

Keeping you
" in THE "
know.



3/19/21

Making an Impact:

-John O'Brien, past Board Chair and current member of Cleveland Sight Center's Board of Trustees, visited the agency with a guest recently and had this feedback to share with the team:

"I brought my dear friend to visit the Sight Center today. He has had two strokes which have caused him a good deal of vision impairment.

From the moment we arrived with a cheerful greeting from Cathy (Javorsky), then to the empathetic competence of Kim (Hudson), and then to Barbara (Piascik) & Jackie (Bumba) and their upbeat, supportive demonstration of the array of aids that the Eyedea Shop has to offer - it was truly an outstanding visit.

It is always a source of great pride to be able to bring family and friends with vision issues to meet our caring and competent team."

-Lite boxes are incredibly helpful for children who are visually impaired. They can be used to promote eating, create arts and crafts, encourage reaching, help with movement difficulties, used during class and daily living routines, make-believe play, identifying objects and letters and more! The CSC Early Intervention (EI) team identified a need for EI Specialists to have lite boxes to show families how useful they can be and also to loan to families while they wait for funds to purchase one.

"After hearing about the importance of the lite boxes, a longtime donor and friend to CSC chose to donate \$3,000 so that need could be realized. This week, 10 mini lite boxes, 5 carrying cases, and 5 sets of swirly mats (for use on the lite boxes) were ordered and arrived at CSC! Early Intervention staff are excited to put these to use!

When asked about the importance of the lite box, one EI parent said, "Our little guy loves the light box! He puts the apple picture on the screen and says "apple." He was never able to connect the word apple with the picture of an apple. Then, he did it with the picture and lite box. He played on it for almost two hours the first day. I was so excited to see how much he loved it."

-Some feedback from clients and volunteers that shows the importance of programs, services and being connected:

"I'm in a vulnerable place in my life right now, and I need recreation programs like this to know that there is life after vision loss." - Client

"I gotta hand it to you! This (Highbrook Virtual Winter Weekend) was so creative and fun. Amazing programs, hilarious activities, and wonderful bonding time with our camp family." - Client

"These virtual activities make me feel powerful. They're my happy place. I feel the best when I'm with all of you!" - Client

"I want to empower CSC's clients to make healthy choices that work for them. Everyone's situation is different. We need to encourage people to select options that will promote their own health and wellness—not what is effective for others." - Volunteer

What's Happening at CSC:

-The Call Center began work on two new projects this week for the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). Customer Service Representatives are fielding tech support calls for various web applications that are used by DODD service providers in the field. They are also providing support to the ODH Coronavirus hotline scheduling vaccination appointments for Ohioans across the state. The first day for DODD was perfect - no abandoned calls and only 12 seconds of hold time. In partnership with InfoCision, the Call Center has handled 13,000 Coronavirus calls and helped ODH bring their average hold time down to 38 seconds.

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-CSC staff members gave a virtual presentation to 46 students and staff of the Cleveland State University's Master of Occupational Therapy Program on Wednesday, March 17th. Erin St. Denis spoke about how she helps people using various techniques, strategies and devices as well as her education. Alicia Howerton and Tom Sawyer provided information about CSC and how to interact with people who are blind or have vision loss. The students had an opportunity to ask specific questions about interacting with people who are blind or have vision loss during the final 30 minutes of the presentation.

-The Children & Young Adult Services (CYAS) team held the third information session on Cortical Vision Impairment (CVI) on Thursday, March 18th. The program was titled "CVI Range Report: 'I have this report, now what do I do?'"

Upcoming dates and topics for future sessions are listed below and are open to CYAS staff, CYAS families, outside therapists and teachers. For more information, contact Monica Owen (mowen@clevelandsightcenter.org or x8776) or Barb Williams (bwilliams@clevelandsightcenter.org or x8784).

April 15th: DIY: Adapting Toys, Activities and Spaces for CVI Needs

May 20th: CVI & Communication Needs

-Bright Futures Preschool is excited to welcome back students to the classroom at Cleveland Sight Center for the fourth quarter of the school year beginning Tuesday, March 30th! The students will be enjoying their spring break March 22nd – 29th.

-Social recreation activities this week included the Speaker Series, which was titled "Antarctic Expeditions" and featured Dr. Ed Sobey, who discussed his life and travels including a scientific expedition to Antarctica, founding a museum, faring the sea and traveling the globe!

Upcoming Recreation programs include:

Monday 3/22

10am Stretching and Meditation

6pm Happy Hour Social

Tuesday 3/23

11:30am Meditation

5:00pm Yoga

Wednesday 3/24
10am Coffee Chat
2pm Jam Session

Thursday 3/25
10am Activities Vary
2pm Escape from _____

Friday 3/26
10am Fun Fridays
2pm Trivia

Additional Activities and Information

Happy Hour Social
March 22nd at 6pm

This social hour is specifically designed for our clients who are working professionals! Know anyone who is interested in recreational programming but cannot attend activities during the day? This is perfect for them!

Escape from _____
March 25th at 2pm

Join Occupational Therapy PhD Candidate Erin for the first half of an awesome series of mystery sessions! Do you love Escape Rooms? Clients interested in problem solving and figuring out creative solutions to complex issues are sure to enjoy these programs!

Monday, March 29th
Poetry with Shayna Sharpe at 1:30pm

For additional information about the Leisure & Lifestyle Services program offerings, please call the Recreation Information Line at 216-658-4600 or contact Recreation Specialist Bobbie Szabo at 216-658-4597 or bszabo@clevelandsightcenter.org.

-Spring cleanup around CSC continues as the Facilities team has been cleaning the grounds and clearing debris, preparing for upcoming mulch work around the building exterior and flower beds and repairs to areas of the roof.

Items of Note:

-The Microsoft Ability Summit is a two-day, free digital event experience that brings together people with disabilities, allies, and accessibility professionals to Imagine, Build, Include, and Empower the future of disability inclusion and accessibility. We encourage all to join on May 5-6, 2021 and spread the word throughout your internal and external communities.

- Wednesday, May 5 from 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM, PT
- Thursday, May 6 from 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM, PT

The 2021 Microsoft Ability Summit will feature:

- Keynotes from Microsoft executives and notable members of the disability community
- Expert panels featuring exciting projects and innovations
- Demos of the latest accessibility features in Office, Windows, Xbox, and more

All sessions will be recorded and available post-event so no matter what time zone you are in, you can access the content at a time that works for you!

For more information, visit the site here: <https://abilitysummit.eventcore.com/auth/login>

-Chris Reighard, a 62-year-old retired employee of the Arkansas Division of Services for the Blind who lives in Altoona, Pennsylvania, considers herself and her husband, Dave, to be pretty tech savvy. But she was unable to book vaccination appointments for them, both who are blind, through the Pennsylvania Health Department website while using one of the most commonly used screen readers.

"Their page is very accessible until you get to where you need to find the locations of the vaccines, and those are done like colored dots on a map," she said. "Of course, the screen readers won't do colored dots, they pretty much do text, and the colored dots did not have any text associated with them. That was a problem."

But the Reighards are far from alone in their struggles to get vaccinated. Blind and visually impaired Americans are finding it difficult, and in some cases impossible, to schedule vaccination appointments because so many are being scheduled online. Even though they have software that enables them to do many things digitally, they're finding that these new registration sites suffer from low-contrast coloring, minimal text options, screen reader incompatibility and supplemental electronic forms that must be filled out.

To read the full article, click here: <https://www.yahoo.com/news/blind-americans-face-roadblocks-booking-110203598.html>

-Learn more about how @Starbucks is using an app, Aira to to help people who are blind or visually impaired navigate their store while lessening the requirement for touch and maintaining social distancing: <https://www.geekwire.com/2021/starbucks-implements-tech-blind-low-vision-customers-aid-store-navigation/>.

-A new drug that could help more than 128 million Americans read without needing glasses has been submitted to the Food and Drug Administration for approval. The investigational eye drop - called AGN-190584 - is expected to be approved by the end of this year, according to a statement released last week by Allergan Eye Care, an AbbVie company. The eye drops are a pilocarpine solution meant to treat the symptoms of presbyopia, an age-related condition that causes gradual loss of the eyes' ability to focus on nearby objects, according to the Mayo Clinic. To read the full article, click here:
<http://bit.ly/3c2Macq>

Did You Know:

-Did you know coffee grounds (new or used) are an amazing ant repellent. Instead of a pesticide, try sprinkling coffee grounds in the corners of cabinets, counters, around pet food dishes...anywhere else ants might pop up. Soon enough, the ant problems will go away. Ants are repulsed by the smell of coffee grounds. And should they eat the grounds, the caffeine exposure will kill them.