CABVI’s Fourth Annual Dining in the Dark: A Virtual Experience

CABVI’s fourth annual Dining in the Dark: A Virtual Experience on November 14th was a huge success! We honored this year’s Barney H. Kroger Humanitarian Award winner A. Richard Thomas. Participants enjoyed an online auction, a wine raffle, and a bourbon raffle. Local celebrity Natalie Jones (Q102) emceed the event and celebrity mixologist Mollie Wellman prepared a special Blue Moon cocktail. Virtual entertainment was provided by comedian Josh Sneed and local band, Motherfolk.

A few of our CABVI friends also joined in with their testimonials in support of our agency including Mona Morrow, Jon Curl, Kyle Inskeep, Paula Toti and Dave Lapham. We are pleased to announce that we raised over $100,000 to help individuals adapt to vision loss.

Next year’s Dining in the Dark will be held on November 20, 2021 at Hard Rock Casino Event Center from 6-10 p.m. For information about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Aaron Bley at 513-487-4233.
A Message From CABVI’s Interim President/CEO, Dennis Dern

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been a lot of great things happening at CABVI. In this issue of Viewpoint, you can read about our fourth annual Dining in the Dark. Even though this year’s event was held virtually, it was a great success as we exceeded our fundraising target by a healthy margin. Hats off to the Dining in the Dark task force for re-imagining how to hold this event virtually, and to all our sponsors and guests who gave generously to make the event a success.

CABVI has been providing remote services throughout the pandemic, including daily living skills, safe travel instruction, low vision services, access technology, and serving children who are blind or visually impaired. We began providing some in-person services in July with safe distancing practices in place. There has been an increased need for counseling, assistance in helping individuals to figure out how to access the unemployment system, and specific support to help people who are blind or visually impaired maintain their personal safety.

Our Industries Program recently completed an independent audit of its ISO processes and procedures and passed for continued certification. While not every customer may care whether we are ISO certified, I like to think of the ISO certification as a Good Housekeeping seal of approval and something that helps us to be a more efficient operation.

While the COVID pandemic has certainly created some challenges in the agency, our VIE Ability office supplies social enterprise and Industries Program have enjoyed record sales as a result of our ability to deliver high demand products like personal protective equipment, disinfectant products and acrylic dividers. Thank you to all the people that make CABVI an important part of our community – our employees, our clients, our volunteers, and our donors. It takes all of us working together as one team to empower those who are blind or visually impaired to seek opportunities for independence.

Custom Signs Are Available at CABVI!

CABVI offers ADA compliant, braille and tactile signage as part of our full-service sign center. We also offer a variety of indoor and outdoor customizable sign options, such as yard signs, banners and much more! Signs are available in a variety of sizes, colors, and materials such as PVC, corrugated, polymetal, and aluminum. We use the latest design, printing and cutting technology to produce high quality signs for all your business needs.

Shop signs today by visiting www.cabvisigns.org.

Photos: (top) Assortment of COVID-19 safety signs; (bottom) Life-size Braille Ale foam core sign at the Braille Ale launch party at West Side Brewing
**Giving Tuesday Was a Success Thanks to YOU!**

Because of the generous support of our wonderful community, we were able to raise over $3,500 in just 24 hours!

The passion and care of people like you keeps CABVI going, and we hope we make you proud with how we pay these funds forward to benefit individuals with vision loss in the Greater Cincinnati area.

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**Coffee Talk**

CABVI held its latest coffee talk on September 25th. The topic was about accessible technology. CABVI’s Access Technology Specialist, Tim Schmidt introduced ZoomText, Jaws, built-in iOS accessibility, video magnifiers, and more.

Coffee Talks are free, open events for anyone affected by vision loss. Stay tuned for more events from our Vision Services throughout the new year to help you or someone you know adapt to vision loss.

**Reverse Holiday Parade**

CABVI’s Early Childhood & Youth Services hosted a reverse Holiday Parade on December 5th. This event provided a safe and socially distant way for the younger clients of CABVI to celebrate the holidays, including visits with Santa, music time, take-home craft kits, and lots of fun giveaways.

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**2020 Cane Quest Event**

Last autumn, CABVI hosted a fun, yet challenging orientation and mobility competition for students in grades 3 through 12 - Ohio Regional Cane Quest. The event was held virtually from September 26th through December 12th, and included interactive activities such as BINGO, Zoom dance parties, and mindfulness exercises on Facebook, with prizes delivered to the contestants’ porches!

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**Thank You for Supporting CABVI!**

The William H. Albers Foundation  
Charles H. Dater Foundation  
Thomas J. Emery Memorial  
Ettlinger Trust Fund  
Greater Cincinnati Foundation  
Hamilton County Cares  
Lions Club of Oxford  
Charles Scott Riley III Foundation  
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Louise Taft Semple Foundation  
The Spaulding Foundation  
Summertime Kids Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation  
Truist Foundation  
Western & Southern Financial Fund  
Wohlgemuth Herschede Foundation
VIE Ability has over 40,000 office products and all of our office supply operations are run by people who are blind or have severe vision loss. Every time someone places an order, our employees are checking inventory levels, providing the best possible customer service, managing logistics and making sure the orders are on a truck for next-day delivery. They do all of this with the help of advanced computer magnification and screen reading software.

Aside from the social impact purchases make, our customers also receive competitive pricing on high-quality office supplies with free next-day delivery on all of their orders.

Shop office supplies at www.VIE-Ability.org.

Save the Date for Our Upcoming Events!

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
April 25, 2021 from 1-3 p.m.
Drees Pavilion

Annual Meeting
April 30, 2021 from Noon-2 p.m.
The View at Mt. Adams

Yes You Can 5K Run/Walk
June 13, 2021 beginning at 8:30 a.m.
Spring Grove Arboretum

Dining in the Dark “Wonderland”
November 20, 2021 from 6-10 p.m.
Hard Rock Casino Event Center

These dates are subject to change! Stay tuned for more details as the year begins.