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**12/6/19**

## **#GivingTuesday Raises Over \$25,000 for CSC!**

-Cleveland Sight Center participated in #GivingTuesday on December 3rd, an international day where charities, families, individuals, businesses, communities and more around the world come together for a common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give. Gifts received for this year's campaign totaled \$25,255...the highest in CSC's six years of participation! Total amounts in years past were \$21,100 in 2018, \$15,790 in 2017, \$10,076 in 2016, \$2,540 in 2015 and \$850 in 2014. Thank you to those who made a gift or passed along CSC's message to help make this year's #GivingTuesday the best yet.

## **Cleveland Sight Center Receives 4-Star Rating from Charity Navigator!**

-Cleveland Sight Center has attained another 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest and most-utilized independent evaluator of charities. This coveted 4-star rating was awarded for the period January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018 for demonstrating strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency. CSC has earned a fifth consecutive 4-star rating, Charity Navigator's highest possible rating and indicates that CSC adheres to sector best practices and executes its mission in a financially efficient way.



Only 14% of the charities evaluated by Charity Navigator have received at least 5 consecutive 4-star evaluations, setting Cleveland Sight Center apart from its peers and demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness. Click [here](#) to review CSC's information on Charity Navigator's website.

*Image of CSC's 4-Star Certificate from Charity Navigator*

## What's Happening at CSC:

-CSC's Board of Trustees met at the agency on Monday, December 2nd. The Board unanimously approved the operating and capital budgets for 2020. Thanks to all staff members for the hard work and dedication and to the Fiscal team for leading this effort.

-Team members of the Children & Young Adult Services (CYAS) department hosted Dani Moran, Program Director at the Sight Center of Northwest Ohio in Toledo, this week to learn more about CSC's fabulous Early Intervention Program. She met with Sylvia Snyder, Laurie Schlickman, Monica Owen and Barb Williams to gather information and ideas to begin a similar program in the Toledo area, with the intention to use CSC's Bright Futures Early Intervention Program as their model for development of services to babies and toddlers.

-Students in Bright Futures Preschool enjoyed music time with the Braille Notes Choir at CSC on Wednesday, listening to a variety of holiday tunes and participating in some sing-a-longs. The preschoolers also spent time reading tactile books with a group of volunteers from John Carroll University. As the students prepare for Christmas and the holidays, they studied about how to make bread - reading books, looking at pictures, exploring flour, playing with bread dough and baking bread! They also enjoyed a field trip to the Rockefeller Greenhouse.



*Preschoolers play with mini musical instruments during a song*



*A preschool boy and volunteer read a tactile book together*

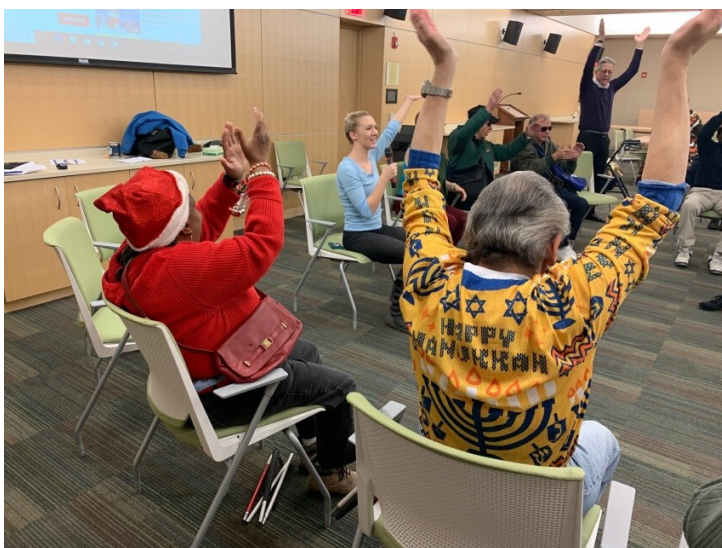


*A preschool girl with flour on her nose and cheeks smiles as she plays with a bin of flour and measuring cups*



*Group photo of students and teachers at the greenhouse*

-A lively group gathered for the year's final Winners Club social event on Thursday as they welcomed teachers from The Dancing Wheels who engaged the group in a variety of dancing - including chair dance moves! The group enjoyed a delicious meal of salad, garlic bread, stuffed shells and chicken sandwiches. Thanks to all who attended and the staff members who took time to assist clients, work alongside one another and celebrate the season at CSC!



*Winners Club attendees participate in chair dancing moves - one in a red Santa hat and another in a sweater that reads "Happy Hanukkah"*



*Instructors engage the group with chair dance moves and exercise*

-CSC hosted an informational presentation and demonstration of CapTel, a telephone that addresses the needs of individuals with both visual and hearing losses, on Wednesday, December 4th. The CapTel 880iB model allows users to read braille captions of the telephone conversation on a dynamic braille display. For qualified users the CapTel phones are available at no cost through the ADA and the FCC. To learn more about the low vision phone click [here](#).

-Happy Holidays from Volunteer Services! This winter season, Volunteer Services is beginning to collect any odds and ends items that will be used to fill out raffle baskets in April during CSC's annual Volunteer Appreciation event. Any donated items that can be added to baskets would be warmly appreciated.

-Thank you to Delta Gamma volunteers for creating and hanging decorations for this weekend's annual "Cookies & Milk with Santa" event and to staff from John Carroll University who are wrapping presents for the event today. The excitement, care and joy that went into preparing for the party will surely be felt during tomorrow's festivities!

-For more information or to register for these exciting events coming up at Highbrook Lodge, contact Jenny Schaeffer (x4596 or [jschaeffer@clevelandsightcenter.org](mailto:jschaeffer@clevelandsightcenter.org)):

Holiday at Highbrook: Tuesday, December 17th, 2019

Winter Weekend at Highbrook: February 7th - 9th, 2020

## **Eyedeas Shop's Product of the Week: So much in store!**

It's that time of year again when we are looking for ideas for those friends and family on our gift list. Although the Eyedeas Shop specializes in low vision products there may be someone on your list who struggles to read the paper or needs a large print crossword puzzle book. Perhaps they would like to play a game with their grandchildren and would enjoy braille cards or braille Uno. Even a good lamp can provide that better lighting to work on that jigsaw puzzle when the weather is too cold and snowy to go out. If you ski that snow can also be an eyestrain especially when it's sunny outside. So stop in and check out if there is anything we can do to get those people checked off that holiday list this season. And of course don't forget those holiday cards for far away family and friends who you may not see this holiday. We have those too! Happy Holidays!

## **Items of Note**

-CSC will be closed on Christmas Day (Wednesday, December 25th) and New Year's Day (Wednesday, January 1st). The agency will be open normal business hours on December 24th, December 26th, December 31st and January 2nd.

-Did you know bubble wrap was originally invented as wallpaper? If you can't wait to pop every air-filled pocket the minute you pull a piece of bubble wrap out of a package, can you imagine how irresistible it would be if it was covering your walls? Engineer Al Fielding and Swiss inventor Marc Chavannes probably didn't consider that when, in 1957, they invented bubble wrap while trying to create a textured wallpaper by sealing two shower curtains together to trap air bubbles.