**Welcome back to**

**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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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 and four

major cities including **Toledo, Cleveland, Columbus**and **Cincinnati, Ohio**

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**History on the**

**white canes**

Blind people have used

canes as mobility tools for

centuries,[2] but it was not until

after World War I that the white

cane was introduced.

In 1921 James Biggs, a

photographer from Bristol who

became blind after an accident

and was uncomfortable with

the amount of traffic around his

home, painted his walking stick

white to be more easily visible.

In 1931 in France, Guilly

d’Herbemont launched a national

white stick movement

for blind people. On February

7, 1931, Guilly d’Herbemont

symbolically gave the first two

white canes to blind people, in

the presence of several French

ministers. 5,000 more white

canes were later sent to blind

French veterans from World

War I and blind civilians.

In the United States, the introduction

of the white cane is

attributed to George

A. Bonham of the

Lions Clubs International

In 1930, a

Lions Club member

watched as a man

who was blind attempted

to cross the

street with a black

cane that was barely

visible to motorists

against the dark

pavement. The Lions decided

to paint the cane white to make

it more visible. In 1931, Lions

Clubs International began a program

promoting the use of white

canes for people who are blind.

The first special white cane

ordinance was passed in December

1930 in Peoria, Illinois

granting blind pedestrians protections

and the right-of-way

while carrying a white cane.

The long cane was improved

upon by World War II veteran’s

rehabilitation specialist,

Richard E. Hoover,

at Valley Forge Army

Hospital. In 1944, he

took the Lions Club

white cane (originally

made of wood) and

went around the hospital

blindfolded for a

week. During this time

he developed what

is now the standard

method of “long cane” training

or the Hoover Method. He is

now called the “Father of the

Lightweight Long Cane Technique.”

The basic technique

is to swing the cane from the

center of the body back and

forth before the feet. The cane

should be swept before the

rear foot as the person steps.

Before he taught other rehabilitators,

or “orientors,” his

new technique he had a special

commission to have light

weight, long white canes made

for the veterans of the European

fronts.[6]

On October 6, 1964, a joint

resolution of the Congress, HR

753, was signed into law authorizing

the President of the

United States to proclaim October

15 of each year as “White

Cane Safety Day”. President

Lyndon Johnson was the first

to make this proclamation

**Opportunity**

**by Dr. Rosenthal**

I see people with all kinds of

vision issues. Some are at the

beginning of a problem, some

in the middle. Some are at the

end. In my practice, as a retina

specialist, I see people from this

country and others. I have recently

tried to save vision for a

wonderful lady with diabetes who

traveled all the way from Africa,

and a four year old boy in the Dominican

Republic who is battling

congenital glaucoma, cataracts,

and retinal detachment all at

once. It was too late for her, too

soon to tell for him.

Which has made me think.

We see lots of avoidable disease

both here and abroad. Diabetes,

trauma, congenital disease,

Retinopathy of Prematurity, other

things. I am struck by two things:

First, people in the third world are

smart and resourceful and very

appreciative, but they don’t have

the education and opportunity to

catch bad things early. Second,

although there is plenty of “third

world type” privation right here

among the disenfranchised part

of our society, we also have vastly

more opportunity to learn and

avoid and intervene and when

necessary rehabilitate these

same problems.

Why is that? Both societies

have people who are smart, but

here we have more people who

have been blessed with education.

It is one thing to be smart.

It is quite another to be informed.

Both societies have people overfl

owing with grace and generosity.

It is one thing to give. It is

another to have more that you

can give. Here, we are blessed

to have more to work with. It is

not about corporate medicine or

even charitable boards that try to

corporatize a good

thing, turning goodwill

into profi table

business. It is about

knowing that we are

all in the same boat

and subject to the same threats.

Then, it is about sharing what

we have and what we know with

each other.

In early February, when I was

being driven to the OR in the

middle of the Dominican, I saw

a woman on a street corner selling

trinkets. She was wearing a

tee shirt that said something very

simple: “Share Some”. I don’t

know if she even knew

the English, but I am very

sure that she knew the

message. Here, there, it

doesn’t matter. If we share

some, we

c h a n g e

everything.

If we share

some, then

no one has nothing. If we share

light, even striking a single match,

then even total darkness is no

longer what it was. If we share

hope, no one is hopeless. If we

share knowledge, then given the

intelligence that we all have in

some measure, then no one is

powerless.

That is the opportunity we

have right here and right now

for vision care. Here in Ohio, we

have fabulous people working

in all aspects of vision care. We

have such a wide range of talent

and generosity in the people of

Prevent Blindness Ohio. Wonderful

programs in education for everyone

from moms and dads and

kids to the most powerful lawmakers.

Programs for screening for

early trouble. All kinds of inventive

empowerment.

I work with many wonderful

primary eye doctors who not only

diagnose and treat, but who also

“go the extra mile” doing things in

the community for free, just because

it is the right thing and they

are humbly aware that “community”

means all of us. There are al-ways profiteers who buy into

the myth that health care is

fi rst a business, and patients

are fodder for profi ts and not other

versions of ourselves. There

are so many others, though, who

simply ignore that and do their

best for others. There are still others

who work closely with these

primary care doctors and specialists

to offer rehabilitative care,

helping people play the hand they

are dealt, whatever that might be.

This is sometimes a more thankless

and not very well subsidized

job, but there are great people

and generous supporters out

there doing it every day.

This vision support thing is

a big pond, and there are lots

of fi sh swimming around, trying

to do what they can. Swimming

together in one school doesn’t

always come naturally. Schooling

together has always been

a challenge, which is where efforts

like Sighted Guide Ohio

come in. I have been doing this

for over 30 years now, and I can

say that seeing such energy,

such intelligence, and such drive

and respect for all is a dream

come true. We ***have*** resources,

we ***have*** education, and most

importantly we ***have*** generous

people who are dedicated to

pulling others up instead of simply

profi ting from their troubles. It

will continue to be challenging,

but I am very hopeful about a

future that uses the technology,

and the education, and the energy

that we all have to create

something new. Putting the mission

ahead of self-interest, and

“sharing some” instead of taking

some, we create opportunities

and a new world that is not only

better but self-sustaining. The

more we empower ourselves

and others, the more trouble we

can prevent, and when it happens

anyway, the more we can

do about it.

Photo of

Dr. Rosenthal

**Our Stories...**

**Rodger Keaton**

I have had weak eye sight

all my life as a child. My glasses

were fairly thick lens and in

1969 I went legally blind over

night due to detached retinas.

I had surgery on each eye they

put what was called a buckle at

a 45 degree angle on each eye

but I only got vision in my right

eye it was 20 40 which was

pretty good . I lost all sight in

my left eye which is total just

blackness. In the early 80s I

got macular degeneration and

slowly my sight slipped away

it was so slow I barely noticed

it till once again I was legally

blind with 20 200 in my right

eye I worked 2 more years and

then called it quits since by then

my sight was about 20 400. In

1992 I went into rehab for the

blind which is in Louisville Ky. I

was taught mobility with a cane

how to keep a checking account

on a tape, how to cook,

clean and Braille. I only could

read 3 words a minute and

write 5 a minute this was

Grade 1 Braille.

22 years ago I left Lexington

Ky. on a greyhound

headed to Columbus

Ohio. Steve Hoyt was my

trainer and he picked me

up. I started my training

that day when Steve gave

me a leash and said this

will be your dog for

the next 3 days.

Day 1 we went

for a Juno walk,

the trainer had

a harness and

leash and he had

me hold the handle

of the harness in my left hand

and the leash in my right

hand. Steve led me around

the block to see how fast my

pace was and he pulled hard

and light on the harness to

determine whether I would be

more comfortable with a dog

that pulled hard and walked

fast. I have always been a fast

walker. Steve or some of the

other trainers would take each

one for a walk while the rest of

the class stayed

in the day

room. One

day I was

told to go

wait in my

room I would

be getting my dog I met my

first dog that day he was a

black lab named Spike, he

and I trained for 2 weeks and

it soon became obvious that

Spike and I weren’t a good

match . A few weeks after I got

a new dog another black lab

named JC and he was huge

tall and later I found out that

JC weighed 100lbs. JC worked

8 years for me and at 10 years

old he retired because he

went blind in his left eye. Pilot

Dogs is a great place to go

for a guide dog. They have

caring stastaff and all my trainers

have been the best good

dogs, I would recommend Pilot

Dogs to anyone thinking

about a guide dog. Pilot Dogs

has been training dogs for the

blind since 1950.

**If you are**

**NFB Newsline Sounds**

**the World**

**By Elizabeth L. Sammons, Program Administrator, BSVI/Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities**

One morning about ten years

ago, I joined the ranks of millions

by walking out onto my balcony

and reading the newspaper over

coffee. This does not sound like

news until you consider that I

had been a journalism major in

college with focus on international

studies, but I had never done

this before – reading the news,

that is – coffee was a constant. I

still remember wiping tears from

my eyes that day as I jumped

from paper to paper, section to

section, selecting whatever topics

I desired. I was finally able

to do this thanks to something

not available during my college

years called NFB Newsline, a

free service for anyone who

cannot read print or maneuver

physical pages because of motor

impairments, low vision or

severe dyslexia.

*https://nfb.org/audio-newspaper-*

*service*

Well before my lifetime, the

hope of sounding the world and

keeping current with events

already ran strong for many

blind readers. In 1927, Francis

Ierardi, founder of the National

Braille Press, produced his first

weekly newspaper in Braille with

the help of numerous volunteers

and the cooperation of Massachusetts

journalists. Demand

rose so sharply that this paper

became national and later, even

international. Despite funding

challenges, Ierardi insisted on

keeping it a weekly periodical

so that current news would be at

readers’ fingertips.

*http://www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/*

*aboutus/ourmission.html*

For the next

two generations,

however, access to

most newspapers

was virtually nonexistent

apart from fixed-time

programs available on some

radio reading services for the

blind community. Then in 1990,

Telephone Computer Systems

Inc. began transmitting the “St.

Paul Pioneer Press” and the

“Minneapolis Star Tribune” by

telephone to blind subscribers,

who paid $6 a month for the

service. This technology, converting

printed articles into files

read aloud on the phone with a

computer voice, spread to the

National Federation of the Blind,

which began a national program

in 1995 called NFB Newsline.

Today this service offers about

350 local and national newspapers,

including several in Spanish

and a dozen international

newspapers in English. Nearly

forty magazines with focus on

the Arts, Science, Health and

Fitness, Pop Culture and National

and International news are

also available, and the service is

still growing to include disabilityspecific

resources. As of 2011,

weather alerts and a job search

function have been available

through CareerBuilder. With a

few key strokes, readers can

have any article or job directly

emailed for later reference. Using

a touchtone

phone or

smart phone, a

subscriber can

choose the current

day’s, the previous day’s,

and the previous Sunday’s issue

of any newspaper in the service.

An intuitive menu system allows

users to choose which newspaper,

section, and article to read.

This menu also allows for changing

the speed and voice settings,

spelling words, or searching for

a particular word or subject. Victor

Reader Stream users also

received access to a free app for

accessing Newsline wireless.

Those interested in this service

who are already qualified

with National Library Services

can be automatically enrolled

as subscribers by registering

at https://www.nfbnewsline.net/

Nl2/NL2NewUserReqInput.jsp

After registration is processed,

readers will receive a letter containing

a personal activation

code and instructions.

Currently NFB Newsline

has about 3,000 readers in

Ohio. Readers may visit NFB

Newsline’s website to begin

electronic registration.

**White Cane Law of Ohio:**

**4511.47 Right-of-way of blind person.**

(A) As used in this section “blind person”

or “blind pedestrian” means a person having

not more than 20/200 visual acuity in

the better eye with correcting lenses or

visual acuity greater than 20/200 but with

a limitation in the fields of vision such that

the widest diameter of the visual field subtends

an angle no greater than twenty

degrees. The driver of every vehicle shall **Ohio:**

yield the right of way to every blind pedestrian guided by a guide

dog, or carrying a cane which is predominantly white or metallic in

color, with or without a red tip.

(B) No person, other than a blind person, while on any public highway,

street, alley, or other public thoroughfare shall carry a white or metallic

cane with or without a red tip.

(C) Except as otherwise provided in this division, whoever violates

this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one

year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted

of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic

offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the

fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously

has been convicted of two

or more predicate motor vehicle

or traffic offenses, whoever violates

this section is guilty of a misdemeanor

of the third degree.

Did you know

October 15th is

**National White**

**Cane Safety Day**?

It is celebrated

to remind people

about the abilities,

rights, and responsibilities

of the

blind.

Picture of American Council of the Blind Ohio board members

ACBO is

heavily committed

to advocacy on

the local, state, and federal

levels for greater understanding

of the needs and aspirations

of blind and visually impaired

people. We direct our efforts and

advocacy toward education, information,

legislation, and other

activities designed to enhance the

life styles of people who are blind

or visually impaired. Our members

include both persons who are blind

and visually impaired, and people

who are fully sighted, all working

together to achieve our goals. Visit

us online at www.acbohio.org

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S**Pilot Dogs Inc.**

**Guide Dog Training**

**Program**

**Phase 1:**

**Puppy Raising**

At 7-12 weeks, a puppy is

placed in a foster home to

be raised for one year. We

do this because we have

found that home-raised

dogs make better adjustments

as guides than do

kennel raised dogs. We ask

that the Raiser teach the

pup basic obedience (potty

training, manners, etc.),

as well as take them to an

obedience course when

they are between 4 and 5

months old. One of the most

important responsibilities of

the Raiser is to socialize the

pups as much as possible;

which means exposing them

to traffic, other animals and

people, etc.

Upon the

dog’s graduation,

Pilot Dogs

sends a picture

of the dog with

its new master

(the blind individual)

to the

Puppy Raiser,

showing the

completion of the project.

**Phase 2:**

**Formal Training**

Once the dog is returned to

Pilot Dogs by the Puppy Raiser

at 12-14 months, it begins formal

training with our professional

Trainers/Instructors. This

training typically lasts about

5 months. As the dogs advance,

the training schedules

are changed so that the

dogs begin training in the

streets of Columbus where

they learn how to navigate

buses, revolving doors,

escalators, elevators, and

all other conditions the

blind may encounter once

returned home with their

Pilot Dogs.

**Phase 3: Training**

**the Team**

When the blind student arrives

to start their 4 week Training

Program, they immediately begin

to take care of their dog. This

usually begins with the new master

bathing the dog. This bathing

process is the preliminary lesson

for the student in the dog’s care.

Simple, short walks are taken at

first, always in

the company

of our professional

Trainers/

Instructors.

The walks

and obstacles

become increasingly

difficult

over the

4 weeks. Eventually, the dog and

master find their way about our

largest department stores, on and

off buses, and across our busiest

thoroughfares by themselves.

For more information call

(614) 221-6367, or email

kwalker@pilotdogs.org.

**www. pilotdogs.org**pring 2

**Our Stories...**

**Betty Kasubski**

My name is Betty Kasubski

and I am 62 years old and

I have a cat I love dearly and

his name is Cloud. I have two

sisters and one brother and I

was the only one born premature

out of the bunch. A few

months after I was born my

parents started to notice I was

not playing with my toys. After

going through multiple tests

my parents found out that I was

100% blind in both eyes. The

tests determined that when I

was incubated, because I was

a preme, I was given too much

oxygen which in turn has made

my optic nerve deteriorate and

created my blindness. I have

no control over my eyes and

they have become smaller

over the years. In the 1950’s

a lot of children that happened

to be born premature were

ending up with retina damage

and they did not know

why. Since the doctors had no

idea back then on how much

oxygen a child could

have, some ended up

blind and I was one of

them.

I went to school

at Elmhurst Elementary

in Toledo, OH

until the 3rd grade

and started at the

Ohio State School

for the Blind, in Columbus,

OH in 4th

grade. I graduated

from OSSB in 1971

and went to Detroit

to get a certificate

in massage therapy

and lived there for a

year. After I graduated

I came home to

Toledo and worked

at 21st Century as a

masseuse for 2 years.

I wanted to become a

medical transciptist so I went

to Talladega, AL for 9 months

and came back to Toledo and

worked at Riverside Hospital

for 21 years until they offered

a buyout in 1996. Since then

I have volunteered with sexual

assault victims and making

calls for Hospice. In 2003 my

dear friend Lois Eddy came

to me and asked if I would

be interested in created a

blind ministry. She had heard

about a blind minister in St.

Louis that started one and

wanted to see if we could

do the same. In May of 2003

the Toledo Blind Outreach

was created. It is located at

St. Phillip Lutheran Church;

generally we meet the first

Saturday of every month.

The group started with 25

members and has about 40

as of now and growing!

I feel great about creating

and being a part of Toledo

Blind Outreach. I think this is

something that God has called

me to do. We have been

blessed to have this group for over 12 years now.

**10 Tips to Prepare**

**Your Child to Learn**

**to Read Braille**

**By Charlotte Cushman**

**Literacy Tip Sheet**

**10 Tips to Prepare Your Child**

**to Learn to Read Braille**

**1. Be sure that the child has LOTS of access to braille**

**EVERYWHERE!**

**2. Give the child lots of practice developing fine motor**

**or handskills.**

**3. Have the child sort, match, and categorize items.**

**4. Give the child practice telling stories and**

**sequencing events.**

**5. Familiarize the child with positional concepts,**

**directionality and spatial orientation.**

**6. Practice counting.**

**7. Provide opportunities to increase tactile**

**discrimination.**

**8. Create experience stories.**

**9. Encourage the child to**

**“scribble” on the braillewriter.**

**10. Read every day!**

Are you interested

in earning credits or

just want to learn more

about a range of topics

related to the education

of students with visual

impairments? Perkins

School for the Blind offers

lots of online classes,

including many that are

self-paced.

**Watch the latest**

**videos or sign up for an**

**upcoming webinar!**

Find out more here:

http://www.perkinselearning.

org/professional-

development

**To see the calendar**

**of upcoming events,**

**visit:** http://www.perkinselearning.

org/eventsmonthly

**Clovernook Earns 2014 Employment**

**Growth Award from National**

**Industries for the Blind**

**Award Honors Success in Sustaining and Increasing**

**Employment for People Who Are Blind.**

February 3, 2015 – Cincinnati,

OH- Clovernook Center

for the Blind and Visually Impaired

was honored by National

Industries for the Blind (NIB),

the nation’s largest employment

resource for people who

are blind, with the 2014 Employment

Growth Award. The

award recognizes Clovernook

Center’s efforts to increase

employment retention, growth,

and upward mobility for people

who are blind.

“We are thrilled to receive

this award, and are exceptionally

proud to provide employment

opportunities for people

who are blind and visually

impaired in the city of Cincinnati,

from our location in North

College Hill,” said Chris Faust,

President and CEO. “Our employees

are talented and dedicated

professionals, and we

are delighted that they are being

recognized as an example

of the capabilities of people

who are blind.”

Employment Growth Award

recipients receive a cash payment

from a fund created to

recognize and encourage NIB

associated nonprofit agencies

that grow or sustain employment

for people who are blind.

Emphasis is also

placed on efforts

to increase upward

mobility in the

workplace and job

placements.

“It is an honor

for me to recognize

Clovernook Center for the

Blind and Visually Impaired

with a 2014 Employment

Growth Award,” said Kevin

Lynch, president

and CEO of NIB.

“Clovernook Center

continues to lead

the way in creating

employment and

high-growth career

opportunities for

people who are blind.”

*Information on the upcoming*

*Clovernook Center Youth Summer*

*Camp is available on page 30.*

“I am only one, but still I

am one. I cannot do everything,

but still I can do something;

and because I cannot

do everything, I will not refuse

to do something that I

can do.”

This quote by Helen Keller

captures the spirit of independence

and self-sufficiency.

It also captures the spirit

of a new tactile system called

Visus Touch. Through touch,

Visus Touch helps persons

without sight to maintain their

independence at home.

The Visus Touch™ system

was created to enhance

the quality of life for persons

with severely compromised

sight. The system makes it

possible for persons with

little or no sight to classify,

group, organize, and later

identify most any item. It is

comprised of 90 labels that

are tactile embossed, adhesive

backed, and available

in both Lexan polycarbonate

and paper versions.

The heart of the Visus

Touch ™ system is a patented

easy to learn structure that

makes it possible to classify,

group, and organize almost

any item for later identification

or retrieval. Pantries,

refrigerators, freezers, bathrooms,

medicine cabinets,

bathrooms and the like often

contain items that are similar

in shape, size, and color –

**Sight through touch**

but may contain vastly different

contents.

For persons without sight,

identifying the desired item

in such situations can be

frustrating and oftentimes

disheartening. Where medicines

are involved, choosing

the wrong medicine may

pose considerable risk.

The system is easily

learned through an entertaining

audio tutoring instruction

manual. For this purpose a

USB flash drive is provided

with the kit. The listener is

guided to tactile expertise

by performing exercises on a

Visus Touch™ Tactile Training

Card which is also provided.

For persons who are fully

or partially sighted, the kit

also comes with an instruction

manual in booklet form.

As a completely tactile

system, Visus Touch™ is effective

for children, adults

and seniors of all cultures. It

is adaptable by design and

can be incorporated into the

lifestyles of most individuals.

Professionals such as

blind and low vision counselors,

vocational rehabilitation

c o u n s e l o r s ,

blind and

low vision

teachers,

and home

h e a l t h

care specialists

will

find VISUS TOUCH™ a valuable

aid for their consumers,

clients, or customers. Contact

us. We’d enjoy hearing

from you.

Call: 440-835-1055 or, toll

free,1-800-310-4517. E-mail:

mmunn@visuslabels.com.

Visit us online at: http://

visuslabels.com

**Our Stories...**

**Guy Schlosser**

My name is Guy Schlosser,

and I have been completely blind

since birth. The cause of my

blindness was that my optic nerve

did not develop fully. I have definitely

not let this slow me down

though, as I enjoy various activities

such as swimming, tandem

bicycling, and walking. Twice a

week, I love to play “Name That

Tune”, at a couple restaurants in

the Toledo area. When it comes

to the speed rounds, people are

amazed at how quickly I can

name tunes, and close their eyes

just to see if they can beat me.

For work, I am a marketer and

customer service representative

for a Farmers Insurance agency,

and troubleshoot computer related

issues as a side job. I love

teaching my friends about new

technologies, and showing them

how much their independence

can increase by using them.

Rapidly changing technology

has played a huge part in

allowing me to enjoy the success

and independence that I

have today. As I write this, I am

amazed at how much things

have changed. Being born in the

70’s, it was much harder to get

access to educational material

and even books to read for fun.

Braille books were cumbersome

at best, and not everything was

available in that format. As I went

through school, more of my learning

was done via books read by

volunteers on tape, through such

agencies as the Recording for

the Blind. My

assignments

were usually

done in Braille,

and if I had

something that

needed typed,

I would have to

rely on people

such as my

parents and

friends to proof

read for me.

The 80’s and

90’s saw much

improvement,

in the fact that

c o m p u t e r s

were becoming

widely adopted,

and people were starting to make

devices and applications that

could be used by the blind. On

my first computer, an Apple IIC, I

had programs such as Wordtalk

and Sensible Speller that allowed

me to type and proofread my own

work, although still having someone

check it, in case I ran out of ink

and printed blank pages. Soon after

starting college, I started to use

DOS-based machines that made

it possible to run programs that

were being used by my sighted

peers, such as Wordperfect and

Lotus 1-2-3. Now, I am using most

standard applications on the Windows

and Mac platforms, thanks

to programs such as JAWS for

Windows and Voiceover. There

is even a program for Windows

called NVDA, that allows a blind

person to have full access to their

computer without the heavy price

tag of some of the more expensive

products. Thanks to technologies

built into the IPhone, I

am also able to send text messages,

know what money I have

in my wallet, and even identify

the color of my shirt.

Whether you’ve been blind

since birth, or just found out

you may be losing your sight,

don’t let it stop you. You may

have to learn things a different

way when you have no sight,

but a fun, productive life is indeed

possible. I am always

glad when someone says they

can’t identify their money, or

give a friend accurate directions

to their house, and I can

say “yes you can.”

**Statistical Facts about**

**Blindness in the United States**

**Definitions**

There are several ways to define

blindness.

• Many people regard blindness

as inability to see at all or, at best, to

discern light from darkness.

• The National Federation of the

Blind takes a much broader view.

We encourage persons to consider

themselves to be blind if their sight

is bad enough—even with corrective

lenses—that they must use alternative

methods to engage in any

activity that persons with normal vision

would do using their eyes.

• The United States Bureau of

the Census question about “significant

vision loss” encompasses both

total or near-total blindness and

“trouble seeing, even when wearing

glasses or contact lenses.”

• The statutory definition of

“legally blind” is that central visual

acuity must be 20/200 or less in the

better eye with the best possible

correction or that the visual field

must be 20 degrees or less.

• There are no generally accepted

definitions for “visually impaired,”

“low vision,” or “vision loss.”

**Estimates**

Almost all statistics on blindness

are estimated, which means

that the numbers found in a sample

are extrapolated to the entire population.

United States government

agencies—including the Bureau of

the Census, the National Center for

Health Statistics, and the Bureau of

Labor Statistics—use sophisticated

statistical techniques that lead to

population estimates with great accuracy.

Moreover, these techniques

also provide the margin of error.

**Blindness among children**

Each year, the American Printing

House for the Blind polls each

state for data on the number of

legally blind children (through age

21) enrolled in elementary and high

school in the U.S. eligible to receive

free reading matter in Braille, large

print, or audio format.

•**Total number of students: 60,393**

**•By primary reading medium**

•Braille readers: 5,147 (8.5%)

•Print readers: 17,647 (29.2%)

•Auditory readers: 5,529 (9.2%)

•Non-readers: 21,042 (34.8%)

•Pre-readers: 11,028 (18.3%)

**Disability Statistics, American**

**Community Survey (2012)**

The number of non-institutionalized

males or females, ages 4 and

under through 20, all races, regardless

of ethnicity, with all education

levels in the United States who reported

a visual disability in 2012.

**Prevalence:**

•Total: 659,700

•Girls: 319,100

•Boys: 340,600

**Blindness among adults (2012)**

These estimates (for adults age

16 and older reporting significant vision

loss, who were in the non-institutionalized,

civilian population).

**•Total (all ages): 6,670,300**

•Total (16 to 75+): 6,211,700

•Women: 3,411,000

•Men: 2,800,700

•Age 18 to 64: 3,412,900

•Age 65 and older: 2,724,600

**Race or Ethnicity**

•White: 4,802,600 (2.1%)

•Black / African American:

1,117,000 (2.9%)

•Hispanic: 1,079,900 (2.1%)

•Asian: 190,000 (1.2%)

•American Indian or Alaska Native:

95,600 (3.8%)

•Some other race(s): 465,100

(2.0%)

**Statistical Facts about**

**State Distribution**

The total number of non-institutionalized,

males and females in the United States

reported to have a visual disability in 2012.

Alabama 147,100

Alaska 19,300

Arizona 131,300

Arkansas 93,100

California 701,400

Colorado 92,100

Connecticut 54,800

Delaware 17,700

District of Columbia 15,900

Florida 434,600

Georgia 239,300

Hawaii 22,000

Idaho 36,700

Illinois 241,600

Indiana 139,400

Iowa 50,000

Kansas 51,300

Kentucky 128,200

Louisiana 145,700

Maine 29,700

Maryland 97,600

Massachusetts 118,500

Michigan 199,400

Minnesota 77,400

Mississippi 102,400

Missouri 138,700

Montana 21,600

Nebraska 32,300

Nevada 59,900

New Hampshire 21,200

New Jersey 168,800

New Mexico 69,600

New York 356,700

North Carolina 242,200

North Dakota 10,800

**Ohio 236,900**

Oklahoma 113,600

Oregon 83,500

Pennsylvania 271,400

Rhode Island 20,600

South Carolina 122,800

South Dakota 14,600

Tennessee 177,000

Texas 619,500

Utah 39,400

Vermont 14,700

Virginia 146,600

Washington 125,700

West Virginia 67,300

Wisconsin 98,300

**Statistical Facts about**

**Blindness in the United States**

**Educational Attainment**

These numbers refer to

the highest level of education

attained by a given individual

ages 21-64.

•Less than high school graduation:

878,800 (26.7%)

•High school diploma or a

GED: 1,060,500 (32.3%)

•Some college education/associates

degree: 955,000

(29.1%)

•Bachelor’s degree or higher:

391,700 (11.9%)

**Income and Poverty Status**

Ages 21-64

•Median Annual Earnings:

$32,300

•Median Annual Household

Income: $33,400

•Number living below the poverty

line: 1,022,500 (31.2%)

**Supplemental Security**

**Income**

The number of non-institutionalized

persons aged 21 to

64 years with a visual disability,

in the United States who received

SSI benefi ts in 2012 was

609,100 (18.5%).

**Health Insurance Status**

The number of non-institutionalized

persons aged 21 to

64 years with a visual disability

in the United States in 2012.

•Uninsured: 726,000 (22.1%)

•Insured: 2,560,100 (77.9%)

•Employer/Union: 1,022,600 (31.1%)

•Purchased: 270,900 (8.2%)

•Medicare: 770,000 (23.4%)

•Medicaid: 1,187,600 (36.1%)

•Military/VA: 186,400 (5.7%)

•Indian Health Service: 27,200 (0.8%)

**Employment (U.S.)**

Ages 21-64

•Employed: 1,240,200

•Full-time: 809,900

•Unemployment (in the labor

force): 250,900

•Unemployment (not in the labor

force): 1,795,000

Therefore, for working age

adults reporting signifi cant vision

loss, only 37.7% were employed

in 2012.

**Mobility**

*Guiding Eyes for the Blind*

estimates that there are approximately

10,000 guide dog

teams currently working in the

United States.

Visit www.sightedguideohio.org

for the resources

used and for more

detailed information

concerning

these statistics.

**Enjoy Cedar Point this Summer!**

We’re trying to make Cedar

Point as enjoyable and barrierfree

as practical. Listed below

are some of the services we offer.

Please feel free to suggest

areas in which we might improve

in the future.

1.On almost all rides, guests

in wheelchairs will have to transfer

out of their wheelchairs and

into the ride vehicle.

2.A limited supply of wheelchairs

and electric convenience

vehicles (ECV) are available for

rental. However, wheelchairs and

ECVs are rented on a first-come,

first-served basis and we urge

guests to bring their own wheelchair.

Park associate escorts are

necessary to have rented wheelchairs

taken outside the park

gates to the guests’ car.

3. Our two First Aid Stations

are staffed from 10 a.m. to closing.

Refrigeration for medication, with

the exception of bee sting anaphylaxis

kits, is available at First Aid,

and medical equipment can be

stored. Emergency medical care

is available for overnight guests.

4.Guests requiring handicap

parking spaces should turn on

hazard lights and ask a traffic

director for the exact location.

Permits are required to use these

spaces.

5.Guests may recharge their

wheelchair battery in the Guest

Services Office.

6.All shows and most attractions

are accessible.

7. Assistive listening systems

utilize a lightweight wireless device

that receives a signal from

transmitters at certain locations

in order to amplify sound. These

are recommended for guests with

mild to moderate hearing loss. To

use the system, obtain a receiver

at Guest Services. A $20.00 refundable

deposit is required.

8. **American Sign**

**Language Interpreting**

If requested at least

one week in advance,

Cedar Point will provide

American Sign Language

Interpretation. To arrange

for sign language interpreting

services, please

email mfrankart@cedarpoint.

com.

9.**Braille Guides**

Braille guides of the Park Map

and Guest Assistance Guide are

available at Guest Services.

There are a limited number of

guides available to rent on a

first-come, first-served basis.

A $20.00 refundable deposit is

required. Refundable only when

guide is returned to Guest Services

on the same day.

10.Private rest room facilities

for guests needing the assistance

of another guest are available at

Main First Aid, Camp Snoopy,

Coral Courtyard, Frontier First

Aid, Matterhorn and Pet Farm

rest room on the Frontier Trail.

Wheelchair accessible stalls are

located in all rest room facilities.

11. A TTY is available at Hotel

Breakers for guests with hearing

disabilities needing to use a telephone.

12.Although food and beverages

are not allowed to be

brought into the park, individuals

who have special need/diet

items due to a medical condition

may bring small coolers to accommodate

such needs.

13. **Service animals** (limited

to Guide Dogs and Miniature

Horses) are welcome at Cedar

Point. Service animals must be

physically controlled on a leash

or harness at all times. Due to the

nature of most rides, service animals

must remain with a non-riding

member of the guest’s party.

Cedar Point hosts are not permitted

to take control of service

animals. Guests whose service

animals demonstrate aggressive

actions toward our guests or associates

will be directed to remove

the animal from the park. Limit one

service animal per guest. Guests

may take advantage of our Parent

Swap policy for staying with the

service animal. Service animals

may be taken on the Carrousels

and C.P. & L.E. Railroad.

14. Wheelchair Lifts are available

to transport a Guest in a

Wheelchair and One Companion

to our 2nd story ride platforms.

Please use phone at base of lift

to request service. Wheelchair

Lifts are available at Corkscrew,

GateKeeper, Gemini, Iron Dragon,

Wilderness Run, Magnum

XL-200, Mantis, Mine Ride, Pipe

Scream and Raptor. A standard

elevator is available for self service

at Maverick.

15. If you need further information

or have a special need

that is not addressed here,

please contact the Guest Services

Office at the Front Gate,

or call (419) 627-2301. Online at

www.cedarpoint.com

**Basic Information**

In general, all riders should be

in good health and free from any

conditions known or unknown

that might be aggravated by riding.

To ride, guests must have

the ability to brace themselves

upright in the seat and support

their head and neck during the

ride movements.

**Enjoy Cedar Point this Summer!**

**Am I Legally Blind?**

**by Dr. Kruszewski**

During my 28 years in practice

there is probably not a week

that goes by without one of my

patients proclaiming they are

“legally blind” without their glasses.

This will typically lead to a

conversation about what it really

means to be legally blind and

some of the common causes for

blindness and visual impairment.

Although many of the terms that

are used to describe vision loss

are often misinterpreted, it can

lead to an interesting discussion

and an opportunity for patient

education.

The statutory defi nition of

legally blind is that central visual

acuity must be 20/200 or less

in the better eye with the best

possible correction or that the

visual fi eld must be 20 degrees

or less. So, what many people

don’t realize is that we are always

considering the best corrected

vision when determining

visual impairment. The National

Federation of the Blind takes a

much broader view and considers

a person blind if their sight is

bad enough that they must use

alternative methods, in addition

to corrective lenses, to engage

in any activity that a person with

normal vision would do using

their eyes. Often patients that

fall under this broader defi nition

are considered “visually

impaired” or said to have “low

vision”.

Regardless of the defi nition,

vision loss and visually impairment

can be devastating

to some and

certainly life-altering

for all. Fortunately,

with advancements

in medicine and with

early detection, many

forms of new blindness

are preventable and

treatable. Two of the

leading causes of new

blindness in the United

States are Age-related

Macular Degeneration

and Diabetic Retinopathy.

Over the last

several years, new

medications have been

developed that when

injected into the eye

can inhibit the growth

of new blood vessels

in these conditions.

The use of these medications

has been shown to successfully

prevent or slow addition

vision loss. In addition, making

wise life style choices including

smoking cessation, protecting

the eyes from harmful Ultraviolet

Light, and making wise dietary

choices including the use

of nutraceuticals can prevent

future vision loss.

For those with irreversible

blindness, technology has

been instrumental in allowing

for independent and productive

lives. Advancements in computers,

smartphones and GPS

devices are giving blind individuals

greater freedom. In addition,

medical research continues to

work for a way to restore vision

to those that was once thought

impossible. Stem cell research,

retinal prosthetics and the use

of sub-retinal microchips are

just a few of possible ways that

research and technology may

continue to enhance the lives of

the visually impaired.

Despite the various defi nitions,

all forms of visual impairments

need be evaluated and

monitored on a regular basis.

Conditions that were once

thought untreatable may not be

any longer and conditions that

are considered irreversible may

not be in the future.15

**FACES AND FACTS TELL THE**

**STORY OF DISABILITY**

*By Erin Thompson, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Toledo, OH*

Every family has stories—stories

are a great way to carry on

family legacies, pass lessons on

to future generations, and share

what is important to your family

with the rest of the world. Your

family stories may include ones

about the birth of a child, serving

in war, helping people in need, or

the deaths of loved ones.We’d

like to share some stories about

what it means to receive disability

benefits from Social Security.

And we have a website that does

just that: The Faces and Facts

of Disability, ready for you to explore

at www.socialsecurity.gov/

disabilityfacts.

Learning the facts and

hearing people’s stories about

disability allows for a fuller understanding

of what is perhaps

the most misunderstood Social

Security program. The Social

Security Act sets a very strict

definition of disability. To receive

disability benefits, a person

must have an impairment

expected to last at least a year

or result in death. The impairment

must be so severe that it

renders the person unable to

perform not only his or her previous

work, but also any other

substantial work in the national

job market. Social Security does

not provide temporary or partial

disability benefits. Because the

eligibility requirements are so

strict, Social Security disability

beneficiaries are among the

most severely impaired people

in the country and tend to have

high death rates.

In addition, Social Security

conducts a periodic review of

people who receive disability

benefits to ensure they remain

eligible for disability. Social

Security aggressively works to

prevent, detect, and prosecute

fraud. Social Security often investigates

suspicious disability

claims before making a decision

to award benefits—proactively

stopping fraud before it happens.

These steps help ensure

only those eligible have access

to disability benefits.

If you want to learn more

about what happens behind the

scenes when someone applies

for disability benefits, watch our

seven-part video series on the

process at www.socialsecurity.

gov/socialmedia/webinars.

Please read and watch some of

the stories about real cases of

people who have benefited from

Social Security by visiting the

Faces and Facts of Disability

website at www.socialsecurity.

gov/disabilityfacts. Family and

personal stories are great ways

to discover important truths.

**Unified English Braille**

**(UEB) to replace EBAE**

The Braille Authority of

North America (BANA) adopted

Unified English Braille

(UEB) to replace the current

English Braille American

Edition (EBAE) in the

United States. The official

braille codes for the United

States will be Unified English

Braille, Nemeth Code

for Mathematics and Science

Notation, Music Braille

Code, and The IPA Braille

Code. States are expected

to have most phases or

plans to transition in place

by January 4, 2016.

**Why the change?**

As the use of electronic

means to read and write in

both print and braille proliferates,

the need for accurate

translation both from print

to braille and from braille to

print becomes an increasingly

critical consideration. An unanbiguous

switching method

eliminates code confl icts and

makes it possible for accurate

translation in either direction to

occur, so that mathematics can

be communicated between

print users and braille users

using Nemeth Code.

More information is available

online at http://cisam.ossb.

oh.gov/UEBTransition.php

**List of resources and**

**Camps**

**Lions Bear Lake Camp:** Visually

Impaired and Youth Sessions,

Level 1 July 5-11 (first

timers) and Level II July 19-25.

Cost is $50. The Open House

is on June 28, 2015 from 12:00

noon through 3:00 p.m. Lions

Bear Lake Camp is in Lapeer,

MI. www.bearlakecamp.org

**Opportunities Unlimited for**

**the Blind:** Blindness Immersion

I – June 14 -21 collaboration

with SITC/ABVI. Blindness

Immersion II – June 21-June

27 Collaboration with SITC/

ABVI. June 28 – July 3 Cookin’

&Jammin’ Camp. July 5 – July

12 Survivor Art Camp. July 13

–July 23 Adventure Camp.

Please call the OUB office at

989-855-2430 or email gwen@

oubmichigan.org with any questions.

www.oubmichigan.org

**VIP Sports Camp at Slippery**

**Rock University, PA:** June

18-25, 2015. Cost is $300

per 1st athelete and $250 for

siblings. More info to come.

Please check back on FB page

or Sighted Guide Ohio: http://

www.sightedguideohio.org/ for

updates. You may also contact

Wendy Fagan directly at wendy.

fagan@sru.edu.

**Assitive Technology Conference:**

May 2, 2015. Will be in

Columbus at the Educational

Service Center. This conference

is free to all

blind/VI families.

It has been a very

informational day

filled with new pieces

of technology and/

or new ideas and another

parent to parent network. For

more information please go

to our FB page, OSSB page

or Sighted Guide Ohio: http://

www.sightedguideohio.org/

**Space Camp for Interested**

**Visually Impaired Students**

**or SCIVIS:** September 19-24,

2015 (travel home 25th) Cost

$710 but some scholarships

available through Lighthouse

School for the Blind. SCIVIS is

a week long camp that takes

place at the US Space and

Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

Coordinated by teachers

of the visually impaired.

http://www.tsbvi.edu/space/

**Miracle League of NWO:** Provides

opportunities for children

and adults with disabilities to play

Miracle League baseball, regardless

of their abilities. Located

at 2100 Tracy Rd., Northwood,

Ohio 43619. The city of Northwood

has graciously donated

land in their Brentwood Park to

the Miracle League of Northwest

Ohio. Brentwood Park is located

at 2100 Tracy Road right behind

the fire station!

www.mlnwo.org Parent

meeting and registration for

Spring 2015 will be held, there

is a $25 registration fee, however

it’s waived if you attend

the meeting on April 19.

**Toledo & NWO Parents of**

**Visually Impaired:** Facebook

page created to help parent to

parent networking about IEPs,

ADLs, technology, and events

going on in or around our area.

If you are on Facebook please

find us and join our group!

**Fishing Day for Blind/Visually**

**Impaired:** 11th Annual Fishing

Adventure for the Blind/Visually

Impiared. Saturday, May

23, 2015 from 8:30am- 2:00pm.

Held at Merickel Farley Trout

Club. Sponsored by both Merickel

Farley Trout Club and Sylvania

Sunrise Lions Club.

For more

**Ohio State School for**

**the Blind camps:**

**Braille Immersion**

June 16-20, 2014

Entering Grades 3-7,

Ages 8-12 in Fall 2014

**Science, Technology,**

**Engineering & Math (STEM)**

June 16-20, 2014

Entering Grades 8-12,

Ages 13-18 in Fall 2014

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Sunrise Lions Club.

For more events and news visit

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

**Caregiver Support &**

**Information**

1st Wednesday of Each Month

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Arc Office

**Board Meetings**

1st Wednesday of each month

5:30pm

3450 W. Central Ave. Suite 354

Toledo, Ohio 43606

**People First Meetings**

3rd Thursday of each month

6:00 - 8:00 pm

The Ability Center

5605 Monroe Street

Holiday Party in December

*The Arc of Lucas County*

*3450 W. Central Ave., Suite*

*354, Toledo, Oh 43606*

*419.882.0941*

*www.arclucas.org*

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List

your event

with us.

Email: **Adrianne@**

**sightedguideohio.org**

SIGHTED GUIDE OHIO

Spring 2015

**3rd Annual Goalball Tournament**

on April 12th @ 11am.

Location is Harrington Center:

Main Gym 5701 Delhi Rd, Cincinnati,

OH 45233. Please join

us to help create awareness for

those with visual impairments.

Lunch provided and for more

information please email Alex

@ Alexandra.logan@msj.edu

**Upcoming**

**Events Beachwood:** Preston’s H.O.P.E.

— Located on the property of The

Mandel JCC, 26001 South Woodland

Rd. The largest fully accessible

playground park in Northeast Ohio.

**Cambridge:** Cambridge City Park –

McKinley Ave & Lakeside Dr. This

GameTime playground includes

swings, slides, coil-spring rides, climbing

platforms and activity panels, and

is treated with an added safety feature

of a rubberized coating.

**Circleville:** Mary Virginia Crites Hannan

Community Park – A Boundless

™ Playground is located off Rt.

188 on Pontius Road.

**The City of Ravenna:** Ravenna

Community Playground – Located in

Chestnut Hills Park, on North Chestnut

Street in Ravenna.

**Colerain Township:** Clippard Park

Boundless™ Playground — 10243

Dewhill Road.

**Columbus:** Carriage Place Park –

4900 Sawmill Road.

**Dayton:** W.S. McIntosh Memorial

Park–W Riverview Ave Located a

half-mile from a historic Wright Brothers

site.

**Euclid:** Playground of Possibilities –

located at Bexley Park.

**Mason:** Thomas P Quinn Park – 880

Tradewinds Drive. This neighborhood

park features a handicap accessible

playground along with tennis, basketball.

**Newark:** Newark Rotary Accessible

Playground–located on Sharon Valley

Road just north of the OSUN/

COTC campus.

**Powell:** Liberty Township Boundless

™ Playground – 2507 Home Rd.

**Stow:** Stow Outdoor Accessible Recreation

Playground — located at Silver

Springs Park, 5027 Stow Road.

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

-- located within Perkins Park,

391 Mahoning Ave.

**West Chester:** Hopewell Elementary

School Boundless™ Playground

— 8300 Cox Road.

**Westerville:** Millstone Creek Park –

745 N. Spring Rd.

*More information available online at*

*www.sightedguideohio.org*

**Ohio Accessible**

**Playgrounds**

**Clovernook**

Clovernook

Center’s Summer

Day Camp’s are fast approaching!

This year, camps will take place

over three weeks, and will feature

a variety of topics and activities.

**The 2015 camp schedule is**

**as follows:**

For youth ages 13 - 22:

• June 8-12th

• June 15-19th

• June 22nd-26th

For youth ages 8 – 12:

• July 6-10th

• July 13-17th

• July 20-24th

*Please note: Youth may attend*

*as few or as many weeks*

*of camp as they would like.*

An open house for camp

will be held at Clovernook Center

on Monday, April 6, from

6:30pm to 9:00pm in the main

building. They will discuss the

new format, pre-register participants,

preview the 2015 camp

schedule, and have some refreshments.

For questions and to RSVP,

please contact 513-728-6224

or dfatora@clovernook.org.