

# Viewpoint



2020 Summer Newsletter

## Save the date for our upcoming events!

**Virtual Yes You Can  
5K Walk /Run**  
August 8-9, 2020

**Dining in the Dark**  
A Virtual Experience  
November 14, 2020

For more information,  
visit [www.cincyblind.org](http://www.cincyblind.org).



**Armin, Laser Operator using the Colex machine to make ClearGuard shields**

## Combating COVID-19 through our partnership with LumAware

CABVI's partnership with LumAware began with manufacturing and assembling energy-free glow-in-the-dark products in 2014. LumAware was founded in 2010 by Zachary Green, former infantryman with the United States Marine Corps and firefighter, when he realized the potential for photoluminescent equipment and other items to help firefighters.

When COVID-19 began, LumAware quickly pivoted to produce ClearGuard, sneeze-protective barriers now required

or recommended for businesses throughout the nation. These were designed, tested and manufactured by CABVI in just a few weeks.

CABVI is proud that we've been able to continue our partnership with LumAware and transition to making ClearGuard shields to help combat the spread of COVID-19.

ClearGuard is made of ¼ inch high quality extruded acrylic. They are cleanable with most disinfectants, come in three sizes and have a 10-year guarantee.



**ClearGuard shields in our lobby**

John Mitchell, says, "I'm pleased we are able to partner with LumAware to keep these manufacturing jobs here in the U.S. and continue to do meaningful work to contribute to our society."



## A Message from John Mitchell, President/CEO

I hope you are well and taking care as you read this CABVI Viewpoint. As we all know, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our world in almost every aspect including CABVI's services. Our community-based, vision rehabilitation services have required our service staff to reinvent our service delivery models to ensure the safety of CABVI's clients and staff. Many of the people that we serve are seniors who may have a higher health risk from COVID-19 infection.

Our Industries Program has required re-engineering our manufacturing processes and equipment layouts to provide a safe working environment with needed social distancing for all employees. Our Radio Reading Services required our committed volunteers to do their daily newspaper readings from their homes rather than our recording studios.

As with everyone, this crisis has created significant challenges and quick actions throughout CABVI to find alternative ways to continue to meet client and community needs for opportunities for independence.

CABVI's staff and volunteers have stepped up and bridged the gap until new revamped methods and operations can be put fully into place. Thanks to all our staff and volunteers for their excellent efforts over the last four months and thank you for your continued financial support to make it all happen.

Stay safe and be well!



**Top: Kyle, Communication Center Coordinator, working from his home**

**Bottom: Lynn, Personalized Talking Print volunteer, reading the Tuesday evening TV listings**

## Thank you!

- Ettlinger Trust Fund
- Lions Club of Oxford
- Spaulding Foundation
- Summerkids Fund from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- The Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- Western & Southern Financial Fund

## 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting

The 109th Annual Meeting of the Members was held as a virtual meeting on April 24th. John Mitchell, President/CEO and Dennis Dern, Board Chair presented Trustee Service Awards to Patti Weller-Bresler, Gail Moore, and Steve Kenat for completing their nine year board tenures. Patty Laub (25 years) and Harry Dornheggen (26 years) were recognized for their extensive years of service on the board. Steve Eberly (35 years) was honored with the role of Trustee Emeritus. Deborah Kendrick and Norma Rashid were installed as returning board members after rotating off of the board in 2019. Ben Rosensweet, VP and Business Development Officer at Byline Bank, was welcomed to the board as a new member.

Bob Tenbrink received the Bradley L. Kaylor Blind Employee Award and Kelly Wills received the Mark Foersterling Staff Member of the Year Award.



**Bob Tenbrink, Gadget Assembler**



**Kelly Wills, Access Technology Specialist**

## Resilient and Independent

Wesley Banks had normal vision until 2016 when he experienced sudden vision loss due to lack of blood supply to his optic nerves.

Working with our Low Vision Service, Wesley received prescribed low vision aids including a hand-held lighted magnifier, a telescope and an electronic magnifier. He learned to use adaptive technology including ZoomText large print software in CABVI's Access Technology Services. A CABVI Orientation and Mobility Specialist helped him learn to travel safely using a white cane.

Wesley says that "CABVI helped me learn to be creative, resourceful and try different things to see what works. Their staff are a wonderful team who helped walk me through some difficult times."

As you read Wesley's story, please know that with your financial support, we can make a difference in the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired, together. Please consider making a contribution to CABVI to help individuals like Wesley adapt to vision loss through our services by visiting [www.cincyblind.org/donate](http://www.cincyblind.org/donate).

**"It's a big adventure in life with a white cane."**



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

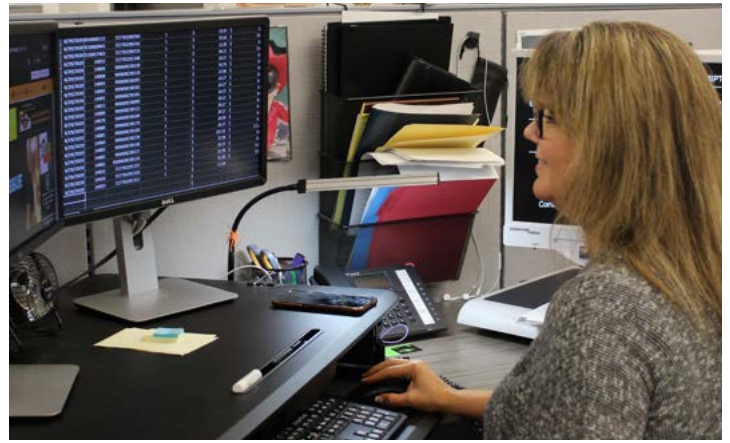
## Volunteer with CABVI

Join the CABVI team as a volunteer. Volunteers of all ages help enrich the lives of people who are blind and visually impaired. You can make a difference and know that it is greatly appreciated.



**Shawn, RRS volunteer**

Learn more at [www.cincyblind.org/volunteer](http://www.cincyblind.org/volunteer).



**Melinda, VIE Ability Account Manager**

## Purchase with a purpose from VIE Ability

CABVI's Social Enterprise, 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. 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. Please help CABVI continue providing employment for people with vision loss.

Shop office supplies at [www.vie-ability.org](http://www.vie-ability.org).



Donate to support  
our mission

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



Subscribe to our  
e-newsletter

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



Connect with us on  
social media



Cincinnati Association for the  
Blind & Visually Impaired

2045 Gilbert Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45202  
Phone: 513-221-8558 • [www.cincyblind.org](http://www.cincyblind.org)

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

