**Sighted Guide Ohio Summer Issue 2016**

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Alliance Retina in Perrysburg, OH. Retinal Care that changes lives. Dr. J. Greg Rosenthal, MD specializes in Diabetic Eye Care, Pediatric Eye Problems, Macular Degeneration and Laser Surgery. Our address is 28370 Kensington Ln. Call 419-873-6800 for your appointment today. Also check out our website at [www.justretina.com](http://www.justretina.com)

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Message from Editor

**Love is to the heart what the summer is to the farmer’s year - it brings to harvest all the loveliest flowers of the soul. Happy Summer!**

We offer events, resources, services for your area, latest technology information, news and stories of people just like you and me.... Welcome back to Sighted Guide Ohio!!

Our mission is to provide a magazine dedicated to the visually impaired and blind friends and family. We reach out to the State of Ohio for the people that need a voice for visually impaired and blind communities.

Adrianne Kolasinski

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(Quote) Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.

– Helen Keller

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**Free Slate Program**

We believe that every blind person should have the tools available to them as a means of independence. The slate and stylus have long been and continued to be valuable tools for writing Braille.

The slate and stylus are the only Braille-writing device that has the same portability, flexibility and affordability as a pen or pencil. From labeling your can goods to jotting down a phone number, the uses and advantages of the slate and stylus to the blind are as varied as those of the pencil or pen to the sighted.

We are giving free of charge, an aluminum 4-line, 28 cell slate with the Whozit logo, and a round plastic bulb stylus.

Request a free Slate and Stylus:

Visit our online free slate and stylus application form now or complete an accessible PDF application online. Completed applications should be mailed to:

Free Slate Program

National Federation of the Blind

200 East Wells St

At Jernigan Place

Baltimore, Maryland 21230

For additional information please email nfb@nfb.org or visit us online at [www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org)

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*(QUOTE) “Believe you can and you’re half way there.”*

*~Theodore Roosevelt*

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**Our Stories...**

**Anthony R. Easley Story of Sight Loss**

Anthony R. Easley grew up in Tupelo, Mississippi and graduated from Tupelo High School in 1990. After receiving a full music scholarship to attend Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Anthony spent the next four years developing his skills of working closely with others. During his decorated college career, Anthony was an active leader on campus during his matriculation. His senior year, he was elected to the Student Government Association as the Vice-President.

Upon graduating with a degree in sociology and a minor in psychology from Stillman in 1994, Anthony received an assistantship to Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida to study psychology. After one semester of psychology, Anthony’s true career field was discovered. He changed his major to pursue a Master’s in counseling education. Anthony graduated from Florida A&M University in August of 1996 with a Master’s of Education degree and embarked on his career in the field education.

Anthony immediately moved to Orlando, Florida where he lived for the next ten years. While in Orlando, Anthony’s career path took him on a fast track through the educational ranks. He served as an elementary guidance counselor, a middle school guidance counselor, a college professor of education and finally as the Manager of Student Services at Valencia Community College. Anthony enrolled in the University of Sarasota and began post graduate studies in.

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higher education. In 2002, Anthony completed the requirements for the specialist of education degree in higher educational administration. Then in 2003, he completed the doctorate of education in educational leadership. His doctoral dissertation was, “African American Men who are the Presidents of Pronominally White Institutions, Their Pathways to the Presidency. Anthony’s extensive educational career allowed him to be well versed in varying areas of the academic process for young people. He was often called upon to mentor other new professionals as they started their professional careers.

In mid-2006, Anthony suddenly lost a significant amount of his vision to a retinal detachment. At the time, he was unsure that he could continue a career in education; therefore, he withdrew from his position at Valencia Community College and returned to Tupelo, Mississippi with his family. After a few years, Anthony began getting restless and started looking for work. His vision issues still problematic but his ambition was strong. After struggling with finding the perfect fit for his passion for education and his now stabilized vision issue, Anthony enrolled in a vision rehabilitation program where he learned to use techniques to overcome his lack of vision.

In 2011, Anthony completed a vocational rehabilitation program for the blind and started working at a factory packing boxes. For one year, Anthony worked at this minimum wage job only to prove to himself and to others that he was not what is disability said he was. He never stopped the pursuit to regain his professional career in the field of education. By circumstance, in 2012, Anthony met a young lady that introduced him to the Cleveland Sight Center in Cleveland, Ohio. After exchanging many phone calls, emails and voice messages, Anthony landed the job as Manager of Special Projects at the Cleveland Sight Center. He continues his work there today, growing with an agency that works passionately to educate, employ and empower persons with vision and other disabilities.

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**Understanding Eyeglasses: What Glasses Can and Cannot Do**

**By Dr. Cheryl Reed**

One of the most common questions that I hear from my patients is, “Why can’t you just make my glasses stronger?” Prescription glasses focus light on the back of the eye so the image on the retina is clear. Individuals who have low vision cannot see clearly even when the image is properly focused on the retina. This can be due to damage to the retina, optic nerve, or brain. Examples of diseases which can cause low vision include age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma and stroke.

 In some cases, glasses cannot focus the light clearly onto the retina because the normally clear structures of the eye, the crystalline lens and the cornea, are hazy or cloudy. Cataracts cause cloudiness of the lens and keratoconus or eye injury can cause cloudiness of the cornea.

Listed below are vision problems that can be improved or corrected by eyeglasses:

**Myopia or nearsightedness**- This occurs when light from an image focuses in front of the retina because the optics of the eye are too strong. With uncorrected myopia, near images appear clear and distant images appear blurry. Children often develop myopia in the preteen or early teen years. Squinting is a common sign of uncorrected myopia. The spectacle prescription for myopia has a (-) in front of the spherical correction which is the first number in the prescription.

**Hyperopia or farsightedness**- Hyperopia occurs when light from an image focuses behind the retina because the optics of the eye are too weak. With uncorrected hyperopia, distant images may be clearer than near images. Young children may tolerate low to moderate amounts of hyperopia because the child can focus his or her eye to clear the image. However, uncorrected hyperopia may cause headaches, eye strain, or reading difficulty and require spectacle correction. A prescription for hyperopia has a (+) in front of the first number of the prescription.

**Astigmatism**- Astigmatism causes blur at all distances. It is caused by the irregularity in the normally spherical cornea or crystalline lens of the eye and it is corrected by a cylinder lens. A cylinder correction has different powers in different axis and must include both an amount and an axis. The axis tells the optical lab the proper orientation of the lens powers. A prescription for astigmatism may have a (+) or a (-) in front of it but it always includes an axis as well.

**Accommodative problems**- In some cases, the focusing system of the eye is weak and a bifocal correction or separate pair of reading glasses is needed. As we get older, we will need some type of correction to help with reading. This is due to presbyopia, a normal aging change which usually begins to impact vision at the age of 40 to 50 years of age.

When you obtain a prescription for eyeglasses, it may be helpful to ask the following questions:

1. Why are the glasses being prescribed and when should they be worn?
2. Is it a significant change from my old glasses? How much improvement should I expect?
3. How long should it take for me to adjust to the new glasses?
4. Are there any risks to my vision if I don’t wear my glasses?
5. When should I return for a new eye exam?

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**Toledo Lucas County Health Dept is offering a Vision Program. Most insurance are accepted! For more information please call 419-213-4100**

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Looking for someone to help proof with spelling, punctuation and semantics? Call Karen Gracy-Taraschke at ***Proof it to me*** at 419-377-7996 or email KGT.PROOFIT@GMAIL.COM

Rally Cap might be available in your area! Rally Cap is sports for people with Special Needs. Check them out at [www.rallycapsports.org](http://www.rallycapsports.org) or call 419-708-4214

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**Success Stories...Christopher Fuchs**

Our son Christopher was born 16 years ago. Two days later we were told he had Down syndrome. He was born 4 weeks early and was very tiny. After the initial shock, we knew we had to do everything possible to ensure Chris would become independent and have a happy life. Doctors and therapists kept telling us Chris would never walk or talk. They were wrong!

Christopher was attending a private school since kindergarten when we first heard about the proposal for the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship. School Choice Ohio was instrumental in getting our family involved in the journey to make this scholarship a reality for many children to come. We attended rallies, dinners, delivered speeches and met with state representatives and others.

Finally, we had the chance to attend an event to celebrate The Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship being signed into law. Christopher even got to meet Governor Kasich. Unfortunately, we were unable to use the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship for him right away as the school he attended did not become a scholarship provider. We were disappointed but never gave up.

Christopher graduated from 8th grade, and we applied for him to attend Saint Francis De Sales High School. We met with Mr. Garrick, the principal, and Mrs. Barber, the admission director for De Sales. They were both kind, great listeners, compassionate and eager to pursue ways to accommodate Christopher. We were delighted when they directed their conversations to Christopher, asking his opinions, likes and dislikes. To our surprise, as we inquired about the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship, we learned De Sales was in the list of providers.

Finally, our journey and support from School Choice Ohio had paid off, and we would be able to apply for the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship. Christopher is now attending St. Francis De Sales as a freshman. He plays in the band, altar serves at masses and helps manage the basketball teams. He is happy to be with some old friends and has also made many new friends.

Although Christopher is the first student with Down syndrome to attend De Sales, he is welcomed, treated with respect, and is working toward living a successful and independent life. We are grateful to School Choice Ohio, St. Francis De Sales, and all those responsible for making the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship open the doors of success for many families.

Our mission continues, and by the way, Christopher **can** talk and walk. We must never give up on our hopes and dreams! We have a choice!

Thank you to all. Fati Fuchs Christopher’s Mom

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**Facebook Now Providing Automatically Generated Photo Descriptions to Blind and Low Vision Users on iOS**

**Submitted by AppleVis**

Member of the AppleVis Editorial Team

Facebook has today officially launched it’s much anticipated tool for automatically generating descriptions of photos posted to its site.

Called Automatic Alternative Text (AAT), the tool has been developed by

Facebook’s Accessibility Team and uses object recognition technology to identify the contents of a photo. With photos such a core part of Facebook, this could transform the user experience for blind and low vision users, giving them the opportunity to know what others are liking and sharing.

According to a report by TechCrunch:

The object recognition powering Facebook’s AAT is based on a neural network with billions of parameters, and one that is trained with millions of examples.

Neural networks are one type of model for machine learning. When it comes to images, you can think of a neural network as a pattern recognition system.

In Facebook’s technology for AAT, it recognizes images and words in transportation (“car,” “boat,” “motorcycle,” etc.), nature (“outdoor,” “mountain,”

“wave,” “sun,” “grass,” etc.), sports (‘tennis,” “swimming,” ‘stadium,” etc.) food (“ice cream,” “sushi,” “dessert,” etc.) and descriptive words for appearance

(“baby,” “eyeglasses,” “smiling,” “jewelry,” “selfie,” etc.).

In a post on this website,

Matt King from Facebook’s Accessibility Team says that they are “… currently limiting the number of concepts to a small set, fewer than 100, where the system has been very well trained. Naturally, this number will grow over time. And, the accessibility team can provide input to the AI team regarding which concepts we think should have a special training focus.”

The BBC reports that “… Facebook would like the system to go one step further and use face recognition to identify people in a picture by name with help from their database of users, but others are resisting the idea on privacy grounds.”

In a reply to this post,

Matt King reports that recognition of text in images is also in Facebook’s plans for this tool:

The ability to recognize text is part of the back-end system, but we do not believe the results are yet good enough to turn it on for all images. We are surfacing the fact that the image may include text. And, when auto alt text is available in desktop and laptop browsers, people with the ability to perform

OCR on those images could choose to do so. You should know, however, that we want to turn on Facebook OCR for all images that contain text as soon as we have enough confidence in the feature. At this time, I can't venture a guess as to when that will happen.

AAT will initially only be available to users in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand; and who are using English as their language. The tool should become available globally in a few weeks to anybody else using English language. Work on supporting other languages has already begun, with Facebook expecting to be able to announce more information soon.

For now, AAT is only available on the iOS app; with support for Android and Facebook’s website expected to be rolled out in the next few months.

If you are using English in one of the currently supported countries but not yet seeing descriptions being included with photos, it’s been reported that

simply closing the Facebook app via the App Switcher and then re-opening it may get things working properly for you. However, Matt King has said below

in the comments that this should not be necessary.

For more information about Facebook's Automatic Alt Text feature, check out this AppleVis Extra Interview with Matt King, Accessibility Specialist in UI Engineering at Facebook.

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Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) Ad, image: Paratransit van with Tarps on it.

CALL-A-RIDE 419-243-RIDE

The cost is only 60 cents for seniors and persons with disabilities and $1.25 for everyone else.

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Cleveland Sight Center White Cane Walk 2016 with 5K run and 1 mile stroll. Join is June 18th at Legacy Village. For more information or to register go to: [www.whitecanewalk.org](http://www.whitecanewalk.org)

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**Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind (OUB)**

**Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind’s mission: building life skills, self-confidence and independence for children and young adults who are blind or have low vision.**

Only 6 campers will be accepted at each camp on a first-come, first-served basis. This ensures your child gets the VERY BEST OUB has to offer! To reserve your child’s spot, you must send in your $25 non-refundable registration fee with your camp registration form.

OUB Summer Camps will be held at Camp Optimist on the west side of Grand Rapids, MI easily accessed off Lake Michigan Drive (M-45).

OUB Summer Camps are all about fun and education, where kids learn new skills in a supportive, encouraging environment that will help them become more independent, and have fun doing many traditional camp activities, such as cooking over a campfire, swimming and playing all sorts of games!

Choose from these exciting camps!

June 19-24 Elementary Camp (ages 7-12)

June 26-July 1 Cookin’ and Jammin’ Camp (Culinary and Music Camp) (ages 7-14)

July 5- 10 Service Leadership Camp (ages 12-19)

July 13-19 Running Blind Adventure Trip 2016 (ages 14-19)

OUB knows that teachers usually do not have the time or facilities to teach important skills of independence like cooking, how to do simple repairs, carrying groceries while using a cane, and cleaning. Families often do not know how to teach their child who is blind or has low vision these critical tasks. OUB stands in the gap, giving kids experience with healthy activities that help them grow in skill and self-confidence! Children who are blind or visually impaired generally need much more practice to become proficient at a skill. Camp provides some of that practice in a “you can do it!” atmosphere!

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**About ‘BRAILLE’iant! - A Braille Boutique**

 The inspiration behind my work originated with a remarkable and beautiful young lady - my niece, Sophie. Our family is very grateful that God has chosen to bless us with such a precious angel.

 Sophie was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on October 28, 1996 with a rare genetic disorder called Fraser Syndrome. One aspect of Fraser Syndrome is a condition called Cryptopthalmos, which means “hidden eye.” Sophie’s Cryptopthalmos meant that she had skin covering both eyes. During the first 18 months of her life, many surgeries were performed attempting to give Sophie a chance to see. Although the surgeries may have been unsuccessful, Sophie has not allowed her blindness to become a handicap. Instead, she has accomplished much more than many average teens of her age. Her extraordinary pursuit of learning will no doubt be an awesome life to witness.

 Sophie is now nineteen years old - which is extremely hard for

me to believe! In 2015, she graduated high school with an amazing 4.655 GPA and she just completed 9 months and graduated from the Louisiana Center for the Blind where she learned self-sufficiency and independence. Sophie will attend college in the fall where I know she will absolutely thrive and make a remarkable and brilliant scholar. I would need a pamphlet to list her accolades and accomplishments she has already achieved in her young 19 years.

 Sophie encompasses the sweetest charm, a heart of gold and she is extremely passionate about her faith and Taylor Swift, haha!! She has an AMAZING gift for writing and mark my words...she will be a really famous author someday!

 ‘BRAILLE’iant! began while I was trying to come up with a gift for my sweet Sophie. One thing lead to another, and, with Sophie’s

Braille expertise, she has helped me create cute, useful gifts and accessories for the blind or visually impaired. I braille t-shirts, blankets, necklaces, bracelets, cuffs, keychains and paintings. I pride myself on applying or punching correct braille but my items have proven to be a really cool fashion trend for the “sighties” as well. This is very important to me because my goal is to promote Braille awareness as well as make available to the blind, visually impaired (and sighted), fun, sassy items that they can actually read and use. I thank my customers for their continued support and most importantly, thank you, Sophie, for all of your help with this process!

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Braille’iant FEEL THE LOVE

* T-shirts
* Key Rings
* Necklaces
* Cuffs
* Rings and more!

Available at [www.brailleiant.com](http://www.brailleiant.com) or 225-247-0006

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Orcam/ See for yourself!

info@orcam.com or [www.orcam.com](http://www.orcam.com)

OrCam was founded in 2010 with a clear mission – harness the power of artificial vision to assist people who are visually impaired. OrCam has created a technologically advanced device unique in its ability to provide visual aid through a discreet wearable platform and simple easy-to-use interface which serves to enhance the daily lives of people with vision loss. OrCam gives independence.

Developed by leading minds in the Computer Vision and Machine Learning field, our team includes dedicated software, computer and electrical engineers, hardware design experts, and a first rate customer service team, which we’re proud to say includes sighted, low vision and blind team members. Our dedicated team creates technology to help real people.

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**Advertising ad for Lions Clubs International.**

For more information please call 614-539-5060 or email: lionoffice@ohiolions.org

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 *Please join Sighted Guide Ohio/ VIFAS at 5/3 field with the Toledo Mud Hens on August 1st, 2016. This is our 1st Annual Scholarship Program called VIBE (Visually Impaired and Blind Education) This program is going to provide products and technology for loved ones that are blind or visually impaired between the ages of 3-22 years old. There are more and more families out there that cannot afford to pay for the products and services and we are ready to make that change! For more information please call 419-870-2797*

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***Let there be Breakfast with Mc Donalds in Northwest Ohio***

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**Ohio Deans Compact Works to Improve Services for Children with Visual Impairment**

The Ohio Deans Compact on Exceptional Children – a state-sponsored group of approximately 35 representatives of Ohio institutions of higher education, professional association representatives state leaders, and others – promotes shared understanding and implementation of effective practices that contribute to improved results for all children and youth in Ohio.

While primarily focused on strategies that build the capacity of the P-16 system to improve opportunities to learn and outcomes for children and youth with disabilities and other marginalized groups of learners, the Compact promotes collective conversation among education professionals at all levels of the system.

One of the Compact’s four standing committees is working to improve the quality and availability of services for children with low incidence sensory disabilities (LISD), including learners with visual impairment, hearing impairment, and combined vision-hearing impairment. In addition to incentivizing the development of course content that could be used to improve the knowledge and skills of already practicing special education teachers (aka intervention specialists), the Compact’s LI Committee is sponsoring the development of an LISD Collaborative to address shortages and limited availability of services, especially in rural areas of the state.

The Collaborative, comprised of partner institutions of higher education, is working at the request of the Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Higher Education to develop a common curriculum for preparing future intervention specialists in the area of visual impairment. Led by Shawnee State University, Collaborative partner institutions include Youngstown State University, Ohio State University, University of Toledo, Wright State University, Kent State University, Mount Vernon Nazarene University, and the University of Rio Grande.

Once developed, the collaborative program would (1) augment Ohio’s existing sole VI preparation program with another program that is developed with state oversight and that creates different access points around the state; (2) increase the numbers of IS: VI teachers as quickly as possible and, as important, distribute personnel resources of equal quality across various areas of the state; and (3) meet different needs, allowing candidates to remain in their area of the state and, in return, ensure that they work as IS: VIs in high-need areas of Ohio for at least three years following program completion.

Dr. Cheryl Reed, Director of Low Vision Services for United Disability Services in Akron, Ohio, and a member of the Compact’s Low Incidence Committee, reports that “the Deans Compact LI Committee addresses the instructional needs of Ohio students with sensory disabilities, including blindness and visual impairment.  Members of the committee come from diverse geographic areas and varied administrative and education programs. The group develops creative solutions by working through Ohio’s teacher education and related service programs.  Attendance at the meetings and conferences of the Deans Compact has made me a more effective advocate for the students I serve and has given me a small voice in solving the complex challenges of education of students with sensory disabilities.”

The Collaborative is in the early stages of development. Stay tuned for additional information as the work progresses.

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Our Stories...Correen Wieczorek

Meet Correen. Her friends and family know her best as Cori. She was born a premature baby and beat all the odds starting from the day she came into the world! Cori was 12 weeks early and had only a 30% chance of living. When she was 3 years old her mom noticed her eye starting to cross.­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­ The eye doctor suggested surgery and to wear glasses or contacts to help correct the problem. Cori was able to see pretty well out of her right eye but still had trouble seeing out of her left one.

After graduating high school from Central Catholic in Toledo, OH Cori spent time at Owens Community College and Bowling Green’s Arts program. She also worked at the Toledo Zoo until she was about 19 years old. Cori ended up at Ken’s Flower shop for around a year and a half designing and decorating flowers and bouquets for others and enjoyed every minute of it. Around 2004, Cori was working at Sam’s Club and hurt her back so bad that she needed bolts and rods placed in her back to help her to walk properly.

On Halloween 2012, Cori ended up with an allergic reaction to a pill and then conjunctive eye disease. As doctors piled into the room we were all starting to realize that Cori’s life would completely change. Shortly after doing test after test, her hair was starting to fall out and her skin began falling off and still we had no idea what was wrong with Cori. The doctors finally said she has what is called Steven Johnson Syndrome or SJS. **Stevens**-**Johnson** syndrome is a rare immune-complex–mediated hypersensitivity complex that typically involves the skin and the mucous membranes. It has been 3 years and 8 months since Cori has been diagnosed with SJS and currently there is no cure for it but as of May 2016 she is now finally in remission! Cori did end up losing sight in the left eye all together and in the process of getting a prosthetic eye put in to try to keep what vision she has left.

With the love and support of her friends and family she can now start looking into her future and what it holds. Cori is such a strong, caring and loving person and she did not let this disease get the best of her. SJS may have taken her ability to cry but not the ability to smile and she has been an inspiration to so many! She believes you don’t need your eyes to see; you just need your heart to feel.

“I love to learn new things all the time and now it is my turn to educate others about SJS and my story” said Cori!

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Advertisements

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Advertisement for Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled (OLBPD) Take a break with a digital talking book.

For more information please call 216-623-2911 or email olbpd@cpl.org

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Sunshine Communities

TOLEDO, OH (WTOL) -

It's being called the intersection of faith and human services.

Sunshine Communities and the Little Flower Catholic Parish in South Toledo have formed a partnership to help folks with developmental disabilities. Sunshine will break ground on Monday on two new homes across the street from the church's campus. Each home will house eight individuals with developmental disabilities. Sunshine bought the land from Little Flower for $50,000. The parish has always welcomed the disabled into its spiritual community. Now it will have them as neighbors.

"They're going to be able to interface within both our parish and our school and really develop and cultivate relationships, help congregation live more generously," said Rev. David Nuss of Little Flower.

What was once Sunshine Children's Home in Maumee is now Sunshine Communities. It now offers a wide range of services - residential, vocational, therapeutic and recreational - to more than 100 men, women and children. Seventy nine people still live on the Maumee campus.

Sunshine already has 15 homes throughout Lucas and Fulton Counties where 100 folks enjoy living in small-scale family home settings.

The two new homes will be numbers 16 and 17. "We believe people with developmental disabilities have gifts to offer and they don't have the opportunity to offer those gifts so that's what this is all about, really becoming an integral part of the community," said Betty Holland, Sunshine Communities CEO. The two houses will be ready for occupancy sometime early next year. A third house is already in the works.

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Visual Impairment Family Association & Support (VIFAS)

VIFAS is a non-profit organization working with local school districts in the Northwest Ohio area. VIFAS and SGO are proud to be creating awareness and support for visual impaired/ blind and other special needs friends and family through workshops and events that target community outreach and education. Looking for more information for visual impairment/ blind? Want to make a difference? Please give us a call at 419-371-0898

Email at adrianne@sightedguideohio.org or [www.vifas.org](http://www.vifas.org)

**Page 28 Choose from these exciting camps!**

**June 19-24 Elementary Camp (ages 7-12)- FULL (waitlisting)
June 26-July 1 Cookin’ and Jammin’ Camp (Culinary and Music Camp) (ages 7-14)- FULL (waitlisting)
July 5- 10 Service Leadership Camp (ages 11-19)
July 12-19 Running Blind Adventure Trip 2016 (ages 13-19)**

**Elementary Camp** FULL– basic camp, tons of fun, with a smattering of everything in the [Expanded Core Curriculum](http://www.oubmichigan.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/EXPANDED-CORE-CURRICULUM.doc) thrown in – talent show, cooking, gardening, social skills, the works. Everyone helps with meals every day!

**Cookin’ and Jammin’ Camp** FULL– music and cooking camp, everyone cooks every day! New and exciting dishes from many different cultures! Music participation and instruction from skilled musicians and lots of fun!

**Service Leadership Camp** – For older campers – service learning projects in Grand Rapids and leadership camp, including presentations from adults who are blind or visually impaired and are successful business persons. This is about learning to give, and to counter-act the bullying and neglect that some, or many, of our kids face daily in school (or when they are just left on the sidelines of activities).

**Running Blind Adventure Trip 2016** – Thanks to Running Blind, our 2016 Adventure Trip will take a turn down the Manistee River. We are planning 4 days canoeing on the river and camping along the way – a real adventure!  There will also be a day of fun and relaxing a bit before heading back to Grand Rapids and Camp Optimist. Plans are STILL TENTATIVE

**Ohio State School for the Blind Summer Camps**

New Day Camps

Day camps run Monday through Friday from 8:00am-4:00pm. The first day of camp, registration will start at 7:30am.

Happy, Healthy, Me Camp Grades: K-2 (students entering these grades)

Date: July 18-22 DAY CAMP Cost: $25 Information: This camp will focus on growing each student’s self-esteem and retaining skills learned in the previous school year. Hands-on activities will include making snacks, music, engaging movement activities, and lots of fun! Academic and common core areas for the visually impaired will be addressed through socialization, games, and art while integrating reading, math, and listening skills. This week will provide opportunities to make new friends and celebrate being happy and healthy!

Multiple Disabilities Camp Grades: 3-7 (students entering these grades)

Date: July 18-22 DATE CHANGE DAY CAMP Cost: $25 Information: This camp will have hands-on activities to work on appropriate social skills. This camp will focus on growing each student’s self-esteem, developing appropriate social skills, and engaging academic work. Hands-on activities will include making snacks, music, movement activities, and lots of fun! Academic and expanded core curriculum for the visually impaired will be addressed through socialization, games, and art. This week will provide opportunities to make new friends and learn new skills!

Primary Camps- Grades 3-7

Braille Camp Grades: 3-7 (students entering these grades, ages 8-12) Date: June 19-24 RESIDENTIAL CAMP Cost: $25 Information: This camp is for students with a visual impairment who currently use Braille as a means for written communication and accessing information, that need to improve their Braille skills. Students should be involved in statewide testing. Students will work to improve and enhance existing Braille skills through educational and fun science activities that are based on Ohio’s New Learning Standards. Activities will include instruction in Braille usage, science, letter writing, storytelling, and journal writing skills. Students will also be given Braille assessments to identify and establish Braille proficiency skills. The Summer Braille Immersion Camp will be aligned with Ohio’s New Learning Standards in the areas of Science and English Language Arts, which include reading, and the writing process..

Math & Movement Camp Grades: 3-7 (students entering these grades, ages 8-12)

Date: July 10-15 RESIDENTIAL CAMP Cost: $25 Information: The program will focus on learning through movement and student involvement. The curriculum for the camp will be based on Ohio’s New Learning Standards for mathematics, language arts, and physical education. Students will participate in learning activities, which will be reinforced through the concept of total body movement and active participation in the learning process. Learning activities will include group and individual activities, including aquatics and track & field.

Secondary Camps- Grades 8-12

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**Science, Technology, Engineering & Math Camp (STEM) Grades: 8-12 (students entering these grades, ages 13-18**

Date: June 5-10 RESIDENTIAL CAMP Cost: $25 Information: If Science and Math are your thing, come join us for STEM Camp. This year’s camp will focus on Ohio geology and include a multitude of activities related to the Earth Sciences. Math and Technology will be integrated into the study of Ohio geology Some activities may include an exploration of rocks and fossils found in Ohio, a study of Ohio’s glacial past, fieldtrips, exploring the Earth's past and future climates, and much more!

Expanded Core Curriculum Camp (ECC) Grades: 8-12 (students entering these grades, ages 13-18)

Date: June 12-17 RESIDENTIAL CAMP Cost: $25 Information: This camp will focus on various areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum. Campers will learn to prepare meals and sharpen independent living skills. Campers will learn about standard and accessible technology and complete educational and fun projects related to all things technology. They will also participate in activities related to vocational skill development, leisure, orientation & mobility, social skills and communication.

Sports Camp Grades: 8-12 (students entering these grades, ages 13-18)

Date: July 10-15 RESIDENTIAL CAMP Cost: $25 Information: This camp is designed to provide instructional and recreational opportunities to youth who are blind or visually impaired. Whether they are beginners or working on personal goals, athletes participate at their own level. We provide adaptive equipment to compete (participate) in specialized sports, such as goalball and other types of recreational activities. We instruct campers on the importance of active and healthy living while fostering a team motivational approach to encourage and support! Your child will have fun while staying fit!

Career Camps

Summer Work & Learn Ages: 18-22

Career Exploration Camp Ages: 14-17

Date: June 5-July 1 RESIDENTIAL CAMP Cost: $0 Information: Summer Work and Learn is a community based career experience for students. They will be partnered with a job coach that provides 1:1 vocational employment skills training. Residential components will focus on independent living skills, technology, orientation and mobility, and work place related skills. In partnership with the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities.

Date: June 5-June 17 RESIDENTIAL CAMP Cost: $0 Information: Career Exploration Camp will offer a variety of vocational settings for students ages 14-17 years old. Students discover knowledge about different types of employment as well as independent living skills, technology skills, O&M, money management and social skills needed to succeed in a work environment. In partnership with the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities.

Career Camps

All Career Camps are weeklong camps. Students need to be picked up on Friday, and return to campus on Sunday evening after 4:00pm

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CLASSIFIED AD

**Camp Health Officer**

Wanted: Health Officer for a very small camp for children who are blind

or have low vision. RN, LPN, EMT, First Responder preferred, training

may be available. Job includes a rustic canoeing/camping trip on the Manistee River. Major duties include medication distribution to campers and staff, first aid, managing emergencies, and documentation. Pay commensurate with level of certification and experience. For more information, e-mail Gwen Botting, Executive Director, Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind or call 616- 755-2221 616-755-2221 or go to www.

oubmichigan.org. Applications can be found on the website.

**Female Camp Counselor**

Wanted: Female Camp Counselor for a very small camp for children who

are blind or have low vision. Must have high school diploma and be at least 18 years old. Valid driver’s license a plus. Added plus if Lifeguard Certified or willing to obtain lifeguard training (provided). Major responsibilities include supervising campers through all aspects of camp life, from getting up in the

morning through evening and nighttime needs. Assist with programming

when requested, supervise campers on field trips, and focus on helping

campers learn skills of independence and still have fun at camp! Persons

with and without visual disabilities are encouraged to apply. Pay commen- surate with level of certification and experience. For more information, email Gwen Botting, Executive Director, Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind or call 616-755-2221 616-755-2221 or go to www.oubmichigan.org. Applications can be found on the website.

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**Ohio Accessible Playgrounds**

**Beachwood:** Preston’s H.O.P.E.— Located on the property of The

Mandel JCC, 26001 South Woodland Rd. The largest fully accessible

playground park in Northeast Ohio.

**Cambridge**: Cambridge City Park–

McKinley Ave & Lakeside Dr. This GameTime playground includes

swings, slides, coil-spring rides, climbing platforms and activity panels, and is treated with an added safety feature of a rubberized coating.

**Circleville**: Mary Virginia Crites Hannan Community Park – A Boundless ™ Playground is located off Rt. 188 on Pontius Road.

**The City of Ravenna**: Ravenna Community Playground – Located in

Chestnut Hills Park, on North Chestnut Street in Ravenna.

**Colerain Township**: Clippard Park Boundless™ Playground — 10243

Dewhill Road. Columbus: Carriage Place Park – 4900 Sawmill Road.

**Dayton**: W.S. McIntosh Memorial Park–W Riverview Ave Located a

half-mile from a historic Wright Brothers site. Euclid: Playground of Possibilities – located at Bexley Park.

**Mason**: Thomas P Quinn Park – 880 Tradewinds Drive. This neighborhood park features a handicap accessible playground along with tennis, basketball.

**Newark**: Newark Rotary Accessible Playground–located on Sharon Valley Road just north of the OSUN/ COTC campus. Powell: Liberty Township Boundless ™ Playground – 2507 Home Rd. Stow: Stow Outdoor Accessible Recreation Playground — located at Silver Springs Park, 5027 Stow Road.

**Warren**: The Valley’s Inclusive Playground

-- located within Perkins Park, 391 Mahoning Ave. Wauseon Sara’s Garden 620 W Leggett St, Wauseon,OH 43567 West Chester: Hopewell Elementary School Boundless™ Playground— 8300 Cox Road.

**Westerville**: Millstone Creek Park – 745 N. Spring Rd.

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**African Safari Wildlife Park**

Drive thru Safari, feed the animals and enjoy fun shows. Only 20 minutes away from Cedar Point

276 S Lightner Rd. Port Clinton, OH 43452

800-521-2660