



Insight

Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth

Fall 2010

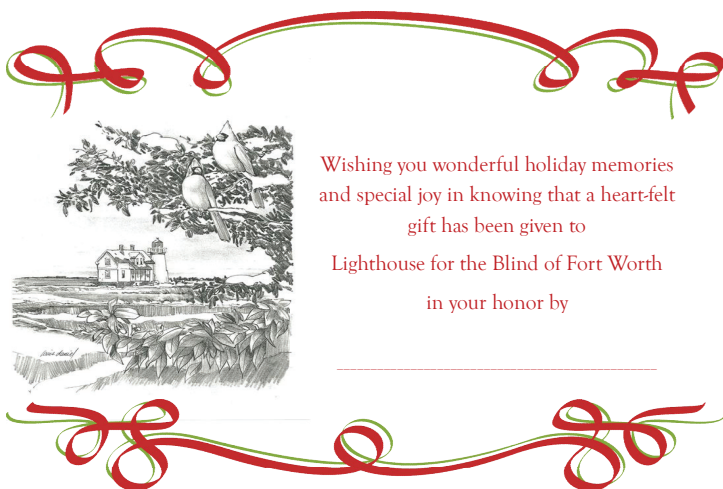
Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth Has a New Look In More Than One Way

The Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth has a new look in more than one way. If you drive by the 80,000 square foot facility at 912 W. Broadway, just south of downtown Fort Worth, one will notice that the once multi-color building is now an attractive tan with brown accents. Complementing the building is new landscaping of indigenous plants.

Another new look for the Lighthouse is a revamped website, www.lighthousefw.org, that sports a more modern design, is user-friendly for individuals who have vision impairment, and features products produced and available for purchase. Local employees also share their personal experiences and how the Lighthouse has impacted their life. Website visitors are also given the easy opportunity to become a beacon of hope by making a donation on line, volunteering, or choosing other options that support the Lighthouse. General information, including the history, leadership, and available program services can also be found.

AN EASY AND MEANINGFUL HOLIDAY GIFT

This holiday season honor special friends, co-workers or loved ones with a gift in their name to Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth. This lovely acknowledgement card, designed just for the holidays, will be sent to those you honor. A minimum of a \$10 contribution per honoree is requested. When sending your gift, please be sure to designate that the gift is a holiday greeting and clearly print the name and address of your honoree(s). If you would like additional information, please call Community Development at 817-332-3341, Ext. 129.

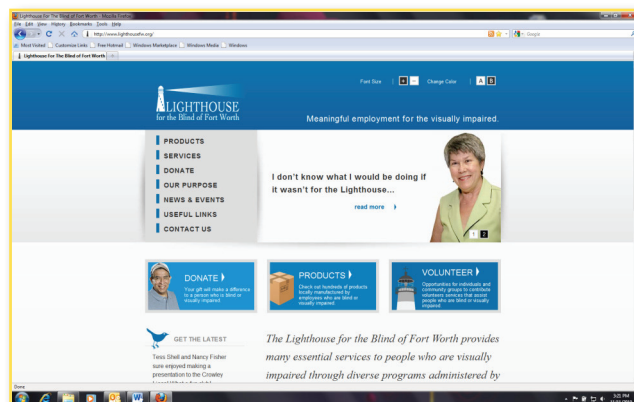


Wishing you wonderful holiday memories
and special joy in knowing that a heart-felt
gift has been given to

Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth
in your honor by

You can also follow Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth on Twitter and Facebook. We are easy to find at <http://twitter.com/fwlighthouse> and www.facebook.com/lighthousefw. Share our message by “liking and friending” the Lighthouse and ask your friends and family to do the same.

Visitors are welcome to learn more about the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth by either visiting in person or by exploring the website at www.lighthousefw.org. “Agency tours are a great way to experience the Lighthouse’s mission firsthand but the website also provides a good overview of Lighthouse happenings,” according to Nancy Fisher, Community Development. She can be contacted at 817-332-3341 or nfisher@lighthousefw.org.



Community Foundation of North Texas Upgrades Lighthouse for the Blind

Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth recently purchased much needed new computers thanks to the generosity of the Community Foundation of North Texas and The Hodges Fund, a donor advised fund through the Foundation. The amount of the ToolBox grant award is \$15,000.

The purpose of the ToolBox grants was to provide funding assistance to local nonprofits for capacity building in the way of internal improvements which will decrease costs, increase number of clients served or increase the effectiveness of outcomes. New computers for the Lighthouse means more efficient and effective interfacing between departments with anticipated outcomes of expanded industrial operations and an increase in employment opportunities and community services for local citizens who are blind.

The Right Person - The Right Job - The Right Organization

Gayle and Angela are just two of the Lighthouse employees and consumers whose lives were forever changed by coming to the Lighthouse for the Blind.

Gayle is easy to recognize; she is always wearing a baseball cap and a smile. Most recently that baseball cap matched her bright yellow shirt; she is like a ray of sunshine beaming around the Lighthouse.

Gayle was a Receiving Manager for a local retail store for 19 years. Gayle found herself looking for a new job when the business shut down operations. At the same time, she also started experiencing unusual vision problems. The diagnosis was irreversible optic nerve damage. Within a matter of months, Gayle went from being an independent person who helped others to a person who needed help in getting around.

Gayle is not the type of person to let life get her down or sit around feeling sorry for herself. She made contact with the Texas Commission for the Blind which led to her contacting Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth for possible employment. That was 12 years ago.



Like many folks, Gayle's job enables her to meet her personal monetary obligations such as being able to pay her fair share towards the mortgage on the home that she shares with her sister and a roommate. But perhaps even more important, Lighthouse for the Blind gives her the opportunity to work at a job that she feels good about and allows her to be a part of caring community of people that share similar life experiences.



When you think about Angela, the word that immediately comes to mind is nice – really nice. She has had Macular Degeneration since she was 14 years old. Her two brothers also have the same severe vision impairment. Early diagnosis was that she would be totally blind by the time she was 40 years old. The good news for Angela

is that she has not lost total vision and now according to her current doctor will not. In spite of the deterioration of her eye sight, she raised five children mainly as a single mom and even home-schooled them. She also worked in her church's nursery.

Four years ago after becoming an "empty-nester," Angela decided she needed a job outside the home and church. She placed a call into Lighthouse for the Blind but didn't get a favorable response because there were no available jobs at that time. Her next call was to Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), and before she knew it, her caseworker had her placed at the Lighthouse for a 60 day job assessment. Before her 60 days were over, she found herself working in the Box Department and that is where you will find her these days.

One of the tough things about having Macular Degeneration is the reality that there are certain tasks that she cannot do on her own. One of the best things about being at the Lighthouse is realizing, however, that there is still much she can do. She takes pride in knowing she is capable of performing almost any job within this division. She likes the fact that she is making a contribution to her community by working. She appreciates the opportunity for learning new things and has a respect for all of her fellow team members at the Lighthouse. Her goal is to live her life as a positive example for others, whether it be her children, her fellow co-workers, or a stranger on the street.

Gayle and Angela certainly have reasons to be angry at the world and could even carry a "chip on their shoulder" but that is not the choice they made. They choose everyday instead to be actively involved as tax-paying citizens and neighbors, contributing to the quality of life in our community. And like so many of their fellow workers, having a job provides Gayle and Angela more than just money to pay bills; a job at the Lighthouse provides self-worth, confidence and a "can do" attitude – winning qualities for anyone!

FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK

<http://www.facebook.com/lighthousefw>
and

TWITTER

<http://twitter.com/fwlighthouse>

NEW FACES AROUND THE LIGHTHOUSE

As part of the vision of providing the highest quality of operations and services, eight new employees have joined the Lighthouse since July 1st:

Jean Slick – Warehouse
Christopher Shepard – Warehouse
Ashley Fleetwood – Rehabilitation Services
Don Gillespie – Sales
Anael Luebanos – Accounting
Anthony Bridges – Copy Paper
Danny Garcia – Energy Pad
Thomas Callicott – Copy Paper

The Lighthouse also welcomes the following new board members:

Dr. Charlene Conner – Dallas Baptist University, Dean,
College of Business
Krystal Fish – The Visige Group, LLC/Principal
Carolyn King – Retired/Family Owned Business Darrel
Whitsel Florist
Lee M. Smith – Attorney at Law

We greatly appreciate the commitment and talents of each of the new staff members as well as our new community ambassadors.

BEACONS OF HOPE

GIFTS RECEIVED BETWEEN 7/1/2010 – 10/31/2010

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

GENERAL FUND

Anonymous
Brenda B. Anderson
Gus Bates
Verna & Richard Cook
Nancy & Jack Fisher
Elizabeth Kiefer
Southwest Bank
E. Lavelle White

WAYNE'S WAY- IN MEMORY OF WAYNE W. POUND

Anonymous
Cheryl Adams
American Council of the Blind
Marie & Emerson Bolton
Ava & John Butts
Gloria Carter
James A. Creel
Louis H. Daniel
Gail Davis
The Duvall Family
Fort Worth Transportation Authority
Marion & Bob Frazier
Gracy Gilley
Subie & Phillip Green
Leah Hawley & Family
Suzanne Holmes
Mary E. Hood
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Hudson
Dr. Janie H. Humphries
James & Cathy Humphries
Harmon Ivie
Myra & Tommy Jaynes
DaLee & Alan Little
Ed Marshall
William & Sherrie McLeRoy Family
Charitable Fund of the Community
Foundation of North Texas
Linda McMillan
The Melton Family
Mobility Impaired Transportation Service Advisory Committee (MITSAC)
Susie & Bob Mosteller
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Nelka
Wanda & Leon Novikoff
Sylvia & Don Otto
Jodi M. Ramon
Barbara Renola
Carrie M. Rodgers
Lois I. Schultz
Mr. & Mrs. John E. Scovil

Maria & Bill Skelton
Vicki & Michael Smith
Robin Strait
Heidi Swan
Courtney Taylor
Lana & Tommy Waters
Wynodean Wilson
Jeannie & Dennis Wolfe

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

Dr. & Mrs. James H. Atkinson
Helen & Sam Campbell
Juana Rosa & Ron Daniell
Patty & Elliott Garsek
Margaret Gates
Mrs. J.W. Gipson
Mr. & Mrs. Wes Hampton
Linda & Bill Heffner
John E. Johnson, Jr.
Teri Lubbers
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Nicol
Irvin Robinson, M.D.
Carolyn C. & J.T. Rogers
Wanda Stovall
Janis & Doyle Williams
Becky Young
-In Memory of Wayne W. Pound

Jo Throckmorton
-In Memory of Roger Cummings
-In Memory of Maryann Gunn
-In Memory of Margaret Stevens
-In Memory of Guy Thompson

Frances Wohler
-In Memory of Sally House

Nancy & Jack Fisher
-In Honor of Barbara J. Harvey
-In Honor of Janis Jones

The Larry Greenhaw Family
The Steve Kline Family
-In Honor of Mary Lou Stults

Norris Reid
-In Honor of Angela Yount

Marty Wing
-In Honor of Billy L. Harris

TCAB ENDOWMENT TRUST

Susie & Bob Mosteller

FOUNDATIONS/TRUSTS

The Community Foundation of North Texas
The Hodges Fund of the Community Foundation of North Texas

WHITE CANE DAY WALK

Cathy Neece Brown
Fort Worth Transportation Authority
National Federation for the Blind
Riverside Lions Club
Tom Thumb – Hulen Street
Sam's Club – Anderson Boulevard
Wal-Mart - Anderson Boulevard

INKIND GIFTS

Accent Food Services
Donna P. Adams
Kevin Brown
Kenneth Cochrum
Sarah Caty Cochrum
Nick Commuelli
Jacey Conley
Leah Conley
Lisa Conley
Tucker Cosby
Ann Clair Cosby
Fort Worth Transportation Authority
Kendall Flynn
Becky Haskin
Thomas Hinton
Elaine Hojancki
Matthew James Kenney
Laurie Lado
Marigrace Lado
Kathy Lanford
PLANTRONICS
James D. Smith
Tommy Swanson
Krishna Tiwari
Ram Tiwari
Mr. Tiwari
Roger Walker
Richard Ward
Mia Williamson
Gayle Wood
Young Alumni of Delta Gamma

LIGHTHOUSE IN THE NEWS

Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth doesn't want to be "one of the best kept secrets in Fort Worth." On the contrary, we want the Tarrant County community to know all about us and how we are making life-changing differences for individuals who are blind or have significant vision impairment. We want the community to know that the Lighthouse:

- is the only Tarrant County employer fully committed to the hiring of individuals who are totally or legally blind;
- has been providing employment and other supportive services to people with vision loss for over 75 years;
- has 200+ manufactured products for sale to commercial businesses as well as to local, state and federal government agencies;
- provides at no charge, program services in the way of Information & Referral, In Home Assessment, Orientation & Mobility Training, and more, to community members at large who are visually challenged;
- would like to be a program at your civic club, woman's club or Sunday School;
- is proudly providing jobs, services, and independence;
- practices responsible corporate citizenship; and
- as one of the few socially entrepreneurial nonprofits in the area, takes pride in investing our dollars in programs, services and jobs right here in Tarrant County.

(continued on page 5)

White Cane Day Walk Happened on October 14th

Over 100 individuals who are blind from Tarrant County came together on Thursday, October 14th in downtown Fort Worth for the Second Annual White Cane Day Walk. This year's walk was in memory of Wayne Pound, long time Lighthouse employee and advocate for the blind and visually impaired.

The purpose of the walk was to raise awareness and recognition of the white cane as a symbol of independence for people who are blind. Speaking on behalf of the planning committee, Todd Icard described the unique event as follows: "The walk is a wonderful vehicle for bringing folks together as a unified group. The walk also helped to educate the community about the significance of white canes and guide dogs used by people with vision loss. It was a time to acknowledge, strengthen, and empower members of the blind community."

The event kicked off at 10:30 a.m. with a most generous donation of transportation by The T. Buses traveled from the Lighthouse to Fort Worth City Hall where city, county and state proclamations were read. Participants then walked to Burnett Park. Special dignitaries in attendance included Mrs. Wayne Pound, District 3 City Councilman W.B. "Zim" Zimmerman, District 4 City Councilman Danny Scarth, Tarrant County Commissioner (Precinct 4) J.D. Johnson's Community Outreach Coordinator Steve Townsend, President/Executive Director of The T, Dick Ruddell, and "Simba" the Lion.

Collaborating partners for the Second Annual White Cane Day Walk were:

American Council of the Blind
Division for Blind Services (DBS)
Education Service Center Region XI
Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth
Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST) with
Dept. of Veterans Affairs
Local Lions Clubs

National Federation of the Blind
Prevent Blindness Fort Worth
SOARING
The T
Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital
Vision Rehabilitation Team
Lion's Organ & Eye Bank

Special thanks to Sam's Club, Tom Thumb, Wal-Mart and Cathy Neece Brown for the donation of food and water for the walkers.



LIGHTHOUSE IN THE NEWS (cont.)

To that end, Lighthouse is getting the word out in print, over the web, and by word of mouth. Good things are happening around the Lighthouse but just in case you may have missed some of the newsworthy stories, here are a few of the recaps:

- True to the generous Tarrant County philanthropic spirit, Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth employees recently demonstrated their care and compassion for others by participating in the 2010 Teddy Bear Drive which kicked off October 12th and ran through October 21st. During the two week period, over 70 teddy bears and other cute stuffed toys were collected. Cathie Read, Program Director for the Alexander Vision Center which is part of Cook Children's, welcomed Lighthouse employees Gloria Carter, Patricia Small, and Nancy Fisher along with Patricia's daughter to the clinic for the delivery of the stuffed animals. Ms. Read expressed thanks on behalf of the clinic: "With our upcoming clinics in November, these furry friends will find new homes. We greatly appreciate the Lighthouse employees' generous assistance of bringing smiles to the faces of the children we see."
- Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth recently served in a consulting role for Theatre Arlington's production of Wait Until Dark. Melanie Mason directed the play and Erica Harte had the starring role of Susy Hendrix, a blind woman who inadvertently gets drawn into a murky web spun by heroin smuggling thugs. To prepare for the role, Harte and Mason met with staff from the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth. Two Orientation & Mobility Specialists explained cane techniques while another Lighthouse employee who lost his sight at age sixteen due to a car accident provided personal insight as to what he experiences on a daily basis. "Lighthouse for the Blind was delighted to assist Theatre Arlington. The collaboration provides us the opportunity to work with a top notch theater troupe and share our mission with the Arlington community," commented Nancy Fisher, Community Development.
- Leadership Fort Worth Class 2010-2011 has selected the Lighthouse as one of seven local nonprofits for which they will be doing a community service project over the next several months. The Lighthouse looks forward to working with the Leadership team as they develop a Communications/Marketing Plan that will put in place the steps for developing a clear and compelling Call to Action specifically targeted towards the Gen X and Gen Y generations.
- Cheers to Dick Ruddell and Lauri Brown of the Fort Worth Transportation Authority for their generous support of the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth. Their philanthropic spirit makes a difference to not only individuals who are blind or visually impaired but to all Tarrant County residents who have disabilities.



The Lighthouse will continue to look for opportunities to spread its message and mission. Please contact the Community Development office if you have suggestions or prospects. With your help, Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth will soon be one of the best known resources for people who need assistance in dealing with blindness or low vision.

A Special Thank You

During the recent funeral service of Wayne Pound, Mr. Matthew James Kenney, an accomplished Braille transcriber, provided a Braille interpretation of the printed program. Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth wishes to express our extreme gratitude to Mr. Kenney for his generous assistance and donation of time and talent.

E-mail Address Request

The Lighthouse needs your help! If you have e-mail and would like to have your Newsletter delivered electronically, please send your name and e-mail address to Donna Miller at dmiller@lighthousefw.org

We appreciate it, and the environment will too!

Visit our Web site at www.lighthousefw.org

Tarrant County Association for the Blind
d/b/a



for the Blind of Fort Worth

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Visit our Web site at www.lighthousefw.org

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Friends,

As we approach the holiday season and the end of the calendar year I cannot help but look back and marvel at the success of my team. We have all read in the news about non-profits suffering from declining donations, cutting services, and in the worst cases, closing their doors. I am happy to report that even in these challenging economic times, the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth is succeeding.

As you know, our mission is two-fold: 1) to provide employment opportunities for people who are blind in Fort Worth, and 2) to serve the community of people who are blind with services to maximize their level of economic and personal independence. We have added jobs in the Industrial Division and within the administration. We have expanded our product offering within the state and federal agencies. And, we have entered into three agreements with commercial operations to provide manufacturing, warehousing and distribution services.

You may ask why we are entering the commercial arena. I am sure that you have heard about the budget cuts that are being enacted both federally and locally. To hedge our employment opportunities against these reductions in spending, we are entering into agreements with commercial companies. These agreements provide additional opportunities for production staff and, typically, provide a greater surplus to be used for services for our community.

I want to also thank several very special people for sharing their time and talents with the Lighthouse as members of our Board of Directors. Jack Hunnicut, Bill Lamkin, and Ruth Ann Kearley are retiring from our board having served many years to the betterment of the Lighthouse. Each has previously served as Chair of the Board and as a committee chair. Most recently Mr. Hunnicut was the chair of the Nominating Committee and the By Laws Review Committee, Mr. Lamkin served as a Trustee for our Endowment Trust, and Mrs. Kearley was the chair of our Public Relations Committee. Steve Pegler is also retiring as a Trustee of the Endowment Trust. Steve previously served two years as the Chairman of the Board of Directors. Their contributions surround us every day. Thank you so very much for your service to the Lighthouse.

As we enter into 2011, the Lighthouse is well positioned to continue growing its employment opportunities and services provided to people who are blind in Fort Worth.

I began this greeting with the mention of the approaching holiday season and so before I close, I want to thank each of you for your continued interest, support, inspiration and vision. Our wish from the Lighthouse for you and your family is that "the spirit of this holiday season brings you PEACE; the gladness of the season gives you HOPE; and the warmth of the season fills you with JOY."

-Platt Allan, III President/CEO