

Mission Possible

2020 VOLUNTEER IMPACT REPORT



Empower. Support. Promote.

Volunteer Team Cleveland Sight Center



Recreation participant
with pumpkin.

A MESSAGE FROM THE VOLUNTEER TEAM

It is no doubt that the year 2020 came as a shock for all of us. A pivotal time in our world and in history, our individual lives and collective communities experienced sudden and extreme shifts. It was a challenging time that required us to think differently about what it meant to be in community, and about how we could remain present to offer and sustain meaningful resources for those who are blind or visually impaired.

In this "Mission Possible" report, I aim to share how you, our volunteer community, created and uplifted opportunities for joy and connection throughout 2020. Through your support you have not only created and nurtured meaningful experiences for Cleveland Sight Center (CSC) clients, but you have also journeyed with us and have proven that no matter the circumstance, making a difference in the name of CSC's mission is always possible.

With great gratitude and admiration,



Melissa Mauk

Manager of Volunteer Services

AN INSTRUMENTAL IMPACT

In 2020, laughter, learning, relaxation and music created opportunities for clients to connect and grow with one another. Activities like improv, trivia, jam sessions, dance, yoga and more all acted as catalysts for participants to practice communication skills, gain confidence, relieve stress and create good exercise habits. Along the way new friends were made, old friendships nurtured and the support of Cleveland Sight Center remained constant.

CSC offered 350+ hours of recreation programming in 2020.

90+ people participated in these offerings.

"I am so happy that you are hosting virtual dance and yoga. I typically am unable to leave my apartment because of my health concerns. I love to dance, and now I get to do it from my living room with all of my CSC friends!" -CSC Client

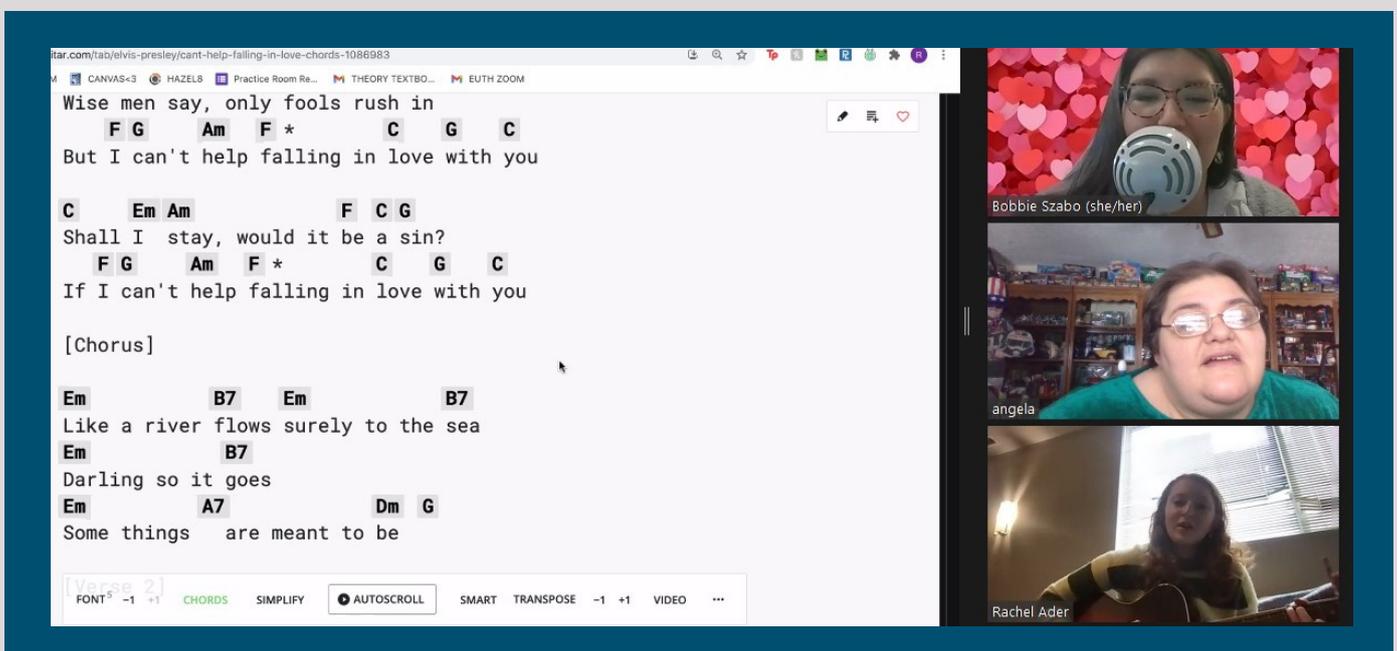


Photo of Jam Session



From recruiting participants behind the scenes to developing and providing leadership for activities, CSC volunteers added energy to remote offerings that was instrumental for our community.



"The CSC yoga virtual class is so relaxing at the end of a long day. The instructor is able to help me make sure I'm doing the poses correctly even though he cannot see me physically. It is also nice to get the chance to spend time with other people living with blindness while we are apart due to Coronavirus." -CSC Client

"The 2020 pandemic has left many of our clients feeling lonely and isolated. Volunteers have helped significantly in connecting with our clients through programming. The programs led by our volunteers have provided community, fun and an opportunity for clients to forget for a short time how the happenings of today's events have affected them. Volunteers have provided happiness and an opportunity to connect. We could not be more grateful to the dedication, leadership and talents of our volunteers." - Susie Meles, Director of Empowerment - Rehabilitation Services



Elf waving (top left), Music volunteer (top right), Meditation leader (middle) and Sing it Out leaders (bottom).

A CONSISTENT VOICE

From the latest in news and culture to poetry, science, business and more, CSC's Radio Readers remained a reliable resource for listeners to tune into for information during the height of 2020's challenges and beyond. Offering more than 25 unique programs, Radio Readers were steadfast in producing new content from home and at a safe social distance to be sure CSCN listeners didn't miss a beat!

CSCN hosted 5,719 online radio sessions in 2020.



Radio Reading Volunteers

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS TO SEE US THROUGH

With new virtual activities and a shift to at-home support, our partners remained committed to making a difference in the lives of CSC clients.

The Progressive IT Special Lines Volunteer Group

Raised funds to support the upkeep of Highbrook Lodge, ensuring our camp in Chardon, OH remains in great condition for campers of the future.

Delta Gamma Cleveland East

Collected and donated handmade masks to keep clients safe and provided pumpkins, apples and cookie packets throughout the year so programs could be dynamic and fun.

Case for Sight

Was innovative in creating a virtual fundraiser to raise donations for CSC, and stayed involved in supporting the agency through remote volunteering.

The Students of Medina High School

Installed lights in a reading cube for our preschool!



Reading Cube (top), University School Volunteers (left) and client smiling with pumpkins (right)

University School

Helped prepare for virtual White Cane Walk and recorded videos for clients unable to partake in live programming.

The American Medical Student Association

Helped us thank our donors, sent a caring message to our preschool students and ensured our play area in preschool was clean and safe for all.

Delta Gamma Kent State University and Saint Gabriel Parish

Supported at-home volunteer projects.

A YEAR TO REMEMBER

Looking back on the last year, the support and power of community made a lasting difference. Thanks to you and your belief in the work of Cleveland Sight Center, the lives of many were impacted and clients of all ages were reminded of what it means to be part of the CSC family. The time you took, the way you cared and the creativity you shared made an imprint. You formed memories and helped people learn and grow. You connected people during a time when it was otherwise hard to feel connected. So thank you, from the bottom of our hearts. This community shines so much brighter, and our work reaches so much further, thanks to you.



AMSA volunteers

In 2020 187 volunteers donated 5,300 hours to CSC.