

in

sight

fall 2008

The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio

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InSight is published periodically.

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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.



The Sight Center
of northwest ohio

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This publication is available in alternate formats.

SIGHT CENTER HOLDS FIRST RESIDENTIAL SUMMER CAMP

A WEEK OF LEARNING, FRIENDSHIPS AND FUN

In July, The Sight Center held its first residential summer camp for youth who are blind or visually impaired – the only in Northwest Ohio. The focus of the summer camp, held at the University of Toledo, was to prepare the youth ages 14 - 18 for living independently in the future. Instruction and practice was provided in daily living skills; orientation and mobility training; and adaptive technology training.

There was plenty of fun to be had. In addition to lessons, campers worked-out with a personal trainer and played goalball

at the University of Toledo's Recreation Center. Campers also took tactile tours of the Toledo Museum of Art and Greenfield Village. Bowling at Southwyck Lanes was also a big hit!

Great friendships were made during this week and many of the youth expressed their excitement about next year's camp. A special thank you goes out to all of the volunteers, staff members, and the St. Marguerite D'Youville Foundation who made this week such a success.

See more great photos on page 6!



The 2008 Summer Campers

WHITE CANE WALK
October 25, 2008
See page 3!

DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES...

These past months have been tremendously busy here at The Sight Center and I am excited to share with you all of the good things that have been happening. Our spring and summer have been filled with wonderful initiatives and have seemed to simply fly by.

As you may have read in our previous newsletter, this spring The Sight Center launched a comprehensive strategic planning effort. I am very pleased to announce that this process has been a success. We are in the final stages of the planning and are ready to move to implementation. Our board members, facilitated by Mr. Derrick DuFresne, president and founder of Community Resource Associates, have identified key goals that will lead The Sight Center into the future including increasing community outreach and awareness; strengthening core services; and increasing our children's programs to name a few. Our board members, staff, and I view this strategic plan as a document that will serve as a guiding force to our organization that will both lead us in the present and into the future. I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to The Stranahan Foundation for making this possible.



The strategic planning process is only the beginning of the exciting endeavors that have been taking place at The Sight Center. In this issue you will read about our new In-Home Instruction Program, generously funded by The Toledo Community Foundation. We were also very fortunate to have received a grant from the St. Marguerite D'Youville Foundation to fund our very first residential camp that took place this summer for youth who are blind or visually

impaired – the only in Northwest Ohio.

In addition to these initiatives, we are planning our 1st White Cane Walk to be held on Saturday, October 25.

I would like to extend a personal thank you to all of our donors, supporters, and volunteers. It is only with your help and hard work, that these programs and services can be made possible. Your support enables people to move from low vision to independence.

To help us further our cause, I invite you to consider joining The Sight Center Legacy Society. Membership is open to anyone who makes a planned gift. When you give in this way, you join with other visionary leaders in our community and become a partner in The Sight Center's future. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 419-720-3937, ext. 103.

You truly help us make a difference in the lives of those we serve!

Sincerely,

Dawn Christensen
Executive Director

NEW IN-HOME INSTRUCTION PROGRAM LAUNCHED

This summer, with generous support from The Toledo Community Foundation, The Sight Center began its new In-Home Instruction Program. This program complements the existing Activities of Daily Living (ADL) classes offered to students ages 5 – 19 who are visually impaired or blind. The goal of the ADL program is to teach children who are visually impaired and blind to be independent despite their vision loss. Students learn cooking, cleaning, sewing, meal planning, and specialized computer technology skills at The Sight Center. The In-Home Instruction Program furthers the ADL goal by offering individualized in-home training and instruction, low vision

evaluations and individually selected low vision aids to all students and their families participating in the ADL program at no cost.



Dr. Goulding works with Darren Kuehnle and Kyle Smella as part of The Sight Center's In-Home Instruction Program.

THE SIGHT CENTER HELPED ME KEEP MY JOB

Denise Fischer developed vision problems about five years ago. She began to worry that vision problems, including farsightedness, cataracts and vision impairment including blurred vision and seeing "floaters/spots," might eventually force her to leave the job she loved and go on disability.

"As the Benefits Administrator for Midwest Electric in St. Mary's, I do a lot of online research about employment law and personnel issues," Denise said. "It was becoming increasingly difficult for me to read the computer screen and I cannot do my job without a computer. I also had difficulty using office equipment such as the copy machine and postage meter, and simply navigating the office was a challenge."

Denise's sister suggested she look into programs available through the State of Ohio, and Denise called Ohio Rehabilitation Services in Lima.

"There, Ralph, my counselor, referred me to The Sight Center and even helped

set up my appointment," Denise stated. "Every experience I had with The Sight Center was positive. They provided a really good optometrist who gave me an extensive exam and confirmed I had the right type of glasses. Everyone was so professional and well-organized. I went right from one area to the next so smoothly and with no waiting."

The Sight Center professionals recommended prescription sunglasses to help Denise transition from being outdoors to indoors, as her eyes took a long time to adjust to the change in lighting. They also provided a magnifying lens she can use to view small print, recommended special lamps that would provide natural as opposed to fluorescent lighting in her office, and worked with her on the computer, showing her tips and tricks to make it easier for her to read the screen.

"A representative even came out to my office to evaluate my needs there," Denise said. "She helped me put special dots on the office machines to make it easier for

me to use them. She provided me with a talking wristwatch - if I am in a low-light area and cannot read the dial, I just press a button and it speaks the time."

The Sight Center also provided Denise with a "small unobtrusive" telescope to use in the meetings and at conferences. "I was starting to turn down opportunities for training for fear that I wouldn't be able to see well enough to participate in order to see the Power Point and other presentations."

Denise stated that The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio has made an incredible impact in her life.

"Before, I was getting worried that I would have to leave my job," Denise said. "But after The Sight Center and their vision aids, I go to work every day confident that I will be able to continue to enjoy my career for a long time."

THE SIGHT CENTER TO HOLD 1ST *WHITE CANE WALK*

Join The Sight Center for our 1st *White Cane Walk* to be held Saturday, October 25, 2008 at The Sight Center from 9 am - 12 pm. This event will not only help increase awareness of the White Cane Law and issues facing

those who are blind or visually impaired, but will also help raise funds for The Sight Center's

programs and services.

Participants will learn the basics of how to use a white cane and how to serve as a sighted guide to someone who is blind or visually impaired. Each participant will have an opportunity to use a white cane while walking blindfolded through a ½ mile route around The Sight Center property with

the assistance of a sighted guide partner. Additional hands-on activities will be available for anyone interested in learning how people who are blind or visually impaired perform other everyday tasks.

We are especially excited to be working

with Cumulus Broadcasting on this event. In addition to radio advertisements during the weeks leading up to

the event, Star 105.5 will be at the White Cane Walk broadcasting live from 9 am to 11 am.

Join us for a morning of fun, awareness, and opportunities! Complete the registration form on page 4 (back side of this article).

For more information, visit us online: www.sightcenterwhitecanewalk.org



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1ST WHITE CANE WALK PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION

(may be photocopied)

Walk Location: The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio
Date: Saturday, October 25, 2008
Time: 9 am - 12 pm (Rain or Shine)
Early Registration: \$15 (Postmarked by October 17, 2008)
Registration: \$25 (October 18 – October 25, 2008)

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Day Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Payment Method:

Cash Enclosed: \$ _____

Check Enclosed: \$ _____ (Payable to The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio)

MC/VISA #: _____ Exp Date: _____

Signature: _____

Unfortunately, I cannot participate in the WHITE CANE WALK, but please accept my fully tax deductible donation of \$ _____ to support The Sight Center.

I, the undersigned, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, do hereby release, and discharge The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio and sponsors from any and all claims, demands, actions, and causes of any kind or character for injuries sustained by me arising from my participation in this event. I verify that I am sufficiently physically fit to participate in this event, and that I have no medical condition that prevents me from safely participating herein. I agree that any photos or other images of my likeness are the sole property of the photographer and The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio.

Signature of Walker

Signature of Parent/Guardian *(Required if walker is under 18)*

Please email, fax or mail completed form to:

Sarah Krockmalny, Development Director
The Sight Center
1002 Garden Lake Pkwy
Toledo, Ohio 43614

Phone: 419.720.3937, ext. 105
Fax: 419.720.3938
Email: skrockmalny@sightcentertoledo.org
For more information, visit: www.sightcenterwhitecanewalk.org



The Sight Center
of northwest ohio

The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio is a 501(c)3 organization.

IN APPRECIATION

DONATIONS

January 1 thru June 30, 2008

Bequests

Richard O. Hostetter

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David R. Meiring

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Toledo Host Lions
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WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY! Remember The Sight Center in your will.

SIGHT CENTER SUMMER CAMP FUN!

Ethan Hollinger, Jenna Karg, Dani Moran, and Brianna Snyder (left to right) enjoy a game of goalball.



Above: Ethan Hollinger, left, and Kris Gallo learn how to weave on a loom from a Greenfield Village staff member.

Below: Jenna Karg, during an Orientation and Mobility lesson on the campus of the University of Toledo.



Left: Summer Campers on their tactile tour of the Toledo Museum of Art.



Summer Campers and staff leave their dorm at the Horton International House.

A GIFT IN FULL BLOOM

A very special thank you goes out to Sight Center friends and neighbors at the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio who presented us with a beautiful tree and plaque in honor of moving into our new Garden Lake Parkway facility. We've been warmly welcomed into our new neighborhood and look forward to many wonderful years here.



The Area Office on Aging gift has been planted on the north side of The Sight Center's new facility.

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

SIGHT CENTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES

Sarah Krockmahny has joined The Sight Center as the Development Director. Most recently, Sarah served as a Graduate Assistant Grant Coordinator at Bowling Green State



University's Partnerships for Community Action. She brings several years of experience working with non-profit organizations throughout the Northwest Ohio and Columbus areas.

Rebecca Lugo began working at The Sight Center in March as an Executive Administrative Assistant. She comes to us with 15 years of customer service experience as well as a Bachelor of Business Operations from DeVry University. Prior to joining our team, Rebecca was a Conversion Manager for Emdeon Business Services.



Linda Norton joined The Sight Center in a dual role capacity as both the Development Assistant and Vision Service Representative. With a bachelor's degree from Lourdes College, Linda brings over 20 years of experience in the medical office setting. She also brings many years of volunteer experience and has been involved in various area organizations including the Junior League of Toledo, Ohio Reads, and Greater Toledo Reads.



Melissa Wilcox recently joined The Sight Center as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist and a Vision Rehabilitation Therapist. She received her master's degree at Western Michigan University and completed an internship at the Southeastern Blind Rehab Center inside the VA Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama. She thoroughly enjoys serving Northwest Ohio through her work at The Sight Center.



REMEMBER THE SIGHT CENTER DURING THE UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

If you wish to designate your United Way contribution to The Sight Center, please choose Option C on your pledge card and write in The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio and the appropriate amount.

Thank you for your support!



GRANTS RECEIVED

A special thank you to the following foundations that have funded grant requests for specific needs:

The Clement O. Miniger Memorial Foundation supported a \$10,000 grant for technology and equipment support.

The Elsie and Harry Baumker Charitable Foundation supported a \$5,000 grant for our low vision program.

The R. A. Stranahan Jr. Charitable Trust supported a \$7,500 grant for our low vision program.

The Toledo Community Foundation supported an \$18,875 grant to establish the new In-Home Instruction Program.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

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. Return this card to us at 1002 Garden Lake Parkway, Toledo, Ohio 43614 or send an email to lnorton@sightcentertoledo.org. Please put "mailing list update" in subject area. Thank you.

- 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

THANK YOU!

Thank you to The Toledo Municipal Clerk's Office, AFSCME Local 3411, and U.A.W. Local 12!

Their "Humanity Day" charitable program helped to raise over \$400 for The Sight Center.

PARENTS APPRECIATION CELEBRATION HELD

Dani Moran, Sight Center Rehabilitation Teacher, and students in her life skills class held their annual Parents Appreciation Celebration on May 23rd.

Students utilized skills they developed throughout the life skills class to prepare a celebratory banquet, including designing an invitation, setting up and decorating a room, preparing a luncheon, and baking

desserts. The students were able to showcase their skills for their parents and take pride in the completion of the school year. During the program, each student was honored with an individualized award that recognized their strengths and hard work during training at The Sight Center. Congratulations on completing another fantastic school year!



Parents, students, and Sight Center staff enjoying the Parent Appreciation Celebration.



TOLEDO HOST LIONS BIKE-A-THON A SUCCESS

The Journey for Sight Bike-A-Thon sponsored by the Toledo Host Lions Club and 13abc was a tremendous success.

Held on Saturday, May 3, 2008 at Fort Meigs in Perrysburg, the weather was beautiful and the event included participants of all ages. The Sight Center's team included staff members, family, and friends.

In total, the event raised \$1,000 for The Sight Center. A special thank you to all of those who were involved in making this event possible!

ONLINE DONATIONS ARE NOW ACCEPTED

Visit www.sightcentertoledo.org today!



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