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**Viewpoint Newsletter**

**Winter 2024**

**Dining in the Dark**

CABVI's 7th annual Dining in the Dark: A Night at the Disco on November 11th was a huge success! Attendees came dressed to impressed in disco themed attire to support the agency and enjoyed an online auction, a live auction, a wine raffle, and a bourbon raffle. We honored our Barney H. Kroger Humanitarian Award winner Mary Caposela.

Local celebrities Natalie Jones (from Q102) and Anna Marie (from B105) emceed the event and Thomas Davis shared his journey with CABVI and the services he received to adapt to vision loss. We are pleased to announce that we raised nearly $250,000 to support our mission.

Save the date for our next Dining in the Dark: A Night of Pure Imagination on Saturday, November 9, 2024 at Hard Rock Casino Event Center.

**A Message from the President/CEO**

New Years is such a paradox. 11:59 PM and we are reflective, thinking back on a year’s worth of joy and challenges. The clock strikes twelve and our focus shifts to the coming months; 365 days of dreams, hopes, and new expectations. Organizations face that same pivot point. For CABVI, this is especially true as we finish out our 2020 – 2023 Strategic Plan and craft our vision for 2024 – 2026.

These past years were certainly unprecedented; however, CABVI grabbed hold and ended the current strategic plan poised for success. This past year focused on new opportunities for our clients and our employees. Early Childhood and Youth Services rolled out Listen, Learn, Grow, a unified service program aimed at providing growth opportunities for youth. We saw gardening, art class, and drum circles provide children with vision impairments and their families time together. The Summer Work Program saw six of our teenagers work at Cincinnati Museum Center. Low Vision served nearly 1,000 adults, providing services when glasses were no longer a solution. The sale of VIE Ability office supplies grew, Route Transportation took on 17 customers within the National Industries for the Blind network, furniture sales began within the State of Ohio, and tape, paper, and gadgets continued to roll off the production line.

2024 looms in front of us with hope casting a bright light ahead. As the final months of 2023 closed, CABVI worked to develop new business lines with the State of Ohio and Federal government. New products will offer additional employment for individuals with vision loss. Our new computer lab stands at the ready with the space built out in 2023, providing everything from basic computer skills to work-ready programs. Welcome to 2024 and thanks for joining us on our continued journey!

**2023 Torch Award Winner**

CABVI is proud to be selected by the Better Business Bureau Greater Cincinnati as a 2023 Torch Award for Ethics winner. CABVI is particularly honored to be a second time recipient of this prestigious award, having received the award previously in 2018. Torch Award Winners are selected for their character-driven operations, extraordinary workplace cultures, and dedication to the community. CABVI’s Board of Trustees and entire team of employees strive each day to provide our community with quality services and to provide individuals with vision loss the opportunity to seek independence. The Torch Award celebrates CABVI’s commitment to ethical practices in dealing with clients, staff and the community and was awarded after a rigorous judging process.

**Custom Signage**

CABVI is proud to work with the State of Ohio to create new signage for Ohio’s rest areas. Thank you to Timothy Brunney, Jr., Program Administrator, Ohio Department of Transportation, Gregory Woods, Deputy Chief Creative Services, and David Luu, Project Manager, both from the Ohio Department of Development, for visiting our CABVI team.

**Trick or Treat**

October 27 was a spooky day at CABVI. Clients from our Early Childhood and Youth Services were invited to Trick or Treat around our Gilbert Avenue building and celebrate a safe and accessible Halloween.

**Coffee Talk**

CABVI’s Vision Services team hosted a Coffee Talk on November 17 to teach attendees about the technology at their fingertips. The topic of discussion was Seeing AI, a free iOS app that narrates the world around us.

**Holiday Party**

CABVI's Early Childhood and Youth Services hosted a Candy Land themed holiday party for clients and families to enjoy on Saturday, December 2. They enjoyed visits with Santa, singalongs and crafts.

**White Cane Day Walk**

CABVI partnered with National Federation of the Blind of Cincinnati to host a White Cane Safety Walk on October 17. It began on the steps at Union Terminal and ended at CABVI’s Hornbeck Social Enterprise Center on Kenner Street. A special thank you to Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval for helping to celebrate the achievements and independence of people with vision loss.

**Accessible Hike**

CABVI had a great hike with Luke5Adventures in October. Clients and their families along with CABVI team members enjoyed spending the morning together in nature and exploring Caldwell Nature Center using the accessible Rosey Chair.

**Thank you for your support!**

* William H. Albers Fund
* Bell Charitable Foundation
* Charles H. Dater Foundation
* The Thomas J. Emery Memorial
* Kennedy Charitable Trust
* The H.B., E.W. and F.R. Luther Charitable Foundation, Fifth Third Bank and Narley L. Haley, Co-Trustees
* National Industries for the Blind
* Paycor Community Impact Fund
* PNC Foundation
* Daniel and Susan Pfau Foundation
* Robert H. Reakirt Foundation, PNC Charitable Trust
* Charles Scott Riley II Foundation
* The Spaulding Foundation

**Braille Bourbon Release**

CABVI celebrated the release of Braille Bourbon Volume Two in partnership with Northside Distilling Co. on September 20th at Northside Distilling Co. The limited-edition, hand numbered bottle includes braille on the label, aiming to raise awareness around inclusivity for people who are blind or visually impaired in our community as well as highlighting the services CABVI offers to help individuals adapt to vision loss.

**Need Office Supplies?**

CABVI is working to create more service sector jobs for people who have vision loss through our office supply website called www.vie-ability.org. With 60,000+ items available, customers are pleased with our very competitive prices, free next day delivery, and no minimums.

For more information, please visit our website at www.VIE-Ability.org or call (513) 487-4515.

**Rotary Do Days**

As part of Rotary Do Days in October, 15 Rotarians and friends helped CABVI fulfill an annual campaign mailing project of 5,000 pieces reaching CABVI supporters. We thank the Rotary Club of Cincinnati for their generous volunteer support.

Cincinnati Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired

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CABVI is an Affirmative Action Employer and an Equal Opportunity Employer & Service Provider.

United Way Agency Partner, Greater Cincinnati, Butler County, Warren County; Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired; NAEPB; International Association of Audio Information Services; National Industries for the Blind; Vision Service Alliance