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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Clovernook Center to Host 2019 Ohio Regional Braille Challenge for Ohio Blind & Visually Challenged Students**

*Students Across Ohio Compete for Prizes,  
Chance to Attend National Competition in Los Angeles*

CINCINNATI – January 15, 2019 – Clovernook Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired, in collaboration with the Braille Institute of America, invites Ohio students of all ages and abilities to compete in the Ohio Regional Braille Challenge on Friday, March 1, 2019 at Clovernook Center in Cincinnati.

Students from all across Ohio will gather at Clovernook Center, just outside Cincinnati in North College Hill for the event. Student contests are organized by grade level. All test formats are UEB.

Students in grade 1-12 are invited to compete in a series of five skills contests demonstrating braille reading and comprehension, speed and accuracy, spelling, proofreading, and tactile graphics. Now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year, the Braille Challenge is the only national reading and writing contest in braille for students who are blind and visually impaired. This event is open to students of all abilities, giving even emerging braille readers a chance to reach a personal best score.

New this year, Clovernook Center is adding Braille Explorers – a category for children who are not yet ready for competition but are interested in preparing for competition-level braille reading and writing in the future. Braille Explorers will use modified Challenge activities in reading and writing and compete against other emerging braille users.

“Braille literacy is vitally important to blind and visually impaired children,” said Clovernook Center President and CEO Chris Faust. “It allows children to develop those same important learning tools as sighted children – reading writing, comprehension, sentence structure and more to convey important information to themselves and others.”

“Children who fully acquire braille reading and writing skills attain better literacy, education and employment outcomes than those whose learning is primarily supported by new spoken-word technology,” Faust said.

“Literacy is vital to a successful education, career and quality of life in today’s world,” said Ohio Regional Braille Challenge Event Chair Kathy DeLaura. “We are so proud to offer children across Ohio the motivation to become proficient in braille reading and writing skills and encourage them to continue using those skills.”

Winners from each age group will be announced immediately following the competition, complete with cash prizes, trophies and pride. For the top academics, the Ohio Regional Competition is the first step to the coveted Braille Institute of America Braille Challenge Finals, held in Los Angeles June 21-22, 2019.

To register your child or student for the Ohio Regional Braille Challenge, please contact Event Chair Kathy DeLaura at [kathy@pinchange.com](mailto:kathy@pinchange.com) or [braillechallenge@clovernook.org](mailto:braillechallenge@clovernook.org), or call (513) 702-4878.

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

Since 1903, Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired has provided life-enriching opportunities and empowered people who are blind or visually impaired to be self-sufficient and full participants in their communities. Adult programs and youth activities, as well as arts and recreation departments, provide critical services to those who need it. Clovernook Center’s Braille Printing House is the largest volume producer of braille in the world. It prints books, magazines and other materials for the National Library Services and braille patrons worldwide while providing employment opportunities for blind and visually impaired individuals. For more information, visit [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. 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.