



LIGHTHOUSE
for the Blind of Fort Worth

INSIGHT

(817) 332-3341 • lighthousefw.org • Summer • 2016

Lighthouse Sales Team:

Independence Comes With the Job

The Lighthouse Sales Team has recently hired two amazingly talented inside sales representatives, Mindy Duran and Michael Evers. Mindy was diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa at age 12 and by age 17, she

was no longer able to ignore her situation. She chose to live a restrictive life and accepted her perceived reality that she should be content staying at home and taking care of her infant son, Ezekiel, the best she could. As her son grew older, Mindy made the choice to be more of a role model for independence. She was advised to contact the Lighthouse for additional training in technology and independent living skills. In February 2016, Mindy made that phone call. Within a week, she was sitting in keyboarding classes refreshing her computer skills, expanding her knowledge, and building her confidence. She also took advantage of free braille classes.



the National Industries for the Blind (NIB) Fellowship for Leadership Development. However, his greatest accomplishment was at the age of 12 when he was able to persuade the Governor

of Virginia to keep the Virginia Board of Education from closing the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind at Hampton. As you can see Mike is fearless and plans one day to open Big Mike's BBQ restaurant.

No doubt, Mindy approached her training very seriously as an example to Ezekiel, but others were noticing. When an inside sales position became open at the Lighthouse, she was the perfect fit to fill the role.

Michael, on the other hand, was diagnosed with Congenital Glaucoma and Cataracts at birth.

They both have amazing personalities that make everyone smile. They define exactly what the Lighthouse is all about...Independence.

He has endured 13 eye surgeries without any improvement to his sight. Michael has never let his low vision stop him from his pursuit of independence. He is willing to try anything and isn't scared to tackle the toughest tasks. He currently holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and has successfully completed

of Virginia to keep the Virginia Board of Education from closing the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind at Hampton. As you can see Mike is fearless and plans one day to open Big Mike's BBQ restaurant.

With these two additions, the Lighthouse Sales Team is shining bright. Mindy is focused on servicing our AbilityOne Distributors as well as making sure all the state agencies know about our copy paper. Mike is helping establish new customers for our Machine Shop and spreading the word of our drug testing capabilities. They both have amazing personalities that make everyone smile. Mindy's laughter is contagious and you can hear it all over the building. They define exactly what the Lighthouse is all about...Independence.

For information on the Lighthouse's manufacturing and sales capabilities, contact Mike or Mindy at 817-332-3341.

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**TARRANT COUNTY ASSOCIATION
FOR THE BLIND
dba LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND OF
FORT WORTH**

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President's Message



Platt Allen, III

Why are you yelling?

With our country's Independence Day happening in July, I am reminded that we celebrate independence EVERY day at the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth.

Independence can take on many faces. Many of us have seen it in the faces of a petulant 2 year old as they exercised their independence in not eating their green beans. We have seen it in an aging parent's eyes when they were told that driving to the corner store might not be the best idea any more, right before they got behind the wheel to prove us wrong. Independence is not being dependent, influenced, or controlled by others on matters of opinion, conduct or existence. The phrase that sticks in my head from my kids is "You aren't the boss of me!"

We work hard every day to help folks who are blind to find the strength to be their own boss. We encourage them to take charge of their lives and no longer rely on government programs for their well-being. We teach skills like white cane travel, the bus routes, braille, independent living, and cooking without looking to enable an independent life style. Our assistive technology specialist teaches how to use a screen reader, ZoomText, an iPhone or iPad to open the window of the World Wide Web for exploration. Each of these skills benefits the individual in their home, but can also be transferable to the workplace.

We celebrate small victories like introducing yourself and holding out your hand for the other person to shake. We celebrate big victories like traveling solo from the bus stop to a shop in downtown Fort Worth to buy a new outfit. We celebrate the victories like retiring from the Lighthouse after 20+ years of significant contribution to the industrial operations. Each of these is a demonstration of independence, not just independence over the loss of eye sight, but independence within the human experience.

Steve Jobs, founder of Apple Computing, Inc., once said "Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice." We help individuals find their inner voice and the strength to shout from the mountain tops. Thank you for being part of the audience.

Platt Allen, III

A Day in the Life of a Lighthouse Guide Dog

Three members of the Lighthouse team wear their coat every day, walk around on all fours, sleep on the job, very seldom bark out their orders, and always get special attention from employees and visitors. It is with pleasure that we introduce you to **Dana, Jonas, and Piper** – Guide Dogs Extraordinaire!

Jonas is the “old man” among the three at age 7 years. Here are things that Andrew Bernet has to share about his guide dog:

Training School: Guide Dogs for the Blind, Portland, OR campus

Breed: Yellow Lab

How long has he been your guide? Five and a half years

Name something unique about

Jonas: Whenever he isn't working, he will punch me when he is hungry.

What will happen when

Jonas retires? He will continue to be a much beloved member of my household.

Why did you choose to get a guide dog? I use both a guide dog and white cane, depending on the situation. I like traveling with a dog because we can travel faster. It is also pretty cool that I am able to bring my hairy buddy along to all places. (Interesting note about Andrew is that he is a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist employed at the Lighthouse.)

Piper was the first of the three guide dogs to arrive at the Lighthouse, joining the Lighthouse team in 2012 when Jamie Larson came on staff as our receptionist.

Training School: Guide Dogs of America, Sylmar, CA.

Breed: Black Labrador Retriever

How long has she been your guide? Four and a half years

How old is she? Six and a half years

Name something unique

about Piper: She doesn't make any noise except when she sleeps.

What will happen when Piper retires? She will stay with me; she is like one of one my kids.

Why did you choose to get a guide dog? I saw a guide dog many years ago and decided that if I ever got to a point where I needed assistance, a guide dog would be my choice.

How did you choose your school? I applied at several schools and three – one in New York, one in Connecticut, and one in California – offered me a position in a class. Given

it was winter and I was from California, I chose the California school.

What is one more thing we need to know about Piper?

She is extremely sensitive to people's feelings, and she tries to comfort people when they are upset.

Dana is the youngest of the three. She guides Assistive Technology Specialist Shawn Keen and is his fifth guide dog.

Training School: Guide Dogs for the Blind

Breed: Golden Retriever Lab Mix

How long has she been your guide? Two and a half years

How old is Dana? Four years

Name something unique about Dana: She is generally so quiet



that you don't know she's there.

What will happen when Dana retires? I will keep her; in the past, other dogs have gone to friends to live the “good life.”

Why did you choose to get a guide dog? While I do use a guide dog, I find that I am an independent traveler with both a cane and a dog. However, the

dog is most beneficial for me when traveling out of town or in unfamiliar places.

What is one more thing we need to know about Dana?

While she is very quiet and well behaved while in harness, she can also be a total “spaz” at home.

Why did you go through Guide Dogs for the Blind? My first dog came from GDB.

Just a reminder that the Lighthouse loves having guide dogs in the “House” and proudly hosts the monthly meetings of the Fort Worth Chapter of Guide Dogs for the Blind Puppies in Training. For information on the puppy raisers, contact Nancy at the Lighthouse.



Kevin Higgins:

An Advocate *at* the Lighthouse and *for* the Lighthouse

Kevin Higgins joined the Lighthouse Rehabilitation team as a volunteer but was such an asset to the program that he was hired in December 2013 as the Vision Rehabilitation Specialist. In December 2015,



Higgins achieved a unique accomplishment when he completed all requirements and the exam through the Academy of

Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals to become a Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist. According to the ACVREP's website, there are fewer than 20 certified professionals in the state of Texas and less

than 700 in the United States and Canada.

Recently, once again Higgins was in the spotlight when he was selected to represent the Fort Worth Lighthouse in NIB's* Advocates for Leadership and Employment class of 2016. These specially trained advocates are employees from the various NIB associated agencies who are blind and interested in learning more

about the public policy process and telling the story to legislators. Over a two-year period Higgins and his fellow Advocates will focus on effective communications, advocacy strategies and grassroots initiatives. The Lighthouse benefits by having Higgins working on behalf of our mission to increase employment of people

who are blind.

On his recent visit to Washington, D.C., Higgins spent a day in training before venturing to the "hill" where he met with aides of local federal representatives. Commenting on this opportunity, Higgins had this to say, "My involvement with the Advocates program is very enriching because it provides me with an opportunity to help

bring about change that could positively impact the lives of persons who are blind or visually impaired on a national level. I

feel very honored to have been chosen to be an Advocate representing the Lighthouse of Fort Worth in Washington D.C. and I look forward to future opportunities to be a strong voice for Lighthouse employees and the community of the blind."



**For more than 76 years, National Industries for the Blind (NIB) has been focused on enhancing the opportunities for economic and personal independence of people who are blind, primarily through creating, sustaining and improving employment. NIB and its nationwide network of 95 associated nonprofit agencies serve as the largest employer for people who are blind through the sales of SKILCRAFT® and other products and services available through the AbilityOne Program, established by the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act.*

EMPOWERING INDEPENDENCE

Serving Tarrant and adjacent counties since 1935, Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth stands ready to freely provide life changing orientation and mobility training, competitive & meaningful employment, and independent living skills training to anyone, any age, whose life has been altered by blindness or significant low vision.



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Fort Worth, Texas 76104
817-332-3341
www.lighthousefw.org
 [lighthousefw](https://www.facebook.com/lighthousefw)

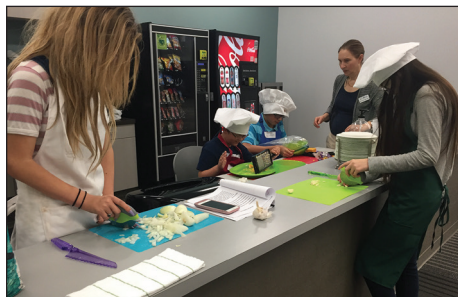


Community Partners

North Texas Vision Coalition...*All About the Kids*

The North Texas Vision Coalition is an example of the African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child." In the case of children and youth who are vision impaired and the Coalition, the village is made up of representatives from the Education Service Center Region 11, Lighthouse for the Blind, DARS/DBS, Alexander Vision Center, Texas Association of Parents with Children with Visual Impairments, and surrounding school districts, including Fort Worth ISD, Crowley ISD, and Kennedale ISD.

At the start of 2014, FWISD Teacher Donna Clopton approached Leslie Hall, head of Rehabilitation Services, at the Lighthouse about co-hosting a parent



workshop on Cortical Vision Impairment. At the same time, a funding opportunity through the North Texas Community Foundation's ToolBox Grants was available. The end result was generous funding from the Foundation to support several parent/child interactive workshops and the formation of a coalition of professional agencies, individuals, parents, and other stakeholders. The purpose of the coalition is to

address and implement advocacy and training that positively affects the educational success of children who are blind.

The coalition meets monthly not only to plan training opportunities but also to provide a forum for the exchange of information and brainstorming.

"The Coalition allows all of our local organizations to do more than any of us could do alone, which enables us to better serve families impacted by visual impairment," comments Jill Smith, Kennedale ISD Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments.

For additional information regarding the Coalition, please call Nancy Fisher or Leslie Hall at the Lighthouse.

SHOT^{in the} DARK[®]

GOLF TOURNAMENT & WINE DINNER

Benefitting Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth

Join us for an evening of golf, wine, dinner, dessert and, live and silent auctions.

Friday, Oct. 7, 2016 | 5:30 p.m. | River Crest Country Club

DIAMOND SPONSOR



PLATINUM SPONSOR



GOLD SPONSORS

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For more information and to reserve tickets, contact Nancy Fisher at nfisher@lighthousefw.org or call (817) 332-3341, ext. 7782 | www.shotinthedarkfw.com

Your Gift is a Gift of *Independence*

The Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort

Worth's mission is short and simple – INDEPENDENCE!

You can observe our mission in action when you tour our facility and witness men and women who are blind working in competitive and meaningful jobs.

The Lighthouse wants to instill this same attitude of self-sufficiency in children and youth who are blind. It may surprise you to know that we actually began serving blind children and their families in 1966 when we merged with Blind Children's Service Center. In recent years prior

Your gift of independence could underwrite the orientation and mobility instruction so that a nine-year-old boy will successfully navigate the school grounds while using a white cane.

Stock Show continues today!

Children and youth activities also include holiday parties and dances, field trips to Globe Life Park in Arlington or enjoying the Fort Worth Symphony at Bass Hall, movie night or bowling for teens and young adults, and of course, Camp Lighthouse @ the Y!

Our youth services go beyond parties and community activities. The same rehabilitation services available to adults – training in independent living, orientation and mobility, assistive technology – are also available for children and youth.

In order to be able to provide youth services at no



cost, we need your support. Your gift of independence could underwrite the orientation and mobility instruction so that a nine-year-old boy will successfully navigate the school grounds

while using a white cane. Your gift might purchase the computer used for the assistive technology training which allows the sixteen-year-old young woman to take the SAT on her computer resulting in a score of 1300 and her acceptance at the university of her choice.

Practice your INDEPENDENCE by making the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth one of the charities that you choose to support monthly, quarterly or annually. Use the accompanying envelope or make your donation online by visiting www.lighthousefw.org. To speak to someone about ways you can support the Lighthouse, contact Nancy Fisher at 817-332-3341, ext. 7782.



to 2012, children activities and services were limited primarily to two annual events. That long standing and wonderful collaborative effort with the AT&T Pioneers in the hosting of VI students at the Shrine Circus and the Fort Worth



Beacons of Hope Gifts Received Between November 1, 2015 – May 31, 2016

Because of the kind gesture of the following, Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth is proudly providing jobs, services and independence.

Individuals, Corporations, Community

Albertsons Safeway Rewards Program
Anonymous
Kay Baker
Angela Bass
Arborlawn UMW
Louis & Sandra Bell
Birdies for Charity - 2015
James & Cornelia Blake
Dan Bruhl, M.D.
Wanda Burns
Carswell Retired Officers Wives
Angela Casteel
Bobbie Cleveland
Colleyville Lions
Ted Collins
Dr. Charlene Conner
Paul & B.J. Cox
Crowley Lions Club
Dallas City Charitable Giving Campaign
Dallas/Fort Worth SECC
Doyle Deese
Cheryl Fetherston
Jim Fletcher
Fort Worth Riverside Lions Club
Fort Worth Southeast Lions Club
Elliott & Patty Garsek
Mike Hahn
Charles D. Little, PhD
Lone Star Protective Solutions
Wayne Louderback
R.E. McDermott
Dr. Victor Meltzer
Jim and Peggi Merkey
Donna Miller
Morgan Stanley Matching Gift Program
Gary Nickelson
Our Church Trinity Courtyard
Bob and Gail Page
Khesslyn Parker
Tamar Ray
Bill and Judy Shelton
The Oakridge School
UNT Health Science Center
Wayne Walstead
WhitneySmith
Bobbie Wygant

Honorariums

In Honor of Friends during the holiday season
~ Carol Margaret Allen

~ Steve and Kathe Goodwin
In Honor of Nancy Fisher
~ Dave Anderson
~ Cecile Montgomery
~ Paula Reed
In Honor of Cami Hamann
~ Satori Capital
In Honor of Kayte Kowierschke
~ Dr. James Atteberry
~ Dr. & Mrs. William Coleman
~ Marilyn Hicks
~ Elizabeth Lorenzen
~ Carolyn Marks
~ Nora Oliver
~ Susan Walker
~ Mrs. George Washabaugh
In Honor of Anael Luebanos
~ Pauline Benson
In Honor of Platt Allen, III
~ Jacqui Brownfield
~ David Carson
In Honor of Jennifer Deakins & Ryan McCreight
~ Lynn Carrero
~ Stefanie Coronado & Marcus Gonzales
~ Dick & Tonya Davis
~ Joe DeLoach
~ Krystal DePrinzio
~ Nancy Fisher
~ Matt and Laura Hansen
~ A. Kieffer
~ Steve Nguyen
~ Susan Powell
~ Thomas C. Turner
In Honor of Doug Dahl
~ Jennifer Deakins McCreight
In Honor of My Patients
~ Chris Ewin, DDS
In Honor of Kathe and Steve Goodwin
~ Pete and Beckie Geren
In Honor of Judy Grant
~ Jo Ann B. Howard
~ Julie Reeves
~ Elizabeth Lorenzen
~ Susan Walker
In Honor of Becky Clark
~ Nancy Palavicini
In Honor of the Alston Roberts Family
~ Rufus and Gayla Roberts
In Honor of John, Judy and Jocelyn Schuh
~ Jerry Sechrist
In Honor of Ann Allan

~ Joyce Tynes

Memorials

In Memory of Mrs. Lucille Barthel
~ Brenda Anderson
In Memory of Jean Siewert
~ Janie Burchfield
In Memory of Sue Mahan
~ Andee Jeans/Comfort Keepers
~ Don and Dee Mahan
In Memory of Mrs. Jack Duff
~ Zella Mae Horton
In Memory of Betty Quevreaux Corbett
~ Susan Kerns
In Memory of L.J. Loeb, MD
~ Jacqueline J. Loeb
In Memory of Sheri Roberts
~ Rufus and Gayla Roberts
In Memory of Rosa McDowell
~ Bob and Kathy Wadsworth
In Memory of Earl D. Ryion
~ Sue Williams

Foundations/Trusts

Alcon Foundation
Bell-Wallace Charitable Foundation
C.B. Baird, Jr. Foundation
Communities Foundation of Texas
Ken W. Davis Foundation
Virginia Clay Dorman Foundation
Garvey Texas Foundation, Inc.
Jackson Family Foundation
Lockheed Martin AERO Club
Molyneaux Charitable Foundation
Ronald McDonald House Charities
Roy J. & Jeanne Grogan Family Foundation

Tarrant County Association for the Blind Endowment Fund

Richard and Joan Bayer
Petra Figley
N. David Moore
James and Fran Smith

Wayne's Way

American Council of the Blind/
Greater Fort Worth Area Chapter

2016 Eyes on the Oven

Calvin Chien
Patrick Chu
Andre Cota
Michael Hales
Wei-Jiun (Gene) Liu
Mike Pinkston
Zach Tyler

In Honor of David Franklin
~ Calvin Chien
~ Michael Hales
~ John Sammons, Jr.

INKIND GIFTS

Hugh Billingsley
Tracy Cartas
Casa Manana
First United Methodist Church Fort Worth
Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra
Fort Worth Zoo
Paul Griffin
Becky Haskin
Lawrence Hereford
Vanessa Johnson
Mrs. Dorothy Keys
Dr. Vickie Khanna, D.P.M.
Chip Lanning
Richard May
Northeast Richland Lions Club
Northwest Lions Club
Keren Ocampo
Erykah Pendery
Jennifer Ridlehoover
T.A. Robinett
Sonic Drive-In (Overton Ridge)
Ruby Stoppenhagen
TCU Delta Gammas
Texas Health Resources Foundation
Texas Movie Bistro
Texas Rangers Baseball
Texas Rangers Women's Club
The Strickland Group
Patrick Wheatley

Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth strives to accurately reflect all of those who generously support our mission. If an error has occurred, please accept our sincerest apologies and let us know of our mistake by contacting us at 817-332-3341, ext. 7782.

"Walking the Walk and Talking the Talk"

The Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth has provided employment and other services to the blind community for many years, but in 2012, blindness rehabilitation became a broader focus of the agency with the hiring of Leslie Hall. Hall holds a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Services and is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor.

Hall heads the Rehabilitation Services department and arrived with the intent of building a team of highly qualified and highly dedicated professionals. Four out of the five Rehab team members hold professional certifications. It should also be noted that four out of the five are blind and so they "walk the walk, and talk the talk."

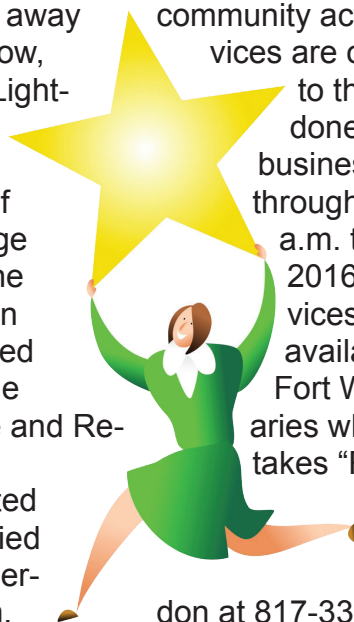
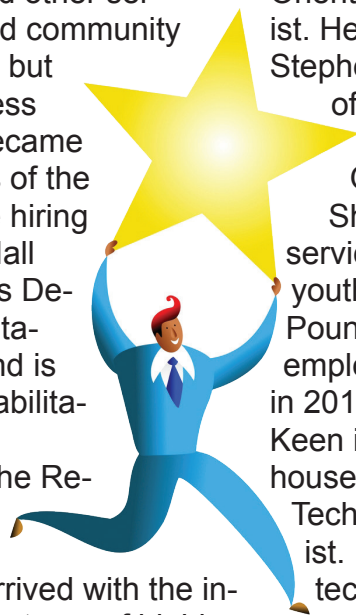
Most recently hired are Andrew Bernet and Shawn Keen.

Andrew Bernet has joined the Lighthouse staff as a Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist. He is a recent graduate of Stephen F. Austin with Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Services with focus on Orientation & Mobility.

Shawn Keen enlisted the services of the Lighthouse as a youth and considered Wayne Pound, a long time Lighthouse employee who passed away in 2010, as a mentor. Now, Keen is working at the Lighthouse as the Assistive Technology Specialist. He brings years of technology knowledge and experience to the agency and is certified in JAWS and is an approved technology trainer for the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services.

The team is completed by Kevin Higgins, Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist, and Josie Gordon, Rehabilitation Assistant.

Blindness rehabilitation is a discipline which involves teaching life changing skills to those who have low vision or are blind so that they are confident living independently however they desire. Available services include training in orientation & mobility, independent living skills, assistive technology and, as well, the opportunity to participate in support groups and special community activities. All services are offered at no cost to the client and are done during regular business hours, Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. In 2016, some rehab services will also become available outside of the Fort Worth city boundaries when a mobile unit takes "Rehab on the Road." For more information, contact Josie Gordon at 817-332-3341.



Put the Lighthouse On Your Calendar— Upcoming Activities & Special Events

Second Wednesday of the Month:

Adult Support Group, 2pm – 4pm;
July 13th, August 10th, September 14th, October 12th, Lighthouse Conference Room; RSVP to Josie at 817-332-3341.

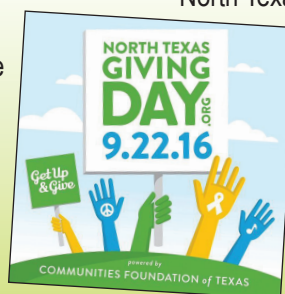
July 31st – August 5th: Camp Lighthouse @ the Y.

Tuesday, August 2nd: Celebrity Bartending at GRACE, 5pm – 7pm; 777 Main Street, CBS 11 Meteorologist Jeff Jamison, will be serving Cocktails.

Wednesday, September 21st: Tactile Art Class, 2pm – 4pm; RSVP to Josie at 817-332-3341.

Thursday, September 22nd:

North Texas Giving Day – Get up & Give.



Thursday, September 29th: Kendra Scott Gives Back Party, 5:30p – 7:30pm; 1612 S. University Park Drive, Suite 401-C; 20% of sales benefit Lighthouse for the Blind.

Friday, October 7th: Shot in the Dark Golf Tournament & Wine Dinner; River Crest Country Club, 1501 Western Avenue; Doors open at 5:30pm.

Thursday, October 13th: White Cane Day Celebration in the Stockyards; Scavenger Hunt, Lunch, and More Fun; Check-in begins at 9:30am.