



## Keeping You “In the Know...” 11/16/18

### Happy Thanksgiving and Thank You!

- A very Happy Thanksgiving and THANK YOU to all CSC staff, Board Trustees, clients, volunteers and friends for your support during the 2018 year. Our agency would not be the fantastic community pillar it is without your ongoing passion, talent and commitment to our mission to empower people with vision loss to realize their full potential and to shape the community’s vision of that potential.
- CSC will be closed on Thursday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> and Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> for the Thanksgiving holiday. The weekly “In the Know” will not be distributed on Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. The agency will be open normal business hours on Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>.

### CSC’s Annual Appeal is Underway:

- CSC’s Annual Appeal to donors and prospects dropped in the mail this week. This fall’s Appeal, which supports all areas of the agency, is titled “No Dream is Too Big” and highlights Kirsten Battaglia, a 27-year old attorney at the Department of Homeland Security who has optic nerve hypoplasia. Kirsten and her family were introduced to CSC when she was three years old and attended Bright Futures Preschool, participated in Summer Youth Work Experience and was a camp counselor at Highbrook Lodge. This piece of marketing collateral is an important fundraising tool to CSC’s revenue stream. To view this year’s piece, visit CSC’s website or [click here](#). Thanks to the Development and Marketing teams for their collaborative effort in getting this fall’s Appeal produced to continue to tell the CSC story.

## Strengthening Partnerships and Educating the Community:

- Larry Benders and Alicia Howerton represent Cleveland Sight Center, along with colleagues from the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired and The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio, in Columbus this morning at the Ohio Department of Medicaid's open hearing regarding Rule 5160-10-30, durable medical equipment ambulation aids, as it pertains to the coverage and payment policy for white canes.
- CSC was well represented at the annual AVRT Conference held at the Cleveland Airport Marriott on November 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>. The theme for this year's Association of Vision Rehabilitation Therapists gathering was "Rockin' at the AVRT Conference: Listening, Learning & Leading VRTs into the Future." Staff Members in attendance included Rosalie Daley, Annette Jakse, Bryan Manthey, Andrea Marley, Susie Meles, Sherry Raymont, Jenny Schaeffer, Erin St. Denis and Taylor Volrich. CSC President and CEO Larry Benders welcomed attendees. Highlights from the conference included Annette Jakse presenting the 1Touch™ Self Defense Project, Andrea Marley presenting on transitioning from school to work and the VIPER Adaptive Rowing Team and Taylor Volrich receiving a scholarship for becoming a CVRT (Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist). In advance of the conference, Alicia Howerton and Tom Sawyer presented three "Blindness Basics" trainings to members of the hotel's staff.



Annette Jakse demonstrates various self defense hold and blocking techniques

- Jennifer Dean and Randy Knapp participated as panelists and judges at a “hackathon” event held this week at the Huntington Convention Center in partnership with the National Security Agency (NSA), US Marines Cyber Command, Macy's Technology, the Society of Hispanic and Professional Engineers (SHPE) and Project United Knowledge. The attendees conducted an innovation challenge for accessibility within the visually impaired, wheelchair-bound, deaf or hearing impaired communities aimed to create better tools, services and technology to help and aid individuals with disabilities.
- Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) held their quarterly meeting in Akron. CSC was represented by Rosalie Daley, Susie Meles, Debbie Ruffin, Sylvia Snyder and Judith Weyburne. After the quarterly meeting, they attended a meeting regarding updates/changes of the OOD Provider Director group.
- Alicia Howerton and Tom Sawyer presented information on CSC’s programs and services to a group of 130 staff at a safety and health fair at the Bureau of Workers Compensation in Garfield Heights on Wednesday. They attended the Wadsworth Senior Networking quarterly membership meeting on Thursday. Today, Tom Sawyer presents the “Tips Talk” to the East Park Retirement Community in

Brook Park.

### What's Happening at CSC:

- The Social Recreation group showcased line dance, crochet, chess club and the ever-popular Yoga this week. Check CSC's website calendar of events for upcoming activities and opportunities to participate. For the calendar, [click here](#).
- The Book Discussion group held their November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA). The group enjoyed lunch then participated in a touching art experience of ancient Egyptian art followed by book discussion and talk about the art experience. The group learned that this collection of ancient Egyptian art was the first collection purchased by the museum even before CMA built their all-white marble building in the early 1900s.
- Job Club met at CSC on Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup> where the topics of finances and budgeting were discussed.
- Winners Club will have a program at CSC on Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Enjoy socializing, a speaker from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and then lunch will be served followed by Bingo, other games and prizes! Come join the fun! RSVP to Alicia Howerton (216-791-8118) by Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>.
- The CARF team continues preparations for the CARF Surveyors visit to CSC on November 29<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup>.

### Clinic Corner:

- Did you know: newborns don't produce tears. They make crying sounds, but the tears don't start flowing until they are about 4-13 weeks old. Also, at birth a baby's eye is about 75% of the size of an adult eye.

## Items of Note:

- An opinion letter in the Huffington Post discusses audio description and the author's view that HBO's "My Brilliant Friend" series and other programs discriminate against people who are blind or visually impaired by not offering audio/video description. For the full article, [click here](#).
- Advances in connecting neural stimulation to physical control of the body are transforming the development of prosthetics and therapeutic training for people with disabilities, according to new research. The findings were presented at Neuroscience 2018. As improved understanding of neural functions and interactions combines with technical advances, scientists are developing new and improved prosthetics and therapies aimed at improving quality of life for people with conditions such as paralysis, stroke, and blindness. Electrical signals that stimulate specific regions in the brain or body can bypass injuries in the spinal column or eyes and activate target regions, training the brain to process movement or vision in the most effective manner possible. For the full article, [click here](#).