



Sightless
Children
Club

Sightless Children Club News



September 2020

Important Reminders:

- SCC Club Meeting Monday, September 21st at 7:00.
- Remember to share the amazon smile info with your friends and family!



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Upcoming Events:
Oct. 19th Club Meeting:
"White Cane Jeopardy"

Nov. 16th Club Meeting:
"Thankful for SCC"

Dec. 21st Virtual Club Meeting:
"Storytime with Mrs. Claus"

SCC Fall "Reboot"



After the changes of the past six months, most people long for a reboot...a chance to begin again at a place near normal. That is just the goal of this month's SCC club meeting! We hope that this meeting feels much more like what our longtime club members are accustomed to.

We will, of course, have to make some allowances for Covid restrictions. First, we ask that you wear a mask into the building, and whenever you are chatting with others. Once you are

seated at a table with your family, you are welcome to remove your mask, just as you would in a restaurant. We have rearranged the meeting room setup to provide for social distancing between tables and refreshments will be individually wrapped and delivered to your table. If you have questions about these Corona virus safety measures, please email: tcnjames@gmail.com

The evening will begin with our customary business: introduction of guests, updates from the board, the presentation of requests, and future project details.

Then, we are looking forward to hearing from two special speakers from Cincinnati Association for

the Blind and Visually Impaired. Charlotte Reed, who has degrees in social work and art therapy and currently serves in a CABVI Creative Arts Therapy program, will share her experiences. *We know that she will be especially inspiring to your children, so we hope that you will bring them along to the meeting!* Vicky Lorenz, director of Early Childhood and Youth Services, will also share information about the opportunities available at CABVI. Please don't miss out on this opportunity to refresh and reboot!



Remembering Meg



Margarite Ruth Flohre,

a founding member of the Sightless Children Club, passed away Monday, June 15, 2020.

She is survived by her daughter, Marcia and son, Mitchell. Mitch continues to be a faithful, valued SCC supporter. Meg was also active in her church, retired from MTL Labs as a Graphic Designer, was a passionate gardener, and will be missed by everyone that knew her. Our sincere condolences go out to Mitch and the rest of his family.

Margarite Flohre, or Meg, as most members knew her, was a pivotal founding member of the Sightless Children Club. She served on the Board of Directors for many years and we are indebted to her for her many years of faithful service.

Meg was there when a group of concerned parents grew into the eleven member Sightless Children Club in 1952.



Over the years, she helped with countless events and fundraising activities. The goal: the education and success of blind and visually impaired children. Founding members like Meg made classroom inclusion possible, socialization a reality, and success achievable. We are today, ever mindful and grateful, for the tireless devotion of Meg and the other ten founding members of the Sightless Children Club.

Early SCC events...Clowns and Kazoos and an annual Christmas talent contest. Be sure to spot Mitch in the band!



MEMBERS OF "SUPER TRIO" provided entertainment for fellow members of their group, the Sightless Children's Club at the annual Christmas party Sunday. Shown (l-r) are Brian Blair, Kim Litwiler and Mitch Florhe, a student at Ferguson Junior High School.

Tell Me Something Good...



“Excuses are just reasons you use that hold you back,” says PSI student Zec Vanburen. Vanburen has a unique perspective on his opinion as he was born legally blind, but has never once used that as an excuse to not pursue his goals, or to be successful at what makes him happy. “My high school teachers didn’t even know I had problems with my vision. I have just learned to adapt with what I was born with,” he says. He relies a lot on his sense of touch when it comes to close-quarters, hands-on applications. Vanburen is a 2017 graduate of Troy High School and Upper Valley Career Center where

he took AG and Diesel training. With his family owning a 600 acre farm with corn and soybean crops, his AG and diesel skills have come in handy. While he was in high school he worked two jobs. One of them at a business where he designed and programmed industrial robots – like what you’d find on an assembly line that are designed and programmed to do a specific task. Motorcycles and off-road equipment were always a passion for him, so he eventually moved to Cleveland to attend OTC’s PowerSport Institute for motorcycle training. He’s currently in the 12-month program concentrating on Kawasaki and Suzuki brands, but is considering changing to the 18-month program to pick up Honda and Yamaha. COVID brought a silver lining to Vanburen in that he was able to return home for several months to continue working on robotics. He saved enough money to purchase a house in Parma, that he now spends his free-time fixing up. “I look at it as an investment. Instead of paying rent, I can sell it when I’m done and make a decent profit.” At 22-years old Vanburen has accomplished a lot, and is not letting anything slow him down. “Ideally I’d like to have my own business back in the Troy area working on motorcycles and off-road equipment.”



This story, about SCC’s own Zechariah Van Buren, was featured recently on the Ohio Technical College Facebook page. We’re proud of you Zech!

Abby Edwards is an amazing young woman. Blindness and other health challenges seem to make her all the more determined to succeed. She graduated from high school with her beloved guide dog Kathy in 2016, then went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Wright State University. Next challenge: graduate school. Abby moved to Boston for two years to pursue a graduate degree in social work and finished in May. The Covid-19 pandemic may have prevented her from walking across the stage with Kathy again, but it didn’t stop her from pursuing independence. After many virtual interviews, Abby landed a job as a Donor Referral Coordinator for Community Tissue Services. Early this month, she and Kathy moved into their own Dayton apartment. Keep following your dreams, Abby....you amaze us all!

