

Keeping you
"in THE"
know.



4/16/21

Educating the Community:

-The Children & Young Adult Services (CYAS) team held the fourth of five information sessions on Cortical Vision Impairment (CVI) on Thursday, April 15th. The program was titled "DIY: Adapting Toys, Activities and Spaces for CVI Needs." There is one final session on Thursday, May 20th titled "CVI & Communication Needs" that is 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).

-CSC Early Intervention Specialist Barb Williams and Akron Public Schools Teacher of the Visually Impaired Melanie Sargent presented on the topic of Cortical Visual Impairment at the semi-annual meeting of OCALI (The Ohio Center for Autism & Low Incidence) on Friday, April 9th. The presentation was to a group of 50 professionals serving students with visual impairments and consists of vision professionals across the state of Ohio. The group held their spring meeting and the presentation consisted of an interview format, with some pre-planned questions, but the CSC staff members mainly took questions from the engaged participants.

-April is Occupational Therapist Month and did you know that OT is offered to CSC clients of all ages? In addition to Rehabilitation Services and the Low Vision Clinic, Occupational Therapy is part of client services in Children & Young Adult Services. Monica Owen is the occupational therapist for the agency's preschool students and Early Intervention clients.

-CSC welcomed Dr. Kelly Lutmer, a resident from Ohio State University, for a shadowing experience in the Low Vision Clinic with Dr. Lidija Balciunas and tour of the agency with Alicia Howerton. Dr. Lutmer was very impressed observing the students in Bright Futures Preschool and noted the wonderful customer service she received from everyone while she was here. Dr. Lutmer was very impressed with the breadth and depth of services CSC offers those with vision loss/blindness.

-This week the Outreach team connected with the Vice President of Northeast Ohio Association of Activity Professionals (NOAAP) to schedule a future presentation during one of their virtual monthly meetings. In addition, Outreach connected with McGregor PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) Social Service Forest Hill Director about providing an in-service training for staff and sharing details about the Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB) program in an effort to increase their referrals to CSC.

-As Senior Centers are starting to welcome people back into their facilities, the Outreach team is sending out CSC introduction letters with Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB) Program Fact Sheets to Senior Centers located in the southern most counties within the CSC service area.

Virtual White Cane Walk on Saturday, June 5th!

-Cleveland Sight Center's 16th Annual White Cane Walk will be held virtually on Saturday, June 5th, 2021!

White Cane Walk is the agency's annual fundraiser to raise awareness and support for the blind and visually impaired community. We are excited to build on the success of our first virtual White Cane Walk last year in 2020 and reach even more people through this interactive virtual format.

Please participate in this year's event by making a donation, registering to walk (on a route and time of your own choosing) and/or creating your own fundraising team. If you are walking, a \$15 per person registration fee will qualify you to receive a pre-event box in the mail that includes a t-shirt and materials for our exclusive blindfolded activity! Walkers must register by Friday, May 21st to receive the pre-event box.

If you have any questions or would like help setting up a fundraising page please reach out to Steve Frohwerk (x4562) or Megan Sigler (x4568). Let's make this the most successful White Cane Walk yet! To visit the 2021 event fundraising site, click here: whitecanewalk.org

Thanks for your support of CSC!

What's Happening at CSC

-The Leisure and Lifestyle Services Department welcomed author DM Pulley for our discussion of her book *The Dead Key*, which won the Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award in 2014, this week. Pulley has sold over half a million books worldwide, and her work has been translated into eight different languages. The session was full of great information from the author!

-The April Speaker Series featured HAM Radio on Thursday, April 15th. Amateur Radio (HAM radio) is a popular hobby and service that brings people, electronics and communication together. People use ham radio to talk across town, around the world, or even into space, all without the Internet or cell phones. Attendees learned about how to become an amateur radio hobbyist from Jeffrey Meyer, who has been a licensed "ham" for 44 years. Jeffrey received commendations such as the ARRL Public Service Honor Roll, the Oak Park Public Safety Commendation, and was a recipient of the LASED award for assistance provided during the 1985 Mexican Earthquake.

-Upcoming Leisure and Lifestyle Services (L&LS) activities for the remainder of April are listed below! All of the programs offered are still remote, but the team is exploring possibilities to bring some activities back in person in the months ahead, while continuing virtual programming! Please note there will be no L&LS offerings from April 29th-May 5th.

Weekly Schedule

Mondays

10am Stretching + Meditation

2pm Piano (4/19)

6pm Health Chats (4/19) OR Happy Hour Social Hour (4/26)

Tuesdays

11:30am Meditation

5:00pm Yoga

Wednesdays

10am Coffee Chat

2pm Jam Session (4/21) OR Improv (4/28)

Thursdays

10am Activities Vary (Earth Day 4/22)

2pm Escape From _____ (4/22 is the final meeting)

Fridays

10am Fun Friday

2pm Trivia

Additional Activities

Thursday, April 22nd

Earth Day at 10am

Monday, April 26th

Poetry w/ Shayna Sharpe at 1:30pm

Program Highlights

Earth Day Celebration

April 22nd at 10am

If you love gardening and are interested in helping with a project that will help our earth, pop into this Earth Day zoom meeting to help consult with Master Gardener Shayna Sharpe about a new project at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds. Master Gardeners and 4H have paired up to design a garden focused on diversity, equity and inclusion. Come share your ideas about how to make this garden as accessible as possible! What kind of plants should they grow? What kind of structures will make it navigable for someone with low vision?

For additional information about the Leisure and 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.

-For the past half century, Cleveland Sight Center Network's (CSCN) Radio Reading program has depended upon the reliability of its radio reader volunteers to provide news updates and other exciting material for daily broadcast. Our volunteers' dedication to the blind and low vision communities has made our radio station an incredibly dependable resource for information. From everyone at CSCN, we would like to say "Thank You" to our diligent and talented volunteers. You continue to make our station strong!" For more information on the Radio Reading program, connect with Glenn Wickline, Radio Reading Coordinator at x4582 or gwickline@clevelandsightcenter.org.

-A reminder that select handheld and stand magnifiers are 20% off online orders via the Eyedea Shop's website during the month of April! Learn more about magnifiers and what they do by calling the store at 216-658-4666 or visiting the Eyedea Shop website, which has recently been updated and upgraded with new content, products and features! <https://www.eyedeashop.com/>

Congratulations, you're awesome!

-Congratulations to Hugh Littleton for winning the Random Acts of Awesome Award presented at today's All Staff Meeting. Hugh was nominated by Scott Williams-Riseng. Congrats as well to the following nominees:

Barbara Piascik, nominated by Jackie Bumba

Tony Becker, nominated by Kimberley Hudson

Ted Sanders, Tony Becker, Dr. Annalisa Schloss, Erin St. Denis, Jackie Bumba, Barbara Piascik and the Front Desk team, nominated via a letter from a client.

Items of Note:

-Accessible Pharmacy Services for the Blind is excited to announce their upgraded and expanded braille printing capabilities for medication.

Their new label printing system allows them to apply contracted braille labels to anything through their home delivery pharmacy service:

- Prescription Medication
- OTC Medication
- Eye Drops
- Insulin
- Vitamins
- Nutritional Supplements

They can also apply braille labels to various accessible packaging:

- Presorted Disposable Pill Organizers
- Presorted Daily Pill Packets
- Standard and Easy Open Bottles

For braille readers and family members, this is the most robust braille solution in the pharmacy industry. All braille labeling, accessible packaging and delivery are FREE.

Simply call 215-799-9900 or contact them through the Specialized Help Section on Be My Eyes to speak with a pharmacist to learn more!

-Curious about how working will affect your Medicare or Medicaid benefits? Join Choose Work! on April 28 at 3 p.m. ET for the next Work Incentive Seminar Event (WISE) webinar to learn about healthcare and the path to employment. <https://choosework.ssa.gov/wise>

Did You Know:

-The Cookie Monster, the Muppet character on the long-running PBS children's television show "Sesame Street", has a real name. And it's Sid.