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## **New Technology to make seeing easier for Low Vision Residents of Lake County**

### ***Six Libraries and Senior Centers receive new “Reading Machines”***

The outlook for Lake County residents with limited or low vision is improving thanks to the donation of six state of the art CCTV Units (**Reading Machines**) for public use in libraries and senior centers in Lake County OH. The CCTV units will be installed at six locations by mid-August. The plan to donate the CCTV units was the inspiration of the United Way of Lake County working in conjunction with Magnifiers & More of Mentor, OH and the Lake County Senior Citizens Solution Panel.

The CCTV units, called Merlin are Video Magnification Units manufactured by Enhanced Vision, are easy to operate magnification machines, capable of enlarging the image of almost anything that fits under the machine's scanner. The unit offers a wide range of adjustable magnification strengths, from 2.4x to 77x. The devices are regularly used to provide magnification to help people read correspondence, legal documents, instructions on prescriptions bottles, books, magazines and newspapers.

With the aid of CCTV units, many people with limited vision continue to enjoy hobbies and crafts such as coin & stamp collecting, sewing and beading. The full color magnification of CCTV's lends itself well to magnifying photos, too. CCTV's are particularly useful for older adults with macular degeneration, cataracts and other age related eye diseases.

“So many people are going to rediscover the joys of reading and seeing things more clearly as a result of these ‘reading machines’ becoming available to them. We look forward to helping other agencies and other counties organize similar programs,” said Debbie Kogler of Magnifiers & More in Mentor, OH. James Bailey, Director of Sales for Enhanced Vision added, “Enhanced Vision is pleased to partner with Magnifiers & More and The United Way of Lake County to meet the needs of the visually impaired individuals in Northern Ohio. They will enjoy many years of use from the Merlin video magnifiers.”

Locations to receive the machines are:

Libraries: Wickliffe, Willowick, and Eastlake. These three libraries received their machines through a NorthCoast Lions Club and the Ohio Lions Foundation grant.

Senior Centers: Fairport Harbor, Wickliffe and Madison. The Association of Specialists in Aging donated toward this project for Madison Senior Center.

Each machine has a retail value of more than \$2800. The United Way contributed half of the cost of each machine. The NorthCoast Lions Club, the Ohio Lions Foundation, the Association of Specialists in Aging (A.S.A.), the Cities of Madison, Wickliffe and Fairport Harbor provided matching funds to underwrite the purchase of six CCTV units. Magnifiers & More and Enhanced Vision, the CCTV manufacturer, contributed free shipping, instructions, delivery and a significant price reduction from the regular retail costs of the CCTV units.

If you would like additional information or want to learn how your community can organize a drive to install CCTV units in senior centers and libraries, please contact Debbie Kogler of Magnifiers & More at 440-946-3363 or [cbetter@magnifiersandmore.net](mailto:cbetter@magnifiersandmore.net).