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513.522.3860

Clovernook Center Hosts First Ohio Regional Braille Challenge

Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, in collaboration with the Braille Institute of America, hosted the first Regional Braille Challenge in the state of Ohio on Friday, March 3, 2017. Twenty-four students from across Ohio, competed to test their braille skills in five categories: Reading, comprehension, braille spelling,



chart and graph reading, proof reading and braille speed and accuracy.

The day started with an energetic opening ceremony. The Ohio Army National Guard presented a color guard ceremony; Miss Ohio 2016, Alice Magoto sang the National



PHOTO COURTESY OF WCPO

Anthem and Cincinnati City Councilman, P.G. Sittenfeld presented a proclamation from the city. Students then began testing and did not conclude until early afternoon.

After the competition, students and parents were invited to enjoy art activities, refreshments, and musical performances. Parents and teachers could also attend workshops focused on accessibility and literacy for youth who are blind or visually impaired. The day ended with an awards ceremony, where all students were awarded with medals and gift cards. The top three competitors in each of the
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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's hard to believe that Summer is here. Our new garden is in full bloom, we are welcoming youth to our Summer Day Camps, and wonderful volunteers have recently landscaped our beautiful grounds.

We have stayed busy over the last several months and I'm excited for you to learn about our most recent endeavors. In this issue of the Perspective, you will read about our first annual Braille Challenge, our new partnership with the Cincinnati Eye Institute Foundation, a transportation program we have initiated and more!

In addition to the featured articles in this edition, here are a few other exciting things I want to make you aware of:

- Our braille-printing house is writing curriculum for the conversion to Unified English Braille
- We are working on an exciting collaboration with Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
- We partnered with the Massillon Museum on their latest exhibit 'Blind Spot: A Matter of Perception'
- Our office in Memphis, TN has been leading weekly exercise classes for individuals who are blind at the Memphis Center for Independent Living

We have accomplished a tremendous amount in a short period of time. As always, all of this is possible because of our long-standing commitment to individuals who are blind or visually impaired and because of your connection to our important mission. Thank you for your support and have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

Christopher Faust

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Cincinnati Eye Institute Foundation Vision Clinic at Clovernook Center



In August of 2016, a new partnership blossomed and the Cincinnati Eye Institute

Foundation Vision Clinic at Clovernook Center began accepting patients. The clinic provides free comprehensive dilated eye examinations to individuals 18 or older who do not have insurance. Volunteer ophthalmologists, along with staff from the Cincinnati Eye Institute Foundation and Clovernook Center see patients three days per month by appointment.

Through a partnership with OneSight, patients who are in need of prescription eyewear receive a voucher redeemable at participating Lens Crafters locations. In less than one year, the clinic has already expanded and has seen over 150 patients!

If you or someone you know would like to schedule an appointment, please call 513-207-6140.

Alternative Transportation Program Is a Success

Clovernook Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired has implemented an Alternative Transportation Program to educate, motivate, and assist our employees and consumers with their transportation challenges.

This new program subsidizes the cost our employees, and sometimes consumers, incur when using Uber, Lyft or 2Placez and assists in training employees on using the associated apps. In a short amount of time, this program has given participants the freedom to avoid social

isolation and enjoy increased medical, social and recreational services.

Since implementing the program, 16 of our participants have traveled over 1,500 times. Program participants have reported an average wait time of 8 minutes and have gained the ability to travel to their favorite destinations. Deanna Lewis, states, "Uber offers me the flexibility I need in order to lead an active and independent lifestyle. With the freedom it offers, it's comparable to driving myself to the places I'd like to go."



3rd Annual 'Five Courses for Clovernook' Raises \$51,045



On May 3rd, 120 guests joined Clovernook Center and Nicola Pietoso at Nicola's Ristorante Italiano on Sycamore Street for 'Five

Courses for Clovernook - A Celebration of Life'. This 3rd annual dinner event featured a cocktail reception, guest speakers and a delicious five-course meal paired with wine. Opening the event, Nicola Pietoso, owner of Nicola's and Clovernook volunteer and board member, welcomed guests, shared the many reasons he celebrates life, and told of the meaningful experiences he has had with Clovernook Center.

After feasting on scallops, ricotta dumpling, and salmon, Clovernook's employee of the year, Jeff Broz addressed the crowd. Jeff shared his experience with vision and hearing loss and reminded

everyone to enjoy life and "play the hand you've been dealt". His positive attitude was inspiring to all who attended. This wonderful evening raised over \$51,000 for Clovernook's mission - To empower people who are blind and visually impaired to be self-sufficient and full participants in their communities.



2017 Youth Summer Day Camps

Staff, volunteers and campers are excited for this year's Summer Day Camps! This year's program will consist of three-weeks of programming for two different age groups and is integrated; meaning youth who are blind or visually impaired, as well as their sighted siblings, are welcome to attend. Options

include: Junior Discovery & Creative Arts Camp for ages 4 - 12 takes place June 5 - 23rd (no weekends) and Senior Discovery & Creative Arts Camp for ages 13 - 22 takes place June 26 - 30th and July 10 - 21st (no weekends).

Programming will include Activities of Daily Living

(ADL's), orientation and mobility, art, technology instruction, field trips throughout the community and more!

To register a child between the ages of 4 - 22, please contact Jenn Jacobs at jjacobs@clovernook.org or 513-728-6235.

New LED Sign

This spring, Clovernook Center installed a new LED sign on its main campus. The new digital sign has been a great tool to communicate with the many individuals who travel Hamilton Avenue. Make sure to check it out



next time you drive by or visit our main campus!

White Cane Safety Day



White Cane Safety Day is a national observance in the United States, celebrated on October 15th of each year since 1964. The date is set aside to celebrate the achievements of people who are blind or visually impaired and the important symbol of blindness and tool of independence, the white cane. In years past, a group of employees marched for awareness on Fountain Square. This year, we decided to make an impact

in our local community – where our employees and consumers can be seen walking on a regular basis.

The entire organization, with the help of volunteers, divided in to groups and walked to local restaurants in North College Hill! This served as a great reminder to our community of the importance of the white cane as a tool for independence and for motorists to exercise special caution when driving.

Clovernook Employees Create a Garden

Clovernook's Recreation Specialist, Charlotte Fabe spent eight weeks participating in the Civic Garden Center's Community Garden Training Course. Upon completion of the course, Charlotte hosted a garden question and answer session where Clovernook employees met and discussed creating and maintaining a garden on Clovernook's property. Shortly thereafter, many employees worked outside of our Procter Center building to put together a wonderful garden. The Civic Garden Center even donated accessible raised beds for our employees who are blind or visually impaired!



Jeff Broz: Employee of the Year and NIB Advocate

In April, Jeff Broz, Utility Worker was announced as Clovernook's 2017 Blind Employee of the Year. In Chris Faust's words, "This year's Blind Employee of the Year has achieved many accomplishments throughout his career - including spending eleven years helping to build the U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III cargo aircraft for



McDonnell Douglas. From his first day of employment, he became instantly invested in Clovernook's mission. His friendly demeanor, willingness to help, and dedication to his job, made him an easy selection for this year's Blind Employee of the Year."

As Jeff accepted his award, he was sure to acknowledge his colleagues before himself, "Any one of the individuals I

work with could receive this award. I continue to be impressed by their dedication to their jobs, their drive to get to work even in the worst weather, and their passion for doing the job to the best of their ability. I want to share this award with all of my colleagues who I am proud to work with every day."

As Clovernook's Blind Employee of the Year, Jeff will

travel to Washington D.C. for an awards ceremony hosted by National Industries for the Blind (NIB). While in D.C., Jeff will be recognized and trained as Clovernook's first Advocate for Leadership and Employment. Advocates are NIB associated agency employees who are blind who have an

interest in learning about the public policy process and sharing the NIB story with legislators.

After completing his first round of training, Jeff will visit with Senators and State Representatives on Capitol Hill to discuss important legislation affecting employment for people who are blind or visually impaired.

Continued from front cover.

five age groups also received cash prizes. The Ohio Regional Braille Challenge was the first step in qualifying for the National Braille Challenge competition, which will

take place in Los Angeles. Clovernook is thrilled to announce that one of our challenge participants, Philip Sotak of Franklin County, will be traveling to Braille

International to compete in the finals! Philip is one of 50 students throughout the United States who will compete in the final daylong competition. Good luck Philip!

tribute gifts



OUR MISSION

is to **empower** people who are blind and visually impaired to be **self-sufficient** and full participants in their communities.

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Moorhead

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David Tomeo

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Rubendunst

Please note: Any tribute gifts received after May 22 will be in the next issue.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

please contact Jessica Salyers at 513-728-6216 or [jsalyers@ clovernook.org](mailto:jsalyers@clovernook.org).