights this week.

-Photo of students playing with Play-Doh at their activity table

- A preschooler plays with the measuring cups attached to the active board

**Items of Note**

-Please note beginning Monday, February 3rd the Eyedea Shop’s new store hours will be 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

-January is Glaucoma Awareness Month. It’s also the time of year we make positive resolutions to ourselves. Add a glaucoma screening to this year’s list. You’re at a higher risk if you’re:

  • Over the age of 65
  • Very nearsighted
  • African American
  • Diabetic
Glaucoma is called the “Silent Thief of Sight” because you won’t notice or feel the onset of glaucoma until you start noticing an irreversible vision loss, or your eye doctor discovers an increase in your eye pressure. Because the vision loss happens slowly at the extreme edges of the visual field, it may go unnoticed until there is a significant vision loss. To read more, click here.

-What’s new with JAWS 2020 screen reading software? Click here to find out!

-Check out this article about how virtual reality goggles integrated with a camera give a legally blind young woman 20/20 vision and the chance to be a machine shop’s second-shift quality control lead. To read the article, click here.

-Did you know in the next year the Fourth of July will be on a Saturday, Halloween will be on a Saturday, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day will be on Fridays and Cinco de Mayo (May 5th) will be on a Tuesday (Taco Tuesday!).