

Keeping you
" in THE "
know.



8/26/22

What's Happening at Cleveland Sight Center:

-We are gearing up for another wonderful year in Bright Futures Preschool! We are so excited to have our kiddos back in the building and are busy prepping for their first day.

Bright Futures Preschool is licensed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and accommodates up to 20 students of all abilities. We believe learning shouldn't be one-size-fits-all and use a curriculum that allows teachers to tailor educational experiences to fit the individualized interests and needs of each student.

Having more sighted peers in the classroom is vital to our success this year. If you know anyone who has a child preschool age that would possibly be interested, please spread the word to them and ask them to contact us at 216-658-8747 to learn more and enroll.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Susie Meles at smeles@clevelandsightcenter.org.

-Did you know the Empowerment Fund is a donor-funded client assistance program and an essential part to some of the work done at Cleveland Sight Center? This fund is used to assist clients with the purchase of recommended products that they cannot afford including aids and appliances, glasses or assistive technology.

About 85% of the individuals who receive services from Cleveland Sight Center are considered low-income. To ensure every individual who walks through our doors receives the life-changing assistive technology and trainings that they need to thrive, the Empowerment Fund was established in 2013.

In fact, it is so important that the number of clients using it has increased drastically. Over the last seven months, there has been a 60% increase in clients that need to utilize this fund. In addition, the average dollar amount of assistance has increased by 40%.

The Empowerment Fund helps individuals have access to:

-A talking Label Wand, which allows a user to record their own talking labels for items at home, school, or work (e.g., labeling cans of food purchased from the grocery store)

-A second pair of eyeglasses when two are required for different needs (insurance typically covers only one pair)

-Handheld digital magnifiers, which can magnify up to 14 times

-Special lighting that improves contrast, allowing for better reading or close-up activities like sewing

-Instruction on how to get from point A to point B using a white cane (e.g., crossing a busy road, using public transportation)

-Instruction on safely preparing meals (e.g., how to use a stove and chop vegetables)

-Instruction on how to use an iPhone with accessibility features

And so much more! Support to the Empowerment Fund will help address this increased need.

"I was so happy and so thrilled that I would be able to get a Ruby handheld magnifier and take advantage of the sight I have left. It's just been a blessing is all that I can say. A true blessing." - Sarah, a CSC client whose handheld magnifier allowed her to remain independent at home and continue to enjoy reading

-Dawn Jones (Manager of Employment Services and Performance Management), Alicia Howerton (Manager of Strategic Partnerships) and Tom Sawyer (Outreach Specialist) partnered with the Department of Labor on a virtual event speaking to the Blind and Visually Impaired and Disability Communities, which was presented by the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) Columbus Area Office in partnership with Cleveland Sight Center.

The OFCCP provided an overview and informed attendees of their federally-protected rights in the workplace. The Cleveland Sight Center representatives discussed “when glasses aren’t enough” and provided an overview of the agency's programs and services designed to enhance the independence, education, career and support opportunities of those with vision loss. Dawn also discussed best practices for recruiting and employing persons with vision loss.

-As an ADA Cleveland member representative, Tom Sawyer (Outreach Specialist) attended several March for Access planning meetings this week in preparation for the upcoming March for Access event which will be held at Public Square on September 10th. See below for more information on this special event.

-Please note the Eyedea Shop will be closed Tuesday, September 6th - Friday, September 9th.

-Cleveland Sight Center is hiring for several great opportunities! Please visit the “Jobs at CSC” tab on the Cleveland Sight Center website for openings including a Marketing Content Specialist and Optometrist.

Please pass this opportunity along to anyone who you know may be qualified and interested! Positions and applications posted at: <https://recruitingbypaycor.com/career/CareerHome.action?clientId=8a7883d0620df5d50162208078d04254>

ADA Cleveland March for Access to be Held September 10th:

Cleveland Sight Center, a member of ADA Cleveland, invites the Disabled Community of Northeast Ohio and everyone who supports equal services for all people to attend the March for Access on Saturday, September 10 in Public Square in downtown Cleveland.

The event begins at 9:00 a.m. with registration and sign making for the march. The rally will start at 11:00 a.m. followed by the march, which will circle a few blocks around Public Square. The event will end with advocacy stations centered around three topics: transportation access, housing access and voting access. Food trucks will also be on site.

This is a fully inclusive event, with ASL interpretation and captioning, a wheelchair charging station, accessible restrooms and face masks. Free parking and accessible shuttle service will be provided from the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities at 1275 Lakeside Avenue.

ADA Cleveland is a coalition of agencies and organizations from Greater Cleveland who share in the mission to provide greater access and opportunity for individuals with disabilities. The March for Access will spotlight housing access, transportation access and voting access for the disability community in Greater Cleveland. This event will feature speakers and solutions on these issues and provide information on how to support increased access for individuals with disabilities.

Everyone is invited to attend this free event. We encourage early sign up at www.eventbrite.com/e/march-for-access-tickets-389561959307, but you can also register on-site the morning of the event.

Volunteers are needed for the event; check out how you can participate at ADA Cleveland: March for Access (signupgenius.com)

Find more information about the March for Access, visit www.adacleveland.org/events.

Beloved Cleveland Artists' Bequest Best Art Works to CSC:

Cleveland's Gilded Age tradition of philanthropy continues with a recent gift of brilliant paintings from the Estate of Joseph and Algesa O'Sickey. Cleveland Sight Center is delighted to partner with Neue Auctions of Beachwood to offer this incredible collection of historic, fine art to the community to raise funds for CSC programming.

The O'Sickey estate donated 22 works by Joseph including many brightly colored, over-sized oil paintings for which he is best known. Two-hundred charming and never-before seen paintings, sketches and studies by Algesa also complete the collection. View the amazing life's work of these prolific artists online.

This generous donation is an important way to augment the Cleveland Sight Center's mission and to add a vibrant and colorful work of art to your life.

Please call Cynthia at Neue Auctions at (216) 245-6707 regarding availability and purchase.

SAVE THE DATE to Join Cleveland Sight Center and Neue Auctions for The O'Sickey Collection Viewing Party on Thursday, September 22 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Neue Auctions inside the Ohio Design Center in Beachwood.

More details will be available soon!

Items of Note:

-Check out this article from the Cleveland Clinic on five great reasons you should take a walk today. [Click here for the article.](#)

-When Molly Burke lost her vision at 14, teens bullied her. She had been speaking publicly at events since she was 5, but the taunting and harassment stopped her from wanting to continue.

"I didn't want to put myself out there for more ridicule or judgment. I was so angry at the world. I wanted to hide," Burke, 28, of Los Angeles, told TODAY. "I realized that I can be either angry at society's ignorance, or I can do something to actively educate society and change that."

-Friend of CSC and longtime Cleveland jazz musician Eddie Baccus, Sr., who passed away in January, is having the street he lived on named in his honor on September 17th. The street will also be known as "Eddie Baccus Way".

-Sgt. Adam Gilmore (CSC Security Officer and University Circle Police Department) has partnered with the Cleveland Scrappers beep baseball team to raise money for the team. The Scrappers are a visually impaired team that plays in a league throughout the United States. They are the only team from Ohio. Sgt. Gilmore has created a "Go Fund Me" page to offset travel expenses for the team whose players fund their own travel. Sgt. Gilmore and Wilbert Turner (President of the Scrappers) were featured on the "We the People" program with Leon Bibb on WKYC Channel 3. The video can be accessed [here](#) and the segment begins at about 2:30 into the clip.

Did You Know:

-Did you know in 1913, the World Meteorological Organization recorded a ground temperature of 134°F (56.7°C) in California's Death Valley, the hottest recorded temperature. In 1983, the Soviet Vostok Station recorded a ground temperature of -128.6 °F (-89.2 °C) in Antarctica, the coldest temperature recorded.