

2015 Fall Edition
Volume 1 Issue 4

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SIGHTED GUIDE OHIO

Serving visually impaired and blind
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 Adrienne Kolasinski



Photo of John Soovagian

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

— Helen Keller





PROOF IT TO ME

KAREN GRACY-TARASCHKE
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Center for Instructional Supports and Accessible Materials
Ohio State School for the Blind Outreach Program and Services

ACCESSIBLE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

What Are Accessible Educational Materials (AEM)?

AEM are materials designed or converted in a way that makes them usable across the widest range of student variability regardless of format. In relation to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the term AEM refers to print instructional materials that have been transformed into specialized formats. There are four specialized formats: audio, braille, digital, and large print text. Sometimes students with disabilities have difficulty accessing print in the same way as their peers. To succeed in school, these students need learning materials presented in a way that works for them.

Who Can Receive AEM?

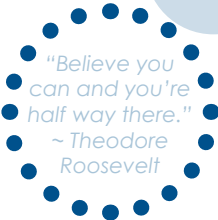
Under IDEA, state and local education agencies must ensure that children with disabilities who need AEM in specialized formats receive those materials in a timely manner. Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, schools must provide AEM in alternate formats to a student with a disability if the student needs them to learn.

Contact CISAM for further information:

CISAM
5220 North High St.
Columbus, OH

614-644-8254 (fax)

<http://cisam.ossb.oh.gov>



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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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A Story of Horses and Blindness

by Cheryl J. Reed, O.D., COMS

Our friends, Bob and Cathy, brought their 4 year old daughter, Kendra, to our farm. Kendra was totally blind due to retinopathy of prematurity. I was a young optometrist who was born with a passion for equines. Years earlier, I chose optometry as a profession (mostly by default) when I was told that I was unlikely to be admitted to the college of veterinary medicine with a paltry pre-med GPA of 3.70. As I lifted Kendra onto my horse, Sugar, I could hardly contain my excitement. What would she think of the horse's rhythmic forward movement? Would she caress his mane with her hands? Would this experience develop into a life-long love for horses?

"Kendra, pull the reins to tell Sugar to stop." Kendra pushed her hands forward! I explained, "No. Pull the reins." Once again, she pushed. I struggled to teach her this movement and finally resorted to using my hands to help her to pull. I was confused by her response and decided to move on to other ways of introducing her to this amazing animal. I wanted her to understand the size and shape of this 1,000 lb. animal. I encouraged her to touch the smooth, hard feet, run her fingers through the course mane, and touch the velvety nose of this huge creature. I placed

her hand on the hooves, mane and nose but I think that I may have been far more enthralled by the experience than she.

Over the next several years, I became more and more involved in a specialty area of optometry referred to as low vision. In optometry school, few people were interested in this field and many classmates humorously referred to it as "slow vision". After all, it was not as exciting as diagnosis of ocular pathology or fitting the newest custom-tinted contact lens. For whatever reason, my involvement in low vision grew and I gradually emerged from my quiet shell and began teaching, lecturing and assuming leadership roles within the state in the field of low vision rehabilitation. Along the way, my husband and I raised two sons and continued to enjoy horses and ponies on our small farm.

One of my favorite equines was Chocolate Brownie, a 25 year old Shetland pony who patiently tolerated years of pre-school show-and-tell, dress up for parades, and bus stop pick-up for my two children. (I am pretty sure that I was the only mom in our school district who thought it was cool to bring a pony to the bus stop, throw book bags over the saddle horn and lead my kids back to the house on their pony.) Brownie passed

away at an old age of 32 and I missed him and the memories of my kids' early childhood.

Many years later, my friend who had helped find our pony, Brownie, called to say he had picked up a cute pony at an auction. He could deliver it to me by Christmas! I was so excited. Not only did I get a darling little pony, I got a mare! Maybe I could fulfill the dream of raising a foal. I spent much time looking on-line for the perfect pony match but eventually decided that it would require much time and expense to breed and raise a foal. I also listened carefully as my friend and vet, Jenny, cautioned that when things go wrong in breeding and birthing a pony, the results are often heart-wrenching and disastrous. Several months later, I had a vet consult on the mares increasing weight. To my surprise, he told me she was pregnant and would give birth

Dr. Reed

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Cheryl and her horse Magoo

within weeks. The next day, she gave birth to a mostly white paint foal. I was overwhelmed with excitement as I watched her give birth and easily slip in to the new routine of mother hood.

Three days later, the vet returned to check out the foal and said everything was fine except the eyes. The foal had no pupillary reflexes! As I carefully looked into his eyes, I quickly realized that he had no pupillary reflexes because he had no iris! (The iris is the colored part of the eye that forms the pupil.) In addition, he had huge bulging eyes, cataracts and..... was blind. Unexpectedly, I was the proud owner of a rare congenitally blind pony who I would christen with the name Magoo.

I set about trying to figure out how to raise a blind foal. I put a bell on "mom" so Magoo could find his meals. Sheets of bub-

ble wrap were placed around a hard wooden pillar just outside the stall door. A wind chime was hung near the stall door. I walked around the pastures leading Magoo and teaching him verbal cues such as "left", "right", "whoa", "up", "down", and "walk". I allowed him to touch everything with his nose, even the electric fence which punctuated the edge of the board fence. After Magoo was weaned, I wanted to integrate him with the other horses in the large pasture. This

pasture was dotted with obstructions and treacherously uneven terrain. I worried that Magoo would get separated from the other horses, panic, run and injure himself. After weeks of creative thinking, I purchased a transistor radio and suspended it from the mother's neck. Magoo quickly learned that, regardless of the programming, the AM radio station represented the safety and comfort of his mother. He calmly followed her around and he, through trial and error, learned the location of every fence, tree, valley and knoll. Once the environment was learned, the radio volume was slowly decreased. Eventually, the sounds of baseball announcers and rock and roll oldies were replaced by natural sounds of birds, whinnies, and occasional traffic along Shade Road. Magoo developed impressive mobility skills using mental mapping and

echolocation. Only his protective fly mask, which he wore year-round for protection, would give any hint of his blindness.

In the winter of 2010, I contacted a friend who was a mobility specialist at the Ohio State School for the Blind in order to inquire about a new orientation and mobility program at The Ohio

State University. She explained that there was indeed a new program and that it was the last day to apply for a full scholarship to the one year old program. I requested an application and was granted one of the nine scholarships. I am now almost half way through the academic curriculum of the program. As I look back, I have come full circle. I now understand why Kendra did not understand the concept of "pull" and was less than eager to touch the body of the unfamiliar creature. I realize that Magoo was not an accident, but a gift. My first successful O&M student just happened to be a pony. I hope that I can someday teach a child the same freedom and confidence that I see in Magoo as he runs through the pasture with grace and agility.

Dr. Reed is Director of UDS Low Vision Services at United Disability Services in Akron, Ohio. UDS Low Vision Services provides low vision assessments, orientation and mobility assessments, CCTV assessments, and services of a teacher of the visually impaired. The Northern Ohio Bionptic Driving Program is a collaboration between United Disability Services and Edwin Shaw Rehabilitation. Magoo lives in Bath, Ohio with his buddies, Popcorn and Charlie.

Dr. Reed can be reached at 330-762-9755 or reed@udsakron.org.



The Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program's Second Application Window Open Now!

Deadline to apply is November 15. Help us spread the word!

Eligibility

Any student in grades K-12 with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is eligible to apply for a Special Needs Scholarship.

If you have questions, we're here to help! You can reach us by phone at 1-800-673-5876 or by email at info@schoio.org.

The Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program is just one of many options that are available to families in Ohio. Every child deserves a high-quality education in a learning environment that best fits his or her learning needs, and the state's scholarship programs can help make that a reality for many families. If your family would like to learn more about Ohio's scholarship programs and find out if your child could be eligible, please contact School Choice Ohio at 1-800-673-5876.

When it comes to education, one size does not fit all. Children thrive when they attend a school that is a great fit for them academically and socially. – Abby, Cincinnati



School Choice Ohio is the only statewide organization that educates parents on their child's education options and advocates for the expansion of quality options for every Ohio child. To contact School Choice Ohio or learn more, call 1-800-673-5876 or visit www.schoio.org.



How Colleges Help Visually Impaired Students Succeed

Blind and visually impaired students face unique challenges and barriers when it comes to higher education. This, however, does not mean that earning a degree is impossible. Several organizations and schools are dedicated to making college education accessible to the visually impaired, and today's technology now offers a wide range of tools and devices for successful learning. Support can be as simple as making web content font larger and clearer to providing devices that address an individual student's needs. AC Online is also dedicated to ensuring our content is accessible to all readers and created this guide to help blind and low vision students succeed in the classroom and beyond.

At *AC Online*, we do our best to continually improve our sites so that all our content is accessible to those with visual impairments. Here's a quick look at what we've done to make our site web accessible:

- **Color contrast:** Draws your eyes to the most important places
- **Clear readability:** Consistent font types are used over simple backgrounds
- **Visibility:** Action buttons are

organized and made highly visible to ensure you don't miss important information

- All our content is screen reader accessible

WHAT ELSE DO WE PLAN TO DO?

- Screen magnifiers
- High contrast (for day time and night time use)
- Quick-link to skip navigation tabs to content
- Eliminate screen reader limitations by correctly labeling images, having a clear layout, and correcting any Java code that may not be compatible with assistive software
- Ensure key board accessibility for navigation

Visual Impairments at a Glance

Because of its broad and varied nature, vision loss refers to individuals who are completely blind as well as those who have problems seeing—even when wearing corrective lenses. At the educational level, vision loss is classified into three major categories, which are based on an individual's functional limitations and how those limitations impact his or her ability to perform daily activities.



Technology for Visually Disabled Students

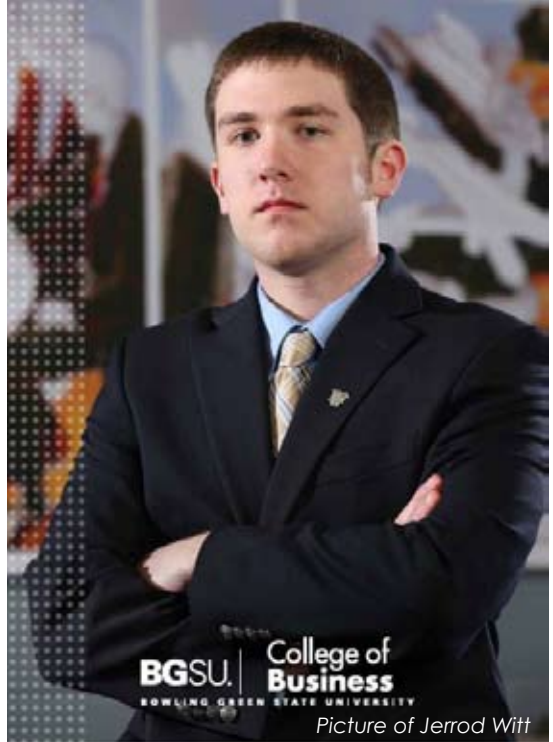
Online learning has long been regarded as an avenue to provide greater access to higher education. However, for blind students or those with vision loss, online learning can actually create obstacles—especially as technology and learning materials become more advanced. By the time the visually impaired student has reached college, they are typically familiar with the various types of assistive technologies and techniques used to navigate their classes and materials. Assistive technology can give students who are blind or have low vision support in all academic areas. The selection of devices and software is contingent upon a variety of factors and students may need to utilize multiple pieces of technology throughout their program of study. Below is a list of common assistive technology used in higher education.



AudibleEye

AudibleEye is a smartphone application that provides blind and visually impaired individuals with a verbal description of their location within a building. AudibleEye works by using Bluetooth Low Energy beacons to triangulate the position of the smartphone within a building. Once a building is outfitted with the Bluetooth Beacons the application can be used to find places of interest such as restrooms, meeting rooms, and other locations within the building.

The founder, Jerrod Witt came up with the idea for his company after seeing braille signs in locations that were puzzling to him. He determined that there had to be a way that upcoming technologies could be used to help the millions of individuals in the United States that are blind and visually impaired. During Jerrod's Junior year of College at Bowling Green State University he was accepted into The "Hatch" Class of 2014. The "Hatch" consisted of a 10-week extracurricular program that paired student entrepreneurs with alumni mentors to allow for business ideas to be "Hatched." Jerrod received an investment of \$10,000 for 10% equity stake in his business idea AudibleEye LLC in front of a live audience at The "Hatch" event in 2014. AudibleEye is seeking a second round of funding for the further development of the application, feel free to contact Jerrod for more information!



AudibleEye™

The app will soon be available on the Apple App Store to the public however it is currently in development. For more information visit www.AudibleEye.com



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Fruit N' Yogurt Parfait • Fruit & Maple Oatmeal • Hash Browns***



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*Available in most restaurants. All participating McDonald's. ©2015 McDonald's

McDonald's advertising now serving breakfast all day.



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.



Our Stories...

Kevin Dobens

Back when I was 5 years old, we use to pretend that our bikes were like motorcycles and inserted a key into the handle grip of the bike. One day, my next door neighbor asked to borrow my key for the weekend. When he returned, he climbed up on my backyard fence and threw the key. Instead of catching it, the key plunged into my right eye. This took the vision I once had from that right eye. After many surgeries, the doctors concluded that the damage was irreversible. They also discovered that the vision in my left eye would slowly decrease due to the trauma in the right eye. Between the ages of 9 to 19, the vision slowly decreased until it was gone from the left eye as well.

While I was young, my mom was determined that I would grow up with the same opportunities as my brother and sister. I went through Boy Scouts and became an Eagle Scout. I went to the beach and went on vacation. I would go camping, hiking and fishing. I may have had to learn how to do some things differently, but my mom made sure that I would learn how to do them. For example, I rode bikes with my mom. By putting a playing card in her spokes, I would

ride a bike while following the sound of the card snapping in her spokes.

At age 9, I was mainstreamed from a class for visually impaired/blind students into a regular fourth grade class. I continued in regular public school throughout high school, taking classes in metal shop, cooking, gym, English, math, science, computers, etc., scoring high on the SAT's in my senior year. I went to college, graduating with an Associate's Degree in Computer Science from Hesser College, a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing Management from Franklin Pierce University, and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of New Hampshire.

Over the years, I kept in mind something my mom always told me, which was to not let anything stop you from what you wanted to succeed at in life. Just find a way to overcome it and accomplish your goals.

I started working while in college pursuing my Associate's Degree. My first job was as a telemarketer for Olan Mills Portrait Studios. I learned how to overcome rebuttals, perceive an individual's thought process, and lead them toward making a purchase. These skills came

in handy with interviewing and dealing with others in everyday life.

After graduating from Franklin Pierce, I started a construction company with my brother, working on residential and commercial projects. Unfortunately, one of the managers overseeing a job site embezzled money from our credit cards and business cash account that we used for materials and other needs. We completed the jobs, but eventually shut down the company.

I briefly worked in Atlanta for Equifax before moving to New Hampshire, where I generated leads for the mortgage and real estate market. From there, I joined Choice Mortgage Corporation as a loan officer and worked my way to up Manager, eventually accepting an opportunity with Accredited Mortgage Corporation as Vice President of Operations. I assisted in growing the company, increasing the number of mortgage closures, adding additional lines of credit, increased the underwriting and loan processing department, and helped launch a lead-generation division.

From there, I went to Fidelity Investments as a manager within their Defined Contributions Department, where I oversaw a team



Our Stories...

Kevin Dobens

of 15 employees who processed transactions for IRAs. I received my series 6, 63 and series 7 licenses, attended classes to learn about MRD's, SWPS, Equity Washes, and many other work-related courses. Fidelity had me travel to other branch locations where I was able to set up and help others with assistive technology in order to become employed within various departments. It was during this time at Fidelity that I received my Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of New Hampshire. It was during this same time that I developed an interest in helping others to better themselves and be able to work regardless of their disability.

I applied to several agencies for the blind and was offered positions at all of them. In 2001, I joined Cincinnati Association for the Blind as an Assistive Technology Specialist. Nine years later I moved to Toledo, OH and took a position with the Sight Center for the Blind, as an Assistive Technology Coordinator. Initially, this was a great place to work until they lost their Executive Director, who was also blind. After her departure, changes were made that negatively impacted the job performance of visually impaired employees.

I moved on and started my own assistive technology company, Assistive Technology Creating Independence. I have been building this company for a year now and have found enjoyment and success with it. The template I now utilize for report writing is fully accessible and gives the ability to expand the information on my own. Being able to schedule my own hours and accomplish my work is easier to plan when I have the ability to control how it is done. I also travel around the state to service participants within the Northwest, Northeast, and Southeastern parts of Ohio, and service individuals with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities. I very much enjoy working with the wide range of individuals around the state, and find great joy within their accomplishments for both employment and advancement within their personal life in becoming independent.

During 2005, I met my bride-to-be after going through a difficult divorce. She had a different perspective in life on education, work and marital faithfulness, which was refreshing. I proposed to her with a beautiful ring that she loved, and we were married during June of 2007. We had Mackenzie, our first baby girl,

in 2008 and our world changed. Our daughter brought great happiness to our lives and helped us strive toward improving things for both our future and the future of our family. My wife, Nikki, who has a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, began working with United Way in 2010. In 2013, our second daughter, Kaylee, was born and has added even more joy to our family.

We are both active in our local church, Living Hope, where my wife helps in the nursery and is part of the ladies outreach to support the women in our church. I help out on the Missions Go Team, in order to minister to others in our community and raise financial support for these efforts. Additionally, I am the current chairman of the deacon board, helping with the business and ministries of the church. My family and I enjoy visiting with family, traveling, beach vacations, and spending time with our friends camping, going to apple and pumpkin festivals, and working with our children on their education, which is very important to us. We are always striving to help others and make a difference, within our personal lives and the lives of others each day.



Changes to the OOD Medical and Dental Fee Schedules

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), has implemented the first of a series of changes to the Medical, Psychological and Dental Fee Schedules. These changes are designed to align our practices with other state and local agencies, increase consistency across fee schedules, expand the number of VR purchased services that have established standards and rates, and further simplify the purchasing process.

As of August 10, 2015, the OOD rate mirrors the Medicaid rate when purchasing dental services, eye glasses, optometry & ophthalmological services as well as audiology services and hearing aids. Counselors and Coordinators may purchase these services from any credentialed provider who is in good standing with OOD and accepts the new fee schedule.

It is worth stressing that individuals served by OOD will not be denied the services or equipment they need to obtain their employment goal, as a result of this change. OOD and contract staff remains committed to providing all vo-

ocationally necessary services and equipment and to do so effectively and efficiently.

While some providers may choose not to accept OOD's rates, many providers are willing to do so. There is also a network of Medicaid approved providers in the state, listed on the Ohio Department of Medicaid's website, that OOD will begin utilizing. Only OOD's fees are changing, our purchasing and billing processes will remain the same. We will not be requiring providers to bill Medicaid; we are simply mirroring the Medicaid rates.

There are also some exceptions and necessary adaptations built into the system. If an optometrist or ophthalmologist, for example, has agreed to the Medicaid rate but the consumer would like a pair of eyeglasses that exceeds the OOD rate, the individual can pay the difference. If a service or equipment is vocationally necessary but not covered by the fee schedule, the area manager may approve an exception to be negotiated locally with the provider.



Opportunities for Ohioans
with Disabilities

In cases where there is not a Medicaid provider in the individual's county, staff will evaluate the cost of travel combined with the fee for the Medicaid provider compared to the cost of the non-Medicaid local provider to determine which is more cost efficient.

If an individual has private pay insurance or some other comparable benefit, the OOD contribution would be up to the allowed Medicaid rate.

OOD is committed to efficiently and effectively serving the individuals with disabilities engaging our services. These changes will bring greater uniformity, simplicity, and standardization to our fee schedules and ultimately, allow us to help more Ohioans achieve quality employment and independence.

If you have questions about this fee schedule change, please contact Greg Dormer, Assistant Deputy Director for the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation at (614) 438-1468 or gregory.dormer@ood.ohio.gov.



Two parents with children that have spelled White Cane Day with their white canes.

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

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 Extraveri™ • Samsung Convoy™ 3
 • Samsung Gusto® 3 • LG Lucid™



4th Annual Safety Fair at the Sylvania Township Fire Department

Whether we are big or small, we could all use a tip or two on what to do when it comes to fires or a catastrophe! That is why Sylvania Fire Dept, New York Life, Board Up and many others come together each year and help families to get a better understanding of fires and what to do if there is a fire.

This year is their 4th annual and “last year we had approximately 1,500 people show up and we are hoping for even more this year” states Fire Fighter Derek Meyer. “We wanted to educate the public and create a live demonstration to show folks so they can be more prepared”.

Families were welcome from 11am-2pm. The event even had accommodations for children with special needs from 11am-12pm to be able to make child ID cards and enjoy the event!

New York Life Insurance played a big role in helping families stay closer together today, Laura Frye a New York Life Financial Services Professional that has been



Picture of Laura Frye and John Valentine with New York Life.

doing the child ID for about 3 years now. “It is a conversation starter” she says.

Families that have children with special needs need to get preventive measures in place about their child’s life insurance options as soon as possible. The older the child becomes, the less likely they are to be able to receive life insurance.

“I know from personal experience, my sister went

in to the ER complaining of back pain and after some blood work, she came out with a leukemia diagnosis and is no longer insurable.”

“Don’t get the ostrich syndrome and keep your head in the sand.”

For more information on getting qualifying for life insurance for your child please call Laura at 419-887-4755 or email LFye@ft.newyorklife.com



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



My disability is one part of who I am.

At work, it's what people
can do that matters.

**National Disability Employment
Awareness Month —**
Celebrating 70 Years!



OFFICE OF DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT POLICY
United States Department of Labor
dol.gov/odep



Joint effort expands competitive, integrated employment opportunities for people with disabilities

Participants: U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living

Partnership description: Building on a partnership that started in 2012, the Office of Disability Employment Policy and the Administration for Community Living signed a new memorandum of agreement to continue to jointly expand and promote competitive, integrated employment as the first employment option for individuals with significant disabilities.

Background: Together, the agencies will leverage the knowledge and expertise of a broader network of advocates and service providers. The combined

network includes area agencies on aging, centers for independent living, aging and disability resource centers, state developmental disability councils, protection and advocacy agencies and university centers of excellence in developmental disabilities, and a variety of community organizations. In addition, the partnership creates new opportunities for cooperation and sharing of resources between the Administration for Community Living's Centers for Independent Living and the U.S. Department of Labor's Workforce Investment System.

Quotes: "This agreement solidifies our continued collaboration with the Administration for Community Living to align policy, practice, and funding toward outcomes

related to competitive, integrated employment, independent living, and optimal socioeconomic advancement for individuals with disabilities."

— *Jennifer Sheehy, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Disability Employment Policies*

"Integrated, competitive employment is central to community living and full participation in all aspects of our society. We are proud to work with ODEP to prove the opportunities for people with disabilities to contribute their talents and skills to the American workforce."

— *Sharon Lewis, Principal Deputy Administrator, Administration for Community Living*

For more information contact Tania Mejia at (202) 693-4686 or Mejia.Tania@dol.gov.



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Social Security Column

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY HELPS PEOPLE WHO WORK

By Erin Thompson

Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Toledo, OH

People with disabilities are challenged with both overcoming barriers and with convincing others that those barriers do not define them. That's why we wanted to mark this October's National Disability Employment Awareness Month by reminding you that Social Security is an earned benefit for millions of disabled individuals, and we can assist them in going back to work.

The Social Security disability insurance program, or SSDI, is perhaps the most misunderstood program of Social Security. Some people may think that SSDI recipients have never worked and are taking advantage of the system by receiving money for minor impairments.

Nothing could be further from the truth. First, anyone who qualifies for SSDI must have worked enough to pay into the system and be "insured." Second, Social Security has some of the strictest requirements in the world for disability benefits. To qualify, a person must not only have an impairment that will last one year or more, or result in death, but they must be unable

to perform any substantial work.

Consequently, Social Security disability beneficiaries are some of the most severely impaired people in the country, and they greatly depend on their benefits. You can learn more by visiting the Faces and Facts website at www.social-security.gov/disabilityfacts. At the website, you will find many personal stories of those who have benefitted from Social Security when they needed it most.

We also have incentives that give beneficiaries with disabilities — who are able — the opportunity to return to work. These work incentives include continued cash benefits for a period of time while you work, continued Medicare or Medicaid coverage, and help with education, training, and rehabilitation to start a new line of work. In some cases, we may even be able to deduct certain impairment-related work expenses from your countable income, making it possible to earn more and also remain eligible to receive benefits. Ex-



Erin Thompson

amples of these expenses are wheelchairs, transportation costs, and specialized equipment needed for work.

Social Security also offers the Ticket to Work program, which gives participants a "ticket" to go back to work while keeping their disability benefits. This program is free and voluntary. Ticket to Work gives access to an employment network, which offers assistance with job searches and placement, and vocational rehabilitation and training.

Those who enroll find the Ticket to Work program makes it easier to explore whether going back to work is right for them. Some even find that they are able to eventually get back to work and earn far more than the disability payments they once received. Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/work for more information on the Ticket to Work program and work incentives. You may also call 1-866-968-7842 (TDD 866-833-2967).



The MetroHealth System Launches Language Access and Communications Center

Concierge service offered for patients and families

(Cleveland) - The MetroHealth System is launching a Language Access and Communication Services Center at its main campus. The center will provide interpretation services for patients with limited English proficiency, hearing or sight impairments and patients requiring literacy support. A concierge center will be available in the outpatient pavilion across from the pharmacy, located at 2500 MetroHealth Drive.

The center will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and will serve as a full-access concierge, assisting people with navigating the many services MetroHealth offers. All staff will be bilingual in English and Spanish, and will have access to telephonic interpreters fluent in more than 200 languages. The services are offered at no additional cost to patients or family members.

MetroHealth strives to continually improve the health of the community and its diverse population, and recognizes the importance of helping people of different cultures, beliefs, and behaviors. The Language Access and Communications

Center provides an opportunity to meet patients' social, cultural, and linguistic needs.

"Providing this service breaks down unnecessary barriers to health care and positively impacts the entire patient experience," said Mari Galindo-DaSilva, coordinator of the Language Access and Communications Center. "We are committed to ensuring every patient, regardless of language spoken, is a full partner in the care they receive here at MetroHealth."

About The MetroHealth System

The MetroHealth System is an essential health system committed to providing health care to

everyone in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, and improving the health of the community overall. Its

6,600 employees deliver care to everyone at its main campus, just west of downtown Cleveland, and at 17 health centers.

MetroHealth is home to



Cuyahoga County's only Level I Adult Trauma Center and the John A. Gannon Comprehensive Burn Care Center, the only adult and pediatric burn center in the state of Ohio verified by the American Burn Association and the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons. In the past year, MetroHealth provided more than one million patient visits in its hospital and health centers. MetroHealth also is an academic medical center committed to teaching and research; each of its active physicians holds a faculty appointment at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. MetroHealth has earned Magnet status, which places it in the top 7% of all hospitals nationwide for nursing excellence.

MetroHealth's mission is, "Leading the way to a healthier you and a healthier community through service, teaching, discovery and teamwork." For more information, visit www.metrohealth.org.



Welcome To The...

6th Annual FROGTOWN Vision Technology Expo 2015

Hosted By

FROGTOWN VISION
SUPPORT FOR THE VISION IMPAIRED

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Dr J Gregory Rosenthal

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Pricilla Rogers

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Patricia Crosby

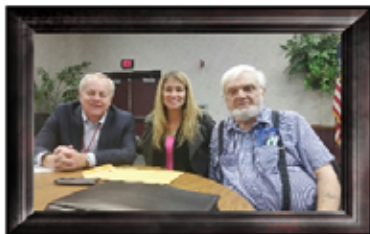
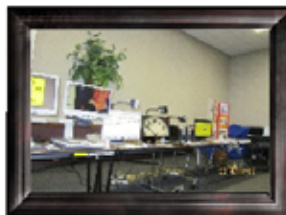
Irlen Clinic
Elaine Gutowitz

The Ability Center Of Greater Toledo
Mallory Tarr

Visual Tech Connection
Ken Serey

Walmart Vision Center
Troy Owens

Website: frogtowngroup2020@sbcglobal.net
E-Mail: frogtownvision.org
Website: justretina.com





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



Mike Corbett

**Orientation & Mobility Specialist
North Carolina, USA**

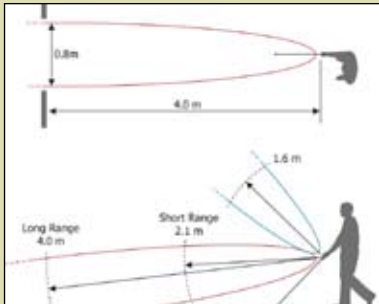
My clients have been pleased with the UltraCane's simplicity of operation and ease of use. Since it is incorporated into a long cane there is nothing additional needed. There are no external wires, earphones, battery packs—just everything all in one.

You might say it's the ETA (Electronic Travel Aid) that you can't forget and leave at home! It's the ETA that will always be with you!

The signals are simple and easily learned, allowing the user to proceed rapidly with incorporating the UltraCane into their travel scheme.

It offers excellent protection not only straight ahead, but from the cane hand upwards, which a simple long cane alone cannot do.

The UltraCane allows you to politely detect and avoid people or groups of people before you jab them with your cane and it is easy for the Orientation and Mobility Specialist to teach and easy for the user to learn.





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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.



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Upcoming Events

Ohio's American Council of the Blind convention Nov. 6-8 will be held at the Garfield Suites Hotel in downtown Cincinnati. (This year's convention is held jointly with Indiana ACB.)

<http://www.reservations.com/hotel/the-garfield-suites-hotel/#location>

Note: events and exhibit hall for this meeting open at 1PM Nov. 6. Register here:

<http://www.acbohio.org/convention/index.html>

6th Annual Frogtown Vision Technology Expo 2015

Date: 11/7/2015

Location: St. Luke's Hospital Auditorium

5901 Monclova Road

Maumee, OH 43537

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Hosted by the Frogtown Low Vision Support Group and Sighted Guide Ohio.

We are very pleased to have as guest speaker, the renowned retina specialist, Dr. J. Gregory Rosenthal from Alliance Retina, who will kick off the expo sharing exciting news for the visually impaired.

We will have vendors on hand to showcase products for people to try, see, and feel for themselves! There will also be organizations with information for the visually impaired informing them where they may go to receive help in the community.

Vendors and Organizations

- Dr. J. Gregory Rosenthal, Alliance Retina
- Priscilla Rogers, American Foundation for the Blind
- Walt & Carol Tylicki, Area Office on Aging
- Jerrod Witt, Audibleye Eye
- Patricia Crosby, Heather-downs Library
- Elaine Gutowitz, Irlen Clinic

- Mallory Carr, The Ability Center of Greater Toledo
- Ken Serey, Visual Tech Connection
- Troy Owens, Walmart Vision Center

For more information please call: Rocky at 419-877-8007 or Adrienne at 419-870-2797.

Email: frogtowngroup2020@sbcglobal.net

www.frogtownvision.org

From Canes to Tails: Orientation & Mobility Seminar

Dates: 11/12/2015 - 11/13/2015

Location: Guide Dogs for the Blind

350 Los Ranchitos Rd.

San Rafael, CA 94903

Time: 9:00am-5:00pm (both days)

Orientation & Mobility specialists who attend Guide Dogs for the Blind's O&M Seminar are eligible to receive 13 CE hours. This two day course meets the high standards set by the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP). Our program is designed to offer participants the means to demonstrate professional knowledge and skills that promote the provision of quality service and ethical practice.

Completion of our Orientation & Mobility Seminar will allow you to:

- Educate clients who express an interest in working with a guide dog to the guide



Please check out the November Issue of Toledo Parent!

Thank you to Toledo Parent for caring about all children, including special needs!



Upcoming Events

dog lifestyle, and in particular, the GDB class training program.

- Prepare clients in the transition from cane to dog.
- Assist clients in qualifying for the GDB program.
- Assist clients in completing the GDB application process.
- Assess clients' travel skills and other requirements for qualification for admission to GDB's program.
- Provide orientation assistance to active GDB alumni in the field.

Our Orientation & Mobility seminar is two days in length, and is FREE to attend! We do request however, that participants travel costs be met by the O&M specialist or their agency. Guide Dogs will provide a light breakfast and lunch to participants both days at no cost.

For more information and/or to register contact Jane Flower the Outreach Manager.

Contact: Jane Flower
Phone: (415) 492-4176

Perkins School for the Blind: Assistive Technology Workshop for Disability Services Staff

November 12, 2015 - 10:00am to 2:00pm
55 Beechwood Ave
Watertown, MA 02472
This workshop training provides:

- An overview of low vision,

blindness, deaf/hard of hearing, and literacy related hardware and software

- Hands-on sessions with a variety of assistive technology software and devices, including innovative products new to the market within the last 12 months

- Presentation and discussion of case studies involving students with visual, hearing and multiple disabilities

- Introduction/discussion of accessibility features for iPhones, iPads and other Apple devices

- Website and course content accessibility including review and preparation for WCAG 2.0 guidelines

- An opportunity to meet and network with other professionals from local colleges and universities who are involved in disability services

There is a \$75 fee for this workshop, which includes lunch.

For more information contact Ellen Hall

Business Development Manager, Perkins Solutions
617-972-7748
ellen.hall@perkins.org

The National Federation of the Blind convention

Nov. 20-22 will be at the DoubleTree in Independence.

<http://doubletree3.hilton.com/en/hotels/ohio/doubletree-by-hilton-hotel-cleveland-independence-CLEHSDT/maps-directions/index.html>

Note: Break-out sessions and exhibit hall for this meeting open at 9AM Nov. 20. Register here: www.nfbohio.org/conventionregistration.html

Perkins Information Session

December 3, 2015 - 9:30am to 11:30am

2nd floor - W203
175 North Beacon Street
Watertown, MA 02472

We invite families and professionals to learn how our Educational Programs support students everywhere, from Perkins' campus to public schools. Explore our classrooms and grounds, talk with our educators and experience the cutting-edge learning environment of the Grousbeck Center for Students & Technology.

Refreshments will be provided: coffee, tea and snacks.

We invite you to join us, and to share this information with anyone you know who might want to learn more about Perkins School for the Blind.

For more information about this information session, contact Martha Simon, Martha.Simon@Perkins.org, or 617-972-7476.

Guide Dogs for the Blind 39th Annual Festive Holiday Luncheon

at the Westin St. Francis Hotel, Union Square, San Francisco on Thursday, December 3rd 2015 at 11:00am

Westin St. Francis Grand Ballroom

Union Square
335 Powell St, San Francisco

Additional Information:

For further event information, please contact: Pat Blachley at 800.295.4050 ext 4021 or pblachley@guidedogs.com

Reservations close Thursday, November 19th.

Events are subject to change.
Call ahead to confirm.



Cleveland Sight Center

University Circle
1909 East 101st Street
Cleveland, OH 44106
216-791-8118
clevelandsightcenter.org

Cleveland Sight Center's mission is to empower people with vision loss to realize their full potential and to shape the community's vision of that potential.

Cleveland Sight Center is a CARF accredited non-profit agency founded in 1906 that provides preventative, educational, rehabilitative and other services for individuals who are blind or have low vision, directly serving approximately 13,000 clients annually and many more indirectly through radio reading and community outreach programs. In addition to providing educational and rehabilitative services, CSC also offers social and recreational activities for clients and hosts camping sessions at its summer camp Highbrook Lodge in Chardon, OH. Cleveland Sight Center has an on-site Vision Clinic specializing in low vision and routine eye exams, as well as a retail store featuring products for living well with vision loss.



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