



GROWTH THROUGH COMMUNITY

Cleveland Sight Center | 2024 Report to the Community

MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Cleveland Sight Center (CSC) is a special place; part of what makes it so special is our dedicated community. Who makes up our community? Everyone who touches CSC in some way: donors, volunteers, clients, referring doctors, partner organizations, staff and even you reading this!

CSC's community grew significantly in 2024. From serving 10% more people as an agency, to a 100% increase in attendance at our annual fundraiser, White Cane Walk, our community showed up for CSC in more ways than one.

Being a part of this passionate and dedicated community inspires us to keep building a world where the quality of one's sight does not impact the quality of one's life. Thank you for being part of our growing community.

In this report, you will learn about the many ways **your support helped advance our mission** and the thousands of lives that were impacted. We look forward to what our community can achieve together in 2025, and the many years to come!



Larry Benders
President and Chief
Executive Officer



Beth W. Smith
Chair, Board of Trustees



A YEAR OF GROWTH

10% more people served in 2024 compared to the previous year

There's a saying, "it takes a village to raise a child." It also takes a village to help an agency like ours reach the milestones of the year prior! In 2024, CSC served nearly 3,500 unique people. This growth is a testament to our community, and we are thankful for everyone who spreads the word about CSC.



Our Early Intervention (EI) program, serving children ages 0–3 years old, impacted

21% more families

Our EI team worked closely with families across Northeast Ohio to provide essential support for children who are blind, visually impaired or have multiple disabilities. Families in the program enjoyed **connecting through community-building events like playgroups, and meet-ups at nature centers and zoos.**



Our Clinic helped

18%

more people learn how to maximize their remaining vision

In our pursuit to impact more lives, **we expanded our partnerships with referring doctors and streamlined the referral process.** Thank you to everyone who has referred someone to CSC – you played a critical role in their journey to independence.

Our Recreation program offered accessible, enriching experiences to

43% more people

Social recreation **creates a safe and accessible space for clients to build community and explore Northeast Ohio.** Volunteers are vital to these efforts – thank you for making these experiences possible.





CSC's Vision Rehabilitation space GOT A MAKEOVER

CSC finished the renovation of the learning lab, creating an updated and accessible space for clients to receive vision rehabilitation services. **This new space provides a safe, hands-on learning environment for individuals to learn transferable skills** that can be incorporated into their daily lives.



CSC programs earned a THREE-YEAR CARF ACCREDITATION

CARF International, or Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, is an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services. CARF surveyors reported the following, **"Evidenced by staff and leadership interactions, CSC is bursting with innovation, intentional inclusion, passion, investment and impact.** The investment made to ensure that CSC clients achieve long-term success is reflected in its mission and worn as a badge of honor throughout the organization."

White Cane Walk BROKE RECORDS

The turnout and generosity for 2024's White Cane Walk were amazing! **Our community broke records and raised \$113,275.69 with over 700 participants.**

This annual fundraiser is a chance for different members of CSC's community to connect, **and we can't wait to gather together again and celebrate the 20th annual White Cane Walk on May 31 – whitecanewalk.org.**





RUSSELL'S CSC COMMUNITY

Today, Russell is almost an adult, but he's been a part of CSC's community since he was a baby. Born completely blind, Russell and his family began receiving early intervention services so he could meet his developmental milestones. At this young age, Russell and his mom, Heidi, attended playgroups where parents and caretakers could connect and the toddlers could play together.

Russell's network within CSC's community expanded again when he attended CSC's Preschool. Some of his classmates were the children he played with in the early intervention groups! It was at CSC's Preschool that Russell's mom noticed his confidence grew.

"When he started at Cleveland Sight Center, Russell was very intimidated to move and nervous to try new things. During those first few years, the growth Russell showed was just amazing."

– Heidi, Russell's mom





From preschool to grade school, Russell and his family stayed connected to CSC by attending different holiday parties hosted by CSC. At these events, they got to reconnect with families they'd met at the beginning of their time with CSC.

These days, Russell is a teenager in high school and thinking about his future. He recently connected with CSC's employment services team, and learned a lot about what to consider when choosing a college.

"It feels like I can always reach out and get advice," Heidi said.

Russell's mom knows as he enters adulthood, he may need more support from CSC. From birth to the golden years, CSC is here to support families like Russell's as they grow and enter new life stages. **Once you're a client of CSC, you're a member of our community, and we're here as you need us.**



"Cleveland Sight Center has been with us both as a family, and with Russell individually throughout his entire life. At every step, we've had the support of Cleveland Sight Center."

- Heidi, Russell's mom

DONORS & VOLUNTEERS

In 2024,

1,529

generous donors
contributed to CSC

Volunteers completed

4,146

hours of service to support the
blind and visually impaired
community in Northeast Ohio

Donors and volunteers are the backbone of our community.

Thank you to our donor and volunteer community for your dedication and commitment to ensuring everyone can live the life they want with the vision they have.

To read a special thank you from Russell’s Mom, please visit bit.ly/CSCRussell



**“Thank you. Thank you for your support.
Thank you for providing this wonderful
resource to families.”**

–Kory Farkas, mom of a toddler client

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Officers and Executive Committee

Beth W. Smith, Chair
Erin C. Ploucha, First Vice Chair
Joan U. Allgood, Secretary
Karen P. Assink, Vice Chair
Kevin R. McKinnis, Vice Chair

Wally Anders, Treasurer
Zachary J. Stanley, Vice Chair
Bonita G. Teeuwen, Immediate Past Chair
Myron (Mike) Weissman, Chair,
Leadership Society

Trustees

- Caitlin Beck
Sheryl King Benford
Mary H. Bookman
Brent M. Buckley
Erin N. Chelune-Boots
Robert L. Englander#
Cheryl Fields
Thomas P. Furnas
Michael H. Greenberg, OD
Robert L. Hartford, III
Lynn V. Heilighenthal-Showalter
Peter A. Igel
Frederick Kuper Jones
Nathan Kelly
Howard A. Lichtig
- Bruce Loessin
Beejadi N. Mukunda, MD
Lora Niazov
Edward Oberndorf
Thomas P. O’Malley
Douglas A. Piper
Ronald E. Posner, MD
Beverly J. Roach
James P. Sacher
Andrew L. Sikorovsky
William L. Spring, Esq.
G. Maxwell Toole
Kathy Walters
Steven Willensky
(#) Trustee Emeritus



FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial results are for the period January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

Revenue

\$13.2 Million in 2024



- 47%** Endowment and trust revenue
- 28%** Social enterprise revenue
- 15%** Programs and other service fees
- 9%** Public support
- 1%** Retail sales

Expenses

\$13.4 Million in 2024



- 84%** Program services
- 10%** Management and general
- 6%** Fundraising



Balance Sheet

Assets

Cash, receivables, inventory and prepaids	\$2,558,782
Endowment and beneficial trust investments	\$148,509,747
Property and equipment	\$10,990,114
TOTAL ASSETS	\$162,058,643

Liabilities

Payables and accrued expenses	\$1,212,640
Donor annuities	\$157,768
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$1,370,408

Net Assets

Without donor restrictions	\$74,172,078
With donor restrictions	\$86,516,157
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$160,688,235
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$162,058,643

Statement of Operations

Revenue

Public support	\$1,216,923	9%
Retail sales	\$81,138	1%
Social enterprise revenue	\$3,661,950	28%
Program and other service fees	\$1,976,513	15%
Endowment and trust revenue	\$6,308,617	47%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$13,245,141	100%

Expenses

Program services	\$11,327,153	84%
Management and general	\$1,291,387	10%
Fundraising	\$813,693	6%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$13,432,233	100%

SURPLUS (LOSS) FROM OPERATIONS **(\$187,092)**



OUR MISSION is to provide individualized support and tools to navigate the visual world.

University Circle
1909 East 101st Street
Cleveland, OH 44106

216-791-8118
info@clevelandsightcenter.org
clevelandsightcenter.org