



Insight

Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth

Fall 2008

Lighthouse Welcomes New President, Platt Allen, III



The Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth welcomes its new president, Platt Allen, III.

The Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth is welcoming its new president, Platt Allen, III. Allen previously served as the director of operations and finance at St. Vincent's Episcopal School in Bedford. Allen managed all non-academic programs and processes. Allen also served as president of Stone Innovations, Inc. in Fort Worth from 2004 to 2006.

As president of the Lighthouse, Allen will be in charge of the organization that serves over 1,500 blind individuals annually and employs 75 blind individuals.

"I am humbled by the opportunity to provide job opportunities and life skill services to the legally blind in Fort Worth and the surrounding areas. I am looking forward to

spreading the message and raising awareness of our organization and its mission," said Allen. "Mr. Mosteller has built a strong foundation for the organization and its customers. I am confident that we will expand our product offering and employment opportunities while continuing to provide second-to-none services to the legally blind."

Platt and his wife, Lynn Drury Allen, live in Fort Worth with their two children, Claire and Madelon. He received his undergraduate and master's degrees in business administration at Texas Christian University. Allen is still involved at TCU as a volunteer with the TCU Frog Club where he previously served as its president.

Lighthouse is Going Green

Plans are underway to bring about a significant savings in energy cost, and reduce the Lighthouse's carbon footprint, through a facility-wide lighting upgrade at the 80,000 square foot building located at 912 W. Broadway in Fort Worth. The existing fixtures were installed when the building was constructed in 1983. Energy consumption and maintenance expense will be greatly reduced and employees will work in a much brighter environment when this project is completed. Total cost for this upgrade will be \$35,000 and the Lighthouse received donations and rebates from Chesapeake Energy Corporation, XTO Energy, Quicksilver Resources, Mr. James Harrison and Oncor to help meet the cost of this project. Annual savings are projected to be over \$14,000.

The Lighthouse Says Good-bye and Thanks to Bob



Robert W. Mosteller, president of The Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth for 35 of its 70-plus years, is stepping down.

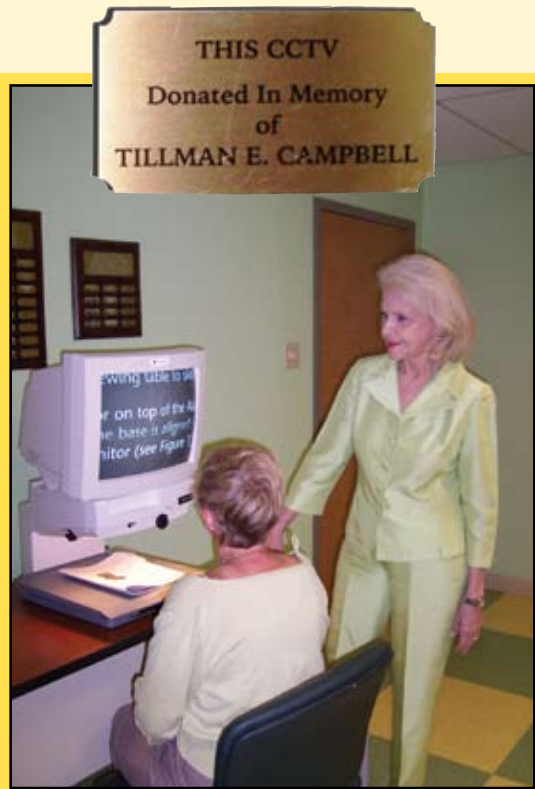
For 35 years, Mosteller was president of the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth, providing job opportunities and services to people who are blind and visually impaired.

He grew a small, local organization that originally manufactured brooms and mops, into one that today serves over 1,500 blind individuals annually, manufactures paper products, shipping containers and military products; and operates a retail store. 2008 sales totaled \$13,700,000. When he started

working at the Lighthouse in 1973, it had no financial reserves, yet now that endowment has grown to more than \$8 million. More than 75 blind employees now work at the Lighthouse.

“Bob has built a stable, debt-free organization that meets its mission to provide valuable services and employment to the blind citizens of Tarrant County,” said Platt Allen. “My objective will be to find new products and services to help even more people.”

CCTV GIFT HONORS TILLMAN CAMPBELL



LeNelle Campbell, at right, inspects the CCTV system in honor of her late husband.

Bill and Patricia Massad have made a generous gift to the Lighthouse for the purchase of a Low Vision Magnification device, known as a Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), for the benefit of sight-impaired individuals helped by the Services for Seniors with Vision Loss Program. This donation was made in honor and in memory of Tillman Campbell, who passed away in April, 2007. Tillman was the husband of long time Lighthouse advocate, LeNelle Campbell.

“I am so grateful to Bill and Pat. What an honor and such a wonderful way to remember Tillman. Making this equipment available to a person with limited sight so they can maintain the independence is just a wonderful project,” said Campbell.

The CCTV will be placed in the home of a legally blind local resident who would not otherwise be able to afford this extremely useful low vision aid. A plaque attached to the equipment says, “This CCTV Donated in Memory of Tillman E. Campbell.”

Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth Hires New Controller



The Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth hired Mark Macy as the new controller, the key accountant of the organization. Macy brings more than 15 years of experience in accounting to his new

position at the Lighthouse.

Last employed by the National EMS Association, a non-profit company serving paramedics and EMTs, Macy served as controller for three years. Macy gained experience working for successful companies, including being a senior accountant of the 4th largest winery in the country, Bronco Wines of California. United

Rentals, a company earning \$3.6 billion in revenue, employed Macy as a general ledger accountant. Macy has a bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Phoenix.

Platt Allen, president of the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth, said, “We are pleased to have a person with Mark's experience join the management team at the Lighthouse. Our diverse manufacturing, retail, business service and vocational rehabilitation operations requires a controller with excellent accounting and money management skills.”

With the new hire, Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth looks to continue providing many essential services to people who are visually impaired through diverse programs administered by a staff of skilled and caring professionals.

SERVMART Starts Hazmat Contract

The Servmart base store recently signed a contract to operate a distribution center for the Class A chemical products used by the Navy, Air Force and Marine detachments at the Naval Air Station (NAS)/ Joint Reserve Base (JRB) in Fort Worth. The contract will require maintaining an inventory of approximately 100 items such as aircraft oil, lubricants and hydraulic fluids. In addition, staff will order a variety of chemical items to meet customers' specific needs. It is expected that annual Hazmat Program sales will be \$750,000. Jim Walker, store manager, has worked closely with Chief Renee Reed and the unit Hazmat Coordinators to develop the details of the contract to ensure an efficient and responsive operation.

“Our goal is to support blind-made products and to employ blind personnel,” said Walker. “We basically meet the supply needs of the military, ranging from mechanical pencil lead to combat knives and hazardous materials.”

Servmart is in its seventh year of operation at NAS/JRB.



Meet the SERVMART staff. Front: Pat Bishop; middle left to right: Jim Walker; Ray Williams; back left: Troy Reed; and Roger Sadler

Expansion of Independent Living Project

The Texas Department for Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) Division for Blind Services, the statewide agency that serves blind Texans, has recently requested an expansion of its existing contract with The Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth to cover additional regions in our state.

Todd Icard, Lighthouse information & referral specialist, receives e-mail communication from DARS/DBS staff with contact information for individuals who have called their offices requesting services. Icard makes a telephone contact, mails a packet that includes an adaptive aids catalog, Talking Book application, a "How To Do That" guide containing suggestions about how a person contending with vision loss can live more independently, along with additional area-specific resource information.


"In 70 percent of the cases, we were able to meet their needs," said Icard. "This helps visually

handicap individuals live independently."

Icard then makes a follow-up call and conducts a detailed assessment of needs based on information provided by the visually handicapped individual and their family members. The completed assessment is then sent to the DARS/DBS referring office.

DARS offers a packet that also includes a list of tips and techniques for independent living, a 20/20 pen which doesn't bleed through paper, and a signature signing guide.

For many years, the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth provided this service only to residents in the Ft. Worth-Wichita Falls-San Angelo triangle. To better serve visually impaired individuals throughout Texas, Lighthouse now serves Corpus Christi, Houston, Amarillo, Lubbock and Abilene.



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