

# NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release



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## **Clovernook Center To Host 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Regional Braille Challenge**

### **for Students Who Are Blind & Visually Impaired**

*Over 1,000 Students Across North America Celebrate Braille Skills*

**January 24, 2018- Cincinnati, OH** - Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, in collaboration with the Braille Institute of America, will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ohio Regional Braille Challenge on Friday, March 2, 2018.

The Braille Challenge, now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, is the only national reading and writing contest in braille for students who are blind and visually impaired. Regionals are open to students of all abilities, giving even emerging braille readers a chance to reach a personal best score. Students from all over Ohio will gather at Clovernook Center, in North College Hill, to test their braille skills in five categories: Reading, comprehension, braille spelling, chart and graph reading, proofreading and braille speed and accuracy. Student contests are organized by grade level. All test formats will be conducted in Unified English Braille.

Immediately following the competition, winners from each age group are announced during an awards ceremony. Awards will include cash prizes, trophies, not to mention excitement, pride, and celebration. But for those top academics, the Ohio Regional Competition is the first step to the coveted Braille Institute Braille Challenge Finals held in Los Angeles. Last year Ohio was honored to send two finalists, Philip Sotak and Jalen Ballard, to participate in the 2017 Braille Challenge Finals in June.

The theme for the March, Ohio Regional 2018 Braille Challenge is "*Braille Masters*" and will include fun activities for the entire family and teachers/TVIs. Jackie Conner, Ohio Braille Challenge Coordinator and Vice President of Clovernook's Multistate Center East, says "we encourage students and teachers

to visit [www.braillechallenge.org](http://www.braillechallenge.org) and [www.clovernook.org](http://www.clovernook.org) to learn more and use the practice tests as a resource.”

To register and request a permission form contact Jackie Conner at [jconner@clovernook.org](mailto:jconner@clovernook.org) or [braillechallenge@clovernook.org](mailto:braillechallenge@clovernook.org) or call 1-800-866-6723 or 513-522-3860 and reference the Ohio Braille Challenge. Permission Forms can also be found on Clovernook Center’s website, [www.clovernook.org](http://www.clovernook.org).

#### **About Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired**

Since 1903, Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired has been providing life-enriching opportunities and empowering people who are blind or visually impaired to be self-sufficient and full participants in their communities. Program Services annually assists more than 1,000 individuals, helping them to adapt and overcome the challenges of vision impairment. Employment Services provides job opportunities and coaching for consumers who want to work in their local community, or in Clovernook Center’s own Social Enterprises which provide a variety of employment opportunities for more than 55 people with vision loss. Clovernook’s Arts and Recreation department provides a powerful outlet for individuals to express themselves artistically, share personal insights, and join together with others who face similar challenges. Youth Services include six-weeks of summer day camps. As well as year-round activities for youth ages 4 to 22 who are blind or visually impaired. Additionally, our Braille Printing House prints books, magazines and other materials for the National Library Services and braille patrons worldwide. More information can be accessed at [www.clovernook.org](http://www.clovernook.org).

#### **About Braille Institute of America**

Braille Institute of America is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to eliminate barriers to a fulfilling life caused by blindness and severe sight loss. It serves tens of thousands of people of all ages each year through an array of integrated educational, social and recreational programs and services designed to help people with vision loss lead enriched and fulfilling lives. Funded entirely by private donations, all services are completely free-of-charge. Braille Institute’s Los Angeles headquarters are located at 741 N Vermont Ave, Los Angeles. For additional information, please visit [www.braillechallenge.org](http://www.braillechallenge.org), or [www.brailleinstitute.org](http://www.brailleinstitute.org). Follow on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/brailleinstitute> and on twitter @BrailleInst

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