

# Viewpoint

Summer/Fall 2011 Newsletter



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

## A MEMO FROM JOHN MITCHELL



Did you know that 2011 is CABVI's Centennial? I certainly hope your answer is "Of course!" As we enter our second century of providing services to people who have severe vision loss, I'd like to invite you to help "**Spread the Word**" about the quality programs that CABVI provides to our community. In the last three years, we have launched several initiatives to ensure that those in need are aware of the positive impact our programs and services can bring to people in our community that we are here to serve. Through the generosity of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation we received two consecutive grants to fund targeted outreach in 18 core neighborhoods of Cincinnati. A second initiative came from CABVI's strategic planning process. CABVI's Board supported the investment we have made in a marketing campaign that began in the Fall of 2009 designed to "**Spread the Word**" about our services and the impact CABVI has on the lives of the people we serve.

Finally, we have been meeting and connecting with other Human Service agencies in the region to ensure we are collaborating to meet the needs of the community.

Did you know that we currently provide 14 different services? All of them offering opportunities to our clients to overcome barriers that vision loss can create and allow them to remain independent. These services include:

- **Low Vision Service** - Evaluation and service to help people use remaining vision more effectively through magnifiers and other low vision aids.
- **Access Technology Service** - Use of computer applications that enable people who are visually impaired to operate electronic devices such as computers, note pads, smart phones, GPS and other hand held devices.
- **Vision Rehabilitation Therapy** - Adaptive techniques for daily livings skills including communication skills, home management and personal management.
- **Orientation and Mobility Instruction** - Use of techniques to travel safely and independently in on'e home, neighborhood or community, with the use of a white cane.
- **Social Service** - Counseling, information and support groups to help in the emotional adjustment to vision loss.

- **Volunteer Services** - Visiting, escorting on outings or for shopping, or reading materials one-on-one at home or at work.
- **Industrial Employment** - Job opportunities in a light industrial setting.
- **Youth Services** - Providing transition assistance to teens and young adults moving from school to the workplace or post high school education.
- **Early Childhood and Youth Service** - Assessment, information and services to help the young child and family; services for school aged children such as orientation and mobility, access technology, and low vision services.
- **Music Program** - Music intervention and instruction.
- **Radio Reading Services** - Access to local and selected national newspaper and magazines that are broadcast on WRRS, our radio station.
- **Personalized Talking Print** - People can hear newspapers and magazines read on their telephone through a service called Personalized Talking Print.
- **Talking Book Service** - Special audiotape and digital players to enable persons to read a large selection of recorded books and magazines.
- **Call Center Training** - Training of skills and work expectations in the Call Center Industry, working to achieve job placement in the community.

From the 2010 United States Census data, there are over 2.1 million people living in the eleven county areas that CABVI serves in Southern Ohio and Northern Kentucky. Of this population, approximately 12.2 percent are over age 65. With the realities that Baby Boomers are now reaching the age of 65 in record numbers, and the incidence of age-related eye conditions that can cause severe vision loss also on the rise, CABVI's services are needed more than ever. Our current estimate is that there are over 40,000 people who could currently make use of our services and last year in 2010, we served just 4,307. CABVI's Board and staff have taken note and are actively working to achieve our Breakthrough Goal of increasing the number of people that we serve to 5,000 by the year 2013.

So often we hear from new clients, "CABVI has been a tremendous help, I really shouldn't have waited so long". Given this, I'm asking for your help to "**Spread the Word**" about CABVI to those you know and even those you don't about the quality services and assistance we provide to people who have severe vision loss. It's actually pretty simple, just share the good news that CABVI can help and everyone should "*Know You Can*" overcome the challenges of vision loss!

## AGENCY NEWS

### CABVI NAMED “NON PROFIT OF THE YEAR”



CABVI Executive Director John Mitchell (center) accepted the award for “Non Profit of the Year” by the Cincinnati Regional USA Chamber on May 24, 2011.

Pictured with John are Ellen Van Der Horst, Chamber President and Rick Bryan, Executive Director of the Wellness Community (Non Profit of the Year 2007).

CABVI is honored to have received this recognition.

### WRRS WINS “PROGRAM OF THE YEAR” AWARD

At the 2011 IAAIS (International Association of Audio Information Services) Conference, WRRS was recognized for the program *Earth, Stars and Beyond* with a “Program of the Year” award in the category News/Information Digest I.

Kole Ross, broadcast assistant, was the producer and Kim Shinkle-McCurdy, volunteer reader, was the talent.

*Kole Ross and Kim Shinkle-McCurdy*



## CABVI’S ANNUAL RAFT TRIP

Whoever thinks you have to see with your eyes to appreciate all of nature’s wonders has most certainly not been on CABVI’s inclusive raft trip and picnic. The annual event has become one of the agency’s most popular outings for clients, volunteers and staff.

More than 100 people attended this year’s excursion along the Whitewater River from Morgan’s Brookville Canoe Center. Immediately after the rafting trip everyone enjoyed an afternoon of food, games and friendship.



A special thanks to Morgan’s, Midwest Financial Partners and Federal Supply for sponsorships and donations; and to the Morgan family whose generosity had made this event possible each year by assisting with planning and donating the use of their rafts, guides and picnic shelter.



## CABVI WELCOMES NEW STAFF

We want to welcome four new staff members to our team:

**Carol Birkley** has joined CABVI's staff as payroll administrator/accounting clerk. She has recently returned back to her native home of Cincinnati after working with Department of Defense contractors for 4 years in Alaska and Florida. Carol has payroll experience in a non-profit setting from her 15 years working at Health Source of Ohio as payroll specialist/human resource assistant.



*Carol Birkley*

**Kerry Caito** has recently joined CABVI as a full-time temporary social worker. He comes to CABVI with more than 30 years of experience in medical social work. Kerry has also been the director of two programs, worked in health sales and served as the corporate director of business development for United Health Care before retiring for three years. He has a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Sociology from the University of Cincinnati as well as a Master of Science in Social Work degree from the University of Louisville.



*Kerry Caito*

**Paige Elwafi** recently became CABVI's full-time music specialist after working as CABVI's part-time music specialist since September 2008. Paige brings nearly 10 years of experience to CABVI. She has held several positions in music therapy working with children, adolescents and adults who have physical, medical, developmental, and mental health issues. Paige has a bachelor's degree in Music Therapy from Ohio University and a master's degree in Music Therapy from Temple University. She especially enjoys using music to help bring about change in her clients' lives.



*Paige Elwafi*

**Lori Lindsly** has been hired by CABVI as manager of Low Vision Services. Lindsly is a graduate of Pennsylvania College of Optometry after receiving her bachelor's degree from Michigan State University. Prior to CABVI, Lindsly spent 27 years teaching people who are visually impaired with much of that time serving as an outreach consultant at the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. She also coordinated Wisconsin's statewide pediatric low vision clinics.



*Lori Lindsly*

"The defining moment of my career happened when one of my students, a girl who is totally blind, stated to me, 'You know, it must be awful to have to see things to know you have them', when she discovered that I would only watch a TV with a picture. Her attitude and la joie de vivre (joy of life) inspires me on a daily basis," said Lindsly.

## ACCESS TECHNOLOGY SERVICE SPONSORS WORKSHOP



CABVI's Access Technology Service offered a technology workshop on June 10 at CABVI showcasing the latest updates and new products. Vendor representatives and CABVI staff demonstrated new portable technologies including book readers, iPods, iPads, accessible cell phones, and note takers. Approximately 35 people attended and gained hands-on experience with some of this new technology.

## DEPARTMENT PROFILE: ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY

For those who can see, it is easy to take for granted something as simple as walking into the kitchen for a cup of coffee or around the neighborhood for some exercise. You may not give it a second thought that you can easily maneuver grocery aisles, office buildings or escalators.

However, if you are blind or have low vision getting from point A to point B safely, efficiently, and with confidence might take some practice. CABVI Orientation and Mobility (O&M) specialists teach safe travel techniques in a variety of settings including homes, schools, and communities.

On any given day, CABVI O&M specialists may be teaching clients and family members sighted guide skills or introducing White Cane techniques for use in negotiating indoor and outdoor environments, or teaching more advanced skills such as crossing streets and traveling on public transportation.



Using all senses, including use of remaining vision, is emphasized during O&M instruction. The use of magnification devices and adaptive aids and techniques are incorporated into O&M lessons to help clients achieve their goals. For example, learning a route to the grocery store may include using a telescope to read street signs while walking to the store and reading aisle signs once inside. To identify money (bills) a review of folding methods might also be included.

“There are differences when teaching an individual who lost their vision later in life compared to someone who has been blind since birth. Having a ‘visual memory’ of the environment can be an advantage, but adjustment to a vision loss can be difficult,” said **Patty Willits**, MS, Certified O&M Specialist at CABVI.

“For someone who has been blind since birth, concepts are learned differently. Think about how you learned what ‘between’, ‘behind’, or ‘in front of’ means.”

## CLIENT PROFILE



**Mary Ann Donelan** has a collection of race t-shirts. When she crossed the finish line of CABVI’s “*Know You Can*” 5K (formerly Spring Light 5K), it marked her 12th year of giving back to the agency one step at a time.

Born without irises in her eyes, Mary Ann said CABVI’s services and adaptive aids have meant the difference of being independent and doing what she is passionate about, which is helping to encourage the potential in children through her job in a day care center. Using her portable video magnifier, she instills a love for learning by reading books aloud. Other magnification aids for close up and distance allow her to be more attentive to the children’s needs. With the adaptive software that she received and was trained on by CABVI’s Access Technology Service, Mary Ann can manage her personal and professional records; and use the Internet to ‘like’ CABVI on Facebook.

Her other passion is being outdoors and active. In addition to CABVI’s “*Know You Can*” 5K, she is a member of an inclusive tandem biking club; and last year she and her sister-in-law walked in the Flying Pig Marathon 10K.

“Before CABVI, I just did the best that I could,” said Mary Ann. “Everything has changed since they came into my life.”

## VOLUNTEER NEWS

When **Yann Ferrand** came to the United States from France in 2004 to attend the University of Cincinnati, he had no idea how his whole life would change. It was in a Clifton classroom where he met his best friend, his wife, **Ezgi**. And in another building where he would meet a student whose connection with CABVI ultimately got him introduced to **Elizabeth Blanton**, whom he now affectionately calls his American grandmother.

Seven years later, Yann had to recently say good-bye to the city that gave him so much. He and Ezgi have just moved to South Carolina. But not before he had an opportunity to spend some last special moments with a woman he has grown to love.

Yann and Elizabeth, 84, were matched through CABVI's One-on-One program. Their relationship began as a volunteer reader and a woman who needed help reading and responding to mail, but it quickly grew into an enduring friendship. They've been to ballgames and restaurants together, and they have also spent quality time chatting. Elizabeth was even there when Yann said his 'I

do'. "Yann was always calling me and taking us (she and her boyfriend) out to breakfast. I don't have many people like him in my life and it means a whole lot to me," Elizabeth had said before he left.

Now she has a new volunteer through CABVI, **Josephine McKenrick**. All three got together several times before Yann moved. As Josephine left Elizabeth's apartment, she outstretched her arms for big hugs – first to Elizabeth and then to the French man.

... the start of a new friendship.



*Josephine McKenrick, Elizabeth Blanton and Yann Ferrand*

## CENTENNIAL

### BUSKEN BAKERY CREATES BRAILLE COOKIE TO HONOR CABVI'S 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

From August 3 through September 3, 2011, Busken Bakery will commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cincinnati Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired with a limited edition Braille cookie. The 4-inch sugar cookies featuring CABVI's logo and initials in Braille will be available at all ten Busken Bakery locations and will sell for \$2.00 each of which Busken will donate half (\$1.00) to CABVI.

Braille is a system of writing and printing that uses varied arrangements of six raised dot cells that represent letters and numbers that can be identified by touch. That is what you will see (and feel) on the cookies once you press the candy dots that will accompany each into the icing on top of the printed dots. Every cookie will also come with a Braille alphabet card, so you can translate it for yourself.

Here's to the next 100 years of CABVI's mission of sharing the sweet gift of independence with Greater Cincinnati. Busken Bakery and CABVI "Know You Can!"

Busken Bakery has locations in Beechmont, Springdale, Western Hills, 7<sup>th</sup> & Walnut (Downtown Cincinnati), Hyde Park, Eastgate, Kenwood, Mason, Milford in Ohio and in Highland Heights, Ky.



*The Busken Bakery marketing team, CABVI staff and a CABVI volunteer enjoy the first Braille cookies!*

## MANY THANKS TO OUR CENTENNIAL SPONSORS!



## CENTENNIAL CAPSTONE RECOGNITION DINNER PLANNED

The last of the special events planned for our Centennial year is the Centennial Capstone Recognition Dinner to be held on Thursday, October 20, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Cincinnati. This dinner is our way of honoring those individuals and organizations who have, in some way, contributed to the success of CABVI over the years.

Special honorees for the evening are Susan S. Friedlander, The Kroger Company and United Way of Greater Cincinnati. Also, other individuals and organizations will be recognized for their contributions with presentations of Centennial Recognition Medallions.

The evening will begin with a reception at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner and the program at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$100 per person and \$1,500 for a Leadership Table (a table seats 10). For more information or to make a reservation, please call Mary Sutton at 513-487-4530.

## A SPECIAL CENTENNIAL PRESENTATION

To continue the celebration of our 100th Anniversary, a Special Centennial Presentation, featuring noted speaker and humorist, **Kevin O'Connor**, is being offered on Sunday, September 11, 2011 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The program will be held at CABVI located at 2045 Gilbert Avenue.

The program begins with an opportunity for guests to visit our Access Technology Service and our Vision Rehabilitation Service departments to learn the facts about vision rehabilitation, see demonstrations of some of the latest technology, and meet our staff with the expertise to help anyone with vision loss regardless of age or vision condition. Refreshments will be served.

At 2:30 p.m. Kevin O'Connor will present "Do You See What I See", a fun and substantial look at how we all 'see' both visually, metaphorically, and how we observe and interpret our world, others and ourselves.

Kevin O'Connor hails from Chicago, is an author and a parent of a 22-year-old son who is visually impaired. He is also a specialist in educating and coaching, and he teaches at Loyola University and Columbia College. Kevin is active in the field of blindness, being a past president of the National Association for Parents with Children Who Have Visual Impairments. His presentation will speak to people of all ages.

This program is offered at no charge and everyone is welcome. Please RSVP by September 6, 2011 to Judy Hale at 513-487-4220.

### SAVE THESE DATES!

**September 11, 2011**  
Centennial Special Presentation  
"Do You See What I See?"  
CABVI • 2045 Gilbert Avenue

**October 20, 2011**  
Centennial Capstone Recognition  
Dinner  
The Hyatt Regency  
151 West Fifth Street

**December 8, 2011**  
Holiday Open House  
CABVI • 2045 Gilbert Avenue

## DEVELOPMENT NEWS

### A LEGACY OF PHILANTHROPY

In 1949, Mrs. Martha Stern made a generous gift of 47 acres to create a school in Warren County for blind men to learn farming. Her husband, Max Stern, and her son, Alfred Stern, had both made previous planned gifts to CABVI. Mrs. Stern continued the family tradition of giving by donating \$100,000 in buildings, grounds, equipment and livestock to establish the Farm School for the Blind in memory of her husband and son.



The school had a blind director who taught students to work with livestock such as raising chickens and other farm animals. An article in the newspaper called it “one of the world’s most unusual schools – an institution which teaches farming to blind men” and it provided practical vocational training in the days of rural living.

*From 1949 until 1958 CABVI operated a dairy and poultry farm training school at the Max and Alfred M. Stern Memorial Vacation Home and Farm School in Mason, Ohio.*



*Mrs. Martha Stern*

CABVI is incredibly grateful to so many community donors who have made planned gifts to support 100 years of service for people who are blind or visually impaired. Many of these donors have cultivated the idea of giving with their children and grandchildren as a way of bringing their families closer together and laying the groundwork for an enduring legacy of philanthropy.

Planned gifts provide a wonderful opportunity for donors to consider giving assets other than cash to help support CABVI in the future. Giving options include bequests, charitable gift annuities, life insurance policies and beneficiary designations on retirement plans. If you have made arrangements for a planned gift, please let us know so that we can recognize you as a member of our Visionary Society in our Annual Report and on the CABVI donor wall. Please call Kathy Gottschlich at 513-487-4233 for more information.



*In 1958 the farm school closed and the facility operated as a recreation center until the property was sold in 1971.*

#### Suggested wording to remember CABVI in your will or estate plan:

“I give to the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars (\$\_\_\_\_\_). This bequest is unrestricted and the Board of Trustees or other governing body may use and expend the same for the benefit of the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired in any manner it deems appropriate.”

## 12TH ANNUAL CABVI'S "KNOW YOU CAN" 5K

How befitting for an organization celebrating 100 years of 'offering people opportunities to seek independence' to have hosted one of the area's largest inclusive 5K events with more than 360 participants including people of varying abilities, people without vision, and people with low vision.

The Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CABVI)'s "Know You Can" 5K was held August 7 at Spring Grove Cemetery & Arboretum. It was hosted by CABVI Board Member Norma Rashid. There were walkers, runners, people who use wheelchairs, and people who participated with sighted guides. Children had fun participating in the Kids' Fun Run.

Money raised by the race will be used to help fund CABVI programs and services provided to people in an 11-county region.



Runners begin the 5K course!

Thank you to our 5K sponsors:

### GOLD SPONSORS

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CENTENNIAL LEAD SPONSOR  
The Kroger Company

## CABVI'S "KNOW YOU CAN" 5K INTERN - BEKAH THERKELSON

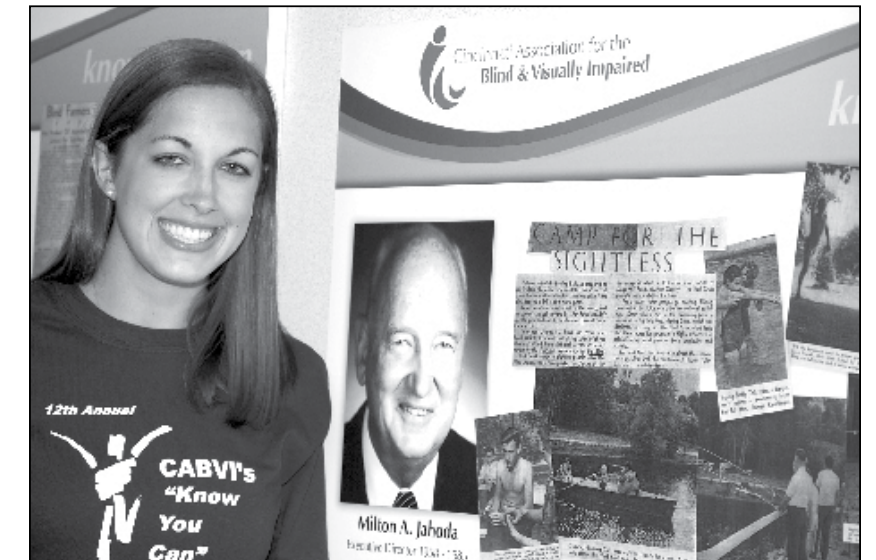
Every summer the agency has been so fortunate to have wonderful college interns who have coordinated the CABVI's "Know You Can" 5K (formerly Spring Light 5K).

This year **Bekah Therkelson**, a senior at the University of Cincinnati, has a very personal reason for wanting the race to be a success. Her grandfather, Milton Jahoda, was CABVI's executive director from 1958 until 1985. It was under his leadership that the agency saw great expansion, moving to its current location and establishment of programs to help people who are blind or visually impaired seek independence. Included among those programs are Low Vision Service, Orientation & Mobility, and music therapy.

Clearly for Milton, his career was more than a job. It was a passion. He knew firsthand the importance of the agency's mission because he, too, was blind.

Not a day goes by when he is not on Bekah's mind. Every morning Bekah starts her day at the agency by walking up to his photo on a display in the lobby, and she always makes a point of walking past his photo on the wall outside John Mitchell's office. "My grandfather called this the best job of his life," said Bekah, who began volunteering for CABVI about a year and a half ago in his memory. "He loved it here. To be able to carry on with something that meant so much to him is really special."

We are grateful to the Scripps Howard Foundation for a grant to fund CABVI's "Know You Can" 5K internship position. This is their fourth year of internship support.



Bekah Therkelson stands next to the Centennial timeline display that features a photo of her grandfather, Milton Jahoda.

## GRANTS AWARDED

CABVI is grateful for generous support from the following foundations:

- \$7,000 in support of our Early Intervention Services from The William H. Albers Foundation.
- \$5,000 for Radio Reading Services from The William P. Anderson Foundation.
- \$15,000 from the Erma A. Bantz Foundation to provide access technology services for seniors in need.
- \$30,000 for our Music Program from the Charles H. Dater Foundation, Inc.
- \$170,000 to provide partial support for five professional positions at CABVI from the Ettlinger Trust Fund.
- \$2,333 from the Fraternal Order of Eagles Highland Auxiliary No. 449 from the proceeds of their Spring Fling event.
- \$50,000 from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation for expansion of CABVI's Outreach Program and a matching anonymous gift of \$10,000.
- \$10,000 in support of Radio Reading Services from The H.B., E.W., and F.R. Luther Charitable Foundation.
- \$21,250 from The Trust Estate of George B. Riley for Radio Reading Services.
- \$1,800 for our Teen Travel Club from Ronald McDonald House Charities.
- \$2,000 from the Scripps Howard Foundation for our 5K internship position.
- \$7,000 from the proceeds of the R.A. Jones Running Club's event, Run With A Vision 5K, on behalf of the Hildenbrand family.
- \$2,700 to provide equipment for people with financial need from the Wish List.

## LISTENERS' CORNER

**The Listeners' Corner is news and helpful tips for the listeners of Radio Reading Services (RRS) radio broadcasts, Ohio Telephone Reader, Personalized Talking Print service (PTP) and One-on-One clients. Services and equipment offered through RRS programs are free of charge to people who are blind, or visually or print impaired. For more information about RRS programs, please contact Sheryl Rottenberger at CABVI, 513-487-4245.**

Did you know the WRRS Broadcast schedule and the Cincinnati local television listings (Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.) are also available on Ohio Telephone Reader?

### WRRS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Are you a fan of the 'big city'? If so, then you would enjoy our weekly half-hour program, *The New Yorker*. Volunteer Shelley Weisheit reads a variety of articles/sections including the "Talk of the Town" from the popular *The New Yorker* magazine. You will also hear topics ranging from politics to celebrity sightings and theatre news. The show airs Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. and repeats on Saturdays at 3:30 a.m.

### PTP TIPS

With 24-hour programming, there is a wide variety of information shared through our WRRS. You can hear the whole broadcast schedule in Mailbox 5557.

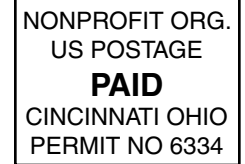
*The Bark*, a dog culture magazine, is available five times a year in the Magazine Table of Contents Mailbox 5400 and is being read by Claudia Zaher, Mailbox 3130.

The entire contents of CABVI's *Viewpoint* newsletter can be heard in Mailbox 5280.

PTP tip: For additional information at the main menu, during a message or at the end of a message, press 0 - the help key.



Address Service Requested



*Viewpoint* is a publication of the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, a not-for-profit organization offering blind and visually impaired people the opportunity to seek independence. CABVI depends upon various sources, including gifts from the community and bequests made through a will, for financial support. For information or assistance:

513-221-8558

Toll free: 1-888-687-3935

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

Email: [info@cincyblind.org](mailto:info@cincyblind.org)

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please call 513-221-8558 and ask for the *Viewpoint* editor.

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*Viewpoint* is available in Braille, large print, CD and at [www.cincyblind.org](http://www.cincyblind.org).



## BULLETIN BOARD

### Centennial Special Presentation Sunday, September 11, 2011

“Do You See What I See?” with featured speaker, Kevin O’Connor, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the CABVI offices on Gilbert Avenue.

### Centennial Capstone Recognition Dinner Thursday, October 20, 2011

Reception/Dinner at the Hyatt Regency in Cincinnati from 6 - 9 p.m.

### Holiday Open House Thursday, December 8, 2011

Seasonal favorite held at the CABVI offices on Gilbert Avenue from 4 - 6 p.m.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE** – Telephone solicitation campaigns claiming to benefit persons who are blind are being conducted in our community by other organizations. CABVI is not involved in these solicitations, does not condone the methods used, and does not accept money raised through these campaigns. If you have questions about a telephone solicitation call, contact your state’s Division of Consumer Protection.