

Keeping you
"in THE"
know.



3/18/22

March is National Disability Awareness Month:

-On February 26th, 1987 President Ronald Reagan officially declared Proclamation 5613 making March National Disabilities Awareness Month. The proclamation called for people to provide understanding, encouragement and opportunities to help persons with disabilities to lead productive and fulfilling lives.

Donors Making an Impact:

Marlene and Darrell Smith are longtime supporters and friends of Cleveland Sight Center. Marlene recently detailed her experience with CSC as a client's parent, employee and donor.

"Cleveland Sight Center was our lifeline when we moved from Washington, D.C. to Cleveland. Our son, Brian, was in 7th grade and he needed everything: braille textbooks, mobility (white cane and orientation) training in a new school and people who cared and listened to his concerns. We received this support at CSC all the way until he received his college degree in math and computer science.

The Braille Department at Cleveland Sight Center was exceptional, with volunteers certified from the Library of Congress in literary braille to those also certified in math and computer science. They translated anything from bus schedules to language textbooks into braille. Because of our son, I received my braille certification and later accepted the position as Coordinator of Braille Services at CSC which I held for seven years. It was a hard position to leave because I admired these selfless volunteers full of so much knowledge.

The Braille Department supported Ohio students but also filled outside state requests for material from early readers to college texts. Today, the Braille Department continues to support staff and client requests whether work related or on a personal note.

Our son passed away from cancer in 2010. CSC Braille Services, along with other services, made it possible for him to learn and grow into a happy, healthy and independent adult. He loved to read and he loved knowledge. In his honor, we continue to donate to CSC to ensure client needs are met and their life is enhanced, just as braille enhanced our son's."

What's Happening at Cleveland Sight Center:

-The Eyedea Shop at Cleveland Sight Center has quality and helpful low vision aids for purchase that make daily life easier, offering Ohio's largest selection of items to assist in daily living. The Eyedea Shop is open to the public Monday - Friday from 9:00 am - 5:00 p.m. Catalogs are available by request or visit the online store by clicking [here](#).

Examples of products for purchase in the Eyedea Shop:

- Household Items: talking timers, double spatulas, liquid level indicators (device that lets you know when the liquid has reached the top of your cup) and so much more!
- Lighting
- Magnification
- White Canes
- CCTVs/Reading Machines
- And more!

Contact the store at 216-658-4666 for more information.

-The preschool had a very busy last week of winter! Children learned about leprechauns, gold at the end of the rainbow and shamrocks...and a sneaky leprechaun dropped some gold in the playground on Wednesday and the kids had lots of fun collecting it. They wrapped up their study unit on building by exploring real materials used for buildings and remodeling. Thanks to everyone who helped collect so many items. The students also went to the pet store and they got a fish! His name is Rainbow and he is a fighting BETA fish. And last but not least - at the end of the 3rd quarter the children have mastered walking in single file! Now the class gets to enjoy some time off for spring break.

Image of Rainbow the fish swimming in its tank with colorful rocks and pebbles



-Come one, come all to the Spring 2022 Winner's Club! The program will be held on Tuesday, March 29th in the Clyde E. Williams, Jr. Auditorium at Cleveland Sight Center from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Join the Leisure & Lifestyle Services team to hear from several community activists about their personal and professional advocacy efforts. The presentations will be followed with a luncheon – the menu includes glazed ham, scalloped potatoes, mixed veggies, salad, and birthday cake – games and will finish with a prize raffle! We ask that clients interested in attending RSVP with Gabriella Drago (Leisure & Lifestyle Specialist) at 216-658-4598. If you are interested in volunteering for the event or donating a prize for the prize raffle, please contact Bobbie Szabo (bszabo@clevelandsightcenter.org.)

-Are you a music lover? We have an opportunity for you! A wonderful donor has provided tickets to the Cleveland Women's Orchestra performance at Severance Hall on Sunday, April 24th! The performance celebrates Severance Hall's 87th Anniversary, and features pieces like "Borodin: Overture to Prince Igor", the Cleveland premiere of "Luca Moscardi: Concertino for Piano, Op. 13a), and "Rimsky-Korsakov: Suite from the Snow Maiden". Individuals interested in attending should contact Gabriella Drago at 216-658-4598 or gdrago@clevelandsightcenter.org. Individuals interested in volunteering for the event should contact Bobbie Szabo at bszabo@clevelandsightcenter.org or 216-658-4597. Please note that transportation will not be provided to Severance Hall, and that ALL participants and volunteers must be both vaccinated and have their booster shot in order to attend (per Severance Hall Covid-19 policy).

-Don't forget Highbrook Lodge is hiring for the summer camp season! We're looking for empathetic, dynamic, creative individuals to guide our campers and programs. Many exciting positions are available. To read more or to apply, click [here](#).

-Call for volunteer requests! CSC's volunteer team encourages anyone who has volunteer requests to share them, whether they be for one-time projects, events or ongoing support. With a new season approaching, many prospective volunteers and volunteer groups are contacting CSC ready and willing to help. The volunteer department can help you make a greater impact in your world, be that through sourcing talent that allows you to have more time, recruiting volunteers to lead meaningful projects or providing you with some extra hands. Please contact Steve Frohwerk (x4562) for more information or to make a volunteer request.

Items of Note:

-The following is an excerpt from the quarterly newsletter from the Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (OLBPD). Cleveland Sight Center is mentioned: Happy 125th Anniversary Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled!

This year is a milestone year for the Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled. First and foremost, OLBPD celebrates its 125th anniversary as part of the Cleveland Public Library! To commemorate our anniversary, the history of OLBPD will be featured in a four-part series of newsletter articles. We hope you enjoy these articles as you learn more about the rich history of OLBPD. This first article will introduce patrons to our origin story, and the person instrumental to the founding of this library. The early history of OLBPD is from "Open Shelves and Open Minds" by C.H. Cramer, 1972.

Cleveland Public Library (CPL) had long been in the front ranks of libraries providing special services to those who were print disabled or isolated from the library: people who were blind, people who were sick in hospitals, and inmates at correctional institutions. In the early years, the motivating force behind a library for the blind in Cleveland was CPL Director Linda Eastman. It was her enthusiasm and untiring support that kept it going in the face of bitter disappointment and annoying delay.

Shortly before the turn of the century, Eastman strove to aid those in the community who were unable to read braille. She did so by organizing a club of blind patrons who gathered weekly to listen as volunteers read aloud to them. This group met at Goodrich House, a social settlement built in 1897 by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Mather – who were important to Cleveland for both steel and philanthropy. In 1903, Eastman began instruction in braille with a class that met every Wednesday at the library. Volunteers brought class members to the meetings in carriages and streetcars.

As early as 1903, the library's annual report noted that books for blind patrons were much too expensive for most of those who would benefit by their use, noting that one of the most important additions during the year had been seventy-four books for blind patrons – secured partly from gifts and partly from the library's own budget – as a start toward “providing those starving readers with sorely needed intellectual and spiritual nourishment.” In 1906, Eastman became one of the three initial trustees of the newly organized Society for the Blind (now the Cleveland Sight Center), which thereafter took over responsibility for instruction and recreation. This left the Cleveland Public Library with the important and expensive obligation to provide a collection of books.

-From the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT):

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has extended the security directive requiring masks on public transportation conveyances and in public transportation hubs through April 18, 2022. Read the TSA announcement [here](#). During this time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will work with the U.S. Department of Transportation regarding when and under what circumstances masks should be required for public transportation after mid-April. Any changes will be based on the COVID-19 community levels, risk of new variants, national data, and the latest science. FTA and ODOT will share updates as soon as possible. Learn more about FTA's mask guidance for public transportation through the [FTA Transit Mask Up webpage](#).

Did you Know:

-Did you know spring officially starts on Sunday, March 20th, which is marked by the vernal equinox. “Vernal” translates to “new” or “fresh” and “equinox” is derived from the Latin *aequus* “equal” and *nox* “night”. The vernal equinox marks the turning point when we begin to have more hours of daylight than darkness.