

Keeping you "in THE" know.



7/2/21

Cleveland Sight Center Closed on Monday, July 5th:

CSC will be closed Monday, July 5th in observation of Independence Day. The agency will be open Tuesday, July 6th 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Strengthening Partnerships and Educating the Community:

-Board Member Mike Weissman hosted family for a visit and tour of the agency this week. His daughter, son-in-law and grandsons currently live overseas in Thailand and enjoyed learning more about CSC.

-Friends of CSC the Schoff Family stopped by the agency last Friday for a special donation. Brothers Julian, Emmett and Owen recently held a lemonade stand during a family garage sale and wanted to give the proceeds of over \$150 to CSC! Group photo of the Schoff boys and CSC staff members



-The Ohio Children's Foundation approved a recent grant request on behalf of Cleveland Sight Center and Seedlings Community Outreach to supply the Children & Young Adult Services (CYAS) department with 200 copies each of DK Braille: Lego Duplo Farm and Touch & Feel Baby Animals. Said Laurie Zebrasky (Manager, Early Childhood Services at CSC): "The books that we received through the Ohio Children's Foundation were beautiful board books that children with little to no vision could feel and begin to gain meaning that braille overlays have meaning (in the same way that sighted children begin to learn that print has meaning). Many of our families received these books as some of the only books in their homes for their child with vision loss. Most families are unaware of how to adapt things in their environment for their very young children with little to no vision. So being able to gift these books to parents in order to help them build pre-literacy and bonding/reading skills is truly a gift."

-A Cleveland Sight Center article, which in part highlights the Independent Living Older Blind program funded through Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, has been published in the Lorain County Office on Aging's The Senior Years newspaper July edition.

-The Outreach team connected with a social worker at Margaret Wagner House apartments thanks to Jim Hlavaty (Registration Manager). They're scheduled to do an in-person blindness awareness presentation to the residents at the apartment complex who are interested in learning how to better interact with a resident who is a CSC client. In addition, the Outreach team has scheduled a hybrid presentation of a CSC agency overview combined with blindness awareness information for the low vision group meeting at Strongsville's Ehrnfelt Senior Center.

Golf Classic Swinging in a New Direction!

-Cleveland Sight Center's Annual Golf Classic is swinging in a new direction this year! Our traditional summer golf outing is transforming into a fun Topgolf experience for everyone this summer on Thursday, July 22nd from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at Topgolf Cleveland.

Topgolf is set up like a driving range, but has a lot of interactive options that appeal to golfers and non-golfers alike. Whether you are an experienced golfer or picking up a club for the first time, you will be sure to enjoy hitting the ball, food, drinks and fun!

Proceeds from this event allows Cleveland Sight Center staff to provide the blind and visually impaired community with the tools, trainings and programs to be independent and thrive.

More information and registration are available online: <https://www.clevelandsightcenter.org/golf-classic-registration>

Any questions or for additional information, please contact Steve Frohwerk (x4562 or sfrohwerk@clevelandsightcenter.org).

What's Happening at CSC:

-Thanks to members of the Social Work and Case Management department Anthony Griffin and Sherry Raymont for inviting Alicia Howerton and Tom Sawyer to speak to their Vision of Success meetings this week.

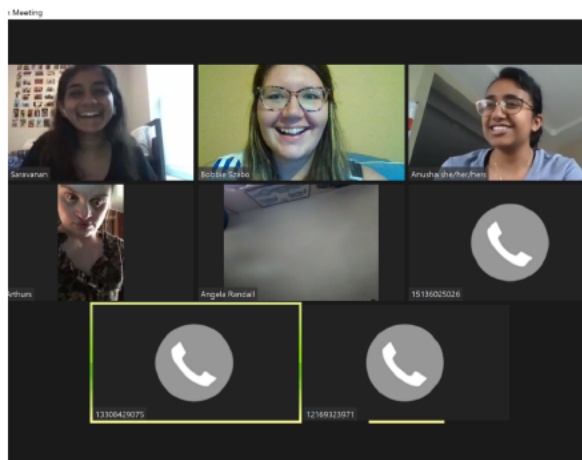
-The summer program "Tales with a Twist" at Bright Futures Preschool is in a full swing! Last week children had all activities centered around the story "Princess and the Pea" and this week's activities are themed after the story "Goldilocks and the Three Bears". While the weather outside was hot, hot, hot, the students had a ton of fun, fun, fun! The youngsters have been so active and busy that just before dismissal a few are falling asleep! Maybe it is time for the story "Sleeping Beauty" next week...

Image of a preschooler sits on a bench with his feet in a bin of cold water. Image of a sleeping preschooler wiped out after a busy day, laying across the lap of a staff member.

-Thank you to volunteers Valerey Barkley and Ayesha Drake-El who created 35 bags to hold play frame pieces, which will be given out to families in the Early Intervention program. After receiving a donation of fabric from Board Member Sara Parish, Valerey and Ayesha created these bags in less than a week! Our CSC team is so excited to distribute them! Photo of Ayesha holding a bag she made.

-CSC Volunteer Spotlight - Suga and Anusha
What's a bit of chaos when you're having fun? Meet Sugapradha Saravanan, "Suga," and Anusha Mudigonda, our fun-loving karaoke leaders from Case Western Reserve University (CWRU). Together, Anusha and Suga lead the "Sing It Out" program for clients, which is a virtual karaoke program. Both undergraduate students, Suga is a junior majoring in neuroscience, while Anusha is a sophomore double majoring in biochemistry and medical anthropology. Both have dreams of attending medical school in the near future. Already avid volunteers at Cleveland Sight Center, Suga and Anusha decided to employ their mutual love of singing virtually during the long months of quarantine by leading interactive sing-along sessions that began in August 2020, a program that clients have embraced with passion and joy.





For the first half of sessions, Anusha and Suga put their heads together to come up with a list of songs according to themes such as decades (70's, 80's, 90's), holidays (Christmas, Halloween) and more! The second half allows clients creative liberty as they choose the songs themselves. With the entire Zoom room unmuted, the leaders screenshare the karaoke lyrics and every participant sings along at the top of their lungs. Suga and Anusha describe: "It can be chaotic at times, but that's part of the fun!" CSC is so lucky to have these two enthusiastic volunteers as part of our volunteer family.

"Our Sing It Out programs are beloved by our clients not only for how fun it is to sing without a care in the world, but also for the sense of comradery they gain from harmonizing and duetting with their peers," says Bobbie Szabo (Leisure and Lifestyle Services Manager). To learn more about Suga and Anusha, and the work they do, read more about them here: <https://www.clevelandsightcenter.org/volunteer-spotlight> A huge thank you to them and to all of the volunteers who make our CSC community special. A screen shot of a recent "Sing It Out" session.

-Volunteer Services is here for you! Do you have a project or program that needs a little extra touch? Whether it is preparing for an event or meeting, organizing a space or bringing extra skills and personality to services or resources in your department, CSC volunteers are here for you! If you are interested in using volunteers to help you make a greater impact or get more done, contact Melissa Mauk, mmauk@clevelandsightcenter.org or x4581 to learn more. Volunteer Services is here for you and happy to work with you to meet your goals!

-Leisure & Lifestyle Services (L&LS) has been extremely busy so far this summer! Between Tuesday Recreation programs at Cleveland Sight Center and Wednesday virtual programs, L&LS has journeyed out to Highbrook Lodge and the Holden Arboretum with clients, staff and volunteers.

Tuesday programs have included yoga, line dance, ballroom dance, improv, movie club, and more! Image is of clients, staff, and volunteers gathered in a circle with one arm up in the air each; participants were shouting "there are no such things as mistakes—only DISCOVERIES!" Wednesday virtual programs have included Coffee Chat, Wacky Wednesdays, and Trivia! Image is of a Scrabble board in front of a laptop displaying clients over Zoom





The first day camp trip to Highbrook Lodge was a huge success! Clients made rain art, jammed along to a volunteer playing the guitar, went bowling, and enjoyed reconnecting with old friends and making new friends after over a year and a half away from camp. Image is of a volunteer bowling at Highbrook's bowling alley.

But don't think we left out the kiddos! School Age Educational Services and Leisure & Lifestyle Services took an enthusiastic bunch of kiddos to the Holden Arboretum to explore the hanging bridges, climb to the top of a 203-stair tower, play sponge relay games and battle it out in a tactile scavenger hunt! Images are of CSC staff, volunteers and clients posing at the bottom of the tower and at the top of the tower.

Today, clients, staff and volunteers are headed on a Goodtime III cruise! Tune in next week to hear all about it!



Items of Note:

-Cleveland Sight Center continues to be open for services, offering in-person and remote services as available. Please contact your service manager/provider for any protocols specific to your appointment, service or program by calling 216-791-8118.

Did You Know:

-Did you know Purdue University created a licking machine to finish Tootsie Pops? If you've ever wanted to know how many licks it takes to get to the Tootsie Roll center of a Tootsie Pop without having to eat one, Purdue University researchers have done the hard work for you. It took their licking machine 364 licks, while human volunteers got to the center in just 252.

