

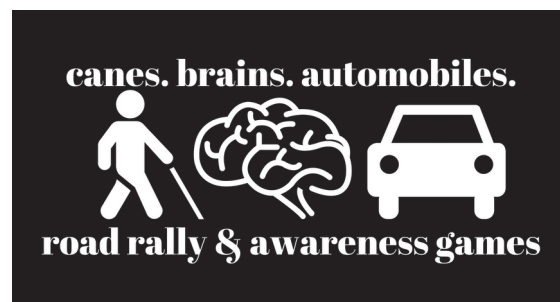
in sight

Fall 2016

Canes, Brains & Automobiles

The Sight Center Road Rally & Awareness Games

The Sight Center is calling all cars to **Canes, Brains & Automobiles**, the exciting new event that's part Road Rally, part Olympics and totally cool! **Canes, Brains & Automobiles Road Rally & Awareness Games** (formerly known as The White Cane Walk) takes place the morning of **Saturday, September 17 at The Sight Center**. This unique fundraiser will raise awareness of the daily reality experienced by people who have limited or no sight.



Road Rally teams will use their brains to follow the clues that lead them to a series of pit stop challenges. A navigator who is blind or visually impaired will be teamed up with a driver who is not. Navigators who are not visually impaired can simulate the condition with blindfolds or vision impairment glasses. Braille, large print, or audio directions will be provided to the team member in the passenger seat. The first team to successfully complete the course and return to The Sight Center will be declared the Road Rally Champion. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team, coolest car & more.

Everyone can participate in **The Awareness Games** which will also take place at The Sight Center that same morning. Contestants will touch, smell, hear and taste their way to gold, silver, and bronze awards in this family-friendly event. The celebration will also include music, raffles and games. **The day** will end with a lunchtime cookout and presentation of prizes.

Registration for the Road Rally and/or The Awareness Games is \$15 per person or \$30 per family. Register at www.SightCenterToledo.org.



Don't Dally. Join the Rally!

Call 419-720-3937 to get involved!

Saturday, September 17, 2016 - 9 AM - 1 PM

The Sight Center, 1002 Garden Lake Pkwy, Toledo

9:00 AM Registration & Refreshments

9:30 Road Rally Begins

10:00 The Awareness Games Commence

12:30 PM Cookout & Award Ceremony

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The Eyes of an Artist

Mike Sager's Story

The old phrase "can't see the forest for the trees" applies to Mike Sager, but in a very different way. Diagnosed with three different conditions including retinitis pigmentosa, macular degeneration, and partial color blindness, Mike uses a large hands-free magnifier, a 300-watt lamp, and a CCTV along with his paint brushes and acrylic paints to produce his beautiful paintings.

Most of his paintings depict nature and rural settings, so while he is zooming in to paint a tree, he truly can't see the forest around it. It is very clear, however that this Napoleon resident and Sight Center client doesn't let his vision impairment keep him from doing what he loves to do.

With a mother, grandmother and two aunts who are artists, paint runs in Mike Sager's blood. At age 10 he began sketching the famous Peanuts cartoon characters and quickly graduated to Disney favorites. Eventually he wanted to add color to his work so his mom showed him a few techniques. He proudly gazed upon his first painting at age 17 and knew in that moment that he had talent.



During the next four decades Mike continued to develop his skills by experimenting with different techniques and by being open to the possibilities that mistakes can bring. When a dropped paintbrush or an unplanned smudge leads to a new idea or technique, he refers to them as "happy accidents."

Mike loves that moment when he steps back from a painting and can picture himself standing in the real setting. That's when he knows a painting is done. He calls this the "wow factor." He still remembers that feeling when he finished "Snowy Owl" his all-time favorite painting which still hangs in his apartment as a testimonial to his passion and talent.

Several of Mike's paintings are on display and available for purchase in The Shop at The Sight Center. Stop in and check them out. You won't be disappointed. The Shop at The Sight Center is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM



You can email Mike Sager at mikesager430@gmail.com.



- Magnifiers
- CCTVs
- Lighting
- Watches
- Kitchen aids
- Braille items
- Game
- Medicine management
- Talking products

www.SightCenterToledo.org

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Expires 9/24/16



Getting There With Uber

By Ethan Holliger

Looking for a smart way to get around independently? Have a smartphone? Try Uber. Uber is a new way to travel. As the Assistive Technology Specialist for The Sight Center and as a visually impaired non-driver, I love technology

that makes life easier. Here's how Uber works: download the app, sign up with a secure credit card, tap a button, enter your destination, and a car comes directly to you. Your driver knows exactly where to pick you up and where to take you. When you arrive at your destination, just hop out.

Payment is completely cashless. There is no need for exchanging paper money or signing a receipt. Uber will automatically charge your credit card and email a receipt. And there's no need to tip.

Rides cannot be reserved or planned in advance, but once you tap for a ride you can track your driver on the map and know when they will arrive. You will also see the driver's picture and what type of vehicle they are driving.

The people behind the wheel are ordinary people who want to earn a few bucks by serving people like me who want a ride. They drive their own cars, work on their own schedules, and have passed Uber's background check. Uber is available all hours of the day but since drivers set their own schedules, there may be times when none are available or when a premium rate applies.

If you or someone you know wants to be an Uber driver, the process is nearly as simple as being an Uber passenger. Drivers make money on every trip they take. Working hours are completely up to each person. More rides means more income. Just tap and go. Drivers get turn-by-turn directions, tools to help earn more, 24/7 support, and even access to a smart phone if needed!

I love Uber because it is improving accessibility. People in cities with Uber have more transportation options than those without it. Uber is currently in Toledo and 481 other cities worldwide.

► *Interested? Get your first Uber ride on Ethan. Use his invitation code "cq4wyp3ue" for a free ride (up to \$15).*



Call Ethan Holliger at 419-720-3937 to learn more about Uber and how assistive technology can empower independence.

New ABLE Accounts Help People With Disabilities

Ohio Enrollment Now Open

The federal Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act became law in December 2014. Under this new law, states can create tax-free accounts for people with disabilities. Up to \$14,000 can be saved in these accounts each year without losing eligibility for some public benefits programs, such as SSI or Medicaid. Ohio is one of the first states to establish a state ABLE Account (STABLE), and enrollment is now open. To see if you are eligible and/or to open a STABLE Account, visit the Ohio Treasurer's site at www.stableaccount.com or call 1-800-439-1653.

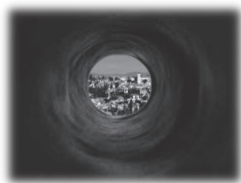
Groups Gather to Learn, Grow & Share

The Sight Center Hosts Support Groups, Interest Groups, and More

Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP)

Support Group: A few pioneering souls (Joe, Ken and Kathi) met on July 8 to discuss starting a support group for individuals with RP.

This new group is just a seed and needs some help to grow. We all can encourage this new life with support and camaraderie, water it with tears of joy at new-found friends, and nourish it with shared ideas and the exchange of resources. Help us grow roots! In the coming weeks we will be gathering ideas, developing outreach plans, and establishing a regular meeting schedule. Contact Jill Hunt, LSW, if you have questions, comments or ideas.



A Novel Eye-dea Book

Group: Do you like reading and want an opportunity to discuss a variety of genres with others? Join our book club the third Friday of each month from 1:00-2:00pm at The Sight Center. Contact Jill Hunt, LSW, to learn more.



NEW! Caregiver

Workshops Planned:

Plans are being finalized for a new series of workshops for family members, friends, and all who are caregivers for someone who is blind or visually impaired. Learn from experts and share with others who understand your unique role. Call Jill Hunt, LSW, to learn more.



Vision Education

Program: If you have macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, or other vision impairment, you are welcome to join us for this free vision program, which is made possible by funding from the Area Office on Aging. Topics discussed include vision loss, managing daily tasks, adapting to changes, and identifying helpful resources. Contact Jill Hunt, LSW, for dates and times. Reservations required.



Working-Aged Networking

Group: All working age adults with a vision impairment are invited to join this new employment-focused group. Co-facilitated by Cindy Shunk and Sight Center staff, this self-directed group gives participants a forum to share and discuss barriers to employment and create opportunities for networking with peers in a professional and social setting. Meetings are the first Thursday of each month from 10 to 11 AM at The Sight Center. Contact Dani Moran for details.



Interested in forming a group?



Call Jill Hunt, LSW at 419-720-3937 x 114 or call the Event Line at 419-214-3459 to hear the latest events and activities.

Our Mission

We empower independence and enrich the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired.

Monthly Tech Workshops Start in September

Get the inside scoop on the latest smart phone apps, learn about NVDA, and explore the depths of IOS at The Sight Center's Tek Talks. This new monthly workshop series will help participants use assistive technology to get more out of life. Presented by The Sight Center's Assistive Technology Specialist Ethan Holliger, the first Tek Talk will take place on September 1 from 1 to 2 PM at The Sight Center. Future workshops will also be held at 1PM on the first Thursday of each month. There is no charge to attend, but registration is requested and donations are encouraged. Topics to look forward to include:



- ▶ **Intro to screen readers and NVDA (Thursday, September 1 @ 1 PM)** - What is a screen reader? How is information on the computer obtainable for someone with low vision? What is NVDA and how do I install it for free? These questions, along with many more, will be answered. All are welcome! Please bring questions!
- ▶ **Intro to Voiceover on iOS and what's new with accessibility in iOS 10 (Thursday, October 6 @ 1 PM)**
- ▶ **Using the internet with a screen reader (Thursday, November 3 @ 1 PM)**
- ▶ **Online holiday shopping and advanced internet browsing with a screen reader (Thursday, December 8 @ 1 PM)**



For more information or to register, contact Ethan Holliger at eholliger@sightcentertoledo.org or 419-720-3937 108.

Wearable Technology Has Arrived

eSight & NuEyes at The Shop

eSight



Wearable technology is all the rage. And several companies have begun applying the wearable concept to help people who are visually impaired. Two of the early innovators are eSight and NuEyes, and both brands are now available in The Shop at The Sight Center. Each of these hands-free devices has unique strengths and features, but both use modern camera technology, computer processors and specially designed lenses to help people see better. As with most products of this type, results can vary dramatically between users based on one's particular vision impairment. Proper product demonstrations are important, and The Sight Center was selected by both companies to demonstrate and distribute their devices.



To learn more or to see if a product demonstration is right for you, contact Ethan Holliger at 419-720-3937 x108.



The Shop is open weekdays from 8:30 to 4:30 and is now online at www.SightCenterToledo.org.

Dark Dinner Opens Eyes, Touches Hearts



The 5th Annual EyEvent Gala, held in April, raised a record \$30,000, including \$12,000 specifically earmarked for The Sight Center Empowerment Fund. The Dark Dinner event also raised awareness of some of the daily realities of living with blindness. Special thanks to all who supported the event and to the sponsors who made it possible, including Huntington, The Andersons, Fifth Third Bank, First Federal Bank, the Goerlich Family Foundation, Plante Moran, ProMedica, Signature Bank, The Trust Company, Vision Associates, Kingston Healthcare and Toledo Optical.

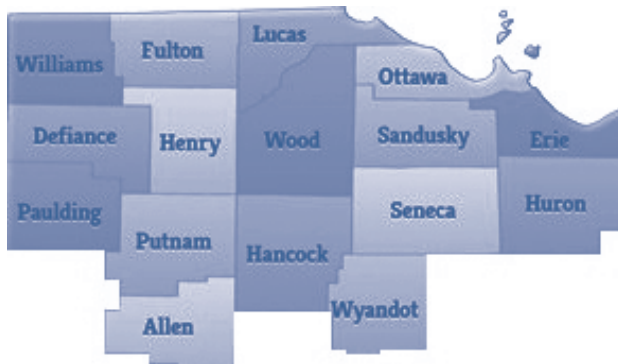
The 2017 EyEvent is scheduled for Wednesday, April 26, 2017

*Remember
The Sight Center
while preparing your will*


Time, Treasure, Talent
Share yours with
The Sight Center!
Volunteer Opportunities Available!

The Communities We Serve

The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio offers clinical and in home services to residents of Allen, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Williams, Wood & Wyandot counties, in addition to serving parts of southeast Michigan.



Feel Good Shopping

Sign up for Amazon Smile and Kroger Community Rewards and you can help The Sight Center every time you shop. Amazon and Kroger will make a donation with each purchase you make. It's an easy online process. Call Tim at 419-720-3937 x105 if you have questions.







New Staff Spotlight



Tara Wuthrich, Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist
and Vision Rehabilitation Teacher

Tara joined The Sight Center staff on July 5, 2016. She came to Toledo from a small town in Illinois after completing the master's degree program in Visual Disabilities at Northern Illinois University. Tara looks forward to using her specialized training to help her clients live more independently.

Job Opportunity Open House

The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio is partnering with The Cleveland Sight Center to host a **Call Center Hiring Open House** on Tuesday, September 20th. The goal is to find interested and qualified candidates to work as Customer Service Representatives for the agency's call center, which operates a variety of in-bound and out-bound phone campaigns. Customer Service Representatives can receive paid training and have the potential to work from home. Pay ranges from \$8.50 to \$11.50 per hour depending on experience and shift.

Prerequisites: Participants who would like an on-site interview should complete the on-line application by Friday, September 16th.

<https://csc.trackingtalent.com/opportunities/customer-service-representative---call-center>



Call Center Hiring Open House
September 20th from 10 AM to 3 PM
The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio
1002 Garden Lake Parkway, Toledo, OH

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Getting Help Got Easier

From the Low Vision Clinic to high tech assistive devices, rehabilitation therapy, mobility training, Braille Services, and Resource Information, The Sight Center is changing lives every day!

If you or someone you know could benefit from the services we provide, contact us today. Call toll free at (800) 624-8378 or complete our new self-referral form online at

www.SightCenterToledo.org/Contact-Us/Self-Referral-Form

We don't change vision. We change lives!



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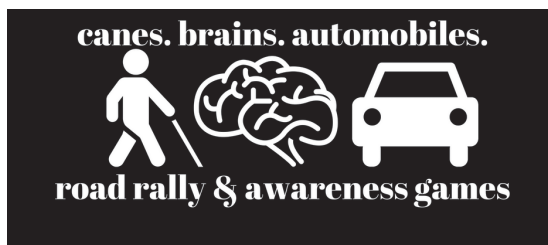
These are the words used by participants in the 2016 Summer Youth Collaboration between The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio and The Ability Center of Greater Toledo. Ten exceptional students spent five weeks together focusing on development of independent living and vocational skills while working in the community and earning their first paychecks. The



Summer Youth participants lived in the dormitory at the University of Toledo, utilized local public transportation to travel to and from their worksites and attended various recreational activities in the community.

This is just the beginning of an amazing journey for these ten young people and for this partnership between The Sight Center and The Ability Center.

**Join the race.
Enter the games.
Save the date.**



SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday, September 17
9 AM to 1 PM**

See cover story inside.