7/17/20

**Golf Classic is Monday!**

-The annual Cleveland Sight Center Golf Classic, presented by Westfield, is planned for Monday, July 20th at Westfield Country Club. Golfers will enjoy a round of golf on beautiful Westfield Country Club along with a few activity stations to highlight some “mission moments” that educate about Cleveland Sight Center and the work we do. Thanks to Westfield for their tremendous hospitality and all Trustees, sponsors, partners and volunteers for their support to make this a successful fundraiser for the agency.

**White Cane Walk is Now a Virtual Walk on Saturday, August 8th**

-The White Cane Walk, scheduled for August 8, is now a virtual walk!

What does “virtual” mean? It means you can walk anywhere - your neighborhood, the park, any place you like - on your own or with family and friends...while helping to raise funds for Cleveland Sight Center!
Fundraising is vital to the continuation of programs and services, many of which are not covered by medical insurance. Your support is needed now, more than ever, due to decreased available funding because of COVID-19.

While we won’t physically be together for this year’s White Cane Walk, we will all be walking on our own for the same reason – to empower individuals of all ages with low vision or blindness to live independently and realize their full potential.

Show your support by walking with us virtually, making a donation or starting your own fundraising team to share with family and friends. whitecanewalk.org

Engaging and Educating the Community

–CSC was invited to participate in the Curing Blindness Foundation (CBF) World Summit which took place virtually on July 7 and 8. CBF is an organization for persons experiencing sight loss from conditions related to the CRB1 gene such as retinitis pigmentosa, Lebers congenital amaurosis and cone-rod dystrophy. The organization invited ophthalmologists, geneticists, researchers, rehabilitation specialists and others to present over the two-day period. Content provided by Katie Lepis, Bryan Manthey, Susie Meles, Sylvia Snyder, Erin St. Denis and Taylor Valrich was put together in a six-page reference document for participants designed by Megan Sigler, and Dr. Lidija Balciunas prepared a PowerPoint presentation about vision rehabilitation assessments and other resources for those experiencing visual impairment or blindness.

–Senior Assistive Technology Practitioner Randy Knapp participated in a session titled “Inclusive Design Round Table” that included information technology professionals, managers and directors in Greater Cleveland earlier this week. The purpose of the round table was to discuss the relationship between inclusive design and accessibility. There were four panelists who considered questions on this topic and they discussed how to incorporate accessibility concepts in an inclusive design. They talked about barriers that are encountered daily, how they can be overcome and how to continue maintaining inclusive design principals that embrace an accessible environment for all users.

The panelists reached consensus on the following points:
1. Involving people with disabilities in the development of software in the early stages is strongly advised and can lessen the workload for software developers.
2. Any software developed needs to be demonstrated without the use of a mouse.
3. Software testing with automated tools alone does not present a complete picture when determining the usability of a software product. It must be tested with an accessibility tool to determine the efficiency of the software interface.
4. There must be “buy in” at the highest levels of a company or organization to ensure that inclusive design and accessibility becomes part of corporate culture and standards.
5. Software libraries and tools should have accessibility designed into them so that they can support all users.
6. Everyone should be reminded that consumers with disabilities can and will vote with their wallets when choosing companies to support. Websites that are not accessible may lose business opportunities to websites and companies that are accessible.

Hats off to the participants on the panel – they are professional, creative and are committed to improving access for all users.

- Various members of the CSC team attended a Disability Etiquette Training seminar hosted by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) on Thursday, July 16th. The training was hosted by some of OOD’s Business Development Specialists and focused on disability etiquette and proper language usage, practical examples for how to have respectful interactions with people with disabilities, and first-hand accounts from people with disabilities.

**What's Happening at CSC**

- Recall last week the Employment Services Department held its first Virtual Job Fair, working with representatives from Giant Eagle to interview CSC job seekers through an online format. Candidates interviewed for a variety of positions including stocking, merchandising and food preparation. One job seeker was asked to have an in-person second interview at a Giant Eagle store and after the interview was hired on the spot!

- The CSC Marketing team worked with Rehabilitation Services recently to create a video on what the white cane is and how it is used, how to measure for a white cane and how Cleveland Sight Center is the go-to resource for white canes, including The Cleveland. Thanks to Megan Sigler, Scott Williams-Riseng, Glenn Wickline and Alicia Howerton for their work to produce the piece. Check out the video here: https://bit.ly/3hfAfb

- Improvements continue on the grounds at Highbrook Lodge including cabin work, additional pool enhancements and clean-up of the trails.

[Image of repair work continuing on the empty swimming pool at Highbrook Lodge]
Summer Recreation programming is seeing an increase in program participants as more people learn about what’s being offered! A recently-started “Coffee Conversation” program on Wednesdays saw attendance go from 3 to 11 in just one week! Yoga via Zoom technology continues on Tuesdays along with a new offering - Zoom dance lessons with Volunteers Fred and Diane on Tuesdays. For more information, contact Jenny Schaeffer (x4596).

Starting July 30th, Recreation programming will feature a Guest Speaker Series. Please join them from 2:00pm - 3:00pm for the first, featuring Dr. Rita Mookerjee. Dr. Rita Mookerjee is an Assistant Professor in the Women’s and Gender Studies Program at Iowa State University. Her poetry is featured in Juked, Cosmonauts Avenue, New Orleans Review, Sinister Wisdom, and the Baltimore Review. She is the author of the chapbook Becoming the Bronze Idol (Bone & Ink Press, 2019). She is the Assistant Poetry Editor of Split Lip Magazine.

Rita believes that there is power in anger. On July 30th, she will hold a poetry workshop for CSC clients and staff on the art of the rant. She will explain her own writing process, the history and context of the rant in poetry, and share some examples of the rant poem. To help guide the poetry process, she will also give some tips about how to develop rants into poems for potential publication in literary journals. Finally, participants will be invited to practice writing rants of their own which they can read aloud. Let’s destress and empower one another. Come angry and ready to rant and rave! For more information and how to participate, contact Jenny Schaeffer (x4596).

The CSC Book Discussion Group convened this week and decided which literary works will be read for the upcoming season. There will be no Book Discussion Group for the month of August but the program will pick back up on Tuesday, September 15th since the Labor Day weekend falls just before the 2nd Tuesday of the month. September’s Book is a science fiction story titled The White Dragon by Gloria Conway.

Calling all projects! With COVID-19 taking a toll on in-person programming, Volunteer Services is working to engage people in unique ways, recruiting individuals to support projects that can be completed from home or from a distance at CSC. Volunteers can be used for many projects. From building or creating items for client use such as a train table for Children & Young Adult Services or the music mobile featured last week, to analyzing data, repairing donated technology or adapting materials, Volunteer Services can work with you to recruit the right kind of volunteer you need to make progress in your area in a way that continues to spread awareness about the agency’s mission.
Contact Melissa Mauk at mmauke@clevelandsightcenter.org or x4581 to learn more or request support today.

-Calling all Cleveland Sight Center Network (CSCN) Radio Reading Listeners! CSCN is hosting our very own sweepstakes! Clients who are listeners of the radio can call in for a chance to win a prize of one of 4 Amazon gift cards! To learn more about contest entry, rules and details visit: clevelandsightcenter.org/content/cscn-radio-reading.

[Image of tactile toy board for young clients in the therapy room]

Congratulations, You're Awesome!

-Congratulations to our colleagues Jenny Hill, Jessica Howiler, Brenda Lammers, Monica Owen, Angela Roumie, Laurie Schickman, Barbara Williams, Debbie Ruffin and Angel Santana for winning the Random Acts of Awesome Award at today’s All Staff Meeting.

Items of Note

-Freedom Scientific’s audio training content is now available for download on your smartphone or tablet, and for streaming on your Amazon Echo or Google Home Assistant! Just say the wake word for your device, followed by, “Play the Freedom Scientific Training Podcast."
https://www.freedomscientific.com/training/podcasts/

-July 26th marks the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Learn more: https://www.adaanniversary.org/

-Face masks in colors including black, grey, blue and pink with the CSC logo in white are available for purchase. A portion of each sale is donated back to Cleveland Sight Center! To check out the selection or place an order, please click here: https://bit.ly/2NuK73F

[Image of Andrea Marley wearing a white face mask with the CSC logo on it]
Did You Know

-Alaska is the only U.S. state name that can be typed using just one row of a traditional QWERTY keyboard.