

Keeping you
" in THE "
know.



3/26/21

Quotes from Clients:

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

"People with disabilities are often the last people at the table. We need to be at the table, and the Sight Center gives us a spot."

"When we're blind, we tend to be in our own world. We're often isolated. We're the only blind people in our lives. Sighted people do not understand. 50 years after [my vision loss], my family still points at things I can't see. It is so unbelievably important for us to have these [recreation] spaces. We need these spaces. We understand each other. We get it."

Students Making an Impact:

-CSC received a \$1,000 gift in honor of four students from Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, OH, who recently spent time working at a local Bureau of Motor Vehicles office. Thanks to Maddison Aliff, Michael Filippelli, Pritam Gracha and Arthur Johnson for their community work and for designating CSC for their donation. We applaud their philanthropic spirit and commitment to making a difference for others!

What's Happening at CSC:

-CSC was recently approached by the Cuyahoga Valley National Park for input on the development of a Visitor Use Management plan. Members of the Outreach team recently attended a virtual meeting hosted by staff of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park to provide thoughts and feedback. The National Park Service invites you to collaborate on the development of a Visitor Use Management plan for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. For more information and to answer questions, visit:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=121&projectID=92300&documentID=110589>

-This week the Outreach team sent out informative flyers to In-Home Care service providers that work within the CSC service area to cultivate partnerships for client referrals, offer low vision/blindness resources for their staff and make them aware of the Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB) program.

-The Outreach team also visited the Joseph and Florence Mandel Jewish Day School in Beachwood to talk with over 30 very curious kindergarteners and their five teachers in an outdoor setting on Thursday. They spoke about blindness and vision loss, using senses to audio describe objects and provided "Braille by Sight" materials for use in the classroom. A big thank you to Jennifer Dean for providing coloring sheets of cars and elephants with Braille and the Braille/letter alphabet for this learning activity.

-Employment Services Training Specialist Hubert Littleton and Community Relations Specialist Alicia Howerton welcomed an HR Recruiter for Business and Industry at Cleveland company ABM to CSC this week for a tour of the agency. ABM is a leading provider of facility solutions. The recruiter was very impressed, felt so welcomed to the facility and looks forward to working with CSC in the future.

-Meet Ally Fedor, the March Volunteer Spotlight! Just after a drive past CSC, Ally Fedor knew that she wanted to volunteer and make a change. One of CSC's most creative volunteers, she has been part of the volunteer team since October 2018. Determined to contribute her efforts to several projects, Ally has spent her time at CSC in a number of volunteer roles. With most of her current efforts contributing towards Bright Futures Preschool, Ally adapts games to be more accessible to those with low vision by using contrasting colors and creating games to allow children to be more self-sufficient and not hindered by physical limitations. In the past, she has created bean bag and ring toss structures, hallway decorations and more!

Currently, she is working on a tactile train table. Preschool Teacher Dorota Tomaszewska emphasized that Ally's clever projects are not only made to cater to the children, but also to the teachers. If the weather outside calls for rain, no problem! Ally has that covered by making sure everything is weather-resistant. If there's not enough space to store the bean bag toss structures, no worries! Ally thought ahead and made sure that it was a compact structure that could be easily folded and stowed away. Ally is very creative and ensures her projects are aesthetically pleasing as well as beautifully intricate in her attention to detail and practicality. These activities allow for more sensory input and engagement for CSC's children.

To learn more about Ally and the work she does at CSC, click here:

<https://www.clevelandsightcenter.org/volunteer-spotlight>



Ally Fedor

Volunteer Spotlight March 2021



Empower. Support. Promote.
Volunteer Team Cleveland Sight Center

Do you know a volunteer that deserves to be spotlighted? CSC now has a new nomination form available on our Volunteer Spotlight page. Nominate a volunteer and tell us why you think they deserve to be spotlighted today!

<https://www.clevelandsightcenter.org/volunteer-spotlight>

Graphic with image of Ally holding rings for the ring toss game she created

-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.

-Upcoming Recreation programs include Poetry with Shayna Sharpe on Monday, March 29th at 1:30 p.m. and the next gathering of the Book Discussion Group will be Tuesday, April 13th from 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. The group will welcome author D.M. Pulley and discuss the book *The Dead Key*.

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.

-Did you know March is Social Work Month? From the National Association of Social Workers, the theme for Social Work Month 2021 is "Social Workers Are Essential." Social workers are essential to community well-being. As practitioners, social workers are trained to help people address personal and systemic barriers to optimal living. They are employed to affect positive change with individuals, families, groups and entire communities.

The Leisure & Lifestyle Services (LLS) Department recognizes the hard work of the Social Work department during this Social Work Month! Thank you for everything you do for CSC's clients and for your referrals to the LLS team. The LLS team loves working with all of you and appreciates your help more than you know. Happy Social Work Month!

An Update on Cleveland Sight Center Operations:

Starting the week of May 3rd, the main building will be open five days per week, Monday through Friday.

Items of Note:

-Check out the link below about how SONA is developing a shopping cart capable of helping people who are blind and visually impaired navigate throughout stores independently by utilizing audio and haptic feedback technologies, rather than having to rely on assistance from others. To access the video, click here: <https://vimeo.com/208090302>

The IT team is still working on allowing home pages to be changed manually on organizational computers and will send out an update when this feature has been successfully disabled.

Visiting “intranet” while connected to the office network will send you to the new site now.

Did You Know:

-Did you know the grapefruit – even though it looks and tastes nothing like a grape – gets its name from the way it grows on trees? Grapefruits grow in clusters on trees, like giant clusters of grapes.