

Keeping you
"in THE"
know.



2/4/22

Educating the Community and Strengthening Partnerships:

-Cathy Javorsky (Switchboard Operator) recently met with a reporter from Spectrum News 1 to talk about accessibility including a lack of braille labels on many products. Check out the feature story and video [here](#).

-Nancy Sidell from Ohio Means Jobs (OMJ) visited CSC this week for a tour of the agency and meeting with Alicia Howerton (Strategic Partnerships Manager). OMJ is the state of Ohio's public workforce system with thousands of employees around Ohio. Nancy wanted deeper insights into low-vision/blindness and the services provided at CSC. Nancy and Alicia both serve on the Executive Committee of the Cuyahoga County Advisory Board for persons with disabilities where Nancy is the Vice Chair and Alicia is Secretary.

-Bobbie Szabo (Leisure and Lifestyles Manager), Gabriella Drago (Leisure and Lifestyles Specialist) and Tom Sawyer (Outreach Specialist) represent CSC today in a meeting with Cleveland Playhouse staff to discuss how to help them be more inclusive, specifically to individuals with low vision and blindness.

What's Happening at Cleveland Sight Center:

-Cleveland Sight Center offers rehabilitation training services for clients. Services are individualized to each client's needs through an intake process that helps CSC staff learn about the client's needs, goals and preferences. Available trainings include activities of daily living, computers and devices, orientation and mobility, groups and functional low vision assessments.

Activities of Daily Living:

- Basic food preparation
- Timepieces
- Telephone usage
- Financial record keeping
- Writing tasks
- Braille
- Money identification
- Personal grooming and cleaning
- Sewing
- Health care management
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Computer and Device Training:

- Keyboarding
- Sending and receiving emails
- Screen magnification software
- JAWS (Job Access with Speech)
- Talking software
- Tablet and smartphone usage

Orientation and Mobility:

- Pre-white cane skills
- Human guide
- Self-protection skills
- White cane skills
- Navigating new or unfamiliar areas and street crossings
- Public transportation
- Indirect assistance in connecting with guide dog provider
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Group Training:

A comprehensive group training is available in the community to individuals 55+ for senior groups, support groups, independent living facilities and assisted living facilities.

- The training is once a week for four weeks. Each training is two hours long and will include:
- Adaptive daily living skills
- Functional low vision
- Human guide techniques
- Help with vision loss adjustment
- Referrals will be made to Orientation & Mobility as needed.

Low Vision Services:

Functional Low Vision Assessments are available to determine the appropriate magnifier, product for glare control and proper use of lighting.

-Students in preschool had fun trying to predict what groundhogs “Buckeye Chuck” and “Punxsutawney Phil” would say about the weather for the next six weeks. They also enjoyed some outdoor time on Tuesday and investigated what causes ice and snow to melt. As they continue their music theme, the class had a visit from Gabriella Drago (Leisure and Lifestyles Specialist) and her guide dog Freesia, showing the children and helping her play songs on a keyboard. Everyone had a chance to play on a metallophone as well. A metallophone is any musical instrument in which the sound-producing body is a piece of metal, consisting of tuned metal bars, tubes, rods, bowls, or plates - which are struck with a mallet to produce the sounds.

Image of a preschooler playing a metallophone

Image of a preschooler petting guide dog Freesia

Image of a preschooler smiling as she walks through the snow

-Leisure & Lifestyle Services (LLS) will be running the following programming schedule until the middle of May, unless there is a drastic change in COVID-19 numbers/safety protocols:

Virtual Schedule

Weekly Programs:

Yoga	Tuesdays 4pm
Coffee Chat	Wednesdays 10am
Meditation	Wednesdays 11am
Trivia	Wednesdays 4pm

Monthly Programs:

Book Discussion
Second Tuesdays 10:30am-12pm

Think Tank
First Thursdays 10-11am

Ted Talks
Second Thursdays 10-11am

What Do You Know?
Third Thursdays 10-11am



Poetry w/ Shayna
Fourth Tuesdays 10am-12pm

Sing It Out
Third Wednesdays 6-7pm

For information on how to participate and log in to these virtual programs, contact Bobbie Szabo (Leisure & Lifestyles Manager) at x4597 or bszabo@clevelandsightcenter.org.

-LLS is excited to resume in-person activities starting on Tuesday, February 15th, 2022! Please note: ***all participants MUST show proof of COVID-19 vaccination to attend any in-person programming.

In-Person Schedule

Weekly Programs (Tuesdays)

11am Crochet, Craft, & Chat

12pm Lunch Orders & Round Table Discussions (must be physically present to order food)

1:00pm Lunch

2:00pm Music Therapy (1st and 3rd)

Movie (2nd and 4th)

3:00pm Piano (weekly)

(Piano students must attend every week—space is limited)

Games (weekly)

Movie (2nd and 4th)

4:00pm Yoga (weekly)

Music Group (2nd and 4th)

Upcoming Special Events

Winner's Club TBD

Winter Day Trip at Highbrook Saturday, March 19th

Check the L&L Information Line at 216-658-4600 for most recent information; call 216-658-4598 with any questions and to register for the Highbrook trip!

Highbrook Lodge is Hiring:

-Highbrook Lodge is hiring for seasonal staff members! Please pass the opportunity on to anyone you think would be a good fit.

Want to enrich the lives of campers, young and old, who have vision loss and blindness? Highbrook Lodge wants you!

We're looking for empathetic, dynamic, creative individuals to guide our campers and programs. We're looking for those who are able to lead by example, and for those who want to make a difference instead of just a "summer job".

Working at Highbrook Lodge will mold you into someone with marketable knowledge, skills, and attitudes while giving you the most meaningful experience possible: the opportunity to expand the world of our clients, help promote their independence, and become a part of a life-long community who believe in equity and accessibility.

Highbrook hosts overnight and day sessions for campers 0-99+ who are blind or have low vision at our 63-acre property in Chardon, Ohio. Our staff live at camp from mid-June until early August, with time off built into the daily and weekly schedule. All staff will receive a stipend for the summer PLUS a sign-on and end-of-summer bonus!

Get ready for a summer full of playing games, singing songs, experiencing nature, making friends, and laughing endlessly, as well as intense work, responsibility, and opportunities for growth—all the while increasing your circle of family and friends, and making a difference.

Positions include: Leadership Team (Staff Coordinator, Camper Coordinator), Aquatic Supervisor, and Specialty Areas (Marketing, Environment/Survival/Conservation, Fine Arts, Performing Arts, Housekeeping, Maintenance, Athletics, Food Service, etc.)

must be available to live at Highbrook Lodge in Chardon, OH from June 11th, 2022 - August 7th, 2022 (staff will have time off, during which they can leave camp grounds)

Items of Note:

-An artificial intelligence firm recently launched a voice accessible smartphone for visually impaired people. RealSAM Pocket's new OCR feature allows users to take a picture of printed or handwritten text and have it read back to them with high accuracy. The phone's voice controls guide the process, alerting the user to the image being in focus, while also offering the ability to customize the onscreen display to alternative brightness, contrast, and color combinations to improve visibility for those with some vision. To read more, [click here](#).

-People who are visually impaired could gain the use of a smart new tool designed to make navigating their environment more manageable. Stanford University researchers have created an affordable robotic cane equipped with sensors and artificial intelligence-driven way-finding technology. Researchers equipped the cane with LIDAR sensors, similar to those used in self-driving cars. The sensors detect and measure the distance to obstacles, helping users avoid them sooner than the traditional cane method. To read the full article, [click here](#).

-Please note the federal government has announced the website for Americans to order free at-home COVID-19 tests, which is now live and can be found at covidtests.gov.

Did you Know:

-Did you know the average U.S. household has 300,000 things in it?