

in

sight

Spring 2010

The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio

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Executive Director

InSight is published periodically
Sarah Krockmalny, Development Director

Mission Statement

The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio provides services that maximize the independence of individuals who are blind or visually impaired and minimize the incidence of blindness through education and prevention.



We don't change vision. We change lives.

1002 Garden Lake Parkway
Toledo, Ohio 43614

Phone: 419.720.3937

Toll free: 800.624.8378

Fax: 419.720.3938

www.sightcentertoledo.org

This publication is available in alternate formats.

Program Launched to Prepare Teens for Independent, Successful Futures

The Sight Center recently launched the Stepping Stones to Independence Program. The focus of this program is to prepare students aged 9-14 for living with greater independence now and in the future.

Stepping Stones to Independence provides training in meal preparation; eating and cleaning skills; personal management; and assistive technology. Students receive training at The Sight Center through five sessions of Saturday classes and training in the home.

We've received very positive feedback from the parents and great friendships are being made between the students at the Saturday classes.

A special thank you goes out to all of the volunteers, staff members, and the Toledo Community Foundation who make this program possible.



DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES...

Like many in our community, 2009 was a year of challenges for The Sight Center.

I've found that when times are tough, it forces you to look at things in a different light. Often it is during the challenging times, that we grow the most - as people and as organizations.

In 2009, we at The Sight Center didn't lose sight of our mission and those we serve. Instead my staff and I seized this as an opportunity to ask ourselves: How can we do more with less? How can we pull together and partner with community members to better serve our clients? And we did just that.

We partnered with the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio to provide Vision Education Groups to seniors throughout Lucas County. After the 8 week group came to a close, half of the groups continued to meet on their own. This project was so successful that we are continuing it in 2010.



With the support of the Toledo Community Foundation we launched the In-Home Instruction Program. This program was developed based on the additional needs of the children we were serving through our Activities of Daily Living program. The program was a success and has grown into our Stepping Stones to Independence program.

Through a grant from the Center for Nonprofit Resources, The Sight Center was able to develop a marketing/communications plan. This plan, directly in line with our strategic plan, will enable The Sight Center to promote and reach out to those who may benefit themselves or who may know of others who may benefit from our services.

These are just three highlights from 2009. You will find many more within this newsletter.

Though it was challenging, The Sight Center was fortunate in 2009. That fortune is because of you – our friends, supporters, champions, and my wonderful and devoted staff. Thank you.

With Warm Regards,

Dawn Christensen
Executive Director

“I DIDN'T REALIZE THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS AVAILABLE.”



“It came upon me gradually,” says Zora of her declining vision, “I just thought I was getting old.”

It was getting more difficult for her to see fine details. She also found it difficult to do everyday tasks she had always enjoyed such as reading the newspaper, cooking and using her appliances.

After an appointment with her ophthalmologist, Zora learned that she had macular degeneration, a progressive medical condition that results in central vision loss. In addition to

receiving treatments to prevent further eye deterioration, Zora's ophthalmologist referred her to The Sight Center.

“I'm so happy we went through the front door,” says Zora's daughter Vickie of their initial visit to The Sight Center. “I didn't realize there are so many things available.”

Zora worked with Sight Center staff to obtain various magnifiers and special lighting for her home. She was able to receive funding for her services through the Ohio Rehabilitation Service Commission's Independent Living grant. Now Zora uses her magnifiers to set her thermostat, order from a restaurant menu and read the newspaper. She uses special lighting to help her with check writing, medication management and knitting.

“They were wonderful,” says Zora of The Sight Center staff. “They explained everything.”

Zora is now able to do the things that she never thought she could do. “I can tell a big difference in my mom, before and after,” says Vickie.

“I would recommend The Sight Center to anyone having trouble with their eyes. I'm glad I went there!” Zora says.

THANK YOU

The generous support of foundations and trusts allows us to offer quality services to people of all ages who are blind or visually impaired.

We sincerely thank the following for their contributions from July through December of 2009:

David and Helen Boone Foundation
\$5,000 for Direct Client Services Support

Edward Lamb Foundation
\$500 for Direct Client Services Support

The Mark S. Feldstein Private Foundation
\$3,000 for Direct Client Services Support

France Stone Foundation
\$25,000 for General Support

La-Z-Boy Foundation
\$8,345 for Direct Client Services Support for Monroe County residents

Landman-Goldman Foundation
\$10,000 for the Building A Vision for the Future Capital Campaign

MLM Foundation
\$5,000 for Direct Client Services Support

The Albert G. and Olive H. Schlink Foundation
\$32,762 for Technology and Equipment Support

Toledo Community Foundation
\$31,250 to Support the Stepping Stones to Independence

Wolfe Family Charitable Foundation
\$100 for Direct Client Services Support

Zenith Foundation
\$2,500 for Direct Client Services Support

LARRY B. DILLIN RECEIVES HIGHEST SIGHT CENTER HONOR

The Sight Center presented its highest honor, the John Goerlich Distinguished Service Award, to Larry B. Dillin, President & Founder of Dillin Corp. This award is presented to a champion of The Sight Center who has chosen to “unselfishly serve the blind and visually impaired community.”

“Larry Dillin’s vision and expertise have been vital to our success,” says Dawn Christensen. “He is a true pillar of our community, who is devoted to the success of Toledo and northwest Ohio. This award honors Larry’s philanthropic spirit and commitment to our community and to The Sight Center.”

Mr. Dillin has been a longtime supporter and has held integral leadership roles as part of The Sight Center’s Building a Vision for the Future Capital Campaign Advisory Committee and on its Board of Trustees. During his tenure as a member of the Capital Campaign Advisory Committee, he worked tirelessly alongside Sight Center leadership and community friends to help meet the fundraising goal of \$1.65 million. He also spent considerable personal time making certain the design of The Sight Center’s new building met the current and future needs of the organization.

The John Goerlich Distinguished Service Award is named for Mr. John Goerlich whose substantial philanthropic contributions have allowed The Sight Center to flourish for many years. The award was presented to Mr. Dillin by the Chair of The Sight Center’s Board of Trustees, Cynthia Roepke.



(L to R)
Daughter of the late John Goerlich and current Sight Center Trustee, Sandra Goerlich Alexander, Larry Dillin, and Cynthia Roepke.



Board Chair Cynthia Roepke presents the Goerlich Award to Larry B. Dillin

2ND ANNUAL WHITE CANE WALK A SUCCESS!



Thank you for your support of The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio's 2nd Annual White Cane Walk. The event was a tremendous success with over 50 people in attendance and over \$9,000 in donations. We were thrilled that so many came to show their support for The Sight Center and Ohio's White Cane Law.

A special thank you to all of the walkers, volunteers, and sponsors who helped make this second year such a success! We look forward to an even more successful third year.

Thank you to our sponsors:



**The Eye
Institute of
Northwestern Ohio**



Quality Family Eyecare, Inc.

Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio
Brooks Insurance • Fifth Third Bank
Findlay Davies • Huntington National Bank
Toledo Optical Laboratory • Vision Associates

Save the Date

3rd Annual White Cane Walk
at The Sight Center
Saturday, October 2, 2010
10am – 2pm

ONLINE DONATIONS ARE NOW ACCEPTED

Visit www.sightcentertoledo.org today!

DID YOU KNOW?

Goalball is a team sport designed specifically for athletes who are blind. It is included as one of the events in the Paralympics. For more information visit www.ibsa.es/eng

Goalball clinics offered - If you are interested in having a clinic conducted, please contact Jim Debus at (586) 876-7359 or via email at jdebus@clemsun.edu.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

The Sight Center is officially enrolled in Kroger's Community Rewards Program.

Registering your card won't increase your cost at the register or affect your fuel points in any way. Once your card is registered, every time you swipe it for a qualified purchase, The Sight Center will receive a percentage of your purchase!

To register for the program go to:
www.krogercommunityrewards.com

DOES YOUR EMPLOYER MATCH CHARITABLE GIFTS?

Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match charitable contributions made by their employees to eligible institutions. If your company has a matching gift program, request a matching gift form from your employer, and send it completed and signed with your gift. We will do the rest. The impact of your gift to The Sight Center may be doubled or possibly tripled! Some companies match gifts made by retirees and/or spouses.

LOCAL STUDENT COMPETES IN REGIONAL BRAILLE CHALLENGE

Jalen Ballard competed in the Regional Braille Challenge held in February in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He placed first in his age group. Way to go, Jalen!



2008 ANNUAL REPORT

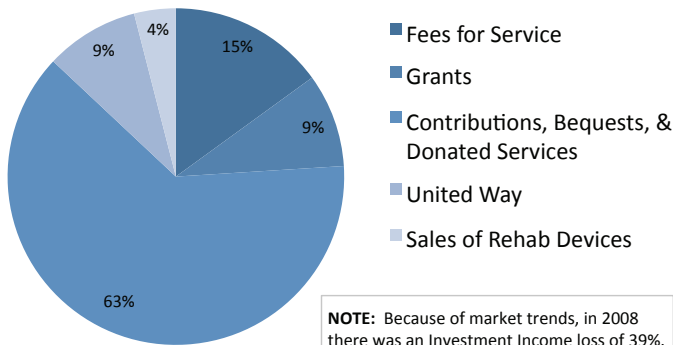
2008 was a year of many milestones and accomplishments:

- The Sight Center held its first residential summer camp for youth who are blind or visually impaired with generous support from the St. Marguerite D'Youville Foundation.
- Held inaugural White Cane Walk and Donor Recognition Evening events.
- Dick Anderson accepted the John Goerlich Distinguished Service Award.
- After a comprehensive review process, The Sight Center was reaccredited by The National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving People with Blindness or Visual Impairment (NAC). The Sight Center has been accredited by NAC since 1978.

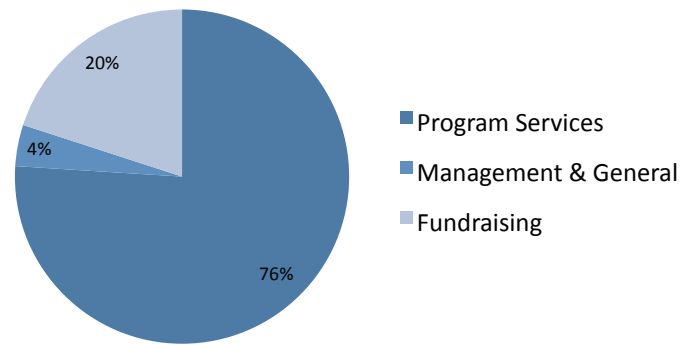
2008 by the numbers

- Served over 1,100 men, women, and children.
- Completed nearly 300 Early Intervention Vision Screenings.
- Conducted nearly 500 Low Vision Evaluations.
- Provided over 500 hours of Low Vision Therapy.
- Provided over 200 hours of Orientation & Mobility Training.
- Provided nearly 250 hours of Adaptive Computer Training.

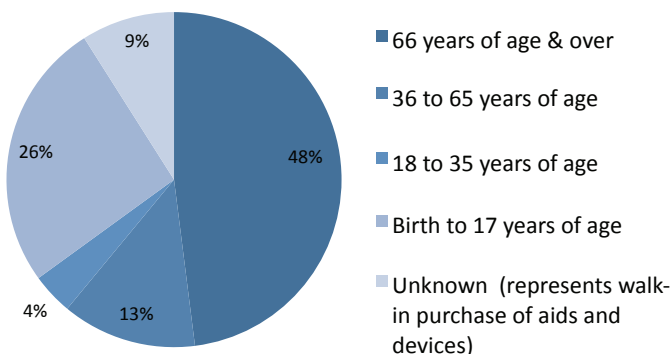
OPERATING REVENUE



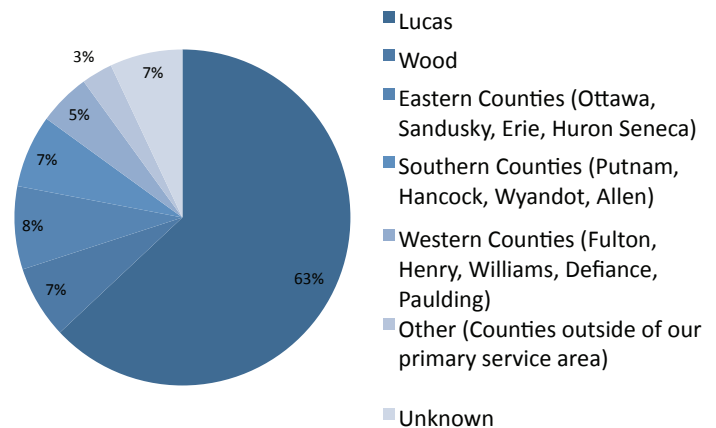
OPERATING EXPENSES



OVERVIEW OF CLIENT MIX



OVERVIEW OF CLIENTS BY COUNTRY



IN APPRECIATION

Donations

July 1 through December 31, 2009

\$500 to \$999

American Council of the Blind,
Toledo Chapter
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Betz
Ms. Sandra L. Brown
Edward Lamb Foundation
Drs. Carol and Frank Kollarits
Ohio Health Care Association
Mr. and Mrs. Irland Tashima
Venedocia Lions Club

\$250 to \$499

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Backoff
Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Cubbon, Jr.
Mr. Robert Peddicord

\$100 to \$249

Dr. M. Y. Ahmed
Mr. Laszlo Babos
Mr. Kent Balsmeyer
Mr. Stephen L. Banks
Ms. Frances Bockbrader
Mr. Fred W. Bostleman
Bowling Green Eye Center
Dr. Stephen A. Cernkovich
Ms. Dawn Christensen
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Ms. Irene Zunkiewicz

\$99 and under

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Ms. Pearl Duganiero
Mrs. Mildred Dvorsky
Ms. Leann Earp
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Ms. Gertrude Eggert
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Ms. Mary Ellen Estrada
Mrs. Edward L. Fackelman
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew A. Faltys
Mr. Gerald Feldstein
Ms. Mary Jane Flores

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Grossman
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Ms. Annabelle Wooley
Mrs. Marilyn M. Wright
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Ms. Dee Your
Mrs. Leona R. Zalecki
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Ziegler
Ms. Pauline Zimmerman

In Memory Of

Mr. James E. Allen
Mrs. Katherine Deering

Ms. Eileen Baer
American Legion Auxiliary –
Waterville Unit
Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Baker
Alpha Gamma Chapter of Adk
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Roche
Ms. Dora Titgemeyer

Mr. Ronald C. Bateson
Mrs. Dorothy McMann

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Mrs. Mary E. Vartorella

Mr. Ralph Cochran
Ms. Christine Gulvas
Robinson Middle School

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Mr. Gerald W. Westphal

Mr. Art Edgerton
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Ms. Diana G. French

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Dr. and Mrs. James Gosman

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Sylvia and Thomas Smith
Mrs. Marilyn M. Wright

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Ms. Billie Zorn Day

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Mr. Donald Tober

Mrs. Nancy Ciecko
Mr. Michael Severino

Mr. John Davies
Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Secor

Mr. Jim Hustwick
Mrs. Julie Delventhal

Ms. Carol Kanfield
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Rasmusson

Ms. Jenna Karg
Mr. and Mrs. James Karg

Mr. Bill Marti
Ms. Sally Marti

Mr. Michael Severino
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ciecko

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO UPDATE OUR MAILING LISTS!!!

We are updating all of our records. Please take a moment to let us know if any of your mailing information has changed or if you are no longer interested in receiving information from The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio. You can update your information by returning this card to us at 1002 Garden Lake Parkway, Toledo, Ohio 43614 or by sending an email to rlugo@sightcentertoledo.org Please put "mailing list update" in subject area. Thank you.

- Yes, please keep my name on your list
 Yes, keep my name on your list, but please make following changes
 Please remove my name from your mailing list at this time

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

Would you like to receive our newsletter via email? Yes No

CAREER PREP SERVICES FOR YOUTH OFFERED

The Sight Center's vocational rehabilitation program, in collaboration the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission VRP3 grant (formerly known as Pathways II), provides career preparation services to youth aged 14 to 22 who are visually impaired. This grant funded program's aim is to encourage participants to develop the skills that will enable them to obtain employment and independence throughout their lives.

An array of services will be offered including, vocational guidance and counseling, social skills development, job coaching, worksite orientation and mobility, technology, job placement and a summer work experience. Through this program, youth will be successful in the transition from high school to the world of living independently and supporting oneself through employment.

For more information, please contact Janet Dannibale, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, 419-720-3937 ext. 109.

JAMIE FARR OWENS CORNING CLASSIC TICKETS FOR CHARITY PROGRAM

The Sight Center is participating in the Jamie Farr Owens Corning Classic Tickets for Charity Program. This is a fundraising opportunity that provides non-profit organizations the ability to sell weekly grounds and clubhouse tickets for the 2010 tournament. The Sight Center will receive 100% of each ticket sold.

For more information, visit www.jamiefarrowenscorningclassic.com

The Charity Ticket program runs through June 18, 2010.

2ND ANNUAL DONOR RECOGNITION EVENING



Sight Center Executive Director Dawn Christensen with special guest Tim Tegge.

In October, The Sight Center held its 2nd Annual Donor Recognition Evening in which supporters were invited to enjoy a reception, tour of our facility, and a brief program. This year's program included a welcome from our Board Chair, Cynthia Roepke;



organizational highlights from our Executive Director, Dawn Christensen; Tim Tegge's inspirational personal journey with vision loss; and the presentation of the Goerlich award.

VISION EDUCATION GROUP CORNER

Here are the groups that are meeting around town:

- SOAR Eyes Low Vision Group: Pelham Manor:** Last Friday of every month: 1:00 to 2:30
- Frog Town Low Vision Group: Holland Library:** 1st Wednesday of every month: 10:00 to 11:00
- Buck-EYES Low Vision Group: Maumee Senior Center:** 1st Tuesday of every month: 10:00

Currently running Vision Education Programs:

- Luther Woods Toledo:** Every Tuesday: 2:00-3:30. From April 6 through May 25.
- Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek:** Every Tuesday: 2:00-3:30. From June 1 through July 20.

Interested In Vision Education Groups?

The Sight Center is looking to provide Vision Education groups in Fulton, Hancock, Ottawa and Wood Counties throughout 2010. If you are over the age of 55 and live in an independent living facility or belong to a senior center, please call Dawn Christensen, Executive Director, at 419-720-3937, ext. 103.

SIGHT CENTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that the 2010 Executive Committee members include Chairperson **Cynthia Roepke**, Vice Chairperson **Bruce Davis**, Secretary **Jennifer Rozic**, and Treasurer **Dave Parrish**.

We extend a warm welcome to New Board Members **Suzi Hahn & Jill Peterson!**

Nancy Gabalac completed her tenure on The Sight Center's Board of Trustees this past December. She served 9 years on our Board in various capacities including Co-Vice Chairperson, Secretary and member of the Program and Executive Committees. All of us wish Nancy the best and thank her for her contributions of time, energy, and ideas!

The Sight Center extends a very special thank you and good bye to **Althea**, Dawn Christensen's faithful guide dog. Althea, a graduate of the Seeing Eye of Morristown, New Jersey, is set to retire in April. She has been with Dawn for nearly 8 years, over 50 dog years! You'll be very missed, Althea!



WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS!

Janet Dannibale joined The Sight Center in October 2009 as the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. She worked 28 ½ years with the Rehabilitation Services Commission, 14 ½ years as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and 14 years as an Employer Services Specialist /Job Developer. Janet is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor with her Bachelor's in Behavioral Science from Trevecca University and a Masters from Scarritt College of Nashville, Tennessee.

Elaine Erickson joined The Sight Center in November as the Billing Specialist/Optician. She has eight years of experience as an Optician as well as an Associate of Science Degree from Monroe County Community College. She has prior experience in managing a successful optical business with a large retail chain. She has been a volunteer fundraiser for Prevent Blindness and Gift of Sight for several years and has also brought awareness to the public through health fairs.



YOU'RE INVITED!

On Friday, April 23, 2010 there will be an open house at The Sight Center in honor of Althea's retirement. The event will be held from 11am – 1pm. Light refreshments will be served. Please stop by to wish Althea well!

THE ROAD TO ACCEPTANCE

HOW BLINDNESS HAS BEEN INTEGRATED INTO SOCIETY

By Meagan Vance

As a visually impaired young adult, I have encountered some difficulties, but the disability has not prohibited me from accomplishing my educational goals. Though people with blindness and visual impairments live fulfilling lives these days, getting a proper education and acceptance was not so easy in the past.

Throughout most of history, blindness was not accepted in society. According to The American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults, "The blind were not regarded as being of much value to the societies in which they lived. They usually spent their lives homeless and in slavery, unaccepted for their disability."

However, the 18th Century brought the first hopes of blind education and acceptance. By this time, the first schools for the blind began to pop up. Perkins School for the Blind, a widely known school in the US serving students with visual impairments, appeared in the following century, expanding education opportunities for the blind.

Although these schools are important, the most promising historical event is the invention of Braille. Created by Louis Braille, this pattern of raised dots is now used by many instead of the previous use of embossed print. According to Jenna Karg, a 19 year BGSU student with blindness, "I love to read, and Braille makes it so much faster and easier to do so than embossed print."

Since these historical days, aid for people with visual impairments has continued to improve, and with it people with this disability have become more successful and prominent in the professional world.



THE SIGHT CENTER OFFERS VISION EDUCATION GROUPS THROUGHOUT LUCAS COUNTY

The Sight Center has received generous support from the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio to hold Vision Education Groups for seniors throughout Lucas County. The focus of each 8 week group is to learn techniques for greater independence and how vision loss impacts daily life.

If you are interested in more information, please contact Bonnie Schefdore, Case Manager, at 419-720-3937 ext. 114.

YOUR LEGACY GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME



Remember The Sight Center in your will. For more information on making a planned gift to The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio, please contact Sarah Krockmalny at 419-720-3937, ext. 105.



SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

JUNE 28, 2010 TO JULY 23, 2010
AGES: 15 – 22

Program Includes:

- 4 weeks of paid employment – 20 hrs. per week
- Job Coaches specialized in working with people who are visually impaired
- Life Skills – Simulated work site lunchroom with lunch included!
- Job Seeking Skills training
- Transportation to the work site
- T-Shirts for all who finish

Deadline: April 27, 2010

For more information, please contact Janet Dannibale at 419-720-3937, ext. 109
or janet.dannibale@sightcentertoledo.org

GOLFERS NEEDED!

Can You See the Future Golf Tournament

A BENEFIT EVENT FOR THE SIGHT CENTER OF NORTHWEST OHIO.
SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2010

Heatherdowns Country Club
3910 Heatherdowns Boulevard
Toledo, OH 43614

Register at www.canucthefuture.org

For More Information, please contact:

Mike Holler 419-574-3183
Brion Wills 419-467-6589



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www.sightcentertoledo.org

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| <i>Erie</i> | <i>Putnam</i> |
| <i>Fulton</i> | <i>Sandusky</i> |
| <i>Hancock</i> | <i>Seneca</i> |
| <i>Henry</i> | <i>Williams</i> |
| <i>Huron</i> | <i>Wood</i> |
| <i>Lucas</i> | <i>Wyandot</i> |

We don't change vision. We change lives.



EPIC ROCKS FASHION A HUGE HIT!



Hundreds came from all over northwest Ohio to experience the fashion event of the year – all to benefit The Sight Center. Presented by Levis Commons and EPIC (engaging people, inspiring change), EPIC Rocks Fashion - Culture and Couture was an outdoor multimedia event that fuses fashion and the arts. As a result of the event, \$10,000 was raised for The Sight Center.



A very special thank you to Cheryl Hardy, Larry Dillin, Sashem Brey and members of the Epic Rocks Fashion planning committee for all of their time and talent spent planning this magnificent event!

GETTING MARRIED?

Now you can support The Sight Center by registering with the I Do Foundation. From honeymoons to invitations to wedding gifts to charitable wedding favors, the I Do Foundation allows couples and their guests to make wedding-related purchases that generate donations for charity.



THIRD PARTY FUNDRAISING AND IDEAS...

One of the many ways to support The Sight Center is by planning an event to raise funds for the organization. This kind of activity is called a “third-party” fundraiser.

A group or individual can host a fundraiser and name The Sight Center as the beneficiary. The following ideas would make great third-party fundraisers this fall!

- Lemonade Stand – fun for all ages!
- Garage Sale – clean out your house and donate a portion of the sales.
- Bake Sale – make your favorite treats to sell and donate the proceeds.
- Car Wash – set up in a local parking lot and wash cars for a donation.

For more information, please contact Sarah Krockmalny at 419-720-3937, ext. 105.

GIVE A GIFT OF TIME

For more information on Volunteer Opportunities at The Sight Center visit www.sightcentertoledo.org or call Rebecca Lugo at 419-720-3937, ext. 102.