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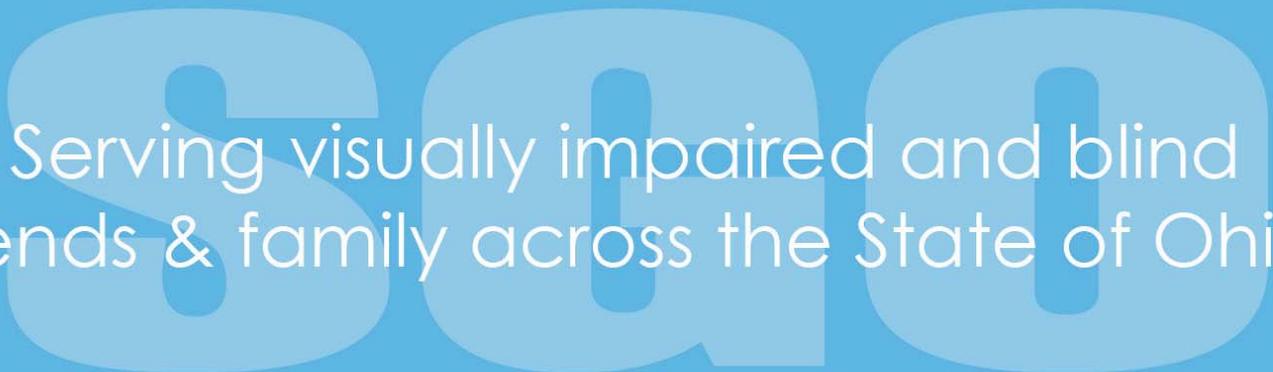
2017 Winter Edition
Volume 3 Issue 1

SIGHTED GUIDE OHIO



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Message
from the
Editor

Happy Holidays Everyone!



Photo of John Soovagian

It is amazing on how fast times flies. I hope you had a great 2016 and are looking forward to 2017! The holidays are here and that gives us a great reason for friends and family to spend time together. Tis the season to reach out and hug someone...that will put a smile on their face!!

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*The best and most
beautiful things in the
world can not be seen
or even touched-they
have to be felt with
the heart.
-Helen Keller*





CABVI Expanding Jobs and Services

November 22, 2016, Cincinnati, OH – Since 1911, Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CABVI) has been providing counseling, rehabilitation, information and employment services to people of all ages in Greater Cincinnati. Through its services, the agency strives to help individuals adapt to vision loss, ensuring full lives and community inclusion. CABVI served 5,006 people with severe vision loss in 2015. This is the highest total of clients ever served in one year by CABVI.

In July, CABVI purchased an additional 59,000 sq. ft. building on Kenner Street, near the Cincinnati Museum Center, to support more jobs for people who are blind or visually impaired. This increases CABVI's space available by more than 75%. Once this new facility is operational in mid-2017, we plan to convert the vacated space on Gilbert Avenue for expanded client services. I am pleased to share that the Board of CABVI has decided to name our new building the Hornbeck Social Enterprise Center in honor of Carolyn Hornbeck who passed away at the age of 93 on April 24, 2015 and gave CABVI a very generous planned gift. This gift is being used to cover the cost of CABVI's new building and makes possible expanded

employment opportunities and space for services.

CABVI is creating new job opportunities for people with vision loss through exciting partnerships, like the one with MN8@ Foxfire and the Kroger Company. CABVI employees who are blind or visually impaired produce photoluminescent exit signs that Kroger will use in their stores nationwide. This partnership, along with assembly of new OXO International items for the National Industries for the Blind Military Resale program, and production of sticky notes and door locks for the State of Ohio's Office of Procurement from Community Rehabilitation Programs, are helping CABVI address the unacceptable 65% unemployment rate for people with severe vision loss.

CABVI is also creating more service sector jobs for people with severe vision loss through its office supply distribution service, VIE Ability at www.VIE-Ability.org. With 40,000+ items available, customers are pleased with the very competitive prices and free next day delivery with no minimums. For more information about CABVI's services and employment opportunities, please call (513) 221-8558 or visit our website at www.cincyblind.org.



About John Mitchell, CEO

John Mitchell has served as CEO of the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CABVI) since December 2006. Prior to that, he served as CABVI's Director of Operations from 1999 to 2006. John worked for the Clovernook Center for the Blind from 1985 to 1999 and has a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Cincinnati (1983). John is currently on the boards of the National Industries for the Blind and the Vision Serve Alliance, and is a past board president of the National Association for the Employment of People Who Are Blind (NAEPB).



Table of Contents

“Believe you can and you’re half way there.”
~ Theodore Roosevelt

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Editor	3
Joy Zabala Receives 2016 OCALI Award	7
Driving on the Horizon	10-11
New Active Learning Resource for Learners with Visual Impairments and Complex Learning Needs	12
The Rules Have Changed For Ohioans	14
Social Security Column	16
Bookshare Member Amare Leggette Finishes Top Ten in 2016 National Braille Challenge	18
World's First described video on-demand Service for the Blind Debuts	21
How You Can Help	22
2016 Goalball Season	24
Upcoming Events	30-31
Accessible Playgrounds	31

— Cover Photo Courtesy of OUB

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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Joy Zabala Receives 2016 OCALI Award

At this year's OCALICON Conference (November 14-18), OCALI formally recognized and acknowledged the impact, leadership, and accomplishments of individuals across the nation who help improve the outcomes for people with autism, sensory disabilities, and low-incidence disabilities. To this end, the recipients of the 2016 OCALI Awards were Jerry Whittaker, Jerod Smalley, Ohio Representative Jon Peterson, and AEM's very own Joy Zabala!

Candidates were evaluated for their personal achievements and accomplishments, leadership skills and abilities, innovative ideas, practices, and solutions, collaboration and mentoring efforts, and overall impact on their communities. Congratulations, Joy!

Accessibility and Civil Rights

In May, 2016, the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice published its

intent to extend legal requirements for accessibility to all ADA Title II eligible institutions in its Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability; Accessibility of Web Information and Services of State and Local Government Entities notice (see <https://www.ada.gov/regs2016/sanprm.html>). The comment period for this rulemaking closed in October, 2016. The proposed rulemaking under Title II impacts public schools, colleges and universities and their use of web content. The technical accessibility standard, known as WCAG 2 Level AA, is proposed as the baseline "because it includes criteria that provide more comprehensive Web accessibility to individuals with disabilities—including those with visual, auditory, physical, speech, cognitive, developmental, learning, and



neurological disabilities". Additional implementation considerations are included in the proposal and this activity from the DOJ indicates a clear intention to require the use of accessible web content within state and local education settings in the near future.

Happy Holidays!

Wishing everyone safe, refreshing and happy holidays! May your celebrations be filled with peace, love and joy!

We look forward to seeing you often in 2017, both online and in person.

And don't forget! We are always here to help and only a fingertip away!

Joy Zabala

Co-Director, National Center on Accessible Educational Materials; Director of Technical Assistance, CAST

jzabala@cast.org

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.

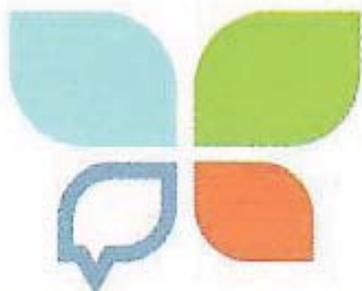
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www.perkinselearning.org/professional-development

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





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HEAP



Heating Assistance Is Available for Older Adults

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

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

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



Driving on the horizon

By Elizabeth L. Sammons

"You can come with us, Mom, but don't freak out, because if you do, so will I." These grudging words pave our way to my daughter Sophia's third driving experience.

The sapphire dusk seems unseasonably warm for February – warm, but uncannily quiet, since either Sophia or Jeff has just turned off the radio, Gracie's voice. Gracie, that's what we call Our 2005 Cadillac DeVille, seems unperturbed by a new set of hands at the wheel as we commence head first out of the driveway where Jeff has parked the car for an easy exit. As our foursome traces a bold curve, my concentration as Sophia takes a left-hand turn rivals my childhood attempts to cut smoothly with scissors. "It's different out here in the dark," Sophia manages just before her father grunts in agreement and reminds her, "Turn signal, even in a court." Already I find myself wishing that all these streets were one way, that all drivers would be indoors and that all traffic signs would flash upon our approach.

As we continue towards a more trafficked road, Jeff punctuates the journey at hand... "Right up here... Remember to stop... Look left a second time before you cross." I tense as I recall reports from their last lesson – another driver tailgating Sophia and passing, narrowly missed by an oncoming vehicle, and minutes later, the urgent need to brake as two dogs began playing in the middle of the road. The "Student Driver" sign wouldn't have helped, at least not with the dogs, but now I feel a modicum of security, knowing the prismatic sign radiates from neon

green poster paper on the back dash board. But can this be seen as the darkness swells around us?

"Go on down Davidson Road," Jeff directs, using his chest voice that signals no back talk.

"But there's –there's" Sophia stutters.

"I know a traffic circle or two. You'll be ok."

I shudder along with Gracie's wheels rattling over the railroad tracks. As I said, things are quiet – too quiet. But how many hundreds of times have we bounced over this crossing in six years living in our near-by development without my even taking heed? I am often amazed as a driver notices the slightest whirr, rattle or shimmy out of the ordinary. This astonishment finds its match only when I note this same driver's oblivion to the call of a red-winged black bird along our way, which to me is the bill board of things springly, of marshy joy that we pass by and cannot claim.

Eternal passenger as someone blind from birth, I used to believe the popular assumption that my hearing was better, and while I still agree that it is more focused than for most people whose eyes see what I gather with my ears, this driving lesson shows me that it is only a question of perspective, of what we choose to attend to.

"Slower now, someone coming... now go ahead, either lane, and go half way around the circle, then easy over," Jeff intones. Sophia is precise in her following; Gracie slices as smoothly through this curving orbit as the motor boat I once steered on a calm lake, the only driving experience I

can boast of.

"Great job," I breathe. It is my first comment. And I am surprised when Sophia answers me. "Really? Cool!"

My quiet is purposeful, considering the myriad issues this fledgling must keep in mind as she approaches America's most important right of passage for a teen. Then, too, I know the slightest freak out, forbidden as a ground rule of my presence here, would surely have trembled my voice if I had spoken earlier.

Traffic lights beam their orders along the spectrum of stop and go, and to my relief, Sophia obeys. "I just figured it out, dad – I have to let up a tiny bit on the brake so we don't pull back on the stop."

"Right – that's right," Jeff replies. Even in his three words, pride edges in. "I knew you'd figure that out." Suddenly his tone changes to the boss – the dad. "Now stay in the middle – you're going right and you're going to bump into that car right there!" My stomach lurches as I feel a swerve, though I have never been car sick. I know now is most definitely not the time to start!

Mercifully, perhaps, a childhood memory clogs my roadward concentration. "Keep the Middle Way!" The voice is a man's; preserved on the taped version of "Greek Gods and Heroes" I had listened to until I had it memorized at age six. The myth is that of Daedalus and Icarus. The master maker of wings is talking to his son to fly neither too high, nor too low in his escape from the maze in which these two have been imprisoned. Why do I remember this now, and why do my shoulders



contract as though their own burden is too heavy tonight? I try to shake the myth, with its tragic ending when Icarus ignores Daedalus' wise advice, flying too high. But I can virtually feel the wax holding high his wings melting before he falls helplessly to his death in the sea.

True to her Greek name meaning Wisdom, Sophia attempts to do as her father turned teacher is commanding her, no teen objections. Again, then again, he lets her know that she is straying to the right, where Gracie's wheels snicker over rough pavement, or that her hands are crossing needlessly and, to boot, that she must not stray left to clear a right turn. From this sightless back seat, my breath comes short.

A final test – Sophia must back out of a drive way when she finds that there is no exit in the cul de sac where her father – Daedalus – has allowed her to stray. “Just shift, just feel the gutter curb at your wheels and turn. It won't be bad,” he says.

“Not unless I hit the mail box,” Sophia mutters, but I can already feel Gracie gentling from her frontward sweep.

Again, my mind is transported back through time. “It's the number five, number five, number five!” Sophia shouts and starts jumping up and down. “I can read it now, Mama. It's coming!” Small right hand raised to meet my left, Sophia is reaching for me as we ascend the bus steps and board together on our way home from her preschool. Both of us laugh as a fat drop of rain splatters on my nose; I have forgotten the umbrella. Together we are rejoicing

that the bus has come so quickly; we know we'll be home soon now. Such times of mutual constraint from this art we call driving are to be ours no more, I realize in the dusk. In fact, like many in our city, Sophia may never even ride another bus.

After a measureless distance, somehow Gracie and Sophia negotiate their way home. I open my door upon the stereophonic click of four locks freeing themselves; Sophia has remembered to put the gear in park. Something makes me walk to her side of the car. I raise my right hand, then my left, and we give each other a double high-five. The keys in her right hand embed a notch in my left palm that will not disappear for several minutes; our other hands collide with a smack only two sweat-moist surfaces can release. “Good job, Mama,” I tell her, imitating the beloved phrase she used to say to me when she thought I had done something wonderful.

But as I turn away, my smile fades. I cannot shake this tingling of pride in her accomplishments, and this pulsing sorrow that soon now, a final divide nearly universal in 21st-century America will come between us – that of the sightless and unlicensed, versus the keen-eyed masters of the road. “Good job, Mama,” I repeat to myself as I enter the familiar house.



Elizabeth L. Sammons

“Hey, Mom, come here,” Sophia calls after we have taken off our coats. “I forgot to give this to you for your birth day.” In my hand, I find a small tablet, spiral bound. On each page is written one promise... “Good for one... back massage...

breakfast in bed... reading session.” But the last coupon reads “Good for one taxi ride.”

“Maybe not quite yet,” I reply as I close the tiny notebook.

“Sophia laughs. “Well duh, Mom. But soon now. Won't it be fun?”

Elizabeth L. Sammons holds an M.A. in journalism from OSU and has served in the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities for 12 years. Her current position is Program Administrator. In June, 2016, Elizabeth coordinated a first-of-its-kind literacy and independent living program for deafblind adults in Ohio called DoDots. Additional to her disability career, Elizabeth is an active creative writer, parent, wife and internationalist, having lived in 5 foreign countries through Peace Corps and other work and exchange opportunities. You may find more of her creative writing at www.windowsofthought.wordpress.com



New Active Learning Resource for Learners with Visual Impairments and Complex Learning Needs

By Charlotte Cushman

Active Learning Space <<http://activelearningspace.org/>> is a new collaborative website created by Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Perkins eLearning, and Penrickton Center for Blind Children. Active Learning is an approach based on the work of Dr. Lilli Nielsen. It is not just a piece of equipment, such as a “Little Room” or a HOPSA dress, but rather it refers to a total approach for instructing individuals with severe multiple disabilities. It includes an assessment, a curriculum, specially-designed equipment, and instructional strategies that support learners to be active participants in their surroundings.

The site offers information about the Active Learning approach, including video examples, videos about the prin-

ciples of the approach, ideas for what you can make, and more!

You may wish to begin with an introduction to Active Learning Principles <http://www.activelearningspace.org/principles/overview> with information about the Dynamic Learning Circle and the Five Phases of Educational Techniques. Then check out a couple of science lessons using the Active Learning approach. <http://www.activelearningspace.org/principles/instruction-science-lesson> The Active Learning approach can also be used for crafts and other projects, such as carving pumpkins <http://www.activelearningspace.org/2-uncategorised/33-crafts-activity-and-projects-using-active-learning-approach>

While it is best to purchase certain materials and pieces of equipment, there are also lots of things you can make yourself!

<http://www.activelearningspace.org/equipment/make-your-own-equipment>



Check out the instructions to make vests, mobiles, an activity wall and more!

If you would like to learn more about the Active Learning approach, we invite you to join us for our free webinar series, with the next session taking place on January 26, 2017. <http://www.perkinselearning.org/videos/webinar/active-learning-5-part-webinar-series>

Sign up to receive our monthly eNewsletter and follow us on Pinterest! <https://www.pinterest.com/pathstoliteracy/active-learning/>

For more information, contact charlotte.cushman@perkins.org





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The Rules Have Changed For Ohioans

An exciting new initiative recently launched out of the Ohio Treasurer's office that dramatically improves the lives of individuals living with disabilities. On June 1, Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel announced the launch of STABLE Accounts, the nation's first savings and investment accounts for people with special needs

The ability to save for long-term needs, such as housing, living expenses and education, is a basic right that all families and individuals should have, regardless of the challenges or disabilities they may face.

Before STABLE Accounts, Ohioans with disabilities could not save more than \$2,000 in their name, or they risked losing needs-based benefits, such as Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Now, with the launch of STABLE Accounts, the rules have changed. Individuals with disabilities are empowered to save and invest up to \$14,000 a year, with a maximum account limit of \$426,000, without losing their healthcare benefits, allowing them the opportunity to live more independent and financially secure lives.

This has the power to be truly life-changing.

For the first time, individuals with disabilities have the financial independence to spend money as needed on everyday items like haircuts and school supplies. After years of being told "no", they can finally purchase a bike, a car, or even a house.

And even more, account holders can do all of this with the ease of access of a loadable debit card – the STABLE Card – that can be used to spend STABLE funds and track qualified expenses.

STABLE Accounts aren't just available to Ohioans, they are available to anyone in America. STABLE Accounts can be opened by an individual with a disability or by an authorized legal representative. What's more, anyone can contribute money into a STABLE Account, opening the door for anyone to make a difference for family, friends and neighbors.

STABLE Accounts have similar features to normal bank accounts, but are not checking or savings accounts. Instead, STABLE Accounts function as an investment account, similar to a 529 college savings account or 401(k) retirement account.

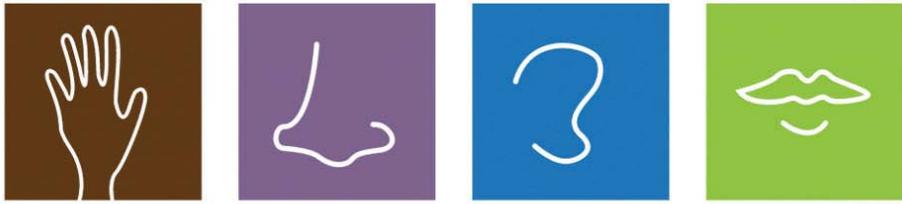
While participants can still

withdraw and spend money as needed, a STABLE Account also allows the money to grow in order to save for long-term expenses. Earnings on savings are tax-deferred when used to pay for qualified disability expenses, such as housing and rent, assistive technology (like hearing aids or an iPad) or employment training.

Eligible participants can set up their STABLE Account at www.stableaccount.com, where registration is free and can be done entirely online. Participants can monitor investments, make contributions and request withdrawals all from the convenience of their home – so no trips to the bank are necessary.

To get started, please visit www.stableaccount.com. For more information, please call 1-800-439-1653 or email team@stableaccount.com.

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~ Helen Keller



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OUB Camps are fantastic opportunities for children with blindness or low vision to learn, grow and thrive! Our camps provide outdoor educational experiences and job training where kids and staff with visual impairments can participate in all of the usual camping activities like campfires, boating, swimming and hiking, while learning skills, like cooking, that will help them prepare for a lifetime of independence and success.



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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.



SOCIAL SECURITY IS ALWAYS EVOLVING

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

Social Security is always evolving to meet the needs of the American public. We're optimistic about the future and the limitless possibilities for progress. Much of the progress we've made together, as a nation, is through the shared responsibility of paying Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) tax. This federal payroll tax funds Social Security—programs that provide benefits for retirees, the disabled, and children of deceased workers. You help us keep millions of hard working Americans out of poverty.

Without your contribution, wounded warriors wouldn't receive the benefits they deserve. Children who have lost parents would have no social safety net. Millions of elderly people would be destitute. In the same way that we take great pride in helping people who need it, you should take pride in making this country stronger. You can see the many ways our retirement benefits help your loved ones and neighbors at www.socialsecurity.gov/retire.

The strength of our nation relies on cooperation and the empathy to understand each other's unique struggles. Similarly, Social Security has an obligation to provide benefits quickly to applicants whose medical conditions are so serious that their conditions obviously meet disability standards.

Compassionate Allowances offer a way of quickly identifying diseases and other medical conditions that invariably qualify under the Listing of Impairments based on minimal objective medical information. This also lets Social Security target the most obviously disabled individuals for

allowances based on objective medical information that we can obtain quickly. You can view the list of Compassionate Allowances at www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances. Our diversity is an asset that can bring us together, making us stronger as a nation. Visit www.socialsecurity.gov to empower your future, for today and tomorrow.

HARNESS THE POWER OF OUR TOP TEN BLOG POSTS

At Social Security, we're always looking for ways to improve how we communicate with you. It's been a year-and-a-half since we joined the blogosphere, and we couldn't be happier with the content we've been able to provide! This blog is exactly what we envisioned: an honest conversation with you about our programs, the topics that matter to you, and how our agency can better serve you.

On our blog, Social Security Matters, we've told you about our online services, warned you about protecting yourself against fraud, and shared new ways you can start preparing for a secure retirement. If you haven't read our blog, check it out now. And if you have, here's an opportunity to revisit some of our best posts of the past year and a half. It's never too late to join the conversation by commenting on these blog posts.

Social Security and Veterans Affairs Partnership Speeds Disability Decisions for Veterans at blog.socialsecurity.gov/social-security-and-veterans-affairs-partnership-speeds-disability-decisions-for-veterans

How I Navigated the Social Security Disability Process at blog.socialsecurity.gov/how-i-navigated-the-social-security-disability-process/

Reporting Changes is Your Responsibility at blog.socialsecurity.gov/reporting-changes-is-your-responsibility/

Scammers Fake Social Security email at blog.socialsecurity.gov/scammers-fake-social-security-email/

The Disability Insurance Program — Securing Today and Tomorrow for 60 Years at blog.socialsecurity.gov/the-disability-insurance-program-securing-today-and-tomorrow-for-60-years/

Have You Seen Your Social Security Card Lately? at blog.socialsecurity.gov/have-you-seen-your-social-security-card-lately/

Your Social Security Statement Is Now at Your Fingertips at blog.socialsecurity.gov/your-social-security-statement-is-now-at-your-fingertips/

A Special Arrival! Top Baby Names in 2015 at blog.ssa.gov/a-special-arrival/

What is Social Security at blog.socialsecurity.gov/what-is-social-security/

Going Online with Social Security isn't Hard Work at blog.socialsecurity.gov/going-online-with-social-security-isnt-hard-work/

And these are only a fraction of the topics we've covered in this busy year. Visit our blog to learn about these and many other topics that may interest you. Stay informed, join the over a quarter million subscribers of Social Security Matters. With financial benefits, services, and information, Social Security is here to help support you throughout life's journey. Go check out our 10 most popular blogs and learn more about how our agency helps secure today and tomorrow.



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Bookshare Member Amare Leggette Finishes Top Ten in 2016 National Braille Challenge

Amare Leggette, an energetic eight-year-old from Eastover Elementary School in Charlotte, North Carolina just finished as a top ten finalist in the 2016 National Braille Challenge.

Blind since birth, Amare read at the age of two and soon after learned his multiplication tables. Today, he is number six in the nation after competing in skills such as spelling, braille contractions, timed reading, comprehension and proofreading.

His mother, Teresa Peterson, a science and math teacher for Piedmont IB Middle School, NC, said, "Amare is very curious. He always wants to learn something new."

Mrs. Peterson credits Holly Jeffries, a Teacher of the Visually Impaired, in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, NC for recommending a Bookshare individual membership to support her son's interests and thirst for knowledge.

Ms. Jeffries said, "Amare read twelve braille books in his first week of school. This is one third of the entire school's collection. When you have a student who can read a book in one night, you have to meet that demand. Through Bookshare, students get the accessible books they need. I feel good about maximizing their learning opportunities. During the competition, Amare was poised, brave and determined to do well and he succeeded!"

About Bookshare

To join Bookshare, U.S. students must have a qualifying print disability that prevents them from reading print books, such as blindness, low vision, a physical disability or a learning disability. The online accessible library is free for U.S. schools and students who qualify with awards from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), U.S. Department of Education.

Student members can enjoy unlimited access to ebooks and free reading tools for computers, Chromebooks, tablets, and smartphones. They can listen to words read aloud, follow along with highlighted text, read in large fonts and in braille.

There are over 450,000 titles, including K12 etextbooks, Common Core materials, children's literature, popular teen books, bestsellers, college prep materials, and titles in Spanish and other languages. English language books can be accessed in contracted or uncontracted braille, in either Unified English Braille (UEB) or English Braille, American Edition (EBAE).

Bookshare Helps Kids Experience Life!

"Bookshare is a wonderful educational resource," adds Mrs. Peterson. "Amare has tremendous recall. As a parent and an educator, I am always searching



for solutions that can truly benefit my son, or my students. Through Bookshare, Amare reads independently. We find all types of ebooks that support his interests. It works well for him and for others like him."

Back in school, Amare is reading and studying fifth grade math. He loves to swim and listen to music. He can tell you about historic events like the Titanic, shark attacks and Pearl Harbor from the I Survived collection by Lauren Tarshis that he read through Bookshare. He can tell you about his favorite book, Magic Tree House.

"Amare is already thinking about next year's braille competition," says Mrs. Peterson. "He tells me that Bookshare is a special library for kids like him who are smart and want to be like everyone else."



A disability isn't a handicap. Discrimination is.



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

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- Social Work Services

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- Children and Young Adult Services
- STORER Center Assistive Technology Lab

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World's First described video on-demand Service for the Blind Debuts

TellMe TV features extensive selection of fully described video on-demand entertainment programming; shrinks accessibility gap for visually impaired.

Toronto, ON – November 22, 2016 – TellMe TV, the world's first fully described video on-demand service (VOD) officially launched today, delivering an unprecedented selection of rich audio description entertainment experiences to the American vision-loss community.

Founded by media connoisseur and accessibility advocate Kevin Shaw, who lost his vision at the age of 19, TellMe TV is an exciting new destination where 100 per cent of the on-demand programming, including a diverse portfolio of movies, television shows and documentaries, features audio description (also called described video).

TellMe TV, compatible with assistive technology and available on any device that has an Internet connection, offers the over 10 million people who experience vision loss in North America, easy and affordable access to top-notch entertainment experiences.

Armed with a Masters degree in media production focused on accessible recording technology, a deep personal understanding of accessibility and a unique perspective on media consumption, founder Kevin Shaw has spent the last four years concentrating on the research and development of accessible and afford-

able entertainment for the vision-loss community.

"Selective accessibility has always been an issue for the visually-impaired and the community is greatly underserved by TV broadcasters," says Kevin Shaw, founder and president of TellMe TV. "My own personal experience and frustration with the obvious deficiencies in accessible entertainment options, from DVD to VOD, led me to the development of TellMe TV – a one-stop destination that is 100 per cent accessible from the moment you enter the site."

Kevin Shaw has been advocating for the release of the TellMe TV platform since 2014, even speaking at TEDx Ryerson about designing for an all-inclusive experience for the vision-loss community through audio description. TellMe TV has been in beta testing for the past 12 months to ensure superior usability and to allow for the ongoing addition of programs to the roster. Currently, there are over 150 movies and shows available, accessible through a monthly fee-based subscription at tellymetv.com.

The new website features an easy-to-understand interface to navigate the assistive technology, while providing users a simple sign-up option via credit card. TellMe TV offers search, browse and sort functionality for its vision-loss audience, as well as a mobile-ready interface – with



dedicated apps for iOS, TVOS, Android and other platforms to be released in 2017.

About TellMe TV

TellMe TV (formerly Zagga Entertainment Ltd.) is solving the problem of inaccessible media for the vision-loss community to create a more inclusive society. TellMe TV is the world's first fully described video on-demand (VOD) service delivering quality audio description movies, documentaries and television to the vision-loss community via the web, mobile devices, smart TVs and other platforms. TellMe TV is committed to providing great visual storytelling that offers a richer entertainment experience for the vision-loss community. TellMe TV lets users browse, search, watch and receive recommendations for popular movies and TV shows all in one consolidated, easy-to-navigate destination, compatible with assistive technology on the web, iOS and Android devices. Visit tellymetv.com

About Audio Description

Audio description narrates on-screen action in between lines of dialog so people living with vision loss can fully experience the scenery, facial expressions and other visual elements of a show or film that aren't communicated by listening just to the soundtrack.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

By Katie Frederick, Executive Director for ACB Ohio

Within ACB-Ohio, many projects and opportunities could use your help, and, guess what, we're not asking for money! Each year, ACB-Ohio's committees help accomplish much of the organization's work. There are also tasks you can help with if working on a committee is not possible.

During the last week of February, ACBOhio sends representatives to the annual affiliate president's meeting and legislative seminar in Washington, DC. Attending the meetings provides opportunities to network with other affiliates, discuss issues of importance affecting people who are blind or visually impaired with elected officials, and spend some time visiting sites in our nation's capital. This year, we would love for you to join us as we advocate to improve services for people who are blind in Ohio and around the country. If you have thought about getting more involved, are interested in meeting with elected officials and taking a road trip, consider joining us in DC in February. More information about this year's event will be available in January. Increasing ACB-Ohio's advocacy efforts at the Ohio Statehouse and in local communities always needs work. If your local chapter has worked in the community to improve access to services, please share with the affiliate. ACB-Ohio's legislative committee would like to host an Ohio advocacy day in the spring and partner with other organizations to bring it to fruition. If you have worked with members of the General Assembly in the past or want to help plan an Ohio day of Advocacy this year, contact the office. During the 2016 conference banquet, ACB-Ohio presented

awards to deserving individuals and organizations around Ohio. See elsewhere in this and future issues of the Ohio Connection for more details on this year's recipients. An awards committee is tasked with reviewing letters of nomination and selecting the most deserving in various categories. Consider writing a letter of nomination or joining the awards committee and help choose worthy recipients in 2017. As 2016 draws to a close, our office is ready to accept 2017 membership dues. When you pay \$15, \$5 goes to ACB's national office, \$5 stays with Ohio, and the remaining \$5 supports a local chapter. If there is not a chapter in your area, consider starting one or sign up as an at-large member. Local chapter listings are on our website at www.acbohio.org/about/localchapters. Becoming a member is important, not only because the more individuals we have the more effective our advocacy efforts, but when we attend the annual ACB conference, our state's membership allows for increased influence of organization policies and elections.

ACB-Ohio has several committees to help do the organization's work. If you have interest in any of the following committees, contact Vicky Prahin at prahin@icloud.com or 614-949-7757.

Membership Committee: The purpose of this group is to devise ways of increasing membership and maintaining current membership.

Legislative Committee: These people keep current on legislation within and outside the state, update the membership,

and contact legislators to support our needs. They also plan and participate in the annual trip to Washington, DC, to learn about current legislation and visit our representatives in the House and Senate.

Awards Committee: This committee solicits, collects, and reviews nominations for the awards ACBO gives out at the annual convention.

Sports and Recreation Committee: This committee promotes and plans the summer and winter sports retreats and other activities in which members participate.

Scholarship Committee: ACBO gives several scholarships to students enrolled in colleges and universities throughout the state. The members of this committee promote the scholarships, review applications, choose recipients, and confer awards.

Fundraising Committee: If you have ideas for raising money for any of our programs, you can help on this committee.

Program Planning Committee: Help us put together the program, find speakers, and plan workshops for the 2017 convention. The committee usually meets once a month by conference call, January through June, and in August and September as needed.

Nominating Committee: Do you know anyone who would like to serve as an officer or member of the board? You can serve on the committee that vets and recommends the slate, or you can make a nomination without being on the committee.

Let's all work together, lend helping hands, and make the American Council of the Blind of Ohio better and stronger in 2017 and beyond!



The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio

JERSEY AUCTION

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Saturday, February 4 at 7pm

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QUESTIONS/CONCERNS:

Contact Tim Tegge at 419-720-3937 x105 or
email at ttegge@sightcentertoledo.org





The 2016 goalball season was exciting. The OSSB goalball panthers participated in three goalball meets. We traveled to Kentucky and Tennessee and held our NCASB conference in St. Louis, at Missouri School for the Blind. The boys team finished fifth and the girls finished sixth.

We got to see students grow and mature on and off of the court. They worked hard and were dedicated to becoming stronger individuals and increase the overall power of the team. All of our athletes met or surpassed their personal goals. We look forward to having another outstanding season in 2017.

Aiden Carter is a hard worker, always showing up to practice ready to go. He contributed very much to the team with his enthusiastic attitude, and scoring a goal at the Kentucky day meet. Cameron Conant has grown incredibly and worked hard during this goalball season and has placed specific focus on his running abilities. Awat Rage also did very well in practice and the Kentucky day meet. He learned about making good choices to create great outcomes. Jason Tolle was one of the new faces on the varsity team. He grew a lot this year and continues to focus on his strengths in anticipation of next season! Caiden Hooks is very methodical in his approach to playing goalball. He has set a goal to increase the power of his throw. Caiden made some tremendous blocks this season. Alex Crawford is always prepared when it is game time. He did whatever was asked of him and always gave it his best. Thomas Alfred worked hard all season. He wanted to continue to specialize his skills and worked to master his skip throw this season. This hard work paid off and led to many goals for the Panthers. Ryan Chandler led the team this year as center. He distributed the ball well and played a vital role in helping younger team members learn the rules of the game. His leadership was appreciated. Our most valuable player Brandon Mason did whatever needed to be done. His goals were to make the A squad or play center on the B squad. Brandon was able to do both this year.

For the Women's Goal Ball Team, we welcomed three new players! These new members joined the veterans Yaqi, Maggie and Autum. Asia provided power at left wing, while Sarah excelled at right wing. Maggie was a key player in this group leading the Panthers to top quality play during games! Lalita provided scoring ability with those quiet balls she is so good at throwing. Our MVP and captain, Yaqi provided leadership, encouragement, knowledge and skill to a young developing team. Thanks girls for a great season!

To celebrate the many successes of the season, the goalball teams had a pizza party at OSSB.

Sincerely, Dan Kelley and Kim Picard



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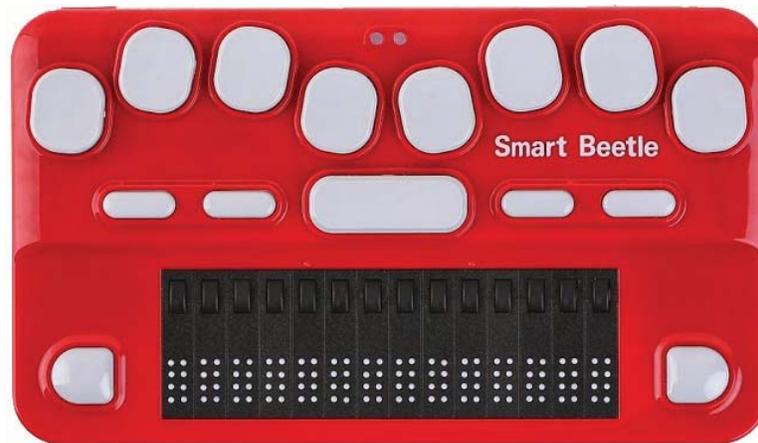


The Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled (OLBDP) is part of the Cleveland Public Library. In partnership with the State Library of Ohio Talking Book Program, OLBDP serves as the Regional Library for the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) of the Library 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. OLBDP 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
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Flying Blind, LLC is pleased to offer Two Gently Used Smart Beetle 14 Cell Braille Displays, manufactured by HIMS, for \$995.00 USD each, approximately 25% off their suggested list price.

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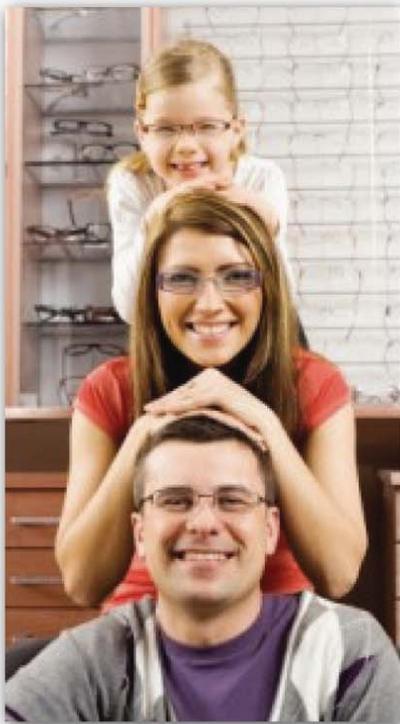
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www.ohiolions.org



Upcoming Events

OCALI Knock Knock: Who is there? It's ME!

Thursday, January 26,
2017 - 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

As educators, we want to bring out the best in our students. This isn't something that we should do FOR them; but by providing our students with a UDL environment, they will be able to facilitate their best "ME" independently. In doing so, we must offer students multiple means of expression. In this webinar, participants will observe 5 ways that students who might struggle with various aspects of academics can show what they know through the creation of accessible digital products.

BrailleNote Touch - Introductory Workshop

Monday, January 30, 2017 -
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

OCALI
470 Glenmont Ave - Columbus,
OH 43214

This workshop will provide an introduction to the BrailleNote Touch. Participants will engage in hands-on activities, discussion and demonstration. The BrailleNote Touch is an intuitive, efficient and modern device a student who reads braille can use to complete class-

room assignments. As the first Google certified braille tablet, classroom advantages include access to Google Apps for Education, access to apps in the Google Play Store, and efficient way to share classroom content.

Assistive Technology and Techniques Sharing In- service

Thursday, February 2, 2017
- 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

OCALI
470 Glenmont Ave - Columbus,
OH 43214

Participants are invited to share assistive technology they use in their classroom with students who are blind and visually impaired. Topics could include braille production techniques, scanning and OCR for braille and large print, useful websites, software, new hardware and assistive devices, and much more! Come prepared to demonstrate/explain how the technology is used with their students or have their students come and demonstrate it themselves!

How to Deal with Nemeth and UEB

Friday, February 24, 2017 -
12:30 pm - 3:30 pm

OCALI
470 Glenmont Avenue - Columbus,
OH 43214

This hands-on training will provide Ohio educators and parents who already have a good working knowledge of braille with the differences between the current braille code and UEB. The instructor will cover the following: 1) general principles of changing codes between UEB and Nemeth Code, 2) dealing with primarily math material, 3) dealing with primarily word material, 4) dealing with heavily mixed math and word material.

Check out <http://www.clevelandsightcenter.org/events-activities> for the latest events and programs with CSC.

ACB-OHIO DATEBOOK JANUARY 7

ACBO BOARD MEETING
COLUMBUS, OHIO

JANUARY 13-16

WINTER SPORTS RETREAT
CLEVELAND, OHIO

FEBRUARY 15

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

FEBRUARY 25-28

LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR
WASHINGTON, DC



Upcoming Events

Events are subject to
change. Call ahead to
confirm.

Cleveland Sight Center events

Saturday Arts & Crafts

Saturday January 21,
10:00am - 12:00pm
Cleveland Sight Center,
1909 East 101st St. Recreation Room Cleveland, OH
44106

Viva Dance Class

Tuesday January 24,
5:30pm - 6:30pm
Cleveland Sight Center,
1909 East 101st St. Clyde
E. Williams Aud. B Cleveland, OH 44106

Viva Dance Class will be taught by a guest instructor from Viva Dance Studio, and is open to all clients and staff for \$5! A variety of the most popular Latin dances from Merengue to Bachata to Salsa will be taught. Intro to Latin dance is the title...

Workout Wednesday

Wednesday January 25,
5:30pm - 6:30pm
Cleveland Sight Center,
1909 East 101st St. Clyde
E. Williams Aud. A/B Cleveland, OH 44106

Workout Wednesday

Ohio Accessible Playgrounds

Beachwood

Preston's H.O.P.E. — Located on the property of The Mandel JCC, 26001 South Woodland Rd. The largest fully accessible playground park in Northeast Ohio.

Cambridge

Cambridge City Park — McKinley Ave & Lakeside Dr. This GameTime playground includes swings, slides, coil-spring rides, climbing platforms and activity panels, and is treated with an added safety feature of a rubberized coating.

Circleville

Mary Virginia Crites Hannan Community Park — A Boundless™ Playground is located off Rt. 188 on Pontius Road.

The City of Ravenna

Ravenna Community Playground — Located in Chestnut Hills Park, on North Chestnut Street in Ravenna.

Colerain Township

Clippard Park Boundless™ Playground — 10243 Dewhill Road.

Columbus

Carriage Place Park — 4900 Sawmill Road.

Dayton

W.S. McIntosh Memorial Park—W Riverview Ave Located a half-mile from a historic Wright Brothers site.

Euclid

Playground of Possibilities — located at Bexley Park.

Mason

Thomas P Quinn Park — 880 Tradewinds Drive. This neighborhood park features a handicap



accessible playground along with tennis, basketball.

Newark

Newark Rotary Accessible Playground—located on Sharon Valley Road just north of the OSUN/COTC campus.

Powell

Liberty Township Boundless™ Playground — 2507 Home Rd.

Stow

Stow Outdoor Accessible Recreation Playground — located at Silver Springs Park, 5027 Stow Road.

Warren

The Valley's Inclusive Playground — located within Perkins Park, 391 Mahoning Ave.

Wauseon

Sara's Garden 620 W Leggett St, Wauseon, OH 43567

West Chester

Hopewell Elementary School Boundless™ Playground — 8300 Cox Road.

Westerville

Millstone Creek Park — 745 N. Spring Rd.

More info. at www.sightedguideohio.org

Wednesday February 1,
5:30pm - 6:30pm
Cleveland Sight Center,
1909 East 101st St. Clyde
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The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio

Walleye's game/ Jersey Night downtown Toledo with the Sight Center of Northwest Ohio at Feb 4th at 7pm.



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