

Keeping you
"in THE"
know.



10/7/22

Strengthening Partnerships and Educating the Community:

-Cleveland Sight Center continues to foster relationships with other sight centers in Ohio. At the end of her vacation last week as she passed through Cincinnati, Alicia Howerton (Strategic Partnerships Manager) stopped in town to connect with colleagues at CABVI (Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired). She met with Aaron Bley (Vice President of Community Relations & Chief Development Officer) and caught up on what is happening at CABVI and discussed various programs and initiatives at Cleveland Sight Center. They also toured the CABVI manufacturing facility, which is an NIB Ability One facility that provides various products for various Veterans Administration centers.

-Haley Marblestone (Development Manager) and Gabriella Drago (Leisure and Lifestyles Specialist) represented Cleveland Sight Center at the annual "Anchor Splash" event presented by the Delta Gamma (DG) group at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) last Friday evening. The fundraiser was a friendly competition among the Greek community at CWRU, with proceeds benefitting the DG philanthropic arm "Service for Sight" and Cleveland Sight Center. The Delta Gammas are also regular volunteers at CSC. Thank you DGs for your continued support!

-Representatives from the Visual Bucket List Foundation visited Cleveland Sight Center this week to learn about the organization. The Visual Bucket List Foundation is a 501(c)3 created as a “pay it forward” effort to help children who are or who will be faced with severe visual impairment or total loss of vision, experience lasting visual memories. Two founders and a board member had a tour with Alicia Howerton (Strategic Partnerships Manager) and then a meeting with Alicia and members of the Children & Young Adult Services team including Kristen Callahan (Manager, School Age Educational Services), Caley Haehn (Program Coordinator & Case Manager) and Dorota Tomaszewska (Manager of Preschool Services - Lead Teacher). Both groups left extremely excited about ways to partner together going forward.



-Lowell Perry, Jr. visited CSC this week as a guest of his Yale University roommate Larry Benders (President and Chief Executive Officer). Lowell is an award-winning public speaker and an accomplished leader in the for-profit and not-for-profit spaces. Larry is thrilled when he can showcase our great agency to people as well-connected as Lowell Perry, Jr. Lowell’s father was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers football team and became the first Black coach in the National Football League. He later headed the EEOC under President Gerald Ford. Lowell’s brother is the General Manager of the New York Knicks basketball team. Lowell recently moved back to the Cleveland area and was very impressed with the organization. He looks forward to connecting more people he knows to Cleveland Sight Center.

Image is of Lowell Perry, Jr. and Larry Benders in front of the lobby board at CSC

-Cathy Javorsky (Switchboard Operator), Kristen Callahan (Manager, School Age Educational Services) and Caley Haehn (Program Coordinator & Case Manager) were invited to Saint Mary of the Assumption School in Mentor, Ohio to present to and lead activities with two 2nd grade classrooms. This event was part of their annual unit titled, “I Can the Way I Am” in order to teach students to have a deeper awareness, compassion and empathy for people living with disabilities. Activities included informing students on what defines being visually impaired and learning about the skills and tools that provide accessibility and aid independence. Students and staff discussed using our other senses to learn about the world around us. Additionally, they learned and explored a braille, braille books, digital magnifiers, low vision adapted school materials and adapted games like Connect Four and Uno!

Cathy and her guide dog Rogue gave a captivating, fun and informative presentation to teach the students the big message: when a guide dog is in harness, they are wearing their “uniform” and they are working, but when they are out of their uniform, they are just a lovable pet! The students laughed with delight at the end of the presentation when out of his harness, the students called Rogue’s name and he ran into the crowd to be lavished with belly rubs! Additionally, students were able to see what it may be like to live with low vision by trying on various low vision simulation goggles while completing everyday activities. They also learned about braille literacy and used colorful, rhinestone stickers to build their name in braille.

-Outreach connected with the community this week through various presentations as Tom Sawyer (Outreach Specialist) gave a training in "Blindness Basics" to students enrolled in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Cleveland State University. In addition, Tom presented a "Tips Talk" that included an overview of CSC programs and services and the Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB) programs for individuals and groups at The Normandy senior living facility in Rocky River and Twinsburg Senior Apartments.

-Cleveland Sight Center partners with The Artists Archives of the Western Reserve for their newest exhibit titled "W/O Limits: Art, Chronic Illness, & Disability" curated by Megan Alves and Mindy Tousley. One of the pieces being featured is by artist and friend of CSC Chappelle Letman, Jr., who's "Vertical Predator" sculpture is being loaned to the exhibit from its permanent home at Highbrook Lodge. Several of Letman's sculptures will also be on display. The exhibition will feature braille tags, large text hand-outs and a selection of touchable sculptures for visitors to explore. Descriptive tours are available by appointment for those with visual impairments. Information about the gallery and hours is as follows:

The Artists Archives of the Western Reserve

1834 E. 123rd Street, Cleveland OH 44106

Gallery Hours: Wed - Fri 10:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m., Sat 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

For more information, visit <https://www.artistsarchives.org/event/w-o-limits/>, email Megan Alves, programs@artistsarchives.org or call 216-721-9020

-A senior at the Cleveland Institute of Art is working on a project that involves assistive technology and orientation and mobility. She has connected with various team members at Cleveland Sight Center for information and also created a survey through Google Forms. The survey is JAWS-accessible and for anyone who would like to check it out, it can be accessed here:

<https://forms.gle/UmcVyLXWzJQCpE558>

-The National Federation of the Blind of Ohio Employment Committee invites all to celebrate Disability Employment Awareness Month through their 2022 theme "Disability: Part of the Equity Equation" seminar being held virtually on Wednesday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m. Featured speakers include Allison Meloy, MS, CRC, Program Administrator, Opportunity for Ohioans with Disabilities, Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired and Alicia Howerton, Strategic Partnerships Manager, Cleveland Sight Center. For more information about the program and how to attend, contact Alicia (x4587 or ahowerton@clevelandsightcenter.org).

What's Happening at Cleveland Sight Center:

-The preschool at Cleveland Sight Center has enjoyed a great relationship with the Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) and the CVNP rangers. Rangers visit preschool every month to read a story, make a craft and learn something new about animals that live at CNVP.

This past week, students and teachers had the opportunity to visit the Rangers at the Boston Mills Visitors Center. Rangers Jackie and Sue taught the class about trees and which animals live in the trees. The kids had a picnic lunch in the park and enjoyed some fun games on the grass. What a great way to study trees!

Remember, preschool open enrollment is ongoing. For more information, contact Susie Meles (x8747).

Image is a group photo of students, teachers and CVNP Rangers

Image is of three students touching the bark of a tree as a CVNP Ranger assists



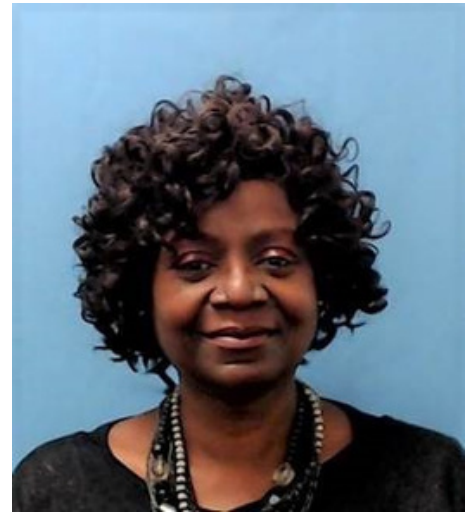
-Halloween is just around the corner, which means the preschool trick-or-treat day at CSC is fast approaching! Save the date for Monday, October 31 and get the candy ready! More details will be provided but the plan is to have the students parade through the outside courtyard and playground area in the Empowerment Park around 12:45 p.m.

-Leisure and Lifestyle Services (LLS) continues to host and engage clients through recreation and socialization programs on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays! Contact Gabriella Drago for more information and please note: due to limited capacity, individuals interested in attending programming must call or email Gabriella (Leisure and Lifestyle Specialist) at 216-658-4598 or gdrago@clevelandsightcenter.org.

Welcome to Cleveland Sight Center!

-A big CSC welcome to the following who recently joined the team at Cleveland Sight Center:

- Ken Hammer, Accessibility Project Coordinator in the Vision Rehabilitation Department.
- Nate Kottler, Assistive Technology Trainer in the Vision Rehabilitation Department.
- Natalie Williams, Rehabilitation Coordinator in the Vision Rehabilitation Department.



Three images of Ken, Nate and Natalie

Did You Know:

-Did you know it takes a sloth two to four weeks to digest food? They actually have the slowest metabolic system of any mammal.