

## Stronger Together

Did you miss it? This May, Clovernook hosted the event **Stronger Together: A Boldly BVI Breakfast** to recognize four remarkable organizations and individuals for their leadership and advocacy in support of the blind and visually impaired community. The event took place on Friday, May 8th at the American Sign Museum. The **Vision Over Sight Award** recognizes an individual who has championed accessibility through personal example and leadership within the BVI community. The recipient of the award, **Anthony Ferraro**, was born blind with a genetic condition called Lebers Congenital Amaurosis. Anthony is a 31-year-old professional athlete, musician, motivational speaker, business owner, and content creator. The **President's Award** recognizes an individual who has served the BVI community with excellence throughout their career. The award recipient, **Gianmario Cillario**, is the CEO of Eurostampa North America Inc., a global leader in premium labeling

solutions for the wine, spirits, food, and luxury goods industries. Gianmario combines a strong industrial vision with a passion for design excellence, technological advancement, and commitment to community. The **Community Award** recognizes outstanding contributions to the mission of Clovernook and those who have shown outstanding dedication to BVI services. The **Delta Gamma Foundation** (the philanthropic arm of Delta Gamma Fraternity) received this award as they are dedicated to supporting its communities through service and funding educational initiatives—namely, supporting sight preservation and assistance for BVI individuals. The **Kathy DeLaura Distinguished Service Award** recognizes outstanding service to Clovernook and its mission. Award recipient **Charlotte Begley** is the Director of the Printing House at Clovernook, where for over 50 years, she has led innovative print and braille production that expands access to information for people who are blind or visually impaired.



Pictured left to right: **Gina Gehm**, board chair; **Sydney Hawkins**, Master of Ceremony; **Charlotte Begley**, winner of the Kathy DeLaura Distinguished Service Award; **Delta Gamma Foundation**, (received by **Mariah Bockbrader**), winner of the Community Award; **Anthony Ferraro**, winner of the Vision Over Sight Award; **Jennifer DuBois**, President/CEO; **Katie Brass**, Senior Advancement Officer. Not pictured: **Gianmario Cillario**, winner of the President's Award.





## From the CEO

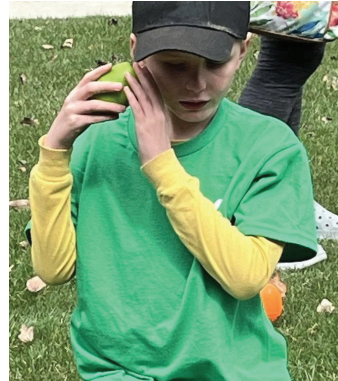
**G**reetings! As the cold of winter gives way to longer days and warmer temps, the Clovernook team is gearing up for another exciting and engaging summer of events. Registrations have opened for our youth summer camps and in a few weeks, campers will be learning skills that range from orientation & mobility to self-advocacy, daily living skills, and STEM.

I'm also excited to announce that Clovernook will develop a multiple-year strategic plan this summer. The process will involve input from Clovernook staff, Board of Trustees, and community stakeholders as we shape the future of Clovernook. We want to learn what unmet needs exist in the community and how Clovernook can uniquely fulfill those needs.

Please follow us on social media for updates on these and other impactful programming through the spring and summer!

Jennifer DuBois, President/CEO

## Making Noise for Easter



This spring, Clovernook celebrated Easter with a series of Beeping Egg Hunts. Instead of relying on sight, participants find Easter eggs by following the audible beeping sound that each egg emits. Once a participant finds an egg, they turn off

the beeping and find a volunteer to swap the egg for a swag bag of candy and other goodies. The Beeping Egg Hunt is inclusive for everyone—children, families, friends, and individuals (BVI and sighted) were welcomed to join in on the fun. Sighted individuals could choose to participate with a blindfold, and there were a variety of activities available like Jumbo Jenga, Connect 4, and crafts for anyone at the event who elected not to egg hunt or had already finished hunting. Throughout March and April, our programming team hosted a total of eight Beeping Egg Hunts in four different states—Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee. By the end of April, over 380 people had participated in the event.

**If interested in learning more about events like this, please contact Director of Program Services Kelly Lusk at [klusk@clovernook.org](mailto:klusk@clovernook.org).**

The first photo shows a close-up look at the beeping Easter eggs. The eggs come in many different bright colors and they each have an on/off switch on the bottom. In the second photo, a young boy standing in the grass holds an Easter egg up to his ear.

## Students in 3D Printing



As the school year nears its end, Ursuline Academy students are putting final touches on their extracurricular projects, and for one class that means finalizing 3D models in collaboration with Clovernook's Tactile Literacy team. Inspired by

the program's impact on BVI classrooms throughout East Africa, a group of students in Ms. Kain's class have spent the last few months designing educational 3D models that use Clovernook's accessible tactile design strategies. From depicting the water cycle to protons and electrons, the models developed in just the last few months will make incredible resources for BVI students, as each model includes braille labels and teaches critical STEM concepts. The students of Cincinnati will be making a global impact with their work; once models are finalized, Clovernook can print them from their 3D Makerspace in Nairobi, Kenya, and begin distributing them to classrooms in East Africa. You may even soon find them on Clovernook's online 3D model database, where accessible 3D model designs are free to download from anywhere in the world!

In the first photo, Ursuline Academy students stand together, smiling and holding the 3D models they designed in collaboration with Clovernook. In the second photo, a student at the Likoni School for the Blind (Mombasa, Kenya) studies using these models.

## Braille Challenge



### Ohio Regional Braille Challenge

This February, Clovernook hosted its annual Ohio Regional Braille Challenge. This year was unique as Clovernook was able to offer contest dates in three different locations throughout Ohio: North Canton, Columbus, and Cincinnati. In April, three participants learned that they had advanced to international finals—a chance to travel to L.A. and compete for global recognition. Congratulations and good luck to Killian Kinner, Anne Ye, and Belen Lopez-Santos!

Three Ohio Regional Braille Challenge finalists—Anne Ye, Belen Lopez-Santos, and Killian Kinner—stand together with Technology and Accessibility Coordinator Stephanie Jones, and smile.

### Kenya Braille Challenge

For the first time ever, the Braille Challenge is coming to Kenya! Clovernook is working with Braille Institute to host the first official Braille Challenge regional event on the African continent, marking a major milestone in advancing braille literacy and educational opportunity for students who are blind or visually impaired around the world. This May, approximately 700 students, 60 educators, and 100 volunteers (including Clovernook staff members) are gathering in Nairobi and Mombasa to participate in and support the challenge.

# Clovernook Center Giving Campaign 2026

## Ways to help the blind and visually impaired in your community:

- Make a tax-deductible contribution by visiting [clovernook.org/donate](https://clovernook.org/donate).
- Ask your employer about a matching gift.
- Talk to your financial advisor about including Clovernook in your estate plans.
- Give a gift of time and volunteer.

For more information or to make a gift please contact  
Senior Advancement Officer Katie Brass at 513-728-6288 or  
[kbrass@clovernook.org](mailto:kbrass@clovernook.org)



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## Summer Camp Series



It's not too late to sign your kids up for a Clovernook Summer Camp! A variety of curriculum options are offered to best support blind and low vision youth like O&M skills, adaptive sports, or STEM subjects. Use the QR code to register now!



## Interested in visiting Clovernook?

Tours of the braille printing house, Cary Cottage, and Procter Center are offered every month—on the second Monday at 9am and fourth Friday at noon. Email [KBrass@clovernook.org](mailto:KBrass@clovernook.org) to schedule your tour.

## OUR MISSION:

To empower people who are blind or visually impaired to lead active, productive, and independent lives.