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Contact: Koula Callas  
216.791.8118, ext. 215  
[kcallas@clevelandsightcenter.org](mailto:kcallas@clevelandsightcenter.org)

Eileen Petridis  
216.696.0229  
Robert Falls & Co. Public Relations

**Cleveland Sight Center Board Announces Executive Management Changes**

*Steven M. Friedman, Ph.D. to Serve as President and Executive Director  
Michael E. Grady to Raise Funds for VISION 21 – A Fund for the Future*

CLEVELAND, OH – October 30, 2008 – Cleveland Sight Center’s Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of Steven M. Friedman, Ph.D. to the role of president and executive director, while current president Michael E. Grady, will transition to VISION 21 – A Fund for the Future, the agency’s \$47 million capital campaign.

Dr. Friedman’s career in public health has focused on developing services for clients often neglected by traditional community services. He has served as executive director at MHS, Inc., a leading provider of mental health and supportive services for vulnerable populations in Cleveland and the rest of Cuyahoga County for the past 16 years. Friedman led MHS in growth from a staff of 20 to one of 250, and a budget of \$800,000 to one of \$15,000,000. He created the most complete array of services for homeless persons in Ohio, along with a nationally recognized mobile crisis service for children. Prior to MHS, Friedman was Director of Special Projects at Neighborhood Counseling Service and Director of Psychological Services at the Cuyahoga County Corrections Center.

“Cleveland Sight Center has a century-old reputation in the community for service delivery and advocacy,” stated Friedman, “I’m honored by this opportunity and look forward to working with Mike Grady, Cleveland Sight Center’s staff, volunteers and board to help clients achieve their potential in life.”

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Long Island, Friedman obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree from Dartmouth College, followed by his Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology from Case Western Reserve University. Friedman will officially begin his work at Cleveland Sight Center on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

James Sacher, Cleveland Sight Center's Board of Trustees Chair remarked, "We look forward to the wealth of experience in nonprofit management and commitment to our community that Steve Friedman will bring to Cleveland Sight Center. Steve will help us to prepare for the increasing need for our services in Northeast Ohio due to our aging population, and ensure that we deliver these services in our long tradition of excellence." Sacher continued, "We are grateful to Mike Grady for his contributions to Cleveland Sight Center, which for many years has successfully met the needs of individuals who are blind or visually impaired in our community and beyond."

Mr. Grady has spent the past 20 years leading Cleveland Sight Center, forging long-term relationships with its clients, volunteers, board, donors and the community. Under his leadership, Cleveland Sight Center attained accreditation as the first non-governmental organization in the United States to meet the standards set by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for comprehensive blind and low vision services.

Grady's transition will leverage his expertise and the relationships he has developed in the community to help make the capital campaign a success. VISION 21 will provide much-needed renovations to Cleveland Sight Center's existing space, a building addition as well as expanded service capabilities. "Our building enabled us to serve our clients well over the years, however it is time to update our facility to meet the needs of a growing senior population, and to provide clients of all ages with programs, such as the latest assistive technology training, among others, that can significantly impact their lives," said Grady. "This campaign will go a long way in supporting our mission to help our clients realize their full potential."

### **About Cleveland Sight Center**

Cleveland Sight Center, a nonprofit agency founded in 1906, provides people of all ages who are blind or visually impaired with preventative, educational, rehabilitative, social, and many other vision support services to help improve their quality of life.

For more information about Cleveland Sight Center please visit [clevelandsightcenter.org](http://clevelandsightcenter.org), or call 216.791.8118, ext. 215.

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