

Keeping you  
" in THE "  
know.



10/9/20

## Spellbound is Three Weeks Away!

Cleveland Sight Center's Annual Fundraising Gala, Spellbound is going virtual with a BONDfire!

Spellbound 2020: Let's Make S'more Memories will be held on Thursday, October 29 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

### Virtual BONDfire line up:

- Make s'mores under blindfold (with help and guidance from experts).
- Listen to a campfire story from a staff member and former client, where she will tell us about her earliest memories of Cleveland Sight Center.
- Learn how YOU can make a difference in the lives of our clients.

*Image of Spellbound 2020 with a campfire on the beach next to a lake at sunset*



Participants that register before Monday, October 12th will receive a pre-event box in the mail that includes everything needed to make s'mores under blindfold.

Invite your family and friends to join you as you get cozy around our BONDfire. It is a great way to introduce them to our agency and your place of work!

Learn more and register online: [clevelandsightcenter.org/content/spellbound-registration](http://clevelandsightcenter.org/content/spellbound-registration)

Questions? Reach out to Megan Sigler, Marketing and Events Specialist at 216-658-4568 or [msigler@clevelandsightcenter.org](mailto:msigler@clevelandsightcenter.org)

## Educating the Community:

-White Cane Safety Day is next week on Thursday, October 15th! Every year we celebrate this day and the independence the white cane provides for people who are blind or visually impaired. We need your help spreading the word! On Thursday, be sure to share Cleveland Sight Center's social media posts about White Cane Safety Day on your personal social media pages which will include educational videos and information about white cane usage.

-Alicia Howerton, Tom Sawyer and Scott Williams-Riseng completed the final training for Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) bus and van trainers on Thursday morning at CSC. Instruction included what drivers should know when interacting with people who are blind or have vision loss. They also covered audio description as well as other communication skills like using the clock method. The trainers also went under blindfold to learn Sighted/Human Guide technique.

[Image of RTA trainers practice sighted/human guide technique]



## Check Out What's Happening at CSC:

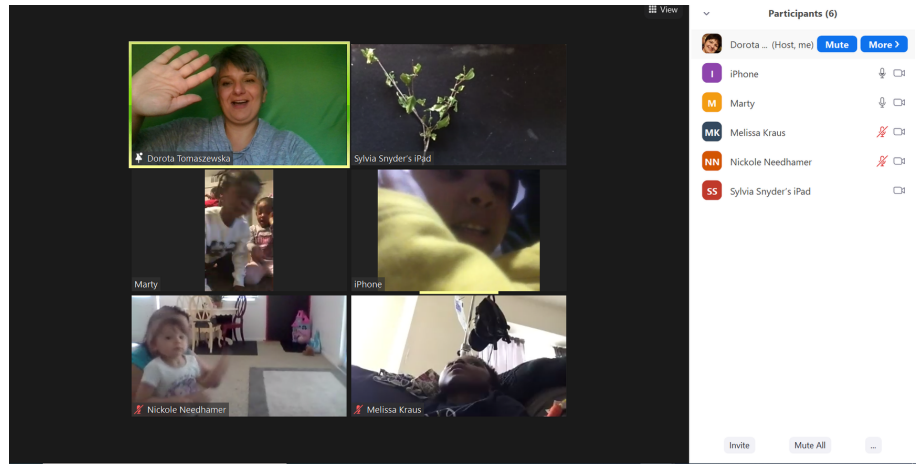
-The Call Center handled over 3,600 calls on Monday of this week! Of those, 2,400 were calls to the Office of the Secretary of State as Monday was the deadline to register to vote in Ohio for the upcoming election on Tuesday, November 3rd. Way to go, Call Center Team!

-Students in Bright Futures Preschool began a new study unit this week as they are learning about trees. Preschool Teacher Melissa Kraus continues to visit and work with students at their homes, delivering materials for their individual therapies and work plans. The students participate in daily "Morning Circle" Zoom meetings where they sing, play games and learn together. On Mondays, the class gathers virtually via their electronic devices for "Lunch Bunch" which has been a great opportunity for social interaction among the students and their families. Special bonds are beginning to form among the class and the families. The parents and caregivers have adjusted well to the new schedule and routine for all the students and have been great partners in the remote teaching/learning process so far.

[Image of a preschooler at home working with her custom-made personal active board, which was made by CSC team members Monica Owen and Jennifer Hill]



[Image of a preschooler at home making an acorn craft]



[Image of Morning Circle participants on their Zoom call]

-CSC is collecting pumpkins (needed by October 26th) to benefit clients in CSC's and Leisure and Lifestyle programs and Highbrook Lodge. If you are interested in donating, or would like to learn more please contact CSC's Volunteer Office.

-The Leisure and Lifestyle Department hosted special virtual guest speaker Dr. Emily Matula from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for their Speaker Series on Thursday. Dr. Matula is an extravehicular activity (EVA, spacewalks) flight controller at NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston and discussed her experiences training astronauts and what it is like to be in a spacesuit!

For more information on the Speaker Series, please contact Bobbie Szabo at 216-658-4597 or [bszabo@clevelandsightcenter.org](mailto:bszabo@clevelandsightcenter.org).

-The Leisure and Lifestyle Services Department is excited offer the following programs for the month of October:

Weekly Activities:

**Monday** 9am Meditation/Stretching

1pm Poetry (Sign-up Only)

3pm Trivia League

**Tuesday** 1pm Meditation

5pm Yoga

**Wednesday** 10am Coffee Chat

**Thursday** 12pm Activities Vary

2pm Line Dance (Bi-weekly)

**Friday** 2pm Fun Friday

Additional Programs:

October 9th 7:00pm Open Mic Night

October 12th 11:00am Halloween Mad Libs

October 13th 12:00pm Book Discussion (Sign-up Only)

October 13th 6:30pm Music Group (Sign-Up Only)

October 14th 6:00pm Sing It Out

October 20th 11:00am Ballroom Dance

October 21st 11:00am Braille Notes (Sign-Up Only)

October 23rd 7:00pm Halloween Party

October 29th 2:00pm Jam Session

For log in information, contact Bobbie Szabo at 216-658-4597 or [bszabo@clevelandsightcenter.org](mailto:bszabo@clevelandsightcenter.org) or call the Recreation Line at 216-658-2600.

-The Share the Vision (STV) program will begin training for program volunteers beginning on Tuesday, October 13th. This training will go over the basics of being a STV volunteer including the importance of STV, responsibilities and commitment of being a STV volunteer, how to record volunteer time, how to make the initial contact with the STV client, how to handle problem calls, when to break confidentiality and when to graduate a STV client. Moreed Kamal, Share the Vision Coordinator, has broken up the STV volunteers in groups of 12 and will be conducting the same training with a number of groups over the coming weeks.



-The 2021 Large Print Calendars and Date Planners are now available for purchase in the Eyedea Shop! The calendars are a favorite to low vision customers as well as those who have a lot of appointments to keep track of. They are very spacious and great for anyone who is trying to stay organized. The large print wall calendar is \$10.00 and the book style date planner is \$18.00. Stop in and get one to start planning for the year ahead!

[Image of the 2021 Large Print Calendar and Date Planner]

## Halloween at Highbrook is Coming Soon!

The Highbrook Lodge team is happy to announce that Highbrook Lodge will be open for two single-day trips at the end of October! Celebration Campers are welcome to camp on Saturday, October 31st from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Resort Campers are welcome to camp on Sunday, November 1st from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.! Activities will include pumpkin decorating, a costume party, decorating donuts, and campfire! It is sure to be a spooktacular time filled with chills and thrills!

### Halloween at Highbrook Details

Dates and Times: Celebration Day: October 31st, 2020. Resort Day: November 1st, 2020. Activities from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Please arrive 20–30 minutes early so that everyone can be registered and begin the schedule promptly.

Cost: \$5 per person, to be paid upon arrival at camp.

Food: Lunch and light refreshments will be provided.

Costumes: Please come to camp wearing a costume for the costume party!

Transportation: Transportation from Cleveland Sight Center to Highbrook Lodge will not be available due to COVID-19; transportation to camp is the responsibility of the camper and camper's family.

Support: Due to COVID-19, we are limiting the amount of CSC staff and volunteers at these events. We ask that campers who require sighted guide and other additional assistance bring a Support Person with them—whether that is a family member, friend, or health care worker. The Support Person must also register for the event.

COVID-19 Prevention Policies: All campers and Support Staff will be required to wear a mask at all times throughout the event except when eating. Temperatures will be checked upon arrival. Space is very limited for these day trips to ensure that we can adhere to strict 6-foot + social distancing, so register ASAP!

Registration: Register for one of these day trips by calling Bobbie Szabo at 216-658-4597 or by email at [bszabo@clevelandsightcenter.org](mailto:bszabo@clevelandsightcenter.org). Registration closes October 10th.

We are so incredibly excited to have our campers back at camp again! We cannot wait to have a safe and spooky time with you all!

[Image of a Halloween at Highbrook flyer. There are hills, trees with leaves changing colors, and ghosts floating in the air. Halloween at Highbrook is written in glowing yellow letters.]



## Items of Note:

-In some forms of retinopathy, blood vessels grow out of control in the eye, blocking light and causing irreversible vision loss. This condition sometimes occurs in premature babies and in adults with diabetes. Now scientists from the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF) are reporting they've discovered a way to treat those abnormal blood vessels in mice with an experimental small molecule that blocks proteins in the eye that cause the vessels to grow out of control. The drug tamped down the growth of abnormal blood vessels while leaving healthy ones alone, they reported in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. To read the full article, click here: <https://bit.ly/36MIXN2>

## Did You Know?

-Kangaroos outnumber people by almost two to one in Australia. Periods of high rainfall in Australia encourage kangaroo population growth by providing more food for them.