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**CABVI Viewpoint 2023 Winter Edition**

**Dining in the Dark…Superheroes Unite!**

CABVI's 6th annual Dining in the Dark: Superheroes on November 12 was a huge success! We honored this year’s Barney H. Kroger Humanitarian Award winner Steve Eberly. Participants enjoyed an online auction, a live auction, a wine raffle, and a bourbon raffle. Local celebrities Natalie Jones and Freddy Mac (from Q102) emceed the event and Tracy Wilson shared her experiences as a successful art professional with vision loss. We are pleased to announce that we raised over $200,000 to help individuals adapt to vision loss.

In addition to our sponsor list below, we'd like to extend an additional thanks to our Table Hosts, In-Kind, Live and Silent Auction Partners.

Next year’s Dining in the Dark...Disco will be held on November 11, 2023 at Hard Rock Casino Event Center from 6-10 pm. For information about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Aaron Bley at 513-487-4233.

**A Message from the President/CEO**

The word “community” has been floating through my world in recent times. It seems as if every podcast, book, or message includes the concept of building stronger communities, emphasizing how the communities we embrace wrap themselves back around us and hold us afloat in an ever-stressful world. I am a person with a fairly small circle, my family, a few close friends, and work colleagues. Yet, I have begun recognizing the many “communities” that support me. My family and friends serve as a backbone community, my group of choice when times are hard. Work strengthens me, provides purpose, and speaks to my commitments and values. My faith community, a solid network built through Leadership Cincinnati, even Facebook and LinkedIn create the buffers and pedestals required to get through the day.

As I have examined my membership in each community and looked for their alignment with my values, I have begun to focus my attention on this community, the one we lean into here at CABVI. I appreciate the legacy of our community, those who have come and gone and those who have remained dedicated through the years. Now I am excited by the new stretch we have entered, this post-COVID attention to culture and inclusion era with a new strategic direction. Collaboration is a benchmark value in my community of choice. Even though my inclination at times can be to drive ahead, keeping a singular grasp on the path I see, I am willing to put the energy into creating an environment where all have the opportunity not only to be heard but to participate. Decisions can’t always be by consensus but we can work towards a place where the right people, with the right knowledge and know-how are at the table when the decision is made. It’s a goal, one made of small and deliberate steps.

**First Ever Braille Bourbon with Northside Distilling Company**

CABVI partnered with Northside Distilling Company creating Braille Bourbon Whiskey - a hand selected 108 proof single barrel bourbon with braille on the label. The limited-edition bottle was released on September 28, 2022 at Northside Distilling Co. and sold out in record time. A portion of the proceeds was donated back to CABVI to help individuals adapt to vision loss.

This partnership aimed 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.

**Giving Tuesday**

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Giving Tuesday campaign. We were blown away with your generosity, raising $2,690 in just 24 hours! Your support helps provide services and adaptive equipment to more than 4,000 people in the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area each year.

**Recent Vision Services Events**

**Trick or Treat**

CABVI's Early Childhood and Youth Services hosted a Trick or Treat event for younger clients and their families at CABVI on October 28, 2022. They enjoyed craft time as well as visiting staff and board members throughout the agency to get sweet treats.

**Coffee Talk**

CABVI hosted a Coffee Talk on November 11, 2022. Tim Schmidt, CABVI Access Technology Specialist, shared information on how to get started with MyChart - how to sign up, benefits of using it and basic navigation to a group of more than ten individuals with vision loss.

**Snowball**

Younger clients of CABVI and their families enjoyed the Early Childhood and Youth Services Snowball event held on December 3, 2022. The event featured an afternoon of music and fun under the stars with crafts and visits from Santa.

**New Art Equals Monthly Group**

Clients have been exercising their creative muscles with a new monthly group from Art Equals hosted at CABVI. Charlotte Reed, a local art therapist, visually impaired artist, and founder of Art Equals leads the sessions.

The first group was held on September 6, 2022. Groups will continue to be held the first Tuesday of the month. For more information, please contact Charlotte at info@art-equals.org.

**Thank you for making a difference!**

Charles H. Dater Foundation

Consumer Technology Association Foundation

Gladys Wittmeyer Knox Foundation

The Greater Cincinnati Foundation

Hamilton County Cares

L&L Nippert Foundation

Charles Scott Riley II Foundation

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Wish List

Wohlgemuth Herschede Foundation

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Shopping for office supplies has never been easier or more impactful with VIE Ability. Your purchase helps CABVI employees live fuller, more independent lives. Aside from the social impact purchases make, customers receive outstanding local customer service and competitive pricing on more than 60,000 office, breakroom and janitorial supplies. **Shop today at www.vie-ability.org.**

**CABVI's Stories of the Season Tradition Continues**

Each year, CABVI invites local celebrities and media talent into our studios to read a holiday story for us to share with our 13,000+ listeners through our Radio Reading Services and podcast channel. We were joined by Natalie Jones from Q102 and Mo Egger, On-Air Host for iHeartMedia and ESPN Radio. In addition, Evan Millward, WCPO Anchor/Reporter, and Kyle Inskeep and Paula Toti from Channel 12 visited our studios along with many more local celebrities.

Stories of the Season is also available to listen to on our Youth Podcast Channel at [www.cincyblind.org/podcasts/cabvi-youth](http://www.cincyblind.org/podcasts/cabvi-youth).

Cincinnati Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired

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