

Keeping you  
"in THE"  
know.



---

**6/10/22**

## **White Cane Walk Celebrates 17 Years...Thank You for Your Support!**

-THANK YOU all staff, board trustees, walkers, donors, attendees and volunteers for your incredible support of this year's White Cane Walk, as we celebrated the wonderful agency that is Cleveland Sight Center, raising important dollars and increasing awareness for our mission! As of Friday morning, over \$59,000 has been raised for programs and services! Because of you, we are able to make a difference in the lives of clients who are blind or have low vision. THANK YOU!!!

The agency was buzzing last Saturday as the 17th annual White Cane Walk was held – the first in three years back on the grounds of Cleveland Sight Center after virtual walks in 2020 and 2021. Many activities were featured including learning stations and hands-on opportunities including the White Cane Experience in the Empowerment Park, arm/hand painting and temporary tattoos, balloon artists, games, music, 50/50 raffle and tasty treats! Larry Benders (President and Chief Executive Officer) welcomed the attendees and provided an update on the advocacy efforts of the agency, including Medicaid coverage of the white cane. Larry was followed by friends of the agency Maggie and Mila, who shared their family's story and experience with Cleveland Sight Center.

Another highlight of the morning was the one-mile walk from CSC to the Wade Oval Lagoon and back featuring the beautiful sights, sounds and smells of spring. Hundreds of walkers sporting their White Cane Walk event t-shirts made for great visuals to show support of CSC!

If you would still like to contribute to the fundraiser, [click here to donate](#). Donations will be accepted through Friday, June 24th. Thank you for your support of White Cane Walk!

Image is a group photo of board trustees with Larry Benders

Image of Kristen Callahan smiling and applying a temporary tattoo to a youngster in attendance

Image is a group photo of Cleveland Guiding Eyes for the Blind puppy raisers and their dogs

Image is of walkers heading down the Nord Family Greenway towards the Wade Oval Lagoon

Image of event attendee under blindfold doing the white cane activity with the assistance of a sighted guide walking alongside



## Last Call to Register for the Upcoming Vision Fair for Seniors:

-A few spots remain for the upcoming vision fair for seniors on Thursday, June 16th at Cleveland Sight Center from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. which is hosted by CSC in partnership with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). Presentation topics will include:

"The Aging Eye: Common Eye Conditions" presented by Annalisa Schloss, OD

"When Glasses Are Not Enough" presented by Erin St. Denis, OTR/L and Bryan Manthey, CVRT



“Don’t Get Tripped Up: Safety Tips and Avoiding Falls in Your Home” presented by Katie Lepis, CVRT

Program overviews of CSC and the OOD Independent Living Older Blind program will be given during this interactive morning which will also feature information tables, tours of the Eyedea Shop, raffles and snacks/beverages.

RSVPs can be sent to Tom Sawyer (Outreach Specialist) at 216-658-7339 or [tsawyer@clevelandsightcenter.org](mailto:tsawyer@clevelandsightcenter.org).

## Educating and Engaging the Community:

-A group of volunteers from the KeyBank across Chester Avenue stopped by Cleveland Sight Center this week as part of their “Neighbors Make a Difference” day of giving back. The group spent time cleaning, sanitizing and preparing the activity rooms and therapy room in the Children & Young Adult Services wing for their upcoming summer programs. Volunteers also inventoried various apparel and promotional items. Joining the KeyBank branch volunteers for part of the day was the new Cleveland market president of KeyBank and a member of their corporate communications team. Thank you, volunteers!

Image of four KeyBank volunteers wiping down toys in the activity room

Image of KeyBank volunteer writing down counts and sizes of polo shirts

-This week Tom Sawyer (Outreach Specialist) presented overviews of Cleveland Sight Center services while promoting programs and the Vision Fair for Seniors event funded through Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) to residents at Marc Apartments on Lee Road in Cleveland and during a meeting held at Euclid Senior Center.

Tom also attended the monthly meeting of the North East Ohio Social Service Coordinators (NEOSSC) Networking Group at Solon Pointe and presented an agency overview with programs and services while promoting OOD funded programs and the Vision Fair for Seniors. The mission of NEOSSC Networking Group is to provide and increase networking opportunities within a secure professional setting that will allow social service providers an opportunity to expand their resources.



The group consists of Social Service Coordinators, Activity Directors and other professional individuals working within the housing industry including Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC's) who are committed to improving the quality of life for senior and disabled individuals in their communities.

## **What's Happening at Cleveland Sight Center:**

-Highbrook Lodge is still accepting referrals for Adult Weekend (July 8-10) and all Youth Sessions (July 25-29, 29-31, August 1-August 5, and July 25-August 5). Please send anyone you think might be interested and who meets the eligibility requirements to Gabriella at [gdrago@clevelandsightcenter.org](mailto:gdrago@clevelandsightcenter.org) or x4598.

-Staff Training for Highbrook Lodge begins on Saturday, June 11th! The full-time team is welcoming about 20 staff members to camp and will be training them day and night to best serve CSC's clients and campers. The team's first day with campers is a Youth Day Away on Friday, June 17th and the first overnight session begins Monday, June 20th! Thanks in advance for your support and understanding as the full-time Leisure & Lifestyle staff members begin the busy camp season. They look forward to responding to inquiries as their schedule permits, but please note camp activities may not always allow for immediate communication and response.

-Children & Young Adult Services is looking to borrow a large cooler that can be used in their upcoming summer programs through August 5th. If you have one that you're willing to share, please connect with Melissa Kraus (x8778).

-Volunteer Services is looking for Radio Readers and Share the Vision Volunteers. To learn more about each position, visit the Volunteer openings page of the CSC website here for job descriptions.

## **Items of Note:**

-Cleveland Sight Center will be closed on Monday, June 20th in observation of the Juneteenth holiday. Stay tuned for more information on how Cleveland Sight Center plans to recognize the holiday. The agency will be open normal business hours on Tuesday, June 21st.

-Don't forget you can make CSC "smile" when you shop throughout the year! When buying online items from Amazon, remember to shop at <http://smile.amazon.com/> and select Cleveland Sight Center as your charity of choice. AmazonSmile will then donate .5% of your purchase back to CSC!

-Take me out to the ballgame! Come enjoy a baseball game with a twist.

WHAT: A six-inning softball game between a team who is blind and a team of police officers who will be wearing blindfolds.

WHEN: Saturday, September 3, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: Wade Oval - University Circle, Cleveland, OH

This game is a fundraiser for the Cleveland Scrappers, a blind and visually impaired baseball team that compete all around the United States against other blind and visually impaired baseball teams. They will be playing officers from the University Circle Police Department.

The Cleveland Scrappers pay for all of their own expenses including uniforms, equipment and all traveling costs. Since there are no neighboring blind baseball teams in the area, all of their games are out of state.

No admission will be charged to this game but donations are welcome. Drinks and snacks will be sold and a raffle will be held with all proceeds going to The Cleveland Scrappers Team.

Please bring your own chairs or a blanket as this humbling game will be held on a grassy field made into a baseball diamond for the morning.

For additional information, contact Sergeant Adam Gilmore ([adam.gilmore@universitycircle.org](mailto:adam.gilmore@universitycircle.org)).

## **Did You Know:**

-Did you know according to the Guinness World Records, the heaviest watermelon weighed 350 pounds.