

Keeping you
"in THE"
know.



11/4/22

November is Assistive Technology Month:

-November is Assistive Technology Month. From the Advocate Oak Blog at Disability Rights New Jersey, assistive technology, or AT for short, is defined as "any item, piece of equipment or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified or customized, that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of a person with a disability.

AT is frequently misunderstood, and many people don't know what classifies as AT. Many folks think AT is just an expensive device like a wheelchair but in reality, anything can be AT - it just depends on how it's utilized. Simply speaking - AT is any tool used to simplify someone's life. For example, if you are someone who has a mobility impairment and unable to get out of bed, you might ask Alexa to switch on the lights. In that situation, Alexa would become AT. Another example is if you need a few directions on how to go to a grocery store you might like to use GPS to assist with navigation. In that situation, GPS becomes AT. If you have a hearing impairment and turn on captions on your television, then the TV becomes AT. It is not AT if you only use these devices because you like and enjoy them. Any device may become AT if it removes a barrier for you."

To read the full blog post, [click here](#).

Check out this short video titled "Assistive Technology: Simple Said" to learn more about what Assistive Technology is.

Strengthening Partnerships and Educating the Community:

-Tom Saywer (Outreach Specialist) presented an overview of Cleveland Sight Center which included the Independent Living Older Blind programs, "Did You Know" tips and "Blind and Low Vision Etiquette" at Fairhill Partners for their Caregiver Support Group earlier this week. Tom also represented CSC at the Brecksville-Broadview Heights Wellness Fair held at the Brecksville Community Center. In addition, Tom will be presenting "Blind and Low Vision Etiquette" at the National Federation of the Blind Ohio 2022 Convention this Saturday at the DoubleTree hotel in Independence.

-Alicia Howerton (Manager of Strategic Partnerships) was joined by Deb Tyukodi (Early Intervention Specialist) for a tour and informational meeting with Ashley Johnson, who recently became a volunteer with CSC. Ashley, who has a master's degree in finance and works in the finance department at Case Western Reserve University, recently attended the Case for Sight "Dinner in the Dark" event where Kristen Callahan (Manager, School Age Educational Services) presented on Cleveland Sight Center and the Children & Young Adult Services Department. Ashley has recently decided to change her career and is currently taking classes with the intention to become an ophthalmologist.

-Representatives from KeyBank visited Cleveland Sight Center this week for an informational meeting and tour of the organization. Alicia Howerton (Manager of Strategic Partnerships) met with them for an overview of Cleveland Sight Center services before the group met with CSC's assistive technology group to get a better understanding of accessibility issues they may encounter with their websites and users.

What's Happening at Cleveland Sight Center:



-In addition to a wonderful Halloween which included a parade and trick-or-treating through the offices at Cleveland Sight Center (thank you staff for all the yummy treats!), our friends in preschool had some special staff guests visit the classroom this week. Larry Benders (President and Chief Executive Officer) and Kevin Krencisz (Executive Vice President) stopped by to talk to the students and show them various wood items made by each of them. The kids loved the visit and learning about wood making. Also joining the class was Gabriella Drago (Leisure and Lifestyles Specialist) who led a fun and interactive music therapy session.

Image of a preschool student holding and looking at a wood box as Larry describes it

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

-Some quotes shared by clients on the impact Cleveland Sight Center has made on them:

“Growing up, Cleveland Sight Center was a family environment. They inspired me, they motivated me to be a better person. To be independent. To learn how to adapt to different situations. They empowered me and they inspired me to be comfortable with my disabilities.”

“Because I have low vision, I could not find the numbers on my smartphone. But after training I can now use it with voice commands. Since I can't see small letters, I can now enlarge the print on my phone and I'm able to read again and teach at Sunday school.”

-It's that time again! We are all looking forward to the holidays and the New Year. With that said, just a reminder that the 2023 large print calendars are here along with the 2023 date planner book. The large print calendar is \$12 this year and the date planners are \$18. Both make a wonderful gift or a helpful accessory to keep yourself organized in the upcoming year. Both are large print with nice bold numbers and lettering without annoying advertising or visual clutter. Stop by to check them out!

Also the store is featuring four new holiday cards to choose from this season in addition to some returning favorites from prior years. The new cards are not here yet but can be viewed online (<https://www.eyedeashop.com/collections/holiday-cards>). The cards this year are priced at \$1.25 and can be purchased in any quantity amount. Imprinting will not be available or offered this year. The store is taking backorders for the cards to be printed in the near future.

#GivingTuesday is November 29:

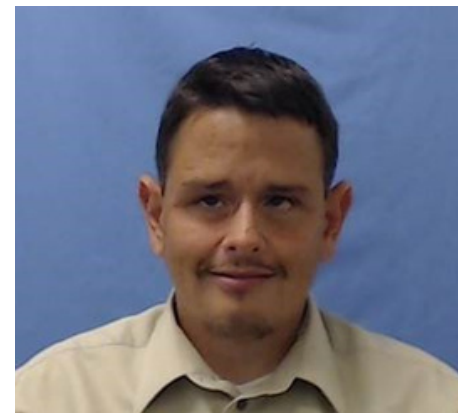
-#GivingTuesday is right around the corner on Tuesday, November 29!

#GivingTuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Over the past nine years, it has grown into a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate and celebrate generosity.

Be on the lookout for information on how you can support this year's #GivingTuesday initiative and the impact donations will make.

Welcome (Back) to Cleveland Sight Center:

-Let's welcome back Sean O'Neil to Cleveland Sight Center, who is returning as a Customer Service Representative in the Call Center. One big difference, Sean will be working from his home in Georgia instead of Cleveland. Sean moved to Georgia a while ago for work in a different industry and he is returning part time. Image is a photo of Sean



Items of Note:

-This weekend marks the end of Daylight Saving Time. Don't forget to set those clocks back one hour on Sunday, November 6.

Did You Know:

-Did you know there is a secret vault that holds nearly every type of crop seed? The Svalbard Global Seed Vault, located in one of the coldest corners of the world, on an island in the Svalbard archipelago between Norway and the North Pole, is where the vault is located. This remote location allows the natural permafrost cooling necessary for proper storage of the world's largest collection of crop diversity. In the event of disaster or if farmers' fields start to dry out, this seed vault would come to the rescue.