

VIRTUAL SERVICES:

From the perspective of a Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist



MAY 2020

A Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist (CVRT) instructs people who are blind or low vision in the use of compensatory skills and assistive technology that will enable them to live more safe, productive and independent lives. The CVRTs at Cleveland Sight Center usually make home visits to clients and provide a variety of different training sessions.

As a result of COVID-19 and the protocols from the CDC and the State of Ohio, CVRTs are now providing remote training sessions. They deliver low vision aids to the front doors of clients' homes and then conduct training sessions over the phone to teach them how to use the new aids. Taylor Volrich, a CVRT at Cleveland Sight Center said that she has been able to adjust well to remote training and believes clients have too.

"The most rewarding part about it is that our clients do not have to wait through this difficult time to receive something that can change the way they live their day to day life. By providing remote training, clients are able to complete daily living tasks such as using a talking watch to tell the time, a magnifier to read their mail again or even receive iPhone training to help educate them on how to contact loved ones or use accessible apps," Taylor said.

CSC is aware that vision loss contributes to social isolation, depression, loss of essential skills, low confidence and overall low quality of life. During this time of social distancing and uncertainty, it is more important than ever that we provide the tools, technology and training for our clients to communicate with their family members and friends.

"This time is especially challenging to the population we serve because many of our clients already experience isolation and depression. **I feel like the remote training gives some of them hope that they can get through this with the right tools.** They have someone who is there to listen and provide resources to them," Taylor said.

The clients Taylor has worked with remotely have expressed gratitude and are very thankful that CSC is there for them in a new and unique way. Taylor is one of the many CSC staff members that has worked to find new and creative ways to continue to provide services to our clients.

**Check out our website to learn more about available remote opportunities:
Clevelandsightcenter.org/resources**

ABOUT CLEVELAND SIGHT CENTER

Cleveland Sight Center (CSC) has served the needs of Northeast Ohio residents who are blind or have low vision for over a century. CSC offers developmental, rehabilitation and vocational services to ensure success in today's society.

**Learn more online: Clevelandsightcenter.org
Clevelandsightcenter.org/resources**

