5/15/20

An Update from Cleveland Sight Center

The leadership of Cleveland Sight Center made the difficult decision to close facilities in mid-March due to the uncertainties of COVID-19. Despite the building closure, our dedicated staff contacted thousands of clients remotely, providing continued assistance to the people who rely on us for critical services.

As of Tuesday, May 12, we have begun welcoming back clients and patients to our facility, by appointment only. As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic together, we want you to know the protective measures the staff at Cleveland Sight Center is taking to best serve you.

We assembled a Response Team, who has thoughtfully prepared policies and procedures, with the health and safety of staff and visitors in mind.

Specifically, we have put the following measures in place, considering guidance from Governor DeWine’s Responsible RestartOhio and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

• Services to clients are available by appointment only - please call ahead for an in-person or virtual appointment at (216) 791-8118.
• Virtual appointments are encouraged where and when possible.
• Our Low Vision Clinic is not yet open but has begun calling patients to re-schedule appointments based on previous appointments that were cancelled.
• Clients and employees are required to wear facial coverings (masks).
• Clients and employees are required daily to conduct and pass a self-screening without COVID-19 symptoms before entering our facility.
• Everyone will be following the six-foot physical distancing guidelines.
• We are limiting the amount of people permitted in our retail shop, optometry clinic, and meeting spaces in our facility.
• We will continue to perform sanitization and cleaning of high-touch surfaces multiple times daily.
• Clients and staff who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 onsite will be assessed by an Isolation Coordinator and may be asked to leave if the situation warrants.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out to us at (216) 791-8118.

Thank you for helping us as we all do our part to keep our community safe.

An Important Message from Highbrook Lodge

-For any questions about Highbrook Lodge, please contact Camp Manager Jenny Schaeffer (x4596 or jschaeffereclevelandsightcenter.org).

With very heavy hearts and thoughtful consideration, we have made the difficult decision to cancel Highbrook Lodge’s 2020 residential summer season.

After careful review of the information available to us regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, it has become clear that the Coronavirus poses too great a risk within our camp’s unique environment at this time.

We understand and share your disappointment with this news. For the past 92 summers, Highbrook Lodge has been a place that enriches the lives of all who join us in friendship and play. And in doing so, we have established a strong, healthy, and happy community full of dedicated campers, devoted staff, and countless friends who support our work. And while we cannot be together physically this summer at camp, we know that our extraordinary community will continue to be a flashlight in the dark.

Please know, Highbrook Lodge remains committed to nurturing our vibrant, multi-generational community and enriching the lives of people living with vision loss and blindness. We are eager to share all of the ways that we are planning on supporting our community while we are physically apart and we will be in touch with more updates soon.

We are very much looking forward to the day we can be together again, on the beautiful grounds of Highbrook Lodge. As our closing campfire song reminds us, “This is goodnight and not goodbye.”

Yours,

Jenny Schaeffer
Camp Manager
**Highbrook @ Home**

-The Highbrook Lodge team is working diligently to develop a variety of virtual and telephonic activities that capture the spirit of our camp. We strongly encourage you or your camper to sign-up for these at-home activities when we officially open enrollment later this month.

Please know that this new project is still unfolding. We will be sure to share more information with you and your family as these new plans take shape.

In order to help us better understand how and in what ways we can provide virtual programming for each of our campers, we are asking that everyone participate in our virtual programming survey, using this link: https://bit.ly/35G9Cre

We encourage you to take the survey even if you or your camper are not interested in virtual programming. We will use this survey to determine how we will approach alternative programming and what type of technology assistance is required.

Updates will be available on our website and Facebook, too: Clevelandsightcenter.org/highbrook-lodge and Facebook.com/HighbrookLodge

-Campers who have already made a payment or payments for the 2020 season may choose to receive a refund, apply the funds to the 2021 season or convert your payment to a donation to sustain Highbrook Lodge. The camp team will be in contact with those campers who have made a payment for the 2020 summer season.

**Thank You, Delta Gamma East Alumna!**

-Friends of Cleveland Sight Center, Delta Gamma East Alumna, donated 168 masks to the agency on Thursday! These masks will be given to clients that come in for appointments. We cannot thank them enough for their generous donation of time and materials and are appreciative for all they do for CSC!

*Image of face masks in a variety of colors and patterns*
What's Happening at CSC

-The Eyedea Shop is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. When arriving at Cleveland Sight Center, please enter through the main doors and check in at the security desk. They will direct you to the Eyedea Shop, as only four individuals are allowed in the shop at one time. Please remember, masks are required in the CSC building. If you don’t have one, staff at the security desk will supply you with one.

As a reminder, the Eyedea Shop is still encouraging phone and online orders when possible. Curbside pickup will be available during business hours. Please call 216-658-4666 to place an order or pick up your order.

-This week the city inspector signed off on the demolition of the garage, which was the final official step in a long process. The Facilities team plans to plant grass seed in the area by the end of the week as the weather allows. Congratulations to Chris Gruber for leading the project team through the planning, new storage building construction and demolition of the old garage. Thanks to the Facilities, Administration and Marketing teams for their work to support the project, which was paid for by capital funds from the State of Ohio.

-The Outreach department hosted a second poetry workshop on Tuesday with Poet Katie Daley, students from the Cleveland Clinic Lerner Medical School and CSC clients. Katie has been the “resident poet” at CSC for 8 years and has been obtaining a grant each year to assist new medical students through art to retain their empathy as they become a future doctor. The program continues for two more Tuesdays in May (19th, 26th). For more information, contact Alicia Howerton (x4587).

-Book Discussion Group met this week to review “The Last Black Unicorn”, a true story of how a young girl survived foster care and abuse through comedic relief. Please contact Alicia Howerton (x4587) with any questions about the program.

-Here are some helpful hints and reminders for staff, clients and visitors to keep in mind as we all work as a team to stay safe:

- When you are in public areas of the building (not cubicle or office), please wear a face covering or mask, covering the lower part of your nose, mouth, and chin
- Please utilize the hand sanitizer stations whenever you need them, though keep in mind hand washing is best. Here’s where the hand sanitizer stations are:
  - On the second floor outside the North Elevator near the library, near the Elevator by Children & Young Adult Services and outside the elevator by the Call Center
  - On the first floor near the client hub sofa area, elevator by the employee entrance, elevator by the PREP area, the space between the Low Vision Clinic and Eyedea Shop, and by the Clyde E. Williams, Jr. Auditorium B doors
  - Bottled hand sanitizer and wipes are in all the copier areas and the second-floor mailroom
• If you are sighted, continue to announce yourself when you encounter one of your colleagues with blindness or low vision, to help with the 6 feet distancing guideline.
• If you utilize a white cane, it is helpful if you tap your cane on the floor while walking, to alert folks of your presence, to also help with the 6 feet distancing guideline.
• Please remember that guide dogs don’t understand physical distancing.
• We encourage you eat lunch at your workstation or at a least 6 feet away from your colleagues in common areas. And don’t forget that the water fountains are out of service.
• Be sure to do your Daily Self-Screening Protocol, checking for cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, temperature greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius), chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell.

Did you know

Did you know M&M’s chocolate stand for the initials of its inventors, Mars and Murrie? Forrest Mars Sr. of the Mars Candy Company agreed to a deal with Bruce Murrie in 1941 (the son of Hershey Chocolate president William Murrie) to develop a hard shelled candy with chocolate at the center. The deal gave Murrie a 20% stake in the newly developed M&M company, which was later bought out by Mars when chocolate rationing ended at the end World War II.