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**Cincinnati Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired**

**Viewpoint Newsletter**

**Summer 2025**

**CABVI Joins the Reds Opening Day Parade**

CABVI was proud to be part of the 106th Findlay Market Opening Day Parade in celebration of the Cincinnati Reds Opening Day! CABVI team members, clients, and special guest Q102's Natalie Jones walked in the parade, representing our agency and showcasing pride for our city.

Photo: CABVI Industries Program Team Members Mike Breeden and April Ridener join the Opening Day Parade

Photo: CABVI Team Members and President/CEO Teri Shirk pose for a photo with the Mobile Vision Resources Van before the Reds Opening Day Parade

Photo: Chief Mission Officer Aaron Bley holds CABVI banner with Q102's Natalie Jones

**Save the Date**

Dining in the Dark: Nov 15, 2025

Mark your calendars for our next Dining in the Dark: May the Force Be with You, taking place on November 15th from 6 to 11pm at Hard Rock Casino Event Center!

**A Message from the President/CEO**

At CABVI, we love kicking off summer with our community event, Fun Fest, at Washington Park. Awareness of CABVI’s services is essential to helping individuals with vision loss find the support they need. Along with attending many other events, like Juneteenth, the Pride Festival, and the Black Family Reunion, CABVI’s staff and our new Vision Resources Van will roll out to over 200 locations, providing over 350 vision screenings and resources to thousands of our neighbors.

Here on Gilbert Avenue, camp programs are in full swing with kids joining us for music, mobility, and learning. While the kids are having fun, their parents get to meet each other, forming supportive friendships that will likely last for many years. Over at the Cincinnati Museum Center, our older teens are off at work, learning about employment and earning their first paychecks during our 5-week transition program.

Summer is a great time of year for our employees as well. With Federal and State fiscal years ending in June and September, orders are up, requiring big pushes in manufacturing and VIE Ability. Our Federal, State, and commercial partners make employment and career advancement possible for so many. CABVI is proud to employ over 75 individuals with vision loss across all aspects of our agency. We are grateful for the support of our community, volunteers, and each of our team members. Our mission comes to life through the efforts of all!

—Teri J. Shirk

**CABVI Hosts Coffee Talk on Glaucoma**

CABVI's Vision Services team hosted a Coffee Talk on February 28 to help individuals with visual impairments learn more about glaucoma. CABVI’s Dr. Morgan shared valuable insights about glaucoma, including symptoms, risk factors, and more.

Photo: Dr. Morgan, optometrist at CABVI, speaking to a group about glaucoma during a Coffee Talk

**All in and All Appreciated: CABVI Honors Volunteers with a Fun-filled Celebration**

On April 26, CABVI hosted a casino-themed celebration called “All In for CABVI” to recognize and thank our amazing volunteers. The event featured games, snacks, and prizes, creating a fun and festive atmosphere to honor the generous individuals who help make a difference in the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired.

Photo: CABVI’s Trevor Hay plays a game with volunteers Rick Delewski and Beverly Bolling at CABVI's Volunteer Appreciation Event

**CABVI at Cincinnati Reds' Abilities at Bat**

CABVI joined the Cincinnati Reds for Abilities at Bat on May 24, celebrating inclusion for people with disabilities. Ticket purchases supporting CABVI helped fund programs for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. We were proud to take part in this impactful day!

Photo: CABVI Assistive Technology Instructor Emily Kiehl with guide dog Beulah at Abilities at Bat

**114th Annual Meeting: Making a Real Difference**

CABVI's 2025 Annual Meeting was held at CABVI on April 24. President/CEO Teri Shirk led the meeting. A Trustee Service Award was presented to an outgoing board member, Robin Chadwick. Four Trustees were accepted for a three-year term: Roger Caldwell, Dennis Dern, Dr. Luke Lindsell, and Kim Ravenhall.

CABVI recognized the following honorees.

* Bradley L. Kaylor Blind Employee of the Year: Mike Breeden, CABVI Industries Program Team Member and Dusenberry Operator
* Milton J. Samuelson Career Achievement Award Nominee: Kyle Greene, Customer Experience Manager of VIE Ability and Base Supply Center
* Mark Foersterling Program Services Team Member of the Year: Mary Sutton, Certified Low Vision Therapist at CABVI

Photos: Mike Breeden, Kyle Greene, and Mary Sutton

**Need Office Furniture? Purchase with a Purpose from VIE Ability**

Shopping has never been more impactful than with VIE Ability, where your purchase helps CABVI employees with vision loss live more independent lives. Customers receive outstanding local customer service and competitive pricing on more than 60,000 office, break room, and janitorial supplies. VIE Ability features office furniture as well. Shop today at www.vie-ability.org

**A Bold Night for Braille Ale®**

Thanks to everyone who joined us at West Side Brewing to celebrate six years of Braille Ale®! Guests enjoyed blindfolded activities like a beer tasting and our beer stack challenge, all while raising a glass to purpose, community, and support for people with vision loss. 4 packs are now available at select locations. **Learn more at cincyblind.org/brailleale.**

Photo: Braille Ale guests Brenda and Phil Jonas try the blindfolded beer tasting

**Thank You for Making a Difference Through Grants!**

* Edelweiss Foundation
* Inspiration Foundation
* Oxford Lions Club
* Rotary Foundation of Cincinnati
* Scripps Howard Foundation
* The H.B., E.W. and F.R. Luther Charitable Foundation, Fifth Third Bank and Narley L. Haley, Co-Trustees
* The Ettlinger Memorial Trust Fund
* The Louise Taft Semple Foundation
* The Unnewehr Foundation
* Western & Southern Financial Fund
* Wish List

**Thanks for Making Fun Fest 2025 a Success**

On Saturday, June 7th, CABVI hosted the fourth annual Fun Fest ’25 in Washington Park—an accessible community gathering benefiting our mission to empower people who are blind or visually impaired with opportunities to seek greater independence. The family-friendly event featured engaging blindfolded activities like an inflatable obstacle course, beep cornhole, and beep baseball, along with a live DJ, ice cream truck, exciting raffles, and fun games for kids.

We would like to extend special thanks to Essendant, the presenting sponsor for this event.

Photo: A Fun Fest participant finishes the blindfolded obstacle course

Photo: Beep cornhole brings fun and challenge to a young guest at Fun Fest

**Thank You to Our Fun Fest Sponsors!**

Your support helps build brighter futures for people with vision loss.

Presenting Sponsor

* Essendant

Diamond Sponsors

* Gebesa
* The NKU Chapter of Delta Gamma

Independence Sponsors

* Taft Law
* Brandience
* Shurtape Technologies
* Faith Financial Advisors Inc.

Hope Sponsors

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* Five Star Food Service
* Imbus Roofing

**Cincinnati Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired**

**2045 Gilbert Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45202**

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**cincyblind.org**

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

We have partnerships with the following:

* Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired
* NAEPB
* United Way, Butler County
* National Industries for the Blind
* International Association of Audio Information Services
* Vision Service Alliance