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2016 Spring Edition
Volume 2 Issue 2

SIGHTED GUIDE OHIO



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Message
from the
Editor

**Spring is here...
to SMELL the Flowers
and FEEL the beautiful
breeze on your face!
Happy Spring Everyone!**

Sighted Guide Ohio offers 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!!

Sighted Guide Ohio's 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.

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Photo of John Soovagian



Photo of Adrianne Kolasinski

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

— Helen Keller



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Center for Instructional Supports and Accessible Materials
Ohio State School for the Blind Outreach Program and Services

About Us

The Center for Instructional Supports and Accessible Materials (CISAM) is a statewide project serving students with print disabilities, including students who are blind and visually impaired. CISAM's mission is to provide free quality accessible educational materials, professional development/learning opportunities, and technical assistance for Ohio's students with print disabilities including students with visual impairments and their families, educators, and collaborative partners.

CISAM's vision is to improve the achievement outcomes of Ohio's students through the timely provision of accessible educational materials and services.

CISAM's goal is to assist school personnel in locating AEM in a timely manner in alternate formats for eligible Ohio students including: audio, braille, digital text, large print.

CISAM Provides:

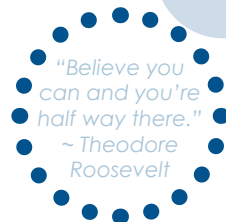
- Professional Development: <http://cisam.ossb.oh.gov/ProfessionalDevelopment.php>
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- Accessible Materials Production Center (AMPC) Services: DReed@ossb.oh.gov
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- Listservs: CISAM, Requestors, AEM: KHouston@cisamoh.org
- Braille Repair: <http://cisam.ossb.oh.gov/docs/AccessibleMaterials/BrailleRepair.pdf>

Contact CISAM for further information:

CISAM
5220 North High St.
Columbus, OH

614-644-8378
614-644-8357

Hours: 6:00 am - 3:00 pm

<http://cisam.ossb.oh.gov>**IN THIS ISSUE**

Message from the Editor	3
The Chicago Lighthouse....Janet P. Szlyk, Ph.D.	6
The Chicago Lighthouse....Cooper	7
Our Stories...Alex Bodi	10
Facts about Retinopathy of Prematurity	11-12
Social Security	16-17
Our Stories...Sherry Smith	18
2016 Summer Work and Learn	22
Project SEARCH for the upcoming school year	22
'Oh, The Places You'll Go' Summer Camp	23
Parent University FOR parents BY parents!	24
Classified Ads	30
Upcoming Events	30-31
Accessible Playgrounds	31
Cleveland Sight Center	32

Distribution

Sighted Guide Ohio was created to be a voice for the visually impaired and blind communities. SGO is a publication that covers the State of Ohio focusing on our four major cities including **Toledo, Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati, Ohio**

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Janet P. Szlyk, Ph.D.

**President & Chief Executive Officer
The Chicago Lighthouse**

A highly respected researcher and scientist in the field of low vision, Dr. Janet Szlyk assumed leadership of The Lighthouse in 2008, becoming the second woman in the organization's 110 year history to hold the top position. She is responsible for taking The Lighthouse to new heights with the establishment of call center enterprises, which provide employment opportunities for more than 400 individuals who are visually impaired, blind, disabled and Veterans. Dr. Szlyk previously served as professor and director of

the Low Vision Laboratory in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago for 19 years. At UIC she won acclaim for building the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences' Low Vision Laboratory into an internationally recognized facility that helps patients with eye disease optimize their remaining vision. Dr. Szlyk earned a Bachelor of Arts at Brown University, as well as a Master of Arts and doctorate at Fordham University. She has published widely in the field of low vision.



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Meet Cooper, a young patient at the Forsythe Center for Comprehensive Vision Care whose family felt hopeless before coming to The Lighthouse. Cooper has multiple disabilities, in addition to being visually impaired since birth. With the help of special glasses and Lighthouse vision rehabilitation services, Cooper is succeeding in daily life and at school.

<http://chicagolighthouse.org/story/meet-cooper/>



Are you interested in earning credits or just want to learn more about a range of topics related to the education of students with visual impairments? Perkins School for the Blind offers lots of online classes, including many that are self-paced.

Watch the latest videos or sign up for an upcoming webinar!

Find out more here:

www.perkinselearning.org/professional-development

To see the calendar of upcoming events, visit: www.perkinselearning.org/events-monthly





Learn How to Give Your Child a Brighter Future...

Ohio's Special Needs Scholarship Programs



Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program

Scholarships can be used toward tuition and services at participating providers.

Children in grades K-12 with an IEP are eligible to apply!

Deadlines to apply:
April 15
(first academic term)
November 15
(second academic term)

Autism Scholarship Program

Scholarships worth up to **\$27,000** can be used toward tuition and services at participating providers.

Children ages 3-21 with an IEP are eligible to apply!

Applications are accepted year round.



Have questions? We're here to help.

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scoho.org | info@scoho.org



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Everyone has the right to fully access and enjoy their home, and persons with disabilities may need special arrangements to live in their rented apartment or house. Housing providers are required to provide reasonable structural or policy changes, which may include installation of ramps or grab bars, allowing assistance animals when pets are not allowed, or creating a reserved parking space. In addition, landlords may not treat individuals with disabilities unfairly by restricting access to common areas, charging additional fees, or segregating individuals from other tenants.

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Our Stories...

Alex Bodi

Meet Alex Bodi, a typical teenage boy. He enjoys music, reading, sports and socializing with everyone.

What makes him different from some of his friends? Alex is blind. Alex has been blind since shortly after he was born at 24 weeks gestation. When Alex was born, he was considered to be a micro-preemie. A micro-preemie is a baby that weighs less than 800 grams (1lb 12oz). He weighed 1lb 7ozs. Due to his severe prematurity, Alex developed Retinopathy of Prematurity (R.O.P.). This is an eye condition that happens when blood vessels are not properly formed before birth. When the blood vessels do start to form, they grow so quickly that they can damage the retina. Some cases of R.O.P. will resolve untreated; other cases need surgery to repair the damage. In Alex's case, the damage caused retinal detachment (blindness).

Alex's blindness has not slowed him down. He plays baseball for The Miracle League in Northwood Ohio in the Spring and Fall; he participates in Victory Day with The Rockets (The University of Toledo's football team) in August; he plays soccer and bas-

ketball with Rally Cap Sports in Bowling Green, Ohio. He also goes fishing in the spring with our local Lions Club in Swanton, Ohio.

In the summer, Alex loves going to The Toledo Farmers Market. He enjoys an overload of his senses at this place. Where else can we smell the fresh cut flowers and baked goods, not to mention the coffee? The vendors allow us to touch their many different types of fruits and vegetables. If asked, they will even let us sample their produce. Plus we get the benefit of being out in the fresh air. He just loves this place! Most of the vendors know Alex, and even go out of their way to say hello to him.

Our family's sense of humor helps a lot. The conversations that you have with Alex are really fun. We share jokes, such as, "Mom, did you see that crazy bird that was making all that noise at Maumee Bay?". I answer "No, I was not paying attention to it". He says "I didn't see it either, but it was such was an obnoxious little thing". Another time Alex said "I wish I could see Nikita. [our German Shepherd], because she has four legs, a big nose, and big teeth. It just sounds goofy looking!" How can you not laugh?



Alex does not let his blindness define him. He is not angry about it, or sad. It is just the way he is. From a very young age, he has always been happy to be involved with people and go to new places. He loves new experiences. He is a kid that looks forward to life. He loves learning new things every day. He is happily learning his way in the world. Alex is thankful for the gifts he has and does not dwell on his blindness.

So, if you are ever out and about and you see Alex, feel free to stop, introduce yourself and say hello because I can guarantee this kid will make your day!



Facts About

Retinopathy of Prematurity

This information was developed by the National Eye Institute to help patients and their families search for general information about retinopathy of prematurity (ROP). An eye care professional who has examined the patient's eyes and is familiar with his or her medical history is the best person to answer specific questions.

Retinopathy of Prematurity Defined

What is retinopathy of prematurity?

Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) is a potentially blinding eye disorder that primarily affects premature infants weighing about 2½ pounds (1250 grams) or less that are born before 31 weeks of gestation (A full-term pregnancy has a gestation of 38–42 weeks). The smaller a baby is at birth, the more likely that baby is to develop ROP. This disorder—which usually develops in both eyes—is one of the most common causes of visual loss in childhood and can lead to lifelong vision impairment and blindness. ROP was first diagnosed in 1942.

Frequently Asked Questions about Retinopathy of Prematurity

How many infants have retinopathy of prematurity?

Today, with advances in neonatal care, smaller and more premature infants are being saved. These infants are at a much higher risk for ROP. Not all babies who are premature develop ROP. There are approximately 3.9 million infants born in the U.S. each year; of those, about 28,000 weigh 2½ pounds or less. About 14,000–

16,000 of these infants are affected by some degree of ROP. The disease improves and leaves no permanent damage in milder cases of ROP. About 90 percent of all infants with ROP are in the milder category and do not need treatment. However, infants with more severe disease can develop impaired vision or even blindness. About 1,100–1,500 infants annually develop ROP that is severe enough to require medical treatment. About 400–600 infants each year in the US become legally blind from ROP.

Are there different stages of ROP?

Yes. ROP is classified in five stages, ranging from mild (stage I) to severe (stage V):

Stage I — Mildly abnormal blood vessel growth. Many children who develop stage I improve with no treatment and eventually develop normal vision. The disease resolves on its own without further progression.

Stage II — Moderately abnormal blood vessel growth. Many children who develop stage II improve with no treatment and eventually develop normal vision. The disease resolves on its own without further progression.

Stage III — Severely abnormal blood vessel growth. The abnormal blood vessels grow toward the center of the eye instead of following their normal growth pattern along the surface of the retina. Some infants who develop stage III improve with no treatment and eventually develop normal vision. However, when infants have a certain degree of Stage III and "plus disease" develops, treatment is considered. "Plus disease"

means that the blood vessels of the retina have become enlarged and twisted, indicating a worsening of the disease. Treatment at this point has a good chance of preventing retinal detachment.

Stage IV — Partially detached retina. Traction from the scar produced by bleeding, abnormal vessels pulls the retina away from the wall of the eye.

Stage V — Completely detached retina and the end stage of the disease. If the eye is left alone at this stage, the baby can have severe visual impairment and even blindness.

Most babies who develop ROP have stages I or II. However, in a small number of babies, ROP worsens, sometimes very rapidly. Untreated ROP threatens to destroy vision.

Can ROP cause other complications?

Yes. Infants with ROP are considered to be at higher risk for developing certain eye problems later in life, such as retinal detachment, myopia (nearsightedness), strabismus (crossed eyes), amblyopia (lazy eye), and glaucoma. In many cases, these eye problems can be treated or controlled.

Causes and Risk Factors

What causes ROP?

ROP occurs when abnormal blood vessels grow and spread throughout the retina, the tissue that lines the back of the eye. These abnormal blood vessels are fragile and can leak, scarring the retina and pulling it out of position. This causes a retinal detachment. Retinal detachment is the main cause of visual impairment and blindness in ROP.

(Continued on Page 12)



Retinopathy of Prematurity

(Continued from Page 11)

Several complex factors may be responsible for the development of ROP. The eye starts to develop at about 16 weeks of pregnancy, when the blood vessels of the retina begin to form at the optic nerve in the back of the eye. The blood vessels grow gradually toward the edges of the developing retina, supplying oxygen and nutrients. During the last 12 weeks of a pregnancy, the eye develops rapidly. When a baby is born full-term, the retinal blood vessel growth is mostly complete (The retina usually finishes growing a few weeks to a month after birth). But if a baby is born prematurely, before these blood vessels have reached the edges of the retina, normal vessel growth may stop. The edges of the retina, the periphery, may not get enough oxygen and nutrients.

Scientists believe that the periphery of the retina then sends out signals to other areas of the retina for nourishment. As a result, new abnormal vessels begin to grow. These new blood vessels are fragile and weak and can bleed, leading to retinal scarring. When these scars shrink, they pull on the retina, causing it to detach from the back of the eye.

Are there other risk factors for ROP?

In addition to birth weight and how early a baby is born, other factors contributing to the risk of ROP include anemia, blood transfusions, respiratory distress, breathing difficulties, and the overall health of the infant.

An ROP epidemic occurred in the 1940s and early 1950s when hospital nurseries began using excessively high levels of oxygen in incubators to save the lives of

premature infants. During this time, ROP was the leading cause of blindness in children in the US. In 1954, scientists funded by the National Institutes of Health determined that the relatively high levels of oxygen routinely given to premature infants at that time were an important risk factor, and that reducing the level of oxygen given to premature babies reduced the incidence of ROP. With newer technology and methods to monitor the oxygen levels of infants, oxygen use as a risk factor has diminished in importance.

Although it had been suggested as a factor in the development of ROP, researchers supported by the National Eye Institute determined that lighting levels in hospital nurseries has no effect on the development of ROP.

Treatment

How is ROP treated?

The most effective proven treatments for ROP are laser therapy or cryotherapy. Laser therapy "burns away" the periphery of the retina, which has no normal blood vessels. With cryotherapy, physicians use an instrument that generates freezing temperatures to briefly touch spots on the surface of the eye that overlie the periphery of the retina. Both laser treatment and cryotherapy destroy the peripheral areas of the retina, slowing or reversing the abnormal growth of blood vessels. Unfortunately, the treatments also destroy some side vision. This is done to save the most important part of our sight, the sharp, central vision we need for "straight ahead" activities such as reading, sewing, and driving.

Both laser treatments and cryotherapy are performed only on infants with advanced ROP, particularly stage III with "plus disease." Both treatments are con-

sidered invasive surgeries on the eye, and doctors don't know the long-term side effects of each.

In the later stages of ROP, other treatment options include:

- Scleral buckle. This involves placing a silicone band around the eye and tightening it. This keeps the vitreous gel from pulling on the scar tissue and allows the retina to flatten back down onto the wall of the eye. Infants who have had a sclera buckle need to have the band removed months or years later, since the eye continues to grow; otherwise they will become nearsighted. Sclera buckles are usually performed on infants with stage IV or V.

- Vitrectomy. Vitrectomy involves removing the vitreous and replacing it with a saline solution. After the vitreous has been removed, the scar tissue on the retina can be peeled back or cut away, allowing the retina to relax and lay back down against the eye wall. Vitrectomy is performed only at stage V.

What happens if treatment does not work?

While ROP treatment decreases the chances for vision loss, it does not always prevent it. If treatment for ROP does not work, a retinal detachment may develop. Often, only part of the retina detaches (stage IV). When this happens, no further treatments may be needed, since a partial detachment may remain the same or go away without treatment. However, in some instances, physicians may recommend treatment to try to prevent further advancement of the retinal detachment (stage V). If the center of the retina or the entire retina detaches, central vision is threatened, and surgery may be recommended to reattach the retina.



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HEAP

Heating Assistance Is Available for Older Adults

Now is the time eligible older adults can receive \$175 to help with their heating bill costs through the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). Single-member households with an income of \$20,597.50 or less and two-person households with an income of \$27,877.50 are eligible to apply. Older adults may get a HEAP application by contacting the Area Office on Aging at 419-382-0624.

Many people who are eligible for HEAP are also eligible for another program to help stay warm. By checking a box on the HEAP application, people can get information about the Home Weatherization Assistance Program.

Call the Area Office on Aging at 419-382-0624 for more details.



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Any child age 7 - 19 who is blind or has low vision that interferes with their living, learning and social interaction is welcome to attend OUB Camps.



Social Security Column

TWEETING ISN'T JUST FOR THE BIRDS

By Erin Thompson

Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Toledo, OH

Ten years ago, on March 21, 2006, the CEO of Twitter sent out his first tweet. It's appropriate, with spring coming, that the famous CEO was chirping in a format that the world now embraces as a vital form of interactive communication. Similarly, Social Security is no stranger to social media. Updated regularly, Social Security Matters is our blog. It's our hub for Social Security news, like new features to my Social Security, changes in policy, retirement planning, and benefit information. The blog allows us to address issues in a longer format than a tweet or typical social media post. Check out Social Security Matters at blog.socialsecurity.gov and select "Get blog updates" if you want to stay informed.

Social Security uses social media just like you might. At www.facebook.com/socialsecurity we share information, post programmatic changes, and things you need to know. You can follow us and get regular updates on your computer or smartphone through Facebook. While you're at it, go and "like" a few posts or "share" them with friends and loved ones.

Even though there's a lot to say when it comes to retirement benefits and Medicare or disability, Social Security is great at condensing messages down to 140 characters. Our Twitter account is a valuable resource for news and updates. You can follow what we're up to and even engage us at twitter.com/socialsecurity.

Is all this on-screen reading making your eyes tired? Well, you

can visit our YouTube page for fun and informative videos. In the past, we've had celebrities appear in our public service announcements. And you can see a few feline stars in some of our most popular videos. Visit www.youtube.com/socialsecurityonline to start watching. Remember, you can always share our social media pages with friends and family. They will be grateful to know about the many online services we provide. Feel free to send us a tweet and connect with Social Security!

SOCIAL SECURITY-QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

GENERAL

Question: Do I need a Social Security card? I want to get a summer job and my dad can't find my card.

Answer: If you know your number, you probably don't need to get another card. If you find out that you do need a replacement card, the best place to go to find out how to get a replacement is www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber. In some states and the District of Columbia, you might even be able to request a replacement Social Security card online. In other areas, you can download the application to print out, complete, and submit by mail or in person. If you do get a replacement card



or find the original, you shouldn't carry it with you. Keep it in a safe place with your other important papers. Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

Question: Can I get a new Social Security number if someone has stolen my identity?

Answer: We don't routinely assign a new number to someone whose identity has been stolen. Only as a last resort should you consider requesting a new Social Security number. Changing your number may adversely affect your ability to interact with Federal and State agencies, employers, and others. This is because your financial, medical, employment and other records will be under your former Social Security number. We cannot guarantee that a new number will solve your problem. To learn more about your Social Security card and number, read our online publication *Your Social Security Number and Card* at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/.

RETIREMENT

Question: I just got back from an overseas military deployment and I want to plan ahead. How will my military retirement affect my Social Security benefits?

Answer: Your military retirement won't affect your Social Security benefits at all. You can get

both. Generally, there is no offset of Social Security benefits because of your military retirement. You will get full Social Security benefits based on your earnings. The only way your Social Security benefit might be reduced is if you also receive a government pension based on a job in which you did not pay Social Security taxes. You can find more information in the publication *Military Service and Social Security* at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10017.html. Or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Question: I'm retiring early, at age 62, and I receive investment income from a rental property I own. Does investment income count as earnings?

Answer: No. We count only the wages you earn from a job or your net profit if you're self-employed. Non-work income such as annuities, investment income, interest, capital gains, and other government benefits are not counted and will not affect your Social Security benefits. Most pensions will not affect your benefits. However, your benefit may be affected by government pensions earned through work on which you did not pay Social Security tax. You can retire online at www.socialsecurity.gov. For more information, call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

DISABILITY

Question: I was turned down for disability. Do I need a lawyer to appeal?

Answer: You're entitled to hire an attorney if you wish to, but it is not necessary. And, you can file a Social Security appeal online without a lawyer. Our online appeal process is convenient and secure. Just go to www.socialsecurity.gov/

disability/appeal. If you prefer, call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to schedule an appointment to visit your local Social Security office to appeal.

Question: It's hard for me to get around because of my disability. Do I have to go to a Social Security office to apply for benefits?

Answer: Not anymore. You can prepare and submit your Social Security disability application and all the needed forms right over the Internet. Our online disability application is convenient and secure. When you decide to apply, begin by taking a look at our Disability Starter Kit at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME

Question: My brother has been completely disabled from birth. He gets Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Our grandfather died recently and left him a little money. Will this extra money stop his SSI benefits?

Answer: It all depends on the amount of the inheritance. Inheritance money is considered income for the month he received it. You'll have to report the income and we will adjust his benefit for the month accordingly. If he keeps the money into the next month, it then becomes a part of his resources. To get SSI benefits, he is limited to \$2,000 in total resources, although there are exceptions. Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and report the inheritance. We'll tell you how your brother's eligibility will be affected. For more information, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Question: My dad receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. He soon will be coming to live with my brother. Does he have to report the move

to Social Security?

Answer: Yes. He should report to us within 10 days any change in living arrangements. The change could affect his benefit. Failure to report the change could result in a penalty being deducted from his SSI benefits. Also, we need his correct address so we can send correspondence. Please have him call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). Or, he can report the change by mail or in person at a Social Security office. Visit our website for more information at www.socialsecurity.gov.

MEDICARE

Question: Should I sign up for Medicare Part B if I am working and have health insurance through an employer?

Answer: Choosing to sign up for Medicare is an important decision that involves a number of issues you may need to consider. The decision you make will depend on your situation and the type of health insurance you have. You may be able to delay signing up for Medicare Part B without a late enrollment penalty if you or your spouse (or a family member, if you're disabled) is working, and you're getting health insurance benefits based on current employment.

In many cases, if you don't sign up for Part B when you're first eligible, you'll have to pay a late enrollment penalty for as long as you have Part B. Also, you may have to wait until the General Enrollment Period (from January 1 to March 31) to enroll in Part B, and coverage will start July 1 of that year.

Find out how your coverage works with Medicare at www.medicare.gov or contact your employer or union benefits administrator.





Our Stories...

Sherry Smith

Then there is Sherry Smith (56), who has end-stage glaucoma, which has changed her life. A client of the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CABVI). Smith can no longer work or help care for her mother. She's been successful at learning new skills such as walking with a white cane and using adaptive equipment for daily living skills. Smith will likely lose more of her vision as the disease progresses, and wants to continue to be able to read, remaining as independent as possible. She currently uses a special magnifying glass, but it has limitations.



A Da Vinci electronic magnifier would help her now and as her eyes grow weaker, as it reads printed text out loud. The Da Vinci was delivered to Sherry

Smith last week and her wish came true.

Story provided by the Visual Tech Connection

Features that you should ask for when selecting a new device:

DID YOU KNOW

Verizon offers solutions for low or no vision

- Voice Activated Dialing
- Caller ID with Speech
- One Touch speed dialing
- Voice commands
- Phone status with speech
- Readable commands
- Ringtones
- Adjustable fonts

- Text Message read out
- Menu Readout
- Digit Dial
- Readout mode

Devices that provide for some or all of the features mentioned:

- LG Cosmos™ 3 •LG Revere® 3
- LG Extravert™ •Samsung Convoy™ 3
- Samsung Gusto® 3 •LG Lucid™



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TO ORGANIZE, charter and supervise service clubs to be known as Lions clubs. TO COORDINATE the activities and standardize the administration of Lions clubs.

TO CREATE and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.

TO PROMOTE the principles of good government and good citizenship.

TO TAKE an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community.

TO UNITE the clubs in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding.

TO PROVIDE a forum for the open discussion of all matters of public interest; provided, however, that partisan politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by club members.

TO ENCOURAGE service-minded people to serve their community without personal financial reward, and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavors.

Ohio Lions, Inc.

4074 Hoover Road, Grove City, Ohio

(614) 539-5060

Email: lionsoffice@ohiolions.org

www.ohiolions.org



The 2nd Annual Beeping Easter Egg Hunt for Blind/Visually Impaired

Sports for People with Special Needs



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McDonald's advertising now serving breakfast all day.



Coming Soon... 2016 Summer Work and Learn

The Ohio State School for the Blind is pleased to announce we are preparing for the 2016 Summer Work and Learn Program. This year the program will run from Sunday June 5, 2016 to Friday July 1, 2016. Summer Work and Learn Camp will be a 4 week period with all weeks beginning on Sunday evening and ending on Friday afternoon. Student applications will be available January 8, 2016 on the OSSB website.

In addition to the tradi-

tional 18-21 year old camp for vocational internships, OSSB will also be offering a 2 week Career Exploration Camp. June 5, 2016 to June 17, 2016. 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.



Project SEARCH for the upcoming 2016-17 school year

We are excited to announce Project SEARCH for the upcoming 2016-17 school year. Project SEARCH is a one-year, high school transition program, which provides training and education leading to employment for individuals with disabilities. This program will occur on-site within the host business, COSI, The Center for Science and Industry. Each student applies to the program and is accepted through a selection committee process. All students must be eligible for services with the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities to participate and

have earned all their academic credits necessary to graduate. The application deadline is January 29, 2016. Please click on the following links for information and the application. For further information please contact Cathern



King at cking@ossb.oh.gov or (614) 468-8877.



Join us for 'Oh, The Places You'll Go!' this summer at Canter's Cave!

Ohio State University Extension proudly offers this camp for individuals with multiple handicaps ages 8-18. This camp will be held at the Elizabeth L. Evans Outdoor Education Center/ Canter's Cave 4-H Camp near Jackson, Ohio. Each camper will need to be accompanied by a caregiver.

- When: June 17-19, 2016
- Check-in time: 5:00-5:30 pm on Friday, June 17 @ the main lodge.
- Check-out time: 11:30 a.m. Sunday, June 19.
- Youth fee: \$80.00.
- Caregiver fee: \$45.00 for the camp.
- Return registration forms to Meigs County Extension Office by June 2, 2016

Camp Location

Camp is at the Elizabeth L. Evans Outdoor Education Center - Canter's Cave 4-H Camp. Camp is located on Caves Road off S.R. 35 about 7 miles West of Jackson. There is a green Canters Cave 4-H Sign along the road just before you turn right on Caves Road.

Camp Activities

Youth are invited to participate in swimming, fishing, swings, boating, archery, and horseback riding. Accommodations are available for these activities. The weekend agenda also includes music therapy, science, arts and crafts, parachute games and more. Children and caregivers are free to participate at their own pace and choosing.

For more details...

Contact Michelle Stumbo (Meigs County Extension Office) at 740-922-6696 or email her at stumbo.5@osu.edu.



Parent University is FOR parents BY parents!

Toledo Public Schools and Partners In Education have brought together community resources and leaders to offer FREE classes on a variety of topics. Sample topics include Healthy Cooking, Standardized Testing, Preparing for College and Career, Parent Leadership and much more. Childcare and transportation will always be provided for these 1 to 2 hour classes held across Toledo.

As parents and guardians explore the class offerings, they should know that these

classes are not meant to teach them how to parent, but rather, to support and celebrate the incredible job they are doing raising their children. They can choose to attend some or all of the many classes or they may even

enroll in a series of classes.

Visit tps.org to learn more or contact Maddi at 419-242-2122.



Take a Break with a Digital Talking Book



The Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled (OLBPD) is part of the Cleveland Public Library. In partnership with the State Library of Ohio Talking Book Program, OLBPD serves as the Regional Library for the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) of the Library of Congress, and administers a free library program of braille and audio materials circulated to eligible borrowers in the State of Ohio by postage-free mail. OLBPD and the State Library of Ohio Talking Book Program received the 2010 National Library Service Network Library of the Year Award.



Ohio Library for the
Blind & Physically Disabled
at Cleveland Public Library

17121 Lake Shore Blvd.
Cleveland, Ohio 44110-4006
Phone: 216.623.2911
Ohio Toll-Free: 800.362.1262
Fax: 216.623.7036
Email: olbpd@cpl.org




18.5% of American children under 18 are Special Needs Children. That doesn't mean they aren't smart, talented, or capable. Just that they have specific challenges that a "normal" student would not face.

THERE ARE FOUR MAJOR TYPES OF SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

PHYSICAL Muscular Dystrophy Multiple Sclerosis Chronic Asthma Epilepsy, etc.	BEHAVIORAL / EMOTIONAL ADD Bipolar Oppositional Defiance Disorder
DEVELOPMENTAL Down Syndrome Autism Dyslexia Processing Disorders	SENSORY IMPAIRED Blind Visually Impaired Deaf Limited hearing

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**APRIL 9TH, 2016 AT 11AM AT
WASHINGTON BRANCH LIBRARY 5560
HARVEST LN, TOLEDO, OH 43623**

SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT GROUP FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

*Calling all Parents, Paras, Teachers and more...
Please join us to help parents, professionals, schools and
agencies to come together and have a place to vent, chat
and discuss everyday issues about children with specials
needs*



SIGHTED GUIDE OHIO



VIFAS



**Frogtown Low Vision
Support Group**

**Do you have a
child with special
needs??**

**Don't miss this
great opportunity
to share your
story with others!**

**Offering resources
and advocacy for
those in need**

**We are here to
help!**

**Help us be the
voice we need for
our children to
succeed!!**

SPECIAL NEEDS MEANS SPECIAL CHILDREN

**527 Indian Valley Ct.
Rossford, OH 43460
419-870-2797**

www.sightedguideohio.org

April 9th, 2016 at 11am



CREATING AWARENESS

**"ONE DAY
AT A TIME"**



**Visual Impairment
Family Association
& Support**

419-870-2797

adrienne@vifas.org

VIFAS is a non-profit organization working with local school districts in the Northwest Ohio area to provide necessary resources for the visually impaired and blind.

VIFAS is proud to be creating awareness and support for visual impaired / blind friends and family through workshops and events that target community outreach and education.



www.vifas.org

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Rubén Torres
440-320-8221

laprensa1@yahoo.com



SIGHTED GUIDE OHIO



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 3-18 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!

Please choose from one of the following sponsorship levels available:

Platinum Sponsor: (\$2,500.00) This sponsor is to receive 20 tickets to the game, Full pg color ad plus 3 months free web banner and link.

Gold Sponsor: (\$1,000.00) This sponsor is to receive 10 tickets to the game, ½ pg color ad plus 2 months free web banner and link.

Silver Sponsor: (\$500.00) This sponsor is to receive 5 tickets to the game, ¼ pg color ad plus 1 month free web banner and link.

VIBE Sponsorship Form

Yes! I want to be a ☐ Platinum ☐ Gold ☐ Silver Sponsor
(Please check one)

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Thank you in advance from Sighted Guide Ohio for your help keeping the community closer!

**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.

Camp Office Assistant

Wanted: Office Assistant 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 with a valid driver's license and good driving record. Added plus if Lifeguard Certified or willing to obtain lifeguard training (provided). Major responsibilities include managing office files, including employee and camper records, handling camper registrations, and other duties as assigned, such as procuring supplies. 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 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.

VIP Sport Camp at Slippery Rock Univ. in Pennsylvania

Sport Night at the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children Friday April 1, 2016

Goalball, swimming and sports galore at this sports night. Come participate in lots of fun activities from 6 to 8pm at the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children in Oakland, Pittsburgh.

Open Water Kayaking Sunday May 1, 2016

Kayak your way around the lake on May 1st from 2 to 4pm.

To Register Email completed registration packets to wendy.fagan@sru.edu



The Chicago Lighthouse

The Chicago Lighthouse presents its:**Low Vision Products Show**

We're taking our store on the road and everyone is invited!

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Friendship Village

The Salt Creek Room

350 W. Schaumburg Rd.

Schaumburg, IL 60194

The Low Vision Products

Road Show welcomes the public to experience state of the art technology such as CCTVs, portable reading devices, and much more including independent living aids, lighting, and even sunwear. Test each product and receive training from our expert staff who can advise on the right tools to improve your daily life.

Upcoming Events

Absolutely free! Everyone is invited and can come at anytime. Chicago Lighthouse staff will demonstrate, explain and let you try the variety of products available for help with school, work and daily life.

•Independent Living – talking clocks and watches, kitchen items, large button phones, and sunglasses of all types including the new fit-over models.

•Computer Aids – Large print keyboards, accessibility software for magnification or speech, new speech to text dictation programs.

•Technology – Reading devices such as the new Prodigy from Humanware that magnifies and even reads text aloud. Portable and hand-held video magnifiers, from 2x to 20x, to read and write anywhere!

For information or more details about future shows call:

(800) 919-3375 FREE or

email: tom.perski@chicago-lighthouse.org

The Ohio State School for the Blind physical education workshop.

The Ohio State School for the Blind will be presenting an adapted physical education workshop. This will be held on Monday, April 11 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. The purpose of the workshop is to allow attendees

Upcoming Events

Events are subject to change. Call ahead to confirm.

an opportunity to present a personally developed lesson plan to other participants. This hands-on experience will allow for collaboration and rich discussions. A workbook will be available with presented lesson plans to participants who submit a plan. The lesson plan form will be emailed to registered participants. Participants are expected to submit a lesson plan and present the lesson during the workshop. Registration is open through STARS using your SAFE account. Up to 50 participants can be accommodated. The closing date for registration is Friday, April 1. For questions about your SAFE account, please contact SAFE Account Administrator at safe.admin@education.ohio.gov or (877) 644-6338 FREE, option 3. All other inquiries can be sent to Lisa Lyle Henry at lhenny@osdb.oh.gov.

105th Annual Meeting

Friday, April 22, 2016

Braille Aficionado Society

Join other learners at CAB-

VI every Thursday from 9:30 to 11 AM for the Braille Aficionado Society! Whether you're a braille user who'd like to increase your knowledge or a braille novice who would like to learn more about the code, this group is for you. Equal parts class and social club, this is

**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.

West Chester

Hopewell Elementary School Boundless™ Playground — 8300 Cox Road.

Westerville

Millstone Creek Park — 745 N. Spring Rd.

More info. at www.sightedguideohio.org

your opportunity to hear about new braille technologies and meet others who have similar interests. All vision levels welcome. Adults 18 and older, please. Sighted learners will be required to purchase instruc-

tional materials but attendance is free of charge for all.

For more information call Meridith at 487-4224 or email her at meridith.owensby@cin-cyblind.org. RSVP's preferred but not required.



Cleveland Sight Center

Technology Fair 2016

Presented by Consumer Council

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Cleveland Sight Center

University Circle

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216-791-8118

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

- Exhibits from local and national vendors
- Informational presentations during breakout sessions
- Try out some of the latest blind and low vision devices

Participating Organizations:



Ohio Library for the
Blind & Physically Disabled
at Cleveland Public Library

