

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Clovernook Center Hosts 2018 Regional Braille Challenge for Students Who Are Blind & Visually Impaired

Cincinnati, OH – March 15, 2018 – Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, in collaboration with the Braille Institute of America, hosted the Second Annual Regional Braille Challenge for the State of Ohio on Friday, March 2, 2018. Twenty-eight students, from across Ohio, competed to test their braille skills in five categories: Reading, comprehension, braille spelling, chart and graph reading, proofreading and braille speed and accuracy.

The day started with an energetic opening ceremony. Ohio Army National Guard presented a color guard ceremony, Cincinnati's May Festival Chorus sang the National Anthem and Chris Faust, Clovernook Center's President & CEO and Lisa Hall, Employee of the Year, 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 Harry Potter themed art activities, 3D Printing demonstrations, and refreshments. Parents and teachers could also attend workshops focused on advocacy, guide dogs and best learning media for youth who are blind or visually impaired, throughout the day. The day ended with an awards ceremony, where all students were awarded medals and goodie bags including gift cards and a Braille copy of *My Best Friend Fiona*. The top three competitors in each of the five age groups also received cash prizes. Clovernook thanks our cash and in-kind sponsors: US Bank, Clovernook Center's Board of Trustees. Clovernook Center's

Executive Team, Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., Keiting Muething & Klekamp PLL, Rich Schemenaur, 4 imprint, A Better Choice Clean Team, Bake Me Home, Building Management, Inc., Clovernook Center's Braille Printing House, Hickory Dickory Tot's, IRIS, Jos. A Banks, KetMoy Printing, Lee's Famous Recipe, Love Pop Cards, Carol Mastin, Kim McEachirn, North College Hill Bakery, Office Furniture Source, Kathy Otten PlastiGraphics, The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Raising Cane's, Skyline Chili, TGI Friday's, USGreentech, Walgreens.

The Ohio State Regional Competition is the first step to the national Braille Challenge competition held at the Los Angeles headquarters of the Braille Institute. At the finals, 50 students with the highest scores from around North America embark on another daylong competition to test their braille skills alongside their peers. Here were the winners of each level of the 2018 Ohio Regional Braille Challenge:

Apprentice: 1st: Kiera Prater-Steele of Butler County, Ohio 2nd: Damion Nowlin of Butler County, Ohio 3rd: Taylor Marcum of Butler County, Ohio

Freshman: 1st: Elliot Harris of Warren County, Ohio 2nd: Breannah McNutt of Butler County, Ohio 3rd: Tabitha Ashcraft of Butler County, Ohio

Sophomore: 1st: Philip Sotak of Franklin County, Ohio 2nd: MaKenzie Love of Pikaway County, Ohio 3rd: Morgan Vitou of Lorain County, Ohio

Junior Varsity: 1st: Caiden Hooks of Delaware County, Ohio 2nd: Hope Williams of Hamilton County, Ohio

Varsity: 1st: Camryn Gattuso of Stark County, Ohio 2nd: Autumn Radcliff of Marion County, Ohio

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 1,200 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.

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