



# VIEWPOINT NEWSLETTER

2021 Summer Edition

[www.cincyblind.org](http://www.cincyblind.org)



## CABVI's Passionate and Dedicated Volunteers Help us Reach Supporters

Asa Deshmukh volunteers weekly with CABVI reading *Time Magazine*. She also engages students from The University of Cincinnati and Mason High School to help us fulfill mailing projects to fundraise for the organization. The most recent project was assisting with our annual campaign mailing, which reaches more than 4,500 CABVI supporters.

Thank you Asa and students for making a huge difference in the lives of those with vision loss.

### Become a Volunteer

You can enrich the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired by joining our community of volunteers. Depending on your interests and the time you have, there are a variety of ways you can help! We offer both in-person and remote volunteer opportunities.

To view current volunteer opportunities and to apply online, visit our website at [www.cincyblind.org/volunteer](http://www.cincyblind.org/volunteer).

## Upcoming Events

- **First Anniversary of Braille Ale**  
July 8, 2021 | 6 - 9 PM  
at West Side Brewing  
*If you can't attend this fundraiser, stop by West Side Brewing to pick up your six pack or try it on tap anytime after July 8<sup>th</sup>, while supplies last.*
- **Dining in the Dark Wonderland**  
November 20, 2021 | 6 - 10 PM  
Hard Rock Casino Event Center

Learn more about our upcoming events at [www.cincyblind.org](http://www.cincyblind.org).

## A Message from Teri Shirk, President/CEO

I want to express my sincere appreciation for the opportunity to join CABVI; the agency's reputation certainly lives fully in its day-to-day operations. After only a few months, I find myself completely enamored by the strength of the business, effectiveness of operations, commitment of staff, and impact on the community. The industries program and our employment services, Base Supply Center, VIE Ability, and Contract Management Support are operating smoothly and efficiently. Current vision services are so needed and delivered with a strong heart and sound mission focus. Coming to work each day is a joy.

Throughout the on-boarding process, it was clear that the Board desired a new, innovative path. I can tell you with all certainty that the staff and organization are poised for that change. All of us have the desire to grow our impact on the community and on the lives of individuals who are blind or visually impaired. The agency is already open to a new, dynamic future.

I am sure as we align CABVI for its future, changes in process, systems and structure will be necessary as well as the addition of resources to match our growth. It will take all of CABVI's employees, leadership, volunteers, Board members and our community partners to find the best path forward.



Coffee Talks are made possible by generous funding from Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities and the Independent Living Older Blind Program.

## Listen to the latest Coffee Talks on our Podcast Channel

CABVI staff have been offering virtual Coffee Talks as free, open events for anyone affected by vision loss to learn more about related topics. For those who were unable to attend, these are now available to listen to through CABVI's 'Interviews' podcast channel.

Recent topics of past Coffee Talks include Guide Dogs 101, Recording and Retrieving Essential Information, and PC and Smart Device Built-in Accessibility.

### To listen using a smart phone or tablet:

1. Download the Podbean app from your device's app store.
2. Search within the app for 'CABVI Interviews' and locate your topic of choice.

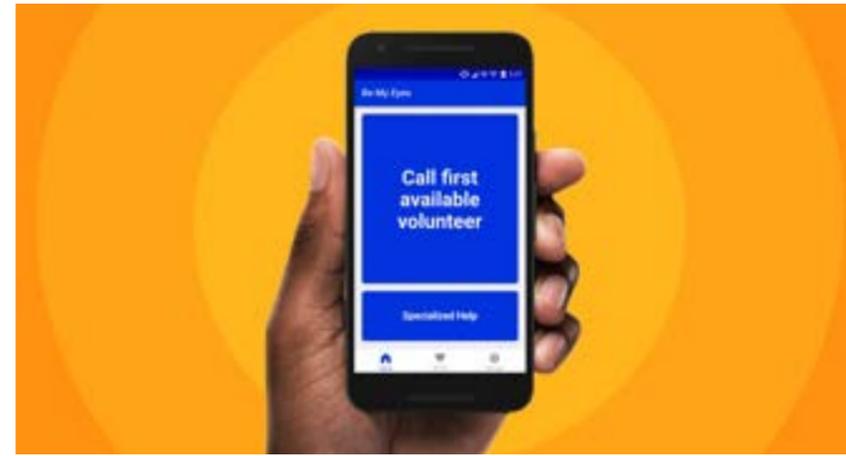
CABVI has several other channels for individuals who are blind, visually impaired, or unable to read conventional print. You can also use the quick links on our website to listen to these channels by visiting [www.cincyblind.org/podcasts](http://www.cincyblind.org/podcasts).

**If we work together, we will have the greatest possibility of success.**

I plan to keep our exchange of information with all stakeholders open and as transparent as possible; I will continue to utilize face-to-face meetings, recorded messages, and written communications, such as this newsletter, to inform each of you. I remain highly interested in your thoughts and input. Please feel free to reach out to me by email at ([teri.shirk@cincyblind.org](mailto:teri.shirk@cincyblind.org)) or by phone at (513) 221-8558 if you would like to share your ideas with me. Thank you all again for inviting me to be a part of CABVI's exciting future.



Teri J. Shirk



## We've partnered with Be My Eyes as a Specialized Help Partner!

The world has gone virtual and CABVI staff are now available to provide real-time video assistance for individuals who are blind and visually impaired through the Be My Eyes app.

We are ready to take your call Monday through Friday from 12 PM to 3 PM EST and can assist you with blindness related questions, independent living and assistance with CABVI services.

Connecting with CABVI staff through Be My Eyes is easy:

1. Enter the Specialized Help menu
2. Locate us in the Blindness Organizations Category
3. Make a call from our profile

Download the app for free today from the App Store and Google Play. Our accessibility experts are ready and waiting!

## Custom signs are now available!

CABVI now offers ADA compliant, braille and tactile signage as part of our full service sign center. We also offer a variety of indoor and outdoor sign options such as PVC, banners, corrugated, polymetal and aluminum. Signs are available in a variety of sizes and colors and can be customized using the latest design, printing and cutting technology.



Shop our signs today by visiting [www.cabvisigns.org](http://www.cabvisigns.org).

## 110<sup>th</sup> Virtual Annual Meeting held on April 30<sup>th</sup>

Teri Shirk, President/CEO led the meeting. Dennis Dern, Board Chair presented Trustee Service Awards to Anne Pezel, Simon Sotelo, John Burns, D. Mark Meyers, Ph.D., Brenda Gumbs and Mary Rust for their years of service on the board. Patti Weller-Bresler was recognized as a returning board member after rotating off the board in 2020. Two new members, Lee Cassiere and Joe Sgro were welcomed to the board.



Glen Vogel was introduced as the new Board Chair. Vogel joined CABVI's Board in 2000 and served as Board Treasurer from 2005 – 2011. He also served on CABVI's Audit and Finance Committee and as Vice Chair.



David Justice received the Bradley L. Kaylor Blind Employee Award.



Larry Klug received the Mark Foersterling Staff Member of the Year Award.

## Thank you for supporting CABVI!

Ettlinger Trust Fund  
Lions Club of Oxford  
Spaulding Foundation  
Western & Southern Financial Fund  
Wish List

## Become one of our Heroes Providing Independence!

For just \$10 a month you could provide a handheld magnifier for a senior living with low vision.

Connect with us on social media

@cabvicincy



### Cincinnati Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired

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[www.cincyblind.org](http://www.cincyblind.org)

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



Kyle Greene, Manager of Fulfillment and Distribution

## Purchase Office Supplies and Support CABVI

Consider shopping with VIE Ability for both your personal and professional office supply needs! VIE Ability has over 60,000 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](http://www.VIE-Ability.org).

## Donating to CABVI has never been easier!

Use the QR code to donate in three easy steps:

1. Open up your smartphone camera.
2. Hover over the QR code.
3. Click the pop-up link & donate!

