5/8/20

An Update from Cleveland Sight Center

-Cleveland Sight Center’s main office will re-open on Monday, May 11th for staff to begin returning to work on a staggered schedule.

CSC Holds Annual Meeting of Board of Trustees

-CSC’s Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees was held Thursday, May 7th. The virtual meeting began with Board Chair Howard Lichtig welcoming all and was followed by Board Trustee and Immediate Past Board Chair Sheryl King Benford, who presented the report of the Board Development and Governance Committee and presented the slate of Trustees for the coming year. CSC welcomes Karen A. Bradley, MD, Erin N. Chelune, Peter A. Igel, Kenny Koblitz, Beejadi N. Mukunda, MD, Thomas C. Norton, Edward Oberndorf, Thomas P. O’Malley and Beth W. Smith to the Board of Trustees! Larry Benders followed with his remarks on the last year and how the professional team at CSC has adapted to the challenges around COVID-19. The Board then held the election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee and Board Chair Howard Lichtig outlined his thoughts for the coming year. Congratulations to the following Officers of the Board:

- Howard A. Lichtig, Chair
- Bonita G. (Bonnie) Teeuwen, First Vice Chair
- Wally Anders, Treasurer
- Joan U. Allgood, Secretary
- Nathan Kelly, Vice Chair
- Erin C. Ploucha, Vice Chair
Remote Services Continue to Make an Impact

- While the CSC main offices were closed to the public, CSC staff did an outstanding job serving clients through remote and alternative service deliveries when possible. Any clients in need should be directed to call 216-791-8118 or email our general inbox at info@cleveandsightcenter.org.

- The Rehabilitation Services team continued to stay busy the last week. Some stats from the team:

  Training authorizations received: 4  
  REACH phone calls made: 51  
  CSC client follow-up calls made: 86  
  Equipment deliveries: 6  
  Assessments completed: 2  
  Trainings scheduled: 4  
  Trainings provided: 10  
  Braille students trained: 11

- Bright Futures Preschool instruction continued this week. Please take a minute to thank all of the hard working teachers and therapists who have provided instruction to students across Ohio and right here in the Children & Young Adult Services Department. These last weeks during the COVID-19 crisis have been challenging for many. Good teachers rise to the challenge – great teachers conquer the challenge!

Graphic that says “Thank you, teachers!” for teacher appreciation week

- The Outreach department hosted a 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.

With 18 clients participating in the call, Katie was quite surprised with the energy and the amount of people so willing to share their feelings especially in light of how life has seemingly taken a very different turn. Technology has helped us to learn how to embrace this new normal in a very different way. The program continues for three more Tuesdays in May (12th, 19th, 26th). For more information, contact Alicia Howerton (x4587).

- Book Discussion Group is reading “The Last Black Unicorn”, a true story of how a young girl survived foster care and abuse through comedic relief, in advance of their next meeting on Tuesday, May 12th. The group will meet by phone from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on conference line 605-313-4834 with access code 246345. Please contact Alicia Howerton (x4587) with any questions about the program.
Remote Volunteer Opportunities Available

-The following opportunities are available for volunteers to participate and continue to support CSC from their homes! For more information, contact Melissa Mauk (mmauk@clevelandsightcenter.org or 216-658-4581).

Masks and Materials
As the main building begins the process of re-opening, the health and safety of every member of our community is our greatest priority. As a result, our goal is to make complimentary masks available for clients who might not otherwise have access to them. Volunteers can support this project by helping create masks that will be distributed to clients or by making a donation of materials such as cotton fabric, elastic and thread so that masks can be made.

Leading Virtual Sessions
In considering summer programming, we want our clients to have access to diverse options that keep them connected with one another and with enriching content. Volunteer Services is searching for individuals who are able to lead non-visual activities over Zoom or conference calls for either one-time or 3-8 week sessions. Currently, volunteers are leading yoga and dance classes. We want to expand the variety of experiences offered, including activities like art lessons, meditation, music, or other programs volunteers would be able to work with leadership to mobilize.

Creating and Crafting
Between Bright Futures Preschool and Highbrook Lodge camp, there are a few hands-on projects that involve building, creating and sewing. From working to create a tactile train table, to adding lighting to a reading cube, creating wooden puzzle pieces, sewing seat cushions and more, CSC has a number of projects that could be coordinated to work on from home.

Items of Note

-A reminder that the 2020 Highbrook Lodge camp schedule has been modified. For more information, please visit the Highbrook Lodge pages of CSC’s website here. As always, if you have any questions or concerns – please contact Camp Manager Jenny Schaeffer by phone (216-658-4596) or email (jschaeffer@clevelandsightcenter.org).

-White Cane Walk will be Saturday, August 8th at Cleveland Sight Center.

-The “Resources” page on CSC’s website continues to add community resource links that may be helpful during COVID-19. Click here for more information.

-Did you know when a man named Frederic Baur died in 2008, his ashes were buried in a Pringles can? Baur, who invented the Pringles can in the 1960s, expressed his wish to be buried in the iconic can and his family obliged. He is buried in Cincinnati, Ohio.