



2015 Summer Edition
Volume 1 Issue 3

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friends & family across the State of Ohio.

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Message from the Editor

Here's to another wonderful quarter of Sighted Guide Ohio

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 Adrianne Kolasinski



Photo of John Soovagian

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

– Helen Keller





Ohio State School for the Blind OUTREACH PROGRAM & SERVICES

- Educational Assessment Clinic
- Infant/Preschool Outreach Services
- School Age Outreach Services
- Deafblind Outreach Services
- Parent Mentor Services
- Center for Instructional Supports and Accessible Materials (CISAM)

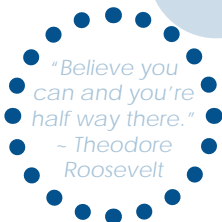
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www.ossb.oh.gov



The mission of Outreach Program & Services is to provide technical assistance, professional development, materials and resources to families and local school districts serving children who are blind and visually impaired including those with multiple disabilities.



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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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What are YOUR expectations?

By Gwen Botting, Executive Director, Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind

Stevie Wonder? Erik Weihenmayer? Richard Bernstein? David Patterson? Tim Cordes? Who? Tim Cordes is a physician who graduated near the top of his class in 2005, David Patterson was the governor of New York, Richard Bernstein is a newly elected judge to the Michigan Supreme Court, Erik Weihenmayer climbed Mount Everest, and of course Stevie Wonder is a world renowned musician – and they are all blind.

Are they exceptional men? Of course. But are they exceptional men, or exceptional because they are blind? Or exceptional because they are ALSO blind? (We could also ask why no women who are blind are on my list, but that is another story!)

It all comes down to expectations.

My husband Jim and I, and “the village” of our friends and relatives, have raised our son, who is blind, from his severely premature birth to a healthy nearly 21-year-old college student who has traveled by himself in several states and foreign countries and plans to teach Creative Writing at the college level. Is he exceptional, or exceptional because he is blind and able to do all of these things anyway, or is he exceptional AND blind? I vote for the latter!

Our son is blind because

of some biological process that went awry a long time ago. Our son is successful because of expectations! Expectations that we had that he would be exceptional, live on his own, be his own person, follow his own path, do many things that most other kids his age do, and some things that kids his age would never dream of doing. We expected him to excel, just as we do our daughter, who has no known disabilities. And so he has, and so has she!

My desire to help other families with children who are blind or visually impaired led me to become the President of Michigan Parents of Children with Visual Impairments for 12 years, and now the Executive Director of Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind, an organization that operates summer camps near Grand Rapids for “our kids”. Our camps are unique in that we hire blind and visually impaired staff members – many of them former campers – to be program developers, counselors and mentors for their younger peers. Our Camp Director is visually impaired and our Assistant Camp Director is blind, so they know personally what your child faces every day. We also hire “sighted” staff, especially those who wish to teach blind or visually impaired children, to make sure we keep everyone safe.

As the Executive Director of Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind, I have watched and taught many children who are blind or visually impaired to do some of the everyday things that most people do. Some of them are great travelers, some good cooks, some fabulous artists, some are just plain entertaining! Some are also wall flowers, timid, and unsure of themselves. Some are afraid to try new things, afraid of failure, of being told that, once again, they “got it wrong” for no reason they could possibly have perceived with the senses they possess.

The point is, blind children are children first, children who happen to perceive the world around them using different pathways than most of their peers, their parents, extended family, teachers, and most of the people they meet on the street. Does that make them: Odd? Strange? Scary? Hard of Hearing? Invalids? Does that make them incapable of crossing a street on their own, cooking a meal from scratch, raising their own garden, raising their own children, buying their own groceries, holding their own job, becoming a successful entrepreneur, holding public office, owning their own house? (In case you are wondering, the answer is “no” to all of these questions).

I get so tired of, “he’s doing



very well, for a blind child". Sometimes it's unspoken. But rarely does it mean he is doing very well without

regard to his disability. Does a disability make things harder? Of course, at least in some ways. But we all have our challenges, our strengths and weaknesses. One of my son's strengths is that he is blind. He doesn't judge people by the color of their skin or what they wear, what their house looks like or what neighborhood they live in. He loves classical music and sci-fi and fantasy movies. He listens intently to what is going on, and he usually gets it right. He can cook, has a fairly discerning palate, does his own laundry, gets himself to class, travels to neighboring cities, and generally manages everything about his life pretty well. Pretty well for ANY college kid – not "for a blind child".

Who our children are and who they become is very moldable. Parents are entrusted with this process of helping their child discover who they are and giving them the tools they need to be successful on whatever path they choose. Any child who is not allowed to run because they might

fall down and get hurt, take on a service project because they might not succeed, or told not to take an AP class because they might fail is destined to get hurt, not succeed, and fail.

Plants who have an abundance of nutrients and water sometimes grow weak stems – they need stress to develop strength. Children need to be expected to learn and grow, they need to be challenged. They need something in their way to overcome. Blindness or visual impairment is only one characteristic of our kids – it is NOT who our kids are – it's just something to learn to deal with and overcome.

If you struggle with letting your child be who they want to be, and try things that seem impossible to you, I encourage you to give me a call. Consider sending your child to summer camp – without you! Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind is offering 5 camps in 2015 on the west side of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and believe me, it is worth the drive. Our camps teach skills, challenge your kids in ways you may never have thought of, lead to EMPLOYABILITY, and above all HAVE FUN! So many of our children are spending so much time either doing homework – because it does take longer for blind or visually impaired children – or playing on their electronics

that they have little experience in social settings having a blast with others their own age who also have vision issues.

At our camps, we expect kids to grow and learn. We expect them to have fun. We pay attention to who they are and who they want to become and we try to help them get there. We help them see changes they might want to make in order to become more successful and fulfilled. We're just another voice – from someone close to their own age but old enough to know better – letting them know that they are great kids, but that they have some behaviors that they might want to change. We're another voice, letting them know that their challenges don't define them – but make them stronger. We're another voice, encouraging them to reach out, to touch, to taste, to smell, to experience!

By the way, if your child has additional disabilities, please give me a call. We can accommodate many types of disability from autism spectrum disorders to hearing impairment to mobility issues.

**You can find out
more about
Opportunities
Unlimited for the Blind at
www.oubmichigan.org.
You can reach
Gwen Botting at
gwen@oubmichigan.org
or 989-855-2430.**



Our Stories...

Nadine Nagle

A week ago Thursday the nation commemorated the 70th anniversary of VE day. Locally I invited a group of WWII veterans to a Senior Center in the area. If these heroes from the Greatest Generation can risk their lives during that war, the least I could do is give them a little local recognition in front of their peers. I was able to have the first man on Omaha Beach from June 6, 1944 give a memorable speech about that day. And even though this 94 year old Army veteran, Corporal Johnny McCloud admitted he has lost some of his memory over the past 70 years, he still did a magnificent job. What was fulfilling to me is I have met so many of these heroes over the years through their introduction to Enhanced Vision products.

Some of the folks that were invited for that day were Glenn Buirley who loves his



Merlin Elite, which helps him on a daily basis take care of his newspaper, mail and business. Mr. Buirley is a Bronze medal winner who led his men in Cassino, Italy in that great battle.

In addition to numerous other veterans from that war, we were honored to have Nadine Nagle at this commemoration.

Here was a lady who was raised on a farm in Kansas and married the love of her life. Her husband went off to war and he was a B-24 pilot killed in a crash in January 1943. Because of the death of her husband and her patriotic desire to replace him in

defending her country, Nadine decided she wanted to become a Women's Air Force Service Pilot (WASP). After completing a grueling training program she received her silver Wings. Nadine went on to fly PT-1, BT-13, AT-6 and AT-10 planes during the war years.

These days she lives alone in an immaculate house in Kettering, Ohio. We have always known to sustain life you need food, water and oxygen. But according to Nadine she needs one more element. She recently told me that "I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT IT" when talking about her Merlin Elite video magnifier. Nadine Nagle purchased the Merlin Elite in December 2013 and it seems to be her constant companion.

Visit us
online at
sightedguideohio.org





Toledo McDonald's Goes for the "Arcade" Look and Also Taking Special Needs into Consideration

By Kevin Milliken, La Prensa Correspondent

May 2015: The McDonald's Restaurant at 1560 E Alexis Rd, Toledo, is going for a more family-friendly atmosphere with some remodeling that was recently done. Owner Jon Harris gave select media an inside tour of the new "Arcade" look to explain the strategy behind the effort.

The renovations include a "sparkle table" where kids can play. A "dot wall" allows children to pound on the dots to make sights and/or sounds. There is also a "crayon table" allowing kids to draw directly on the table. That McDonald's franchise is among the first three in the country to have all of these kid-friendly play innovations that not only keeps your child busy, but if a child has special needs the dot wall and sparkle table can help soothe the child.

Thermodynamic seat backs allow kids to touch them and



reveal their hand-print.

The restaurant is one of the few in the country to have beveled digital menu boards and a third drive-thru window, which was done as a test for the corporate offices.

"So instead of parking cars, you can just pull them up to the third drive-thru window, service them, and move them on their way," said Harris.

The restaurant even has an ATM machine to ensure customers can still pay if any of the credit or debit-related equipment fails during a power outage or other incident. There are even 32 electrical outlets in the lobby so people can hang out, use their computers and the restaurant's Wi-Fi. The lobby has computer tables installed with different heights to accommodate the various sizes of restaurant patrons.

"This store is twice the size that the old store was," said Harris, pointing out the entire restaurant and parking lot lights are LED in attempt to be more energy-efficient. The napkin dispensers use 100-percent recycled paper. "Pretty much all of McDonald's



is going green and we're on the cutting edge of it."

Harris is also a subscriber to the locally-owned Creadio radio service, which broadcasts in-store advertisements via radio and TV. He credits a rise in dessert sales to Creadio, which prevents ads from competitors from being broadcast within the restaurants.

Harris owns nine McDonald's franchises in metro Toledo and across northern Ohio. His stores also participated in a unique corporate-wide marketing strategy in February, where randomly-selected customers were given the option to "Pay with Lovin,'" an offshoot of the McDonald's "I'm Lovin' It" ad campaign. Customers could give a friendly fist bump to a restaurant employee, sing a song, give a compliment, or call a loved one, among other things.



Visual Tech Connection

By Ken Serey

Next to heart disease and arthritis, low vision is the greatest handicap among those over the age of (65), affecting millions of people in the United States. Although the loss of sight is most often seen in the elderly, people of all ages may experience low vision. Some of the most common conditions causing low vision would be macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, cataracts, general scarring and retinal detachment. In the United States, it is estimated that 14% of all people ages 55 to 64 have some form of age-related macular degeneration. This rises to 20% of 65 to 75 years old and up to 37% of those over 75. As more people are affected with this form of low vision, The Visual Tech Connection line of low vision products now give the opportunity to continue

reading and keep the individual's freedom and normalcy of life.

People with any of the low vision handicaps can regain their independence using the Visual Tech Connection family of video magnifiers, also referred as CCTV's or personal readers. These units can enlarge text and other objects. They increase the contrast and readability of just about anything. Pill bottles, checkbooks, recipes, pictures, crossword puzzles or newspapers, to name a few, are things that become very easy to read or see.



residence, this enables the person to read in the comfortable, private surrounding with normal lighting. In addition we have the patience and understanding to give the necessary training on any of their video magnifiers. "Our goal is to help individuals gain their independence, self-confidence and increase their quality of life".

Unlike a typical visual aid outlet, the Visual Tech Connection personnel are equipped to give personal, free, no-obligation demonstrations. By demonstrating in the individuals own

My brother and I have been in business for 30 years and we represent numerous manufacturers so we are comfortable knowing we can find the correct item for any persons sight problem. We cover all 88 counties in Ohio, and through the years we have helped thousands and thousands of individuals regain their independence.





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Price and participation may vary. ©2014 McDonald's.

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Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind



Serving youth and adults with blindness or visual impairments

OUB's Mission:

to enrich the quality of life of people who are blind and visually impaired through lifelong education and recreation.

More than a summer camp

OUB Camps are fabulous opportunities for children and adults with blindness or visual impairments to learn, grow and thrive! Our camps provide an outdoor educational experience where kids and adults can safely participate in all of the usual traditional camping activities like campfires, swimming, boating and hiking, while learning skills that will help prepare them for a lifetime of independence and success.



Contact Us

989-855-2430
oubmichigan.org



At OUB Camps, children and adults learn:

- Social Skills
- Cooking
- Mobility
- Gardening
- Science
- Nature
- Self-reliance
- Self-confidence
- Blindness is not a barrier, just an obstacle!



OUB is a charitable nonprofit organization under Section 501c3. We gladly accept your generous donations!

Who can attend?

Anyone who is blind or has a visual impairment that interferes with their learning and living is welcome to attend OUB Camps.



Welcome to Ability Front!

Did you know?

Intel's Anticipatory Computing Lab is upgrading Stephen Hawking's communication system and making it open source. The upgraded system reduced the number of words Hawking needed to spell out by adding word-prediction technology that is used in smartphones. It also sped up common tasks such as opening a document or browsing the Web. The new platform makes the word-prediction software more conversational and expands motion-sensing capabilities. The team is now working on a tool so that users can, for example, choose an application or open a new document using various facial expressions.

<http://theinstitute.ieee.org/people/profiles/lama-nachman-leveraging-technology-to-help-people-with-disabilities>

For some additional cutting-

edge technologies touching on wheelchairs and home robots, see <https://usodep.blogs.govdelivery.com/2015/05/11/technologies-in-the-works-that-will-improve-quality-of-life/>

A new Medicare card is coming, one that will no longer display a cardholder's Social Security number. See details at <http://oig.ssa.gov/newsroom/blog/apr29-medicare-card-SSN>

"Voices" will make its national debut on PBS for Mental Health Awareness Month. "The film seeks to put a human face on serious mental illness, which is too often consigned to the margins by fear and dread," said filmmaker Gary Tsai. Read more at: <http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=BEXOgHBDX1e1%2BbliUNDbDZ%2Bf4TK9bL%2B%2B%2B>

Resources:

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) has gathered local, state and national resources of use to professionals and participants with vision, hearing or combined sensory loss.

Vision and Hearing Resources: <http://ood.ohio.gov/Core-Services/BSVI/Vision-and-Hearing->

Resources primarily contains Internet links and other information on general resources, Advocacy Groups, Media and Communications Access, Hearing Aid Assistance, Learning Resources and other information useful for deafness, blindness and deaf/blind community members. This is a Word document accessible to screen reader users.

Deaf Ohio Resources: <http://ood.ohio.gov/Programs/Community-Centers-for-the-Deaf/Deaf-Ohio-Resources> compiles a wealth of local resources gathered by combining information from the Community Centers for the Deaf (CCDs) around Ohio. Resources on advocacy organizations, communication methods, deaf culture, education, health, technology, and other relevant areas are all in a searchable Excel document.

The National Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision at Mississippi State University offers "A Transportation Guide for Persons who are Blind or Have Low Vision." This guide is designed for persons with vision impairments or those who serve them. The guide uses plain language to cover topics ranging from public transportation to orientation & mobility

Knowledge
is love and
light and
vision.
~ Helen Keller



Welcome to Ability Front!

training and is aimed at helping users overcome barriers to transportation. The guide is here, to be downloaded free of charge.

Read how a buyer who is deafblind found a hidden feature in her Apple watch that changed her navigation, communication strategy and other important independent living functions in her Life.

<http://mic.com/articles/117316/a-deafblind-woman-found-a-hidden-feature-in-her-apple-watch-that-changed-her-life>

New from Ohio NAMI, Bridging the Gaps between Criminal Justice and Mental Health Summit Report. Recommendations come from a recent strategic planning workshop and legislative meetings. To review the full report, see: <http://namiohio.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b099e19f10fe02e8496e2344&id=6ba606729d&e=589ce6190c>

The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities has set up a new Video Library Available at <http://aaidd.org/education/video-library>

Reminders:

Trauma-Informed Care Summit June 17, Crowne Plaza North Hotel in Columbus.

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/>

trauma-informed-care-tic-summit-creating-environments-of-resiliency-and-hope-in-ohio-registration-16787343396

"Emergency Preparedness Training for People with Disabilities & Their Caregivers," came to Toledo (Lucas County EMS Training Center) Saturday, May 30th, intended for individuals with disabilities and family members. Register and learn more details here:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eas8fb3ebd83ad11&oseq=&c=&ch=>

Microsoft has started a free program for people with disabilities through which technicians access computers in need of repair and fix what they can remotely. The service number is 800-936-5900, with video phone/ASL support at (503) 427-1234. For more information such as calling hours, , see

<http://support.microsoft.com/gp/contact-microsoft-accessibility>

This 2015 calendar of events around Ohio from the Ohio Department of Insurance's OSHIIP division, covers Medicare Part A and Part B benefits, the prescription drug benefit (Part D), Medicare Advantage plans, and Medi-

care supplement insurance.

<http://insurance.ohio.gov/Consumer/OSHIIP/Documents/w2mFlyer.pdf>

Families USA has produced "Shared Decision Making: Engaging Patients to Improve Care" (to view it) The page includes key questions about how shared decision-making works, how it can improve patient care, how it fits into a more patient-centered health system, how to design a good shared decision-making program, and a list of links to other resources

<http://familiesusa2.org/assets/pdfs/health-system-reform/Shared-Decision-Making.pdf>

This site features free online courses from institutions such as Yale, MIT, Stanford, and Harvard. The site is optimized for mobile devices, which will allow users to take courses anywhere. Students can explore the courses, create unique programs and track their progress. For more information, visit www.onlinecourses.com

Find service opportunities at Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America www.nationalservice.gov/



Sighted Guide Ohio wants to send a special thank you to all our supporters for our first annual Vision Comedy Fundraiser!

Special Thanks to:

✓ **Ken Serey** from **Visual-Tech Connection** in

Westerville, OH

✓ **Taylor Adolph** with **Toledo Public Schools**; congrats for your accomplishments!

✓ **Jerrod Witt** and **Austin Ekert** from **AudibleEye** in Bowling Green, OH

✓ **Ayi Ayi Rikki** for personality and giving us a great performance!



{SGO did have a great turnout for our event to help Frogtown Low Vision, Rally Cap and Toledo Blind Outreach. Mark your calendars for July 2016 and help us raise our goal for next year}

Extra special thanks to Jairus Foundation and Dr. Rosenthal



SIGHTED GUIDE OHIO

Questions?

Please call: Adrienne at
419-870-2797 or adrienne@sightedguideohio.org



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Prevent Blindness



CLEVELAND

DATE: Tuesday, June 23, 2015

LOCATION: StoneWater Golf Club, 1 Club Drive, Highland Heights, OH 44143

TIME: 9:30 a.m. Registration; 11 a.m. Shotgun Start

CONTACT: Darcy Dowie 440.720.1285 ext. 401 or darcydl@pb ohio.org

COLUMBUS

DATE: Monday, August 10, 2015

LOCATION: Heritage Golf Club, 3525 Heritage Club Dr. Hilliard, OH 43026

TIME: 10am Registration; Noon Shotgun Start

CONTACT: Whitney Anderson at 614.464.2020 ext. 105 or whitneya@pb ohio.org

CINCINNATI

DATE: Monday, September 21, 2015

LOCATION: Heritage Club, 6690 Heritage Club Dr. Mason, OH 45040

TIME: 10:30 a.m. Registration; 12:30 shotgun start

CONTACT: Nyoshua Anderson at 513.531.9001 ext. 201 or nyoshuaa@pb ohio.org

Proceeds support Prevent Blindness – Ohio Affiliate's *Star Pupils* Program which prevents vision loss in preschoolers so that they can start school "ready to learn".



15-010

Perkins
eLEARNING

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: <http://www.perkinselearning.org/professional-development>

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

DID YOU KNOW

Verizon offers solutions for low or no vision

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

- 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 Extraverit™ • Samsung Convoy™ 3
- Samsung Gusto® 3 • LG Lucid™



Success Story...

Taylor Adolph

Taylor Adolph doesn't get much stage fright.

It's hard to fear an audience, he said, when you can't see it. So, he wasn't much worried about speaking at the Rogers High School graduation.

Taylor is the school's valedictorian. As far as anyone at the school knows, he's also the first blind TPS student to graduate at the top of his class.

The 18-year-old said he never gave much thought to his class ranking, learning only recently from the salutatorian that the pair have swapped the top spots numerous times while in high school. Now, armed with a 4.2 grade-point average and headed to Eastern Michigan University this fall, Taylor thinks the valedictorian title is a validation of a personal credo, that blindness might create obstacles, but is not a handicap.

"Disabled is a misnomer," he said. "It's only a disability if the person believes it's a disability."

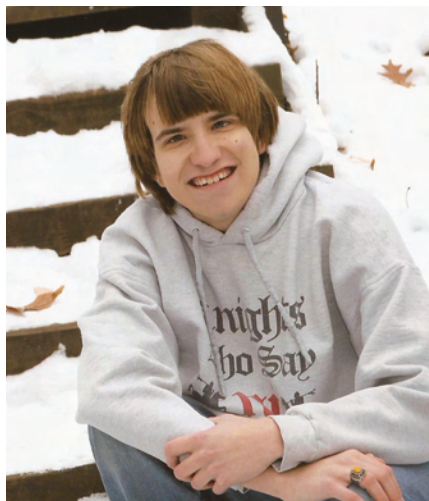
Taylor was not born blind. He has hydrocephaly, which causes fluid buildup in the brain. He had shunts installed to mitigate the buildup, but the shunts can fail, and his optic nerve was damaged because of a failed shunt. He didn't wake up blind. Instead, he suffered a gradual loss of vision when he was

8, which was noticed when he started failing math tests. Adults realized he was skipping questions because he didn't see them. Now, he has no sight in his left eye, and can only see large objects from a distance with his right.

There are schools for the blind, but Taylor wanted to remain mainstreamed. He chafed at the idea that blind people can't learn as fast as their sighted peers. And he thought other kids his age who were visually impaired were being held back by lowered expectations. So, he stayed in traditional classrooms, and has flourished. He's been near the top of his class for years.

Robyn Marufo, the district's Brailleist, has worked with Taylor since he lost his sight. She remembers that he told staff he didn't care what he had to do, he just wanted to learn to read.

Taylor learned two years of Braille in eight months, he said, determined to not let sight determine his future. There were difficulties, but he doesn't hide from these things, and he doesn't mind



talking to others about being blind. He'd rather kids ask him questions than talk behind his back. "If you don't ask, you don't get anywhere," he said.

His whole perspective on life changed when he went blind. Gone are many fears, he said, "Why be afraid of spiders when he can't see them? If they bite, they bite. It'll be too late to do much, anyway."

Judgment of others too has become a curious concept to him. Racism and other forms of discrimination are diseases of people who can see, he said. Sight leads to judgment. He lost his ability, or desire, to make surface-level judgments of others.

He hopes, he said, that being valedictorian will help his peers and others lose any surface-level judgment they might have of the blind.

**Lions Clubs International**

We are global.



Ohio Lions, Inc.
4074 Hoover Road, Grove City, Ohio
(614) 539-5060
Email: lionsoffice@ohiolions.org

VISION STATEMENT

TO BE the global leader in community and humanitarian service.

MISSION STATEMENT

TO EMPOWER volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs.

PURPOSES

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.

www.ohiolions.org



Rocky's Story

By Jan

FrogTown Low Vision Support Group actually was born over 40 years ago through friendships and circumstances.

Myself Paul (Rocky), wife Jan, friends Bob and Carolyn Koch and Ron and Shirley Thompson, forged friendships while living in the same neighborhood. Our children grew up and played together and we, as parents played cards and shared our lives with each other. At one time, Jan and I moved out of the neighborhood but, in the early 90's moved back. We had kept in touch with our friends and resumed our favorite pastime of playing cards at our respective houses every month.

Then, in 2004, the first of life changing tragedies struck our group. I went through a series or three retinal detachment surgeries, the last one being silicone oil placed in my right eye to hold the retina in place. At that time, the retinal specialist I had been seeing who did the surgeries told me the silicone oil would have to be taken out within a year to prevent damage to the cornea. During childhood I injured my left eye and had very limited sight in that eye. The best I could read was the big E on the eye chart. So now, this was my good eye in jeopardy. After a time, I became acquainted with the Sight Center Of Northwest Ohio, who helped me obtain devices to gain some sight and advice on how to adjust to a new life of low vision.

The silicone oil had been in for over a year and my sight was failing to almost total blindness. I sought out my retinal doctor and even though he ran tests, he

could find nothing wrong. He refused to remove the oil even as he had told me that it couldn't remain in longer then a year for it would destroy the cornea. I

was devastated. So much so that I contemplated suicide.

I tried to find a support group where I could vent my anger and speak of my fear, but none was to be found. Even though, through the Sight Center, I met totally blind individuals as was Gil Lutz, (who is a member of our group) that were living useful and happy lives. I didn't feel connected to these people. I needed something more. I started depending on my friends more and more and at that time, we started calling ourselves the FrogTown Group (Jan's idea because of our hometown onetime nickname).

In 2007, another member of our group became afflicted with Macular Degeneration. Shirley was seeing Dr. J Gregory Rosenthal and suggested that I see him for a second opinion. I will be forever thankful to Shirley as I felt an immediate connection to Dr. Rosenthal. He really cared! After the tests were finished, the first words out of his mouth were "Why is the silicone oil still in?; It is



leaking." Because it was leaking, it was also destroying the cornea which gave me the answer as to why my eyesight was getting worse.

We scheduled surgery in December of 2007 for removal of the silicone oil and some repairs to the retina by Dr. Rosenthal, which was a success. Dr. Qais Farjo, a cornea specialist did a partial cornea transplant a couple of months later. The results of these two surgeries were amazing and to this day, March 12, 2013, my retina is still stable.

FrogTown Low Vision Support Group is waiting with open arms to help any who wish to learn to live again and be involved in the direction their life will move



Rocky's Story

I am able, with the help of a visual magnifier, to read books, address envelopes, read four lines on the eye chart, and read correspondence. With Zoom Text on the computer, I can communicate with others. The improvements were slow in coming but they definitely helped improve my outlook on life.

About the time of my diagnosis, a third member of our group, Carolyn, came down with Diabetic Retinopathy and also began seeing Dr. Rosenthal. With the three of us having serious problems, we unofficially started supporting each other and the name became FrogTown Low Vision Support Group. The big topic of our monthly card games was discussing treatments and giving encouragement. What makes this so rewarding, is that our spouses were right there with us all the time sharing their views and offering their support.

In April of 2009, Bonnie Shefdore of The Sight Center Of NW Ohio invited the six of us to get involved in an 8 week low vision support group course concerning most of the problems that the vision impaired come into contact with. Upon completion of the course which filled in some of the holes of what I along with Jan, my wife, had been searching for, we agreed to expand upon that which we had unofficially begun a long time ago.

On June 2nd of 2009, Jan and I changed the name to Frogtown Low Vision Group and brought it into the public arena within the Lucas County Library system. We offer hope, laughter, friendship and information to our group. We listen and let the vi-

sion impaired along with their spouses and caretakers know that they are not alone. We offer a forum for the caretaker to express themselves as well as the one with the vision problem. We offer education in the form of guest speakers such as Dr. Rosenthal. We offer information relating to their everyday living with articles or guest speakers demonstrating devices or organizations such as the Lucas County Library informing the vision impaired of the services offered through the library system.

Not enough can be said of the Lucas County Library system, where we hold our monthly meetings, for their support of our cause. With their blessings, we are able to have guest speakers, serve coffee, snacks, and occasionally finger foods for our October Feast. In September, we hold a product show on the library premises and in June and December FrogTown sponsors a picnic and Christmas Party elsewhere as the library does not have the facilities for meetings of this type.

We, of FrogTown Low Vision Support Group are coming upon our 8th anniversary and with the Grace of God, and the help of those sponsoring our endeavors, we hope to celebrate many more. The picnic and Christmas party are our crowning achievements and in February 2013, the most meaningful and poignant monthly meeting of the FrogTown Low Vision Support Group ever, was the Caregiver Appreciation Day that we put on with the idea blossoming from member Barbara Ser-



vais.

Flowers were presented to the caregivers and cookies and snacks

were provided by Robin Malone and Mary Ann Smith. The vision impaired thanked their caregivers and there were many moist eyes in the room that day. It just can't get any better then this!

Our group is very diverse in age and talent. So many wanting to help in every endeavor including setup and take down, supplies, decorating, food, ideas, insight, and just plain giving of oneself in friendship and fun. I could never have envisioned what FrogTown has become. It did take a lot of time and work with Jan making flyers and the two of us pounding the pavement dropping off the flyers everywhere that we thought would spur interest in the support of the vision impaired.

I sincerely hope that my story will be an inspiration for others who are concerned with the well being of the vision impaired and for all those who also are affected by the misfortune of a loved one. There is no greater reward then watching someone who comes to our meetings with their head down and within a couple of months their head is held high with a smile on their face and with a new appreciation of life.

Founders,
Paul and Jan Rachow

www.frogtownvision.org
frogtowngroup2020@sbcglobal.net



We are a family-friendly chiropractic practice accepting patients of all ages. Walk-ins are always welcome.

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Maumee Chiropractic & Wellness

Maumee Chiropractic & Wellness is a full-service chiropractic clinic that recently opened on Tollgate Drive in Maumee. Under the direction of Dr. Daniel Hosey, who has been in private practice for 12 years, the clinic specializes in the assessment and treatment of many different types of injuries and pain-related ailments.

Hosey offers the lat-

est in chiropractic techniques to treat conditions such as chronic and acute low back pain, neck pain, migraine headaches, vertigo, dizziness, fibromyalgia, and rheumatoid and osteoarthritis. He has also successfully treated conditions related to sports injuries or continuously repet-



itive motions such as tennis elbow, bursitis, foot and ankle pain, plantar fasciitis and knee and shoulder pain. And he is certified in the treatment of soft tissue injuries associated with motor vehicle accidents.

"We use a variety of chiropractic techniques with an emphasis on activator methods," he said. "I prefer this technique because it is safe, highly effective and completely painless." The activator method utilizes different levels of pressure, including lower for infants and children and higher for adults.

"There is no torque or twisting with this technique and it is suitable for all types of patients, ranging from pregnant women, infants and children to athletes and seniors," he said. "I'm very excited and proud to bring my expertise and experience to this wonderful community."

Hosey is committed to helping patients in Maumee and the surrounding area feel better. "We look forward to serving and being a part of this dynamic community."

Maumee Chiropractic is located at 1651 Tollgate Dr. next to The Cookie Lady. For a free spinal examination and consultation, call the office at (419) 887-9990.

More information available at maumeechiropractic.com



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Tickets will be available starting July 18th at The Andersons Market on Sylvania Avenue, The Andersons on Monroe Street & at Sautters Market in downtown Sylvania. Advance sales will end August 6 at 7 pm.



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Toledo LASIK
The Vision Center



High School Student Develops App for the VI Community

Shalin Shah, a high schooler, designed an iPhone app for people who are blind or visually impaired. Help encourage him by testing his app and give him feedback. On his own initiative, and without teacher input, Shalin, created an app which will:

- assist a user to take a picture of a page containing text, and it will:
- tell the user if the focus is correct
- adjust for brightness
- adjust for a picture of text on a curve such as a can label
- take the actual picture when auto settings are acceptable
- run optical character recognition on the picture

- read the resulting text using text-to-speech software

The app begins explaining the app and how it works. It then lets the user know if the camera has the picture properly aligned and, if so, announces that it has located all four corners of the text.

With voiceover on, the user is told when the picture is taken; when the OCR is processing it; and finally uses a text-to-speech engine to read it to the user. The speed of the reading is adjustable.

All of this is accomplished in a brief time and is done automatically without requiring user input in the process.



Because the OCR relies on an online application, the time required is slightly dependent on the quality of the Internet connection.

The app is called Voice and is available from the iTunes online store.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/voicetake-picture-have-it/id903772588>

Shalin is eager to receive evaluations and any tips for improvements and modifications. His email address is: shalin-vs@gmail.com. Please take a moment to review the app, or at the very least send an e-mail to this young man thanking him for his initiative.

Netflix Begins Audio Description for the Visually Impaired

By Tracy Wright, Director of Content Operations at Netflix

At Netflix, we work hard to continually improve the experience for our members when viewing movies and shows on our service, including providing accessibility across devices. Now we're expanding our accessibility options by adding audio description on select titles, beginning today with our new critically acclaimed series, *Marvel's Daredevil*.

Audio description is a narration track that describes what is happening onscreen, including physical actions, facial expressions, costumes, settings and

scene changes. Customers can choose audio narration just like choosing the soundtrack in a different language.

In the coming weeks, we'll add more titles, including current and previous seasons of the Golden Globe and Emmy award-winning political thriller *House of Cards*, Emmy award-winning comedy-drama series *Orange Is the New Black*, as well as Tina Fey's *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt* and the epic adventure series *Marco Polo*.

Netflix is actively committed to increasing the number of audio-vi-



sual translations for movies and shows in our English-language catalogues. We are also exploring adding audio description into other languages in the future.

Over time, we expect audio description to be available for major Netflix original series, as well as select other shows and movies. We are working with studios and other content owners to increase the amount of audio description across a range of devices including smart TVs, tablets and smartphones. Stay tuned.



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



SCC Helps Parents of Visually Impaired Children

Sightless Children Club (SCC) is a non-profit organization for parents of visually impaired youth and citizens who are interested in the education and social needs of visually disabled children and young adults. SCC also provides parents with the benefits of shared experience in a supportive social setting.

SCC continues to provide specialized equipment needed to enhance the educational endeavors of visually impaired individuals at the grade school, high school, college, and work-related levels enabling them to function on the same level as their sighted peers. SCC also helps support other community service groups with educational/information programs.

SCC meets on a monthly basis to provide the needed interchange among parents on the rearing of visually impaired children. Seminars and speakers provide information concerning the latest equipment and opportunities available to the blind and visually impaired.

We encourage regular attendance and active participation at club meetings and functions, since the club works best when everyone is involved and is willing to share their information, experience, and encouragement with the entire group.



If you feel the Sightless Children Club, Inc. could be of assistance to you and your children, we invite you to contact us for more information on joining our organization.

For more information, call 937-454-6970 or e-mail us at info@sightlesschildren.org



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419-870-2797

adrianne@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

WE BRING FAMILIES AND RESOURCES TOGETHER



SOCIAL SECURITY

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DISABILITY

Question: How do I appeal a decision on my application for disability benefits?

Answer: When we make a decision on your application, we'll send you a letter explaining our decision. If you don't agree with our decision, you can ask us to look at your case again, or appeal it. You must appeal within 60 days from the date you get our decision letter. You can:

- File a disability appeal online with our new, improved process and electronically provide documents to support your request, even if you live outside of the United States; or

- Visit your local Social Security office.

For more information, call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. To learn more about Social Security's disability programs, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

Question: How do I know if I meet the eligibility requirements to get Social Security disability benefits?

Answer: To qualify for Social Security disability benefits, you must have worked long enough in jobs covered by Social Security (usually 10 years). You must also have a medical condition that meets Social Security's strict definition of disability. We consider an adult disabled under our rules if he or she has a medical condition, or combination of medical conditions, that are expected to last for at least

one year or result in death, and that prevent the performance of any type of work.

If you think you may be eligible to receive disability benefits and would like to apply, you can use our online application at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME

Question: What do I need to report to Social Security if I get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments?

Answer: You need to report

QUICK TIP!

Please don't grab my arm and assume I need help. Ask me first and I can tell you how to guide me if I need you to!





SOCIAL SECURITY

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

any changes that may affect your payment amount. This includes changes in your income or resources. You must report changes of address, changes in your living arrangements, and changes in your earned and unearned income. To learn more about SSI, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi.

Question: How can I become a representative payee?

Answer: If you know someone who receives Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and who needs assistance managing his or her payments, contact your local Social Security office about becoming his or her representative payee. Go to www.socialsecurity.gov/payee for more information.

MEDICARE

Question: How do I sign up

for Medicare Part B if I already have Part A?

Answer: If you already have Medicare Part A and wish to sign up for Medicare Part B, call Social Security's toll-free number 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). Or, contact your local Social Security office.

To learn more about Medicare, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare.

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List of resources and Camps

Lions Bear Lake Camp: Visually Impaired and Youth Sessions, Level 1 July 5-11 (first timers) and Level II July 19-25. Cost is \$50. The Open House is on June 28, 2015 from 12:00 noon through 3:00 p.m. Lions Bear Lake Camp is in Lapeer, MI. www.bearlakecamp.org

Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind: Blindness Immersion I – June 14 -21 collaboration with SITC/ABVI. Blindness Immersion II – June 21-June 27 Collaboration with SITC/ABVI. June 28 – July 3 Cookin' & Jammin' Camp. July 5 – July 12 Survivor Art Camp. July 13 – July 23 Adventure Camp.

Please call the OUB office at 989-855-2430 or email gwen@oubmichigan.org with any questions. www.oubmichigan.org

VIP Sports Camp at Slippery Rock University, PA: June 18-25, 2015. Cost is \$300 per 1st athlete and \$250 for siblings. You may also contact Wendy Fagan directly at wendy.fagan@sru.edu.

Space Camp for Interested Visually Impaired Students or SCIVIS: September 19-24, 2015 (travel home 25th) Cost is \$710 but some scholarships are available throughighthouse School for the Blind.

SCIVIS is a week long camp that takes place at the US Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Coordinated by teachers of the visually impaired. <http://www.tsbvi.edu/space/>

Miracle League of NWO: Provides opportunities for children and adults with disabilities to play Miracle League baseball, regardless of their abilities. Located at 2100 Tracy Rd., Northwood, Ohio 43619. The city of Northwood has graciously donated land in their Brentwood Park to the Miracle League of Northwest Ohio. Brentwood Park is located at 2100 Tracy Road, right behind the fire station!

www.mlnwo.org Parent meeting and registration for Summer 2015 will be held.

Toledo & NWO Parents of Visually Impaired: Facebook page created to help parent to parent networking about IEPs, ADLs, technology, and events going on in or around our area. If you are on Facebook please find us and join our group!

DID YOU KNOW...

October 15th is National White Cane Safety Day?

It is celebrated to remind people about the abilities, rights, and responsibilities of the blind.

Upcoming Events

Events are subject to change. Call ahead to confirm.



CLOVERNOOK CENTER
FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Clovernook Center Youth Summer Camp

Clovernook Center's Summer Day Camp's are fast approaching! This year, camps will take place over three weeks, and will feature a variety of topics and activities.

The 2015 camp schedule is as follows:

For youth ages 13 - 22:

- June 8-12th
- June 15-19th
- June 22nd-26th

For youth ages 8 – 12:

- July 6-10th
- July 13-17th
- July 20-24th

Please note: Youth may attend as few or as many weeks of camp as they would like.

For questions and to RSVP, please contact 513-728-6224 or dfatora@clovernook.org.



Upcoming Events

Mind's Eye Programs for Visitors Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision

Posted by: American Foundation for the Blind

Wednesday, July 8, 2 pm

Join us for a tour and discussion of *Storylines: Contemporary Art at the Guggenheim*. Bringing together over one hundred works from the Guggenheim's contemporary collection, *Storylines* examines the diverse ways in which artists today engage narrative through installation, painting, photography, sculpture, video, and performance. This tour will be conducted through Verbal Description and touch.

FREE; space is limited. RSVP is required by Wednesday, July 1. To RSVP, call 212-360-4355 or e-mail access@guggenheim.org.

2015 National Family Conference of the National Association of Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI) in Chicago, IL

Posted by: American Foundation for the Blind

7/10/2015 - 7/12/2015

Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind, 1850 W Roosevelt Road, Chicago, IL

Join us! We are organizing a phenomenal conference program for you and your family. The conference welcomes parents of children of all ages with visual impairments, blindness, and ad-

ditional disabilities including siblings, extended family and friends. Register online.

For more information contact Susan LaVenture, Executive Director NAPVI at laventures@lighthouseguild.org or 800-562-6265. www.lighthouseguild.org

Apple Devices in the Classroom for Visually Impaired Students

Posted by: UDS Low Vision Services

8/27/2015

8:00 am - 3:30 pm

**420 Washington Ave.,
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221**

Learn about technology and classroom innovations which have revolutionized access to printer materials in the classroom for students with visual impairments. Includes small group instruction on iOS VoiceOver, use of iPad for students with low vision, complimentary lunch, and mini-presentation on developing IEP goals, identifying interventions, and monitoring progress toward goals. (Approved for 6 hours of ACVREP continuing education.)

Cost: \$55.00; Contact: Dr. Cheryl Reed; (330) 762-9755 ext. 235; Email: creed@udsakron.org; www.udsakron.org

List
your event
with us.
Email: [Adrianne@
sightedguideohio.org](mailto:Adrianne@sightedguideohio.org)



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 information available online at www.sightedguideohio.org

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Ohio's average home price is \$129,000. If your rent is over \$620 a month, buying a home or condo may be better for you!*

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Make your move with the Ohio Housing Finance Agency.
Visit **MyOhioHome.org** for more information.



57 E Main Street Columbus OH 43215 toll free 888.362.6432 fax 614.644.5393

The Ohio Housing Finance Agency is an Equal Opportunity Housing entity. Loans are available on a fair and equal basis regardless of race, color, religion, sex, familial status, national origin, military status, disability or ancestry. Please visit www.ohiohome.org for more information.

