



Insight

Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth

Fall 2009

Lighthouse Will Celebrate 75th Anniversary

Within a very few months, the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth will celebrate a remarkable anniversary – 75 years of continuous service to individuals contending with significant loss of eyesight. Established in March 1935, the Lighthouse is one of the oldest, locally-based, non-profit organizations in our community.

Employment in the Industrial Division has provided vocational opportunities for thousands of blind men and women. Dozens of teenagers with vision loss were able to have their first real work experience in our Summer Work Program for Students. Hundreds and hundreds of elderly individuals experiencing declining eyesight have received services through our Seniors with Vision Loss Project. Orientation and Mobility Training, Special Event Activities for young children, Work Adjustment Training, and many other programs of service have touched the lives of countless numbers of people who are blind and their families over the years. Changes have occurred in the products offered by the Industrial Division and in the programs carried out by our Community Services Department, as well as in management, professional staff, and volunteer leadership. But the Lighthouse mission to provide meaningful programs of benefit to people with vision loss has remained the same for seven and a half decades.

Watch future newsletters for more information about celebration activities.

President's Message

October marks my first anniversary with the Lighthouse. Although we've accomplished many great things in the last year, the most important during these difficult economic times was not furloughing a single Lighthouse employee.

Our mission for providing employment for people who are blind remains solid thanks in part to efficiencies identified by my senior staff members.

We have continued our community outreach through programs such as mobility and orientation instruction, Senior Services that enhance individual independence, and

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Fred Thomas Nominated For Hinds Award

Fred Thomas, a Lighthouse employee, has been selected as a nominee for the Artie Lee Hinds Award. This award is for the Texas Industries for the Blind and Handicapped (TIBH) *Works Wonder* Employee of the Year. Fred has been invited to attend the Awards Dinner in October in Austin.

Fred's primary responsibility is stacking finished boxes of copy paper onto pallets on our Copy Paper production line. He can do any job that needs to be done in our Copy Paper Department.

Fred is an extremely versatile employee and a good role model. He is a leader who is well thought of by all of his co-workers, and he motivates others to do their best while promoting teamwork. He is always eager to learn new tasks and has a very positive attitude that carries over to other employees. Congratulations Fred!



Annual July 4th Celebration Fun For All

Once again, the employees of the Lighthouse celebrated our nation's independence with a party that included food, bingo, and for the first time, a performance by a local country entertainer. Traditional cookout fare was prepared by Platt Allen, Richard MacManaway, and Rick Watkins. The employees were treated to hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, cookies, and all the

cold drinks they could handle. Crosby Vending provided the chips and set the vending machines in our lunchroom to dispense free soft drinks all afternoon, which was a greatly appreciated contribution. After lunch, we cleared the tables for the bingo games. This year, prizes included iPod music players and docking stations for the six lucky employees who had a B-I-N-G-O.

The employees were then treated to a concert by the 2008 Academy of Texas Music Male Vocalist of the Year, Randy Brown. Randy is a remarkable Texas country musician who had employees on their feet and dancing in the aisles of the Box Department. Good food, fun games, and a great concert – not a bad way to spend an afternoon before the July 4th Holiday!



New Board Members Welcomed

Eight new Lighthouse Directors were introduced and welcomed during the most recent meeting of the Board.

The new members are as follows:
Brad Buell, *Owner, Mil Tech, Inc.*;
Elizabeth Campbell, *Reporter, Fort Worth Star Telegram*; Joe Estill, *V.P. Human Resources, Computer Sciences Corporation*;
Kathe Goodwin, *Community Volunteer*;
Alston Roberts, *Bank of America*;
Shannon Shipp, *Associate Professor of Marketing, TCU Neely School*;
Steve Wood-Smith, *V.P. General Manager, Alcon Labs*; and W.B. Zimmerman, *City of Fort Worth Councilman*.

The Lighthouse thanks these new Directors for volunteering their valuable knowledge and time.

Work Program Successful

The Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth partnered with the state agency for the blind to provide a summer work opportunity for teenagers that are blind/visually impaired. This year, three teenagers were involved with the Summer Work Program at the Lighthouse from June 22 – July 30. They were all a part of a specialized caseload with the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services/Division for Blind Services.



Pictured from left to right: Reginald Richmond; Tonya Branch, *Supervisor*; Dustin Cooper; and Michael Browne

Todd Icard, Community Services Specialist, said, "The Program is intended to assist with the transition between secondary school and adult life. For over 50 years, the Summer Work Program at the Lighthouse has played a role in helping students that are blind/visually impaired to achieve a greater understanding of the expectations involved in the workplace."

The three teens stated that they had positive and productive work experiences. We want to wish Reginald, Dustin, and Michael much success in all of their future endeavors.

Total Flare Delivers a Non-Incendiary Alternative

We are proud to announce that the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth has become the sole assembly and distribution point within the United States for Total Flare, a non-incendiary road flare that can protect our environment while providing the same illumination and visibility (day or night) equal to, if not better, than traditional incendiary flares. This new technology is The Ultimate Safety Lighting Solution.

Road flares used by law enforcement and other organizations today can cause grassland fires as well as vehicle explosions. And the by-products produced after being ignited and during the burning process can contaminate our water supply.



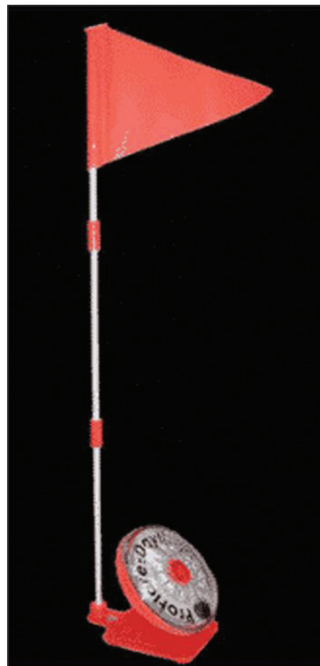
Many states have already banned or are in the process of eradicating the use of these flares within their state due to these factors. However, they have been reluctant to do so because they have not been able to find a suitable replacement that will provide the same flicker pattern, which acts as a warning device when approaching accident scenes, traffic control devices, helicopter landing zones, or an array of other uses.

For more information or to set an appointment for a demonstration, please contact the Lighthouse Sales Department at 1-800-725-4635 or 817-332-3341.

Pro Flare Designed for Individual Use

The Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth has also joined forces with the developer of the Total Flare safety lighting solution to assemble and distribute a new and much improved version of the ProFlare. A safety lighting solution for individual use, The ProFlare comes in a programmable three-flash pattern format including strobe, rotational, and constant.

The unit comes with an adjustable stand, safety flag, belt clip, magnetic bracket, suction cup, and a Velcro armband. These attachments can be used to secure the unit to individual



personnel vehicles or deployed on the ground.

The Pro Flare can be used for Military Police/Shore Patrol (MP/SP) bike patrol for better visual identity, mounted patrols, MP/SP walking outside of a vehicle, marine patrols, K-9 units, first responders, roadside safety, physical training/jogging, cycling, camping, crosswalk warning, and more.

For complete details on this item or any of our other great products, please contact the Lighthouse Sales Department at 1-800-725-4635 or 817-332-3341.

Life Depends on Light™

That's the tagline for a new line of flashlights offered by the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth. The product called NIGHTSTICK™ represents the next generation in professional, industrial, and consumer flashlights and features a unique flashlight, floodlight, dual-light capability.



NIGHTSTICK™ incorporates cutting edge LED and battery technology providing public safety and industrial professionals with high quality, exceptionally bright, and reliable hand-held illumination. That same technology is adapted for consumers to provide the best flashlight for home, recreation, and personal lighting.

Available in black or orange, battery operated or rechargeable, and in a variety of sizes, the flashlights will be packaged and distributed utilizing Lighthouse employees. Interest in this line of flashlights is already high with significant recent sales to Base Supply Center locations at Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Holloman AFB, New Mexico; Fairchild AFB, Washington; and the Red River Army Depot, Texarkana, Texas.

Please contact the Lighthouse Sales Department at 1-800-725-4635 or 817-332-3341, if you are interested in learning more about these exceptional flashlights.

Lighthouse Active in the Fight Against Graffiti

In 1997, graffiti abatement costs in the United States were estimated at \$13-15 billion. Today, that estimate is closer to \$18-20 billion, indicative of a problem with no solution in sight.

Working in conjunction with a major national supplier of graffiti removal products, the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth recently added 11 new items to the Texas State Use contract and officially joined the fight against graffiti in Texas and surrounding states.

The products will be purchased in bulk containers, then bottled and/or packaged using our highly skilled labor force.

The product line includes separate formulas for exterior surfaces (brick, concrete, stone), metal

surfaces, reflective paint surfaces (stop signs), removal of permanent marker, and sensitive surfaces such as whiteboards, desks, and lockers. With the exception of the exterior surface formula, all products are available in either liquid form or convenient wipes. A "starter kit" featuring a sample of each product is also available.

Product evaluations are currently underway with the City of Houston, Texas Department of Transportation, 3M Communications, and a number of local cities and school districts.

Please contact the Lighthouse Sales Department at 1-800-725-4635 or 817-332-3341, if you are interested in learning more about these products.

CCTV Program Is Popular

The Lighthouse for the Blind offers seniors in our five county area the opportunity to borrow a Closed Circuit Television (CCTV). A CCTV is a device that enlarges text so that it can be read by people with limited sight. These units cost \$2,000 each and enable an individual to read mail and phone numbers and write checks.

The mission of the Senior Services Program is to promote independence for seniors in our area. The CCTV is a very popular item. However, because the Lighthouse have limited funds and only 63 units at this time, there is always a waiting list. A unit is taken to a senior's home, set up, and remains there until the individual can visually no longer use it.

Tess Shell, Senior Services Specialist for the Lighthouse, has heard time and again from her clients "it's like getting my eye sight back."

Tess said, "As a person who has used CCTVs to make my way through college, I certainly agree. A CCTV in the home, especially for a senior who is alone and wants to remain in their home, is an essential tool in maintaining their affairs as well as their independence. I am very proud that the Lighthouse offers such a valuable and necessary service at no charge for our blind community."

Lighthouse Proud To Recognize Loyal Team

The Lighthouse is very proud to recognize our entire team and their tenure with us! Thanks to all of you!

30-35 Years – Samuel Slanker, Frances Scott, Van Dell Bryant, Wayne Pound

26-29 Years – Alex Rosalez, Teresa Dodd

20-25 Years – Dominicia Barela, Mario Hernandez, Larry McNeil, Bobby Bishop

15-19 Years – Andres Hernandez, Pat Bishop, Tommy Jaynes, Don Davis, Juana Montes

10-14 Years – Bob Chelette, Wanda Fuller, Marcus Jones, John Delaway, Sharon McDonald, Gayle Scott, James Shelby, Rick Watkins, Gloria Carter, Laverne Davis, Byron Bray, Hervey Gutierrez, Richard Miles, Reggie Samples, Ira Smith, Delores Wilson, Ned Wolins, Virgil Allen, Rodger Curnutt, Roger Shultz, Charles Wood

5-9 Years – Virginia Hernandez, Doris Jones,

Richard Simpson, Patricia Small, Fred Thomas, Joy Ross, Norma Torres, Henry Washington, Jerry Williams, Kent Bowers, Claudia Edwards, Brian Jones, Oscar Olvera, Richard Pantoja, Mauro Ramirez, Jessie Riggins, Frederic Ross, Daniel Towns, Jim Walker, Jose Garcia, Phuong Le, Phyllis Looney, Richard McManaway, David Milburn, Anthony Penson, Debra Warren, Lisa Jackson

0-4 Years – Bill Heffner, Donna Miller, Platt Allen, Deane Blakeney, Tonya Branch, Stormi Cochran-Glenn, Mark Macy, Roland Minjarez, Oslynn Williams, Anivar Garcia, Josie Gordon, Daniel Hernandez, Terrence Hunter, Karl Kiene, Latoya McCreary, Javier Oviedo, Gabriel Raya, Troy Reed, Roger Sadler, Tess Shell, Calvin Washington, Rachel Wilson, Dennis Thompson, Angela Yount, Michelle Gatton, Mark Hewitt, Todd Icard, Dennis Lynch, Calvin Whitehead

President's Message *(continued)*

information distribution. We have also submitted a program proposal that would add two staff members and extend independence through technology.

Our financial condition has continued to improve with the addition of a wide variety of highly popular products including Lighthouse-brand commercial copy paper.

As we enter our new fiscal year, I want to thank the Board of Directors and their continuing efforts on behalf of the agency. I also want to invite you to come by, take a tour, or just talk. We'll leave the light on.

— Platt Allen, III, *President/CEO*

Send Us Your E-mail Address

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!

Meet Blake Hailey



When Blake Hailey was a child, he got to attend field trips and Camp Centers overnight at the Lighthouse doing things sighted children were doing. Later, he became a Lighthouse

employee where he received his first pay check.

Today, Blake has been a member on the Lighthouse Board of Directors for ten years and has served as Vice Chairman.

“Being a part of this board is a small way to give back,” he said. “I believe volunteerism is important to the local community. In some small way, I hope I have helped the people who are blind and working at the Lighthouse to improve their own lives.”

“I am excited to be able to be part of an agency that gave me so much help as a child growing up. I believe that people who are blind want a hand to succeed and not a hand out, and that the Lighthouse gives that opportunity in so many ways.”

Blake is presently with the City of Fort Worth in the Aviation Department and previously interned with Mayor Mike Moncrief’s office handling disability issues.

It is my hope that all blind people have the opportunity to work and contribute to society just like sighted people can.

Visit our Web site at www.lighthousefw.org



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