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Assistive Technology Discovery Lab Hires Directors and Breaks Ground in SE Portland

A new universally designed and accessible building will be located at 1949 SE Division Street. It will incorporate an open community space to discover new technologies.

PORTLAND, Oregon (January 5, 2017) – Community Vision, Oregon’s largest nonprofit organization providing services for people with disabilities, is excited to announce groundbreaking for an Assistive Technology Discovery Lab and the hiring of the Co-Directors of the Lab, Carrie Luse, MSR,OT/L, ATP and Kim Elliott, MS,CCC-SLP.

Ms. Elliott and Ms. Luse come to Community Vision with many years of professional experience providing assistive technology (AT) to individuals experiencing disability. Most recently, Ms. Elliott and Ms. Luse operated Assistive Technology NW, which provides comprehensive speech language therapy and occupational therapy services.

The 1,200 square foot Assistive Technology Discovery Lab will provide individuals, families, and professionals with an opportunity to drop-in during open hours for a tour of the lab or to schedule an appointment to receive consultation, assessment, and guidance toward effective tools that enhance communication and accessibility. They will have the opportunity to try out the tools in the space alongside trained staff, and may be able to take certain devices out of the Lab to see how they function in their own community. Once identifying a tool that meets their needs, guidance will be available in finding the best way to acquire the tool, either through insurance, grants, alternative funding, asset-building loan funds or savings accounts, or other means.

The Assistive Technology Discovery Lab will be the first comprehensive public space in Portland where users can see and experience the positive impact technology can have on their lives. It will provide access to technologies that will enable some individuals with disabilities to move more freely, communicate more effectively, and live more independently.

The Assistive Technology Discovery Lab will educate and/or equip up to 300 individuals and families annually. Adults and children experiencing disabilities will be able to explore effective tools for communication and adapted activities to increase participation within their communities including home, work, and school.

Features Will Include

- Universal Design and Fully Accessible Space
- AT Test Area
- Lending Library
- Assistive Technology Professionals (ATPs)
- AT User and Family Trainings and Groups
- Professional Trainings

Available AT Will Include

- Augmentative & Alternative Communication devices and tools (AAC)
- Adaptive Learning and Writing Tools, including software
- Computer/iPad access
- Capability Switches

- Alternative Seating & Mobility
- Additional tools to support increased participation and inclusion

Construction is expected to begin in January 2017 on the 25,000-square-foot building, which will be located at 1949 SE Division St. Community Vision aims to build a space that will demonstrate a high level of physical accessibility and best practices for serving all communities. For more information about the building, visit <http://sevencornerscollaborative.org/>

The new headquarters are named, *Seven Corners Community Collaborative*, and will support individuals, families, and children experiencing disabilities. The new building will serve as Portland's first universally designed public building and will offer an opportunity to provide services and programs for individuals and their families.

ABOUT COMMUNITY VISION, INC.

Founded in 1989, Community Vision is the largest nonprofit organization providing individualized housing, supported living, employment and homeownership services to people with disabilities and their families in Oregon. For more information visit <http://cvision.org>.

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