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2016 Fall Edition  
Volume 2 Issue 4

# SIGHTED GUIDE OHIO



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## Message from the Editor

**“Be of good cheer. Do not think of today’s failures, but of the success that may come tomorrow. You have set yourselves a difficult task, but you will succeed if you persevere; and you will find a joy in overcoming obstacles. Remember, no effort that we make to attain something beautiful is ever lost.” –Helen Keller**

## Happy Autumn!

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.



Photo of John Soovagian



Photo of Adrienne Kolasinski



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# Sighted Guide Ohio hosts Mud Hens Night

By Kevin Milliken, *La Prensa* Correspondent

Sighted Guide Ohio (SGO) hosted a fundraiser Aug. 1, 2016 for its ongoing efforts to assist the blind and visually impaired through a special Toledo Mud Hens night at Fifth Third Field. Supporters purchased the entire allotment of 200 tickets to help the non-profit raise more than \$5,000. A visually-impaired student, Alex Bodi, threw out a ceremonial first pitch after a mock check presentation to the group.

The fundraiser enabled SGO to give a \$1,000 donation to the first Braille writer/reader student, Jalen Ballard, to ever attend St. Francis de Sales High School in West Toledo.

"If you want a geometry book in print, it's about \$120," said Adrienne Kolasinski, SGO founder, a publication listing vendors, services, and agencies for families of children with sight issues. "If you want that same book in Braille, it's \$2,700."

Ms. Kolasinski's own experiences in raising a blind son led her to create SGO and a related nonprofit known as VIBE—short for Visually Impaired and Blind Education. VIBE will assist students with the purchase of special adap-



tive technology needed to further their education. Chasteen estimated the cost of a first-time student going to a new school at \$15,000.

"This is a way to create funds without having to worry about it at the state or federal level and have it go right back to our local organizations and our local kids to create the independence that our visually-impaired and blind students need," she explained.

Sighted Guide Ohio is partnering with Frogtown Vision support group on an upcoming technology expo at St. Luke's Hospital so families can have hands-on access to try out the latest in adaptive devices for their loved ones. The show will

run Saturday, Sept. 17, 2016, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 15 to 20 vendors and assistance agencies are expected to have booths at the expo, which is now in its seventh year.

"A lot of times with products for the blind and visually-impaired, you have to go online and order them and wait to know if maybe you're able to understand it and pay for the shipping," said Ms. Kolasinski. "This way, the people are actually able to get hands-on with the products and ask questions with the actual vendors. So it's a really unique opportunity because there are only a handful of vendors in Ohio."

*Louisville defeated the Toledo Mud Hens, 4 to 1.*






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*"Believe you can and you're half way there."*  
~ Theodore Roosevelt

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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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# The American Printing House for the Blind seeks applicants for Braille Tales

The American Printing House for the Blind is seeking applicants for its free print-braille children's book program, Braille Tales. Braille Tales collaborates with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and the Kentucky Correctional Institute to mail 6 print-braille books a year to families with a child and/or a parent with a visual impairment.



American Printing House  
for the Blind, Inc.

Braille Tales is designed specifically for blind preschool children (age 0-5) and their families to foster early literacy and familiarity with braille. The program brings accessible, age-appropriate books into the homes of children who might not otherwise experience braille until they begin school. In a survey administered one year after starting the program, one parent wrote, "My child has become an independent reader. She is getting more acquainted with braille and is reading closer to grade level because of her home access to braille books from Braille Tales!"

Please forward this message to families in your community with preschoolers who are eligible for Braille Tales. The program application can be found on our website at [www.aph.org/dolly-partons-imagination-library/apply](http://www.aph.org/dolly-partons-imagination-library/apply). Families may apply online or print out the application to mail.

Thank you and have a wonderful day,

Hannah Ozmun, Braille Tales Program Coordinator, AmeriCorps VISTA, 502-899-2387



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## Dr. Nahrain M. Shasteen, O.D., M.S., F.A.A.O

Dr. Nahrain M. Shasteen, O.D., M.S., F.A.A.O is one optometrist that stands out from the crowd compared to others in her field! She was born and raised in Defiance, OH and adds a personal touch to what she does for her patients. Dr. Shasteen's mother was diagnosed with amblyopia as a child and she wanted to give her knowledge and experience to help others in need. She started her career in optometry 7 years ago at The Ohio State University. She received her Doctor of Optometry from The Ohio State University College of Optometry and completed a two-year advanced practice fellowship in Binocular Vision and Pediatrics, earning a Master of Science from The Ohio State University College of Optometry. As part of her fellowship, Dr. Shasteen conducted research on vision therapy and the eyes' ability to focus at near. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, and an InfantSEE® Scholarship recipient. According to American Optometric As-

sociation only 20% of optometrists pursue training past their doctoral degree. This is what makes Dr. Shasteen stand out from the rest! She has continued to strive and educate herself

to ensure she is providing the best care she can give to the patients she serves.

Dr. Shasteen is a pediatric optometrist who has worked at Vision Associates for over 4 years now. She provides comprehensive pediatric and adult optometric care. Patients say she has unique approach and understands that every patient is different. Dr. Shasteen also has a special interest in binocular vision disorders and vision therapy for patients of all ages. She has extensive experience with motility disorders, neurologic and developmental disorders, and eye-related learning issues. Dr. Shasteen uses an evidence based approach to her vision therapy treatment



plans. Vision Associates is one of the few practices in the Northwest Ohio area that offers complete office based vision therapy.

Dr. Shasteen explains "understanding the im-

portance of a comprehensive eye exam is information more people need to be aware of. The National Eye Institute showed that 1 in 3 children with vision disorders are missed in a typical screening setting. In the State of Ohio an eye exam is not required prior to starting school. Now with programs like InfantSEE, it is making it easier to get a hold of the children at a younger age and create that baseline."

Dr. Shasteen is currently accepting new patients and covers SE Michigan and NW Ohio areas. Offices are available in Toledo and Bowling Green areas. For more information please call 419-578-2020 or visit [www.visionassociates.net](http://www.visionassociates.net)



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Photo Courtesy of Elizabeth Sammons, OOD

## Pioneer Program for Deaf-Blind Learners Yields Results, Seeks Next Steps

By Elizabeth Sammons, OOD

This summer, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities sponsored a first-of-its kind program called “DoDots,” focusing on Braille and independent living for eleven adult learners who are both deaf and blind. The residential learning took place at Ohio School for the Deaf June 12-24. Several of those participating have employment as a goal. In all, DoDots included about 50 staff involved in interpreting, accompanying students, and teaching. Learners had two Braille lessons daily,

along with numerous discovery experiences ranging from better use of a white cane, to a visit from the Leader Dog guide dog school, to a drum line topping off the last night, just for fun. Also included were tips on safe cooking, hands-on trials of low-vision aids, labeling every-day items accessibly and applying to National Library Services to receive tactile currency readers and to continue Braille learning and usage.

During DoDots, learners practiced their new skills on

manual Braille writers, and many students mastered their use. As follow-up, learners are requesting their own Braille writers to continue their learning, and possibly to enroll in correspondence Braille programs such as those offered by Hadley Institute for the Blind. Any donation or low-cost offers of new or gently used Braille writers will directly benefit learners. For details, please call or voicemail DoDots coordinator Elizabeth Sammons at 614.438.1260 or email her at [Elizabeth.sammons@ood.ohio.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.sammons@ood.ohio.gov).

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](http://www.perkinselearning.org/professional-development)

**To see the calendar of upcoming events, visit:** [www.perkinselearning.org/events-monthly](http://www.perkinselearning.org/events-monthly)





# Our Stories...

## Etienne Massicotte

My name is Etienne Massicotte and I am a professional musician with albinism. Albinism is a congenital disorder characterized by low vision as well as complete or partial absence of pigment. When I was born with albinism in 1990, my family did not know what to expect. I was one of two boys and, to our knowledge, the only member of our family with albinism. I am legally blind with 20/300 corrected, but as we would soon learn, my condition does not prohibitively constrict any aspect of my life.

My family lived in Montreal until 1997, when we moved to Austin, TX. The school district I attended in Austin had terrific resources for the visually impaired. I was fortunate to be assisted by VI specialists who provided access to large print materials as well as handheld visual aids, including a pocket magnifier. As a teen, I attended a bi-yearly conference of the National Organization of albinism and Hypopigmentation for the first time, which was a terrific learning and networking experience. My parents discovered NOAH through the Montreal Association for the Blind after I was born and we have been subscribers to their publications since.

Although I faced some bullying in school, I discovered my social and creative outlet in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, playing trumpet in the school band, and continued my musical studies through high

school. In 2008 I enrolled at The College of Wooster, where I earned a Bachelor of Music in Trumpet Performance, followed by a Master of Music in Trumpet performance at McGill University in my hometown of Montreal. For better and for worse, my albinism has had a noticeable impact on my experiences as a musician. Because I cannot reliably read printed music, I have developed a continuously improving ability to play by ear, as well as to memorize printed materials very efficiently. As a professional trumpeter, I have sufficient opportunities to perform for occasions that do not require sight-reading, so I continue to advocate that albinism is not an insurmountable obstacle to anyone working in the field of music.

What about driving? This was the big question as I finished my graduate education and prepared for a career as a freelance musician. As luck would have it, every state in the US has specific laws pertaining to licensing and restricting visually impaired drivers and I am fortunate enough to have lived in Texas and Ohio, two states that permit what is called 'bioptic driving.' A bioptic is a pair of glasses with any variation of telescopic device mounted as unflatteringly as possible to the frame. A bioptic can be used by anyone with a visual impairment, whether acquired at birth



or later in life. My love-hate relationship with my bioptic is balanced by the 20/40 vision which I acquire when wearing the device. The process for obtaining a bioptic license (and the bioptic itself) is different in every state. In Texas, information can be found through the Division for Blind Services and in Ohio through the Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired.

I consider myself extremely fortunate to have access to such resources that have enabled me to live a completely fulfilling life. Above all, I have my parents to thank for their endless support, as well as my doctors, Laura Miller of Northwest Hills Eye Care (Austin, TX) and Cheryl Reed of United Disability Services (Akron, OH).





# What is Albinism?

Albinism is an inherited genetic condition that reduces the amount of melanin pigment formed in the skin, hair and/or eyes. Albinism occurs in all racial and ethnic groups throughout the world. In the U.S., approximately one in 18,000 to 20,000 people has some type of albinism. In other parts of the world, the occurrence can be as high as one in 3,000. Most children with albinism are born to parents who have normal hair and eye color for their ethnic backgrounds.

A common myth is that people with albinism have red eyes. Although lighting conditions can allow the blood vessels at the back of the eye to be seen, which can cause the eyes to look reddish or violet, most people with albinism have blue eyes, and some have hazel or brown eyes. There are different types of albinism and the amount of pigment in the eyes varies; however, vision problems are associated with albinism.

## Vision Considerations

People with albinism have vision problems that are not correctable with eye-glasses, and many have low

vision. It's the abnormal development of the retina and abnormal patterns of nerve connections between the eye and the brain that cause vision problems. The presence of these eye problems defines the diagnosis of albinism.

The degree of impairment varies with the different types of albinism. Although people with albinism may be considered "legally blind" with a corrected visual acuity of 20/200 or worse, most learn to use their vision in a variety of ways and are able to perform innumerable activities such as reading, riding a bike or fishing. Some have sufficient vision to drive a car.

## Dermatological Considerations

Because most people with albinism have fair complexions, it's important to avoid sun damage to the skin and eyes by taking precautions such as wearing sunscreen or sunblock, hats, sunglasses and sun-protective clothing.

## Medical Problems

In the United States, most people with albinism live normal life spans and have

the same types of general medical problems as the rest of the population. The lives of people with Hermansky-Pudlak Syndrome can be shortened by lung disease or other medical problems.

In tropical countries, people with albinism who do not have access to adequate skin protection may develop life-threatening skin cancers. If they use appropriate skin protection, such as sunscreens rated 20 SPF or higher and opaque clothing, people with albinism can enjoy outdoor activities even in summer.

## Social Considerations

People with albinism are at risk of isolation because the condition is often misunderstood. Social stigmatization can occur, especially within communities of color, where the race or paternity of a person with albinism may be questioned. Families and schools must make an effort to include children with albinism in group activities. Contact with others with albinism or who have albinism in their families or communities is most helpful. NOAH can provide the names of contacts in many regions of the country.



# NuEyes featuring ODG smartglasses, a hands free device for the visually impaired. Consumer Technology Association 2016 Award Winner!

Wearable technology is the future and NuEyes featuring ODG smartglasses brings the future to you in a small, compact yet powerful headworn device. NuEyes featuring ODG smartglasses finally makes it possible for those with visual impairments to connect with loved ones and others without always having to use a big

clunky machine. Our removable visual prosthetic helps the visually impaired see again while keeping their hands free.

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ternet browser, email, as well as full functions of an android tablet with downloadable android apps, and social media applications.

NuEyes Easy is a very simple product to use and can either be operated with our wireless controller, included with the product or using simple voice commands.

*More information is available online at [www.neweyes.com](http://www.neweyes.com).*



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# Text Amendment makes Toledo homes more accessible

After a year of collaboration between The Ability Center and the Toledo City Plan Commission, Toledo's City Council unanimously passed a Text Amendment to the Toledo City zoning code. The Ability Center's Home Accessibility Program has encountered people who need a ramp or lift to leave their home, for example, to get to work, school, or medical appointments. Generally, zoning setbacks trigger the need for applicants to request a variance, a lengthy and expensive process involving additional fees and a hearing appearance. The Text Amendment provides a more streamlined zoning process for people with disabilities.

For many, installing a ramp is often the difference between maintaining one's housing and presence in a community, or having to relocate. The new amendment stabilizes communities and provides for additional home ownership options by ensuring residents with disabilities have an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling. Prior to the Text Amendment,



**THE ABILITY CENTER**  
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Toledo's zoning code already permitted exceptions to the setback standards; enclosed balconies, enclosed fire escapes, unenclosed porches and metal awnings have all been permitted exceptions for some time. The Toledo City Plan Commission and The Ability Center worked together to amend the code to allow the same automatic exceptions for people with disabilities wanting to install ramps or lifts.

"While the Fair Housing Act already protects people with disabilities' ability to modify their homes through requesting reasonable accommodations in local zoning laws, many people are unfamiliar with their rights, and asserting those rights can also become a lengthy and expensive process," says Ability Center Disability Rights Attorney Katie Hunt Thomas, "By allowing exceptions to the zoning code, people with disabilities will be able to install

ramps and lifts as matter of course. This Text Amendment will go far in increasing home access for people with disabilities in Toledo." The City of Toledo's recent action affirmatively furthers the goals of the Fair Housing Act and Americans with Disabilities Act, allowing our aging population the ability to age in place and also ensures that people with disabilities have sustainable home ownership opportunities within a community of their choosing.

*Read the complete Text Amendment online at [www.abilitycenter.org](http://www.abilitycenter.org).*

Knowledge  
is love and  
light and  
vision.  
~ Helen Keller





# Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind



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## Contact Us

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**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!



Registration is limited. Accepting applications for staff members! Apply today!

## Who can attend?

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





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## ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FAMILY CONFERENCE

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- Teachers

OSSB is once again partnering with the BEST Grant for this year's Assistive Technology Family Conference which will be held at the Holiday Inn Worthington, 7007 North High Street from 8:00am—3:30pm. This free one-day conference will feature Assistive Technology vendors focusing on braille literacy, low vision aids, writing, reading, and more. Vendors will answer questions and demonstrate equipment throughout the day. Breakout sessions will include vendor sessions, a parent panel, student panel, product demonstration and more. Registration closes on September 9, 2016.

**To register, please go to: [www.ocali.org/project/at-family-conference](http://www.ocali.org/project/at-family-conference)**

**For more information, please contact Lauri Kaplan 614-728-1567 or Julie Pashovich 614-410-1042.**

*OCDBE has a limited amount of funds to help families defer the cost of attending the conference. Please contact Julie at [julie\\_pashovich@ocali.org](mailto:julie_pashovich@ocali.org) for more information.*



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# Our Stories...

## Jessica Miles

Tom Cochrane's "Life is a Highway" song has some very inspirational lyrics. I have wondered what the speed limit would be to live life. My mother has said I learned how to run before I learned how to walk. It seemed as though I had always lived my life around 80 mph so to speak, often going beyond the limits that *she* thought would be best for me, well below 55 mph.

From an early age I viewed the world as an open highway with no limits. I was always on the go with volunteer activities, working, traveling, spending time with friends and family. It wasn't until I experienced vision loss that I slowed down. I thought I would never experience life the same way as I had always lived it. I had hit a speed bump.

Without my vision, my view of the world changed. My life's highway was now closed for construction. I was upset, angry, depressed. For almost three years I never thought I would experience the adventure of a limitless highway again.

It was only when I be-

came involved in rehabilitation services that I began to feel as if I could get up to speed again, that I began to have hope, courage to move beyond the darkened door of my vision loss.

My view of the world was changing again. I met others who lived with disabilities and felt empowered. I learned how to navigate the sometimes rough roads, and was anxious for the open highway again. After some time in rehabilitation with Vision Services and with determination I felt I had my keys back.

In 2013, I received the Youth Empowering Independence award from Goodwill Easter Seals, led the accessibility initiative in the Miami Valley through accesstogogether.org and presented at the Serve-Ohio Conference on Service and Volunteerism in 2015.



I am now aware that life has speedbumps, not only for myself but for countless others. I am continuing my life's journey with a college education in business management and administration, serving as Vice President of the Miami Valley Association of Volunteer Administrators and being an advocate for people with disabilities.



# GESMV breaks ground on new Lima store and headquarters

Lima – Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley continues to expand its presence into Allen County, including construction of a facility with space for a retail store and programs and services offered by the organization.

GESMV will host a ground-breaking ceremony for the new facility, located on Allentown Road next to the Walmart, at 10 a.m. on Jan. 7.

The 24,680-square-foot building will house a new retail store for the Lima area, joining the existing store in the Eastgate Shopping Center. The new building will also contain space for a number of programs and services offered by GESMV; this part of the building will be known as

the organization’s West Central Ohio community services headquarters.

Thanks to more than \$30,000 in grants and donations by Lions Club International Foundation, Lions Clubs in District 13A and surrounding districts, in addition to several generous local individuals, the facility will also contain the Lions Vision Center. Similar to the GESMV Vision Services program located at the Dayton community services campus, the Lima center will include services for those with vision impairments, including assessments, support group and training, as well as a store selling adaptive equipment and other devices to assist those in need. The program



will serve a five-county area.

“The need for our services only continues to grow, and we are excited that this new facility will serve our northern counties,” GESMV President and Chief Executive Officer Lance Detrick said. “We saw the opportunity to provide critical assistance in employment services, senior programming, and particularly, through the Lions Vision Center.”

The headquarters building will replace the current facility that houses GESMV programs and the Goodwill Attended Donation Center, on North Cable Road. The new store/headquarters space is slated for completion in the fall of 2016.

## ! Your Opinion Matters !



**What’s the biggest struggle being (vi/b) visually impaired and blind in your area?**

Direct your answers to our facebook page at [www.facebook.com/sightedguideohio](http://www.facebook.com/sightedguideohio) to get answers and feedback about this issue.



**Let SGO help you celebrate your special day!**

Email your text to [Adrienne@sightedguideohio.org](mailto:Adrienne@sightedguideohio.org) or call 419-870-2797 (Pictures will be accepted but depending on space might not be used.)

**Happy 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday  
John Robert  
October 1<sup>st</sup>**





# 11th Annual Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky VisionWalk

Walk with the Foundation Fighting Blindness and make the world a brighter place for millions of Americans with blinding diseases

October 1, 2016  
9:00 a.m.

Theodore Berry Friendship Park  
Cincinnati, OH 45202



Register today at [www.VisionWalk.org](http://www.VisionWalk.org)



Contact Steve Sroka: 847-680-0100 or [SSroka@FightBlindness.org](mailto:SSroka@FightBlindness.org)

VisionWalk is a signature fundraising event of the Foundation Fighting Blindness, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

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CINCINNATI EYE INSTITUTE  
Ada Lions Club





...an indoor court ballgame, designed for the blind, in which teams of three players throw a ball with bells into the opposing goal

# GOAL BALL CLINIC

**Date:** Saturday, October 8th

**Time:** 1:00 - 5:00 pm

**Instructor:** Jacob Thompson

**Location:**

**Forest Rose School Gym  
1592 Granville Pike, Lancaster  
(use door facing St. Rt. 37)**



**Demonstration by seasoned Players**

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- Blocking
- Passing
- Defending Goal
- Game Rules

**Actual Scrimmage**

**Equipment will be provided**



**Participants:**

**Visually impaired individuals  
(Teens thru Senior citizens),  
Veterans, Rehab Therapists,  
Adaptive PE Teachers/Coaches**



**FREE - Registration requested**

**RSVP to Lisa at SOCIL**

**by September 29th**

**Southeastern Ohio Center for  
Independent Living**

**email: [imsocil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:imsocil@sbcglobal.net)**

**call: 740.689.1494 ext. 10**



# JAWS and MAGic Student Edition Available on Quota!

Freedom Scientific and the American Printing House for the Blind have partnered to make a "JAWS® and MAGic® Student Edition" available to K-12 students in the U.S. using Federal Quota funds! These special software subscriptions are sold exclusively by APH and allow students to install full versions of JAWS and/or MAGic on ANY computer they access (up to three machines). This allows blind and visually impaired students to have 24 hour, 365 day-a-year access to their computers at both school and home!

## About JAWS and MAGic Student Edition

### What Is JAWS?

JAWS (Job Access With Speech) is the world's most popular screen reader software providing access to Windows® computers. JAWS offers both speech AND braille output for the most popular computer applications on your PC!

*A few of the many features of JAWS include:*

- Two multi-lingual synthesizers
- Built-in DAISY Player
- Works with Microsoft Office, Internet Explorer, Firefox, and much more
- Support for MathML con-

tent in Internet Explorer that is rendered with MathJax

- Convenient OCR feature provides access to the text of PDF documents

• Contracted braille input from your braille keyboard, a JAWS exclusive

- Fully compatible with MAGic screen magnification software and OpenBook scanning and reading program

• Supports Windows® 7, 8.1, and Windows 10, including touch screens and gestures

### What is MAGic?

MAGic Screen Magnification Software is a magnification AND screen reading program for computer users who are low vision. MAGic can help students work more efficiently with business applications, documents, email, and navigating the internet.

*A few of the many features of MAGic include:*

- 75 magnification levels from 1x to 60x
- View more of the screen content with multiple magnification levels between 1x and 4x



- Work longer without fatigue with crisp fonts

- Never lose track of the cursor or mouse pointer with cursor enhancement

- Eliminate glare and increase contrast with built-

in color enhancements

- Speech options add human-sounding voices to speak text and echo user actions

- MAGic runs on Windows® 7, 8.1, and Windows 10

## What Is Included in the Student Edition of JAWS and MAGic?

- JAWS and MAGic software, containing all the features and benefits of the full programs (one subscription purchase gives the student access to both programs)

- Access to latest versions with all updates

- Ability to install on any computers the student accesses at school or home (up to three machines)

- Tandem function available for remote help by teachers or support staff

- Access to Freedom Scientific phone support, training materials, and webinars





SIGHTED GUIDE OHIO

**Sighted Guide Ohio Survey for the State of Ohio**

*Please take a few minutes to complete the survey below. Feel free to answer any or all questions at your own discretion. If you choose to be anonymous any answers provided will be appreciated. Thank you in advance for your time! Please email your answers to [Adrienne@sightedguideohio.org](mailto:Adrienne@sightedguideohio.org) or send back to P.O. Box 33, Rossford, OH 43460*

**Sighted Guide Ohio 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 the VI/B (visually impaired and blind) communities.**

1. Do you have a friend or family member that is VI/B? YES or NO
2. If yes, how old are they? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Are you currently looking for services or resources for the VI/B? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What county in Ohio do you reside in? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is your biggest struggle within your county to obtain services?  
For Example:
  - a. Locating doctors that provide low vision assessment \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Understanding my eye condition \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Transportation \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Funding for low vision or adaptive technology \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Locating rehabilitation or education specialist for my family member \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Other \_\_\_\_\_
6. Do you currently have services through OOD (Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities) or your local Sight Center? YES or NO

Please provide your contact information below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for giving us your input on this survey and helping us create awareness for visually impaired and blind across the State of Ohio.**





# Disability Rights OHIO

614-466-7264 or 800-282-9181  
TTY 614-728-2553 or 800-858-3542

50 W. Broad St., Suite 1400  
Columbus, OH 43215-5923  
[disabilityrightsohio.org](http://disabilityrightsohio.org)



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# 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](mailto:olbpd@cpl.org)





# LOW VISION SERVICES

- Assessments - Children & Adults
- Low Vision Aids
- Orientation & Mobility
- Teacher of the Visually Impaired
- Bioptic Driving Program

**330-762-9755**

**[www.udsakron.org](http://www.udsakron.org)**

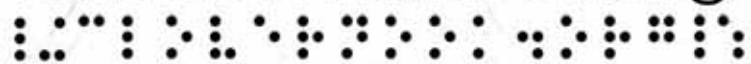
Follow us on Twitter @UDSAkron Like us on Facebook

A program of United Disability Services



**CLOVERNOOK CENTER**  
FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

[www.clovernook.org](http://www.clovernook.org)







## **Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, in collaboration with the Braille Institute of America, will host the First Regional Braille Challenge for the State of Ohio Friday, March 3, 2017.**

The Braille Challenge, now in its 16th year, is the only national reading and writing contest in braille for students who are blind and visually impaired. Regionals are open to students of all abilities, giving even emerging braille readers a chance to reach a personal best score. It's also a rare chance for students who are blind or visually impaired and attend mainstream schools (rather than schools for students who are blind and visually impaired) to make friends and share their hopes and challenges with peers.

For those top academics, the Ohio State Regional Competition is the first step to the coveted national finals Braille Challenge competition at the Los Angeles headquarters of the Braille Institute. At the finals, 50 students with the highest scores from around North America embark on another daylong competition to test their braille skills alongside their peers. Immediately following the competition, winners from each age group are announced at an awards

ceremony unparalleled with excitement, pride and celebration.

Students from all over Ohio will gather at Clovernook Center in North College Hill, to test their braille skills in five categories: reading, comprehension, braille spelling, chart and graph reading, proofreading and braille speed and accuracy.

"This is an exciting event for us to be hosting – specifically, as one of the largest braille producers in North America," Clovernook President and CEO Chris Faust said. "This is also a great way for us to meet youth with expertise in areas where we, as an organization strive to excel. We are always looking for future talent, and this will give us a chance to meet the next generation of brailers before they are even ready to join the workforce!"

The theme for the Ohio State Braille Challenge will be Braille All Stars, playing off of Cincinnati's baseball all-star theme. The Braille Challenge



will include fun activities for the entire family. Jackie Conner, the chairperson of this event and Vice President of Clovernook Center's Multistate Center East says "this is a great way to engage and inspire kids to get involved with braille. This is especially important as we see declining rates of braille literacy among children with vision loss."

If you would like more information on the event itself, or how you can get involved as a volunteer, sponsor or participant, contact Deanna Lewis at 1-888-234-7156 or by email at [braillechallenge@clovernook.org](mailto:braillechallenge@clovernook.org).

*Read or Share this story:*  
<http://cin.ci/1SvprCe>



# Social Security Column

## WE'RE WORKING TOGETHER TO SECURE TODAY AND TOMORROW

**By Erin Thompson**

**Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Toledo, OH**

Your first job is a landmark occasion. You're meeting new people, making professional connections, and probably cashing that first paycheck. You might be a little surprised when you see a portion of your earnings go to a tax called "FICA" for the Federal Insurance Contributions Act. This deduction goes to Social Security and is your way of helping us secure your today and tomorrow. It's our job to keep the safety net of Social Security strong through your incremental contributions.

Understanding how important your contribution is takes some of the sting away because your taxes are helping millions of Americans. By law, employers must withhold Social Security taxes from workers' paychecks. While referred to as "Social Security taxes" on an employee's pay statement, sometimes the deduction is labeled as "FICA." This stands for Federal Insurance Contributions Act, a reference to the original Social Security Act. Sometimes, you will see "OASDI," which stands for Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance, the official name for

the Social Security Insurance program.

The taxes you pay now mean a lifetime of protection — for retirement in old age or in the event of disability. And when you die, your family (or future family) may be able to receive survivors benefits based on your work.

You probably have family members — grandparents, for example — who already enjoy benefits that your Social Security taxes help provide. Social Security is completely solvent through 2033. At that point, retirement benefits will be reduced to 75 percent, unless changes are made to the law. In the past, Social Security has evolved to meet the needs of a changing population — and you can count on Social Security in the future.

Because you're a long way from retirement, you may have a tough time seeing the value of benefit payments that could be many decades in the future. But keep in mind the Social Security taxes you're paying can provide



valuable disability or survivors benefits, if the unexpected happens. Studies show that of today's 20-year-olds, about one in four will become disabled, and about one in eight will die before reaching retirement. To learn more about Social Security and exactly what you're earning for yourself by paying Social Security taxes, take a look at our online booklet, *How You Earn Credits*, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10072.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10072.html).

We're doing this job together. The small amount you contribute with every paycheck allows us to help millions of retired workers, disabled people, and veterans. You can learn more about how we're with you through life's journey at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).





**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](http://www.ohiolions.org)



## Upcoming Events

### Fall event for SGO

#### Frog town Low Vision Support Group and Sighted Guide Ohio's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Vision Technology Expo

In Maumee, OH at St. Luke's Hospital on September 17<sup>th</sup> at 10am until 3pm. Special guest speaker Dr. Greg Rosenthal and vendors that will give you that hands on experience with each product available

### Sight Center of Northwest Ohio

**Canes, brains and automobiles**, formerly known as the **White Cane Walk**, is part **Road Rally**, part **Olympics** and ALL FUN!! The event will take place the morning of Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at The Sight Center in Toledo. Road Rally teams will consist of a navigator who is blind or visually impaired and a driver who is not. Navigators will be provided with Braille, large print or audio directions. Working together, the teams must use their brains to unravel the clues and find their way to the finish line. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team, the coolest car and more.

### SCIVIS Space Camp/ Perkins School for the Blind

September 23, 2016 (All day) to September 30, 2016 (All day)  
U.S. Space and Rocket Center (Meet at Perkins)  
Huntsville, AL.

For the 23rd year, Perkins will be bringing students from all over the Northeast to participate in Space Camp for Interested Visually Impaired Students (SCIVIS).

Patrick Ryan  
*Supervisor of Short Courses*  
617-972-7812  
Patrick.Ryan@Perkins.org

### Assistive Technology Family Conference

Sept 24<sup>th</sup> Assistive Technology Family Conference in Worthington, OH The Ohio State School for the Blind and BEST Grant are once again partnering for this years AT Family Conference. The event will be held at the Holiday Inn Worthington, 7007 High Street from 8am until 3:30pm. This FREE event includes a full day of sessions, assistive technology vendors who focus on braille literacy, low vision aids, and more – plus lots of in-depth, hands-on learning opportunities. Lunch is included. Family Scholarships are available to help with travel costs.

Register online at [www.ocali.org/project/at-family-conference](http://www.ocali.org/project/at-family-conference). Registration closes on September 9, 2016. For more information call 614-728-1567.

### 11th Annual Cincinnati/N. Kentucky VisionWalk

Saturday, October 1, 2016

Registration & Fun starts at 9:00 a.m.  
Stage Presentation - 10:00 a.m.  
Walk Begins - 10:30 a.m.  
Location: Theodore Berry Friendship Park  
1135 Riverside Drive  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

### GOAL BALL CLINIC...

An indoor court ballgame, designed for the blind, in which teams of three players throw a ball with bells into the opposing goal.

Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>  
1:00 - 5:00 pm  
Instructor: Jacob Thompson  
Location: Forest Rose School Gym  
1592 Granville Pike,  
Lancaster, OH  
(use door facing St. Rt. 37)

Demonstration by seasoned Players

Participants: Visually impaired individuals (Teens thru Senior citizens), Veterans, Rehab Therapists, Adaptive PE Teachers/Coaches

FREE - Registration requested

RSVP to Lisa at SOCIL by





## Upcoming Events

Events are subject to  
change. Call ahead to  
confirm.

September 29th

Southeastern Ohio Center  
for Independent Living  
email: [imsocil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:imsocil@sbcglobal.net)  
call: 740.689.1494 ext. 10

### 2016 ACBO Conference & Convention

The ACBO conference and  
convention provides opportuni-  
ties to learn new things, become  
exposed to the newest technol-  
ogy, and network with others.  
We are holding our annual con-  
ference and convention in San-  
dusky, Ohio at Kalahari Resort  
October 21-23, 2016

### CABVI

#### Volunteer Recognition Event

October 30, 2016  
2045 Gilbert Ave.  
Cincinnati, OH 45202  
513.221.8558

List  
your event  
with us.

Email: [Adrienne@  
sightedguideohio.org](mailto:Adrienne@sightedguideohio.org)



### Save The Date!

Thursday, **November 3,**  
**2016** at 5:30 p.m.

Huntington, West Virginia

Join us for an exciting eve-  
ning of inspiration and fun as  
we celebrate outstanding sup-  
porters in Huntington, WV. En-  
joy an evening of great food,  
premier raffle packages, and  
entertainment at the Guyan  
Golf & Country Club

Guyan Golf & Country Club  
5450 U.S. Route 60 East  
Huntington, WV

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an acknowledgment in the din-  
ner journal, please contact Di-  
ane Wright, e-mail: [dwright@  
afb.net](mailto:dwright@afb.net) or call: (304) 710-  
3025.

Proceeds from this stellar  
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to provide our vital programs  
and services that remove bar-  
riers, create opportunities,  
and expand possibilities for  
people with vision loss. Your  
generous support is tax de-  
ductible to the extent permit-  
ted by law.

Contact: Diane Wright  
Phone: (304) 710-3025  
Email: [dwright@afb.net](mailto:dwright@afb.net)

### CABVI

#### Donor Appreciation Luncheon

November 10, 2016  
2045 Gilbert Ave.  
Cincinnati, OH 45202  
513.221.8558

## Ohio Accessible Playgrounds

**Beachwood:** Preston's H.O.P.E.  
— Located on the property of The  
Mandel JCC, 26001 South Wood-  
land 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, climb-  
ing platforms and activity panels, and  
is treated with an added safety fea-  
ture of a rubberized coating.

**Circleville:** Mary Virginia Crites Han-  
nan Community Park — A Bound-  
less™ Playground is located off Rt.  
188 on Pontius Road.

**The City of Ravenna:** Ravenna  
Community Playground — Located in  
Chestnut Hills Park, on North Chest-  
nut 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 Broth-  
ers 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 Val-  
ley Road just north of the OSUN/  
COTC campus.

**Powell:** Liberty Township Bound-  
less™ Playground — 2507 Home Rd.

**Stow:** Stow Outdoor Accessible Rec-  
reation Playground — located at Sil-  
ver Springs Park, 5027 Stow Road.

**Warren:** The Valley's Inclusive Play-  
ground — located within Perkins Park,  
391 Mahoning Ave.

#### Wauseon

Sara's Garden 620 W Leggett St, Wau-  
seon, OH 43567

**West Chester:** Hopewell Element-  
ary School Boundless™ Playground  
— 8300 Cox Road.

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



*Sighted Guide Ohio/ VIBE would like to send an extra special thank you to our sponsors for their support for our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual event at the Toledo Mud Hens.*

*VIBE (Visual Impaired and Blind Education) did give their 1<sup>st</sup> scholarship for \$1,000.00 to Jalen Ballard. He will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Braille reader/writer at St. Francis de Sales High School.*



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