



Insight

Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth

Spring 2011

RODEO TIME FOR LOCAL STUDENTS WHO ARE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Just as the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo are a part of the heritage and history of this great city, the collaboration between the AT&T Pioneers volunteers and the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth in bringing metroplex students who are visually impaired to attend the stock show and rodeo is also a thirty year tradition.

On the last Friday of January, under sunny skies and warm temperatures, over 50 students enjoyed the sights, sounds, and smells of the 115th Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo. School districts participating this year included Fort Worth ISD, Denton ISD, Grapevine/Colleyville ISD, Crowley ISD, Lewisville ISD,



Stephenville ISD, Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD, Mansfield ISD, and the Bluebonnet Co-op.

Not only did the students enjoy play by play commentary of activities in the rodeo arena by Paula Tollet through special headphones, but they got up close and personal with all kind of animals at the Westland Ranch Petting Zoo. Horseback riding and tours of the rodeo grounds were also available. Coburn's provided complimentary hot dogs and sodas and each student went away with a "goodie bag" courtesy of the AT&T Pioneers volunteers.

Special thanks to our 2011 Sponsors: Frost Bank, RadioShack and the Colonial Country Club Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation of North Texas as well as huge thank you to the volunteers, teachers and Lighthouse staff who made this day possible.



JAMES SHELBY: HUSBAND, FATHER AND LIGHTHOUSE EMPLOYEE

James Shelby has been on his own since he was 16 years old when he moved to Dallas. His first jobs were in the glass industry, but within 2 to 3 years he made a career change and began working in warehouses, pulling stock. When mistakes started happening, his supervisor suggested that he have his vision checked. James was very surprised when he heard the doctor mention "legally blind" and realized that the doctor was talking about him. James continued to work at the warehouse for a while but eventually he needed a change. He also gave up driving.



James was diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa. Now that he knew what he was dealing with, James sought out resources with the primary one being the Texas Commission for the Blind where he met Scott Hudson. "Scott was awesome. He told me about Lighthouse for the Blind."

In 1998, James began working at the Lighthouse. Like all new employees, James started out in sub-contract and then moved into the Box Department where he works today as a Stitcher Machine Operator. It is a job that requires the skills of precision, accuracy and timing.

When asked what his biggest challenge is, James' response was typical of many a husband and dad: "providing for my family!" Married with kids, James proudly does this through his job at the Lighthouse.

Are there other places that James could work? Sure there are and he has indeed been employed at other businesses. But when it comes to the right job and the right company, James knows the best place for him is the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth.

"The Lighthouse for the Blind gives me the opportunity to provide for my family." ~James

LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

Dr. Charles Little, Board Chairman, convened the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth recently at the Colonial Country Club. Highlights of the evening included recognition of the 2011 Board of Directors Officers, 2011 Endowment Trustees and the 2010 Employee of the Year.

Presiding with Dr. Little for this year will be City Councilman Zim Zimmerman as Vice-Chair, Alston Roberts as Treasurer and Dr. Charlene Conner as Secretary. Dr. Conner joined the board in November of 2010.



Endowment Trustees are Michael Rendon, Chairman; Robert W. Mosteller and Andre Miranda, Trustees. Mr. Miranda is a recently appointed Trustee.

Dr. Little expressed sincere appreciation to those board members and trustees who recently

rotated off the board: Jack Hunnicutt, Ruth Ann Kearley, and Clayton Meissner. Dr. Little also recognized the Trustees completing their terms of service: Steve Peglar and Bill Lamkin.



Clayton Meissner



Ruth Ann Kearley



Jack Hunnicutt

Platt Allen, III, President/CEO for the Lighthouse took the opportunity to recognize the Lighthouse staff and provided a review of 2010 accomplishments and 2011 goals for Rehabilitations Services, Community Development and Industrial Operations.

The evening was concluded on a high note with a salute to the 2010 Lighthouse Employee of the Year, Angela Yount.

Lighthouse for the Blind Expands Operations and Job Opportunities

In these uncertain economic times, finding employment can be a challenge, and even more of a challenge if you are legally blind. According to the National Federation of the Blind, only 30% of working age legally blind adults are employed.

The good news is that the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth recently hung out the "Help Wanted" sign providing new job opportunities for five local individuals who are blind.

In the 75 year history of the Lighthouse, this is only the third time a second shift of production was added and the first time within the Energy Dissipating Pads department. The second shift was added to accommodate the high demand from the Department of Defense Logistics Aviation Supply Chain.

According to Tommy Jaynes, Vice President of Industrial Operations, "As a result of this additional employment expansion, production will double immediately. We will average 24 trucks a week of 8,640 energy pads being manufactured and shipped. The significant outcome

of the increased demand is expanding the employment of people who are blind."

Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth is the federal government's sole supplier of these unique energy dissipating pads. The pad is designed for placement underneath a variety of supplies and equipment including Humvees so as to cushion the air cargo dropped from C-130s and C-17s.

"We as an agency are able to provide job opportunities for individuals who are blind and who choose to work. The Lighthouse is also providing a benefit to the local economy because our employees live and shop in Tarrant County," says Platt Allen, III, President/CEO.

The Ryan Foundation was instrumental in the expansion by way of a \$25,000 grant for much needed energy dissipating pad equipment replacement. Additional funding was provided by the BNSF Foundation and the Tarrant County Association for the Blind Endowment Trust.

NEW FACES AROUND THE LIGHTHOUSE

As part of the vision of providing the highest quality of operations and services, fourteen new employees have joined the Lighthouse:

Jonathan Sneed
Tammy Mason
Danny Watkins
Willie Craven
Jose Hernandez
Marrion Page
William Trussell

Daniel Nixdorf
Patricia Bishop
Darryl Fields
Addison Henderson
John Jenkins
Brian Solis
Frank Oliver

The Lighthouse welcomes and thanks the following board members:

New:

Patricia Bradley, Retired-TCU Harris College of Nursing, Ph.D.

Term Ended:

Stephen Wilson, Alcon, V.P. Global Compliance

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 11/1/2010 – 3/31/2011

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

GENERAL FUND

Carol Margaret Allen
Bank of America-Matching Gift
Chris Bowman
Carter Burdette
Elizabeth Campbell
Carswell Retired Officers Wives Club
Marie Chen
James B. Cleland
Elinor Cocca
Dr. Brett L. Cochrum Family
Mr. & Mrs. Philip W. Cook
Frances Conner
Neal Cornett
Mark Edward Dreier
Krystal Fish
Kathe & Steve Goodwin
Etta L. Graham
Rose & Mike Gross
Blake Hailey
Handley-Meadowbrook Lions Club
Hazel Hargrove
Judy Haskell
Jack B. Hunnicutt
Carolyn King
John Stephen Klazura
Tommy Jaynes
Marion Linn
Dr. Charles D. Little
Irma Marko
Manuel I. Mercado-Silva
Stephanie Nance
Patricia Nolan
Joseph Pignatelli
Dr. S. A. Rosenkrantz
Shelly Russell
Gretchen and Whit Smith
Southwest Bank
Jerry P. Taylor
Alliece Tinsley
Chyau Song Tzeng
Warnick Metal Building Erectors
E. Lavelle White
Donna Arlene Williams
Marilyn & Kent Wooldridge
Bobbie Wygant

WAYNE'S WAY

American Council of the Blind
Continuity of Care

Leah Hawley
~In Honor of Jason Hawley
Judy Kennedy
~In Memory of W. Wayne Pound
Doug Stout

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

Jo Throckmorton
~In Memory of George Beggs III
~In Memory of Mary Doss
~In Memory of Bertrand Needham
Honea
~In Memory of Harry Ward

Mason Arnold
Jeff Carpenter
Billie Edwards
John Gilmore
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Hogenmiller
Dorothy Prescott
Patrick Quinn
Sam Reed
Ronnie Romman
Dan Rozycki
Stephen Shang
Derek Wright
~In Memory of Hilda Ann Bowen

Zelle Mae Horton
~In Memory of Charlene Cecil

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Flowers
Mr. & Mrs. Roger G. Preece
James G. Stouffer, M.D.
~ In Memory of John(Jack) Gorman

Meredith Frazier
~In Memory of Lou Pound

Meredith Frazier
J.T. Rogers
Wanda Stovall
~In Memory of Wayne Pound

Gary L. Nickelson
~In Honor of Platt Allen, III

Melissa & Leo Taylor
~In Honor of Platt Allen, III, Claire & Madelon

Nancy Fisher
~In Honor of Jack Fisher

Bon Soir Club/Fort Worth Woman's Club
~In Honor of Nancy Fisher

Pauline S. Benson
~In Honor of Anael Luebanos

Katie & Alston Roberts
~In Honor of Dr. Rufus A. Roberts

TCAB ENDOWMENT

Anonymous
Ann L. Allan
Bank of America-Matching Gift
Frank Buhler Family Trust
W.P. Jorgenson
TPG Matching Gift

FOUNDATIONS/TRUSTS

AMERIGROUP Charitable
Foundation
BNSF Foundation
Colonial Country Club Charitable
Fund of the Community
Foundation of North Texas
Adeline & George McQueen
Foundation
M.J. & Alice Neeley Foundation
Molyneux Charitable Foundation
The Ryan Foundation
Ulta O. Whaley Trust
M.H. & H.G. Wood Charitable
Trust

INKIND GIFTS

Louis Daniel
Jacquelin Lowrey
RadioShack
Dr. Stuart A. Rosenkrantz
Joe Stephens
Billy Warnick

Bill Heffner Takes a New Position with US Army

Ever since the Second World War, Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth has had a proud connection to our military. Initially it was through the production of bandages, today the Lighthouse manufactures specialty products such as Energy Dissipating Pads and Tri-walled Air Delivery Systems (TriADS) as well as operating the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Store.

Come this April, the Lighthouse is supporting our military in another way when one of our employees takes a new job with the US Army and GSA. Bill Heffner, who has been a Lighthouse Sales Rep since April 2008, recently was named Senior Program Officer in support of US Forces Afghanistan (USFOR-A). His last day at the Lighthouse was March 1st.

The job involves establishing support programs and motor pool operations infrastructure in support of the US Government owned and leased non-tactical vehicles. Heffner, prior to coming to the Lighthouse, had spent 39 years in combined military and federal service. For 10 of those years, he managed and directed a 40,000 non-tactical vehicle fleet.

When asked why he accepted a job that will place him in harm's way, he responded, "First and foremost, because the Army and GSA asked me to. I always have answered the call to service. Secondly, my son was severely wounded in 2007 during a 12 month tour in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, leaving him 100% disabled. I feel obligated to do what I can in support of Operation Enduring Freedom on my family's behalf and hopefully support the children of other parents like myself that sent their sons and daughters off to war."

Heffner enjoyed being a part of the Lighthouse sales team where turning customer needs resulted in employment opportunities for the visually impaired. Although he will be half way across the world, Heffner will continue to fully support the Ability One Program and especially the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth.

To that end, a final comment by Heffner was to extend an invitation to anyone who hasn't visited the Lighthouse located at 912 W. Broadway to come and take a tour. "It is a great way to see the Lighthouse's mission in action and fully understand how the employees who are visually impaired value the opportunity to work while displaying the great pride they take in the performance of their duties," summarized Heffner.

We at the Lighthouse wish Bill Heffner safe travels and the best of luck in this new endeavor.

Lighthouse for the Blind Introduces LIBERTY Multi-Purpose Copy Paper

Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth is very pleased to offer its new LIBERTY Multi-Purpose Copy Paper to military customers immediately. This copy paper is made with 30% recycled fiber and responsibly harvested SFI certified fiber. It is a high quality product that is perfect for everyday copying or for special projects with the capability of running smoothly on a wide variety of printing equipment, laser or inkjet, and guaranteed on high-speed copies.

Proudly made in the USA, LIBERTY paper comes in custom designed boxes that reflect Lady Liberty and the American flag, which is the Lighthouse's way of saluting our military troops who stand ready to defend our country here and throughout the world.



Charlie Wood, Vice President of Sales and Marketing, shared, "An additional benefit when purchasing LIBERTY Multi-Purpose Copy Paper from the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth is that the purchase directly benefits people who are blind or significantly visual impaired. It is an easy way to make a life-changing difference while utilizing an exceptional product."

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<http://twitter.com/fwlighthouse>



Lighthouse for the Blind was delighted to be one of eighty local charities attending the Colonial Country Club Charities Holiday Breakfast. Pictured for the check presentation are Jeff Moten, President of the Colonial Country Club, LHFV President/CEO Platt Allen, III, LHFV Community Development Nancy Fisher, and 2010 Colonial Tournament Chair Chuck Scherer.

Frank Oliver Joins Lighthouse for the Blind's Sales Team

Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth is pleased to announce that Frank Oliver has been hired as the National Sales Manager. Oliver is long-time resident of Tarrant County and brings over 16 years of sales experience to the Lighthouse.

"Frank's experience qualifies him as the person to select, develop and coach our professional sales team so as to increase sales enabling the Lighthouse to expand operations and employment opportunities," comments Vice President of Sales and Marketing Charlie Wood.

Oliver is happy to be joining the 100+ employees at the Lighthouse. He views it as a unique opportunity to work for a nonprofit hybrid



that operates as a small manufacturer producing a variety of quality products. He respects the distinctive mission of promoting independent living and self-sufficiency among local citizens who are blind through meaningful employment and rehabilitation services.

Frank is married and has a son and a daughter. He is actively involved in youth sports, serving as a coach for his children's soccer and basketball teams.

We welcome Frank to the Lighthouse Team!

Award Products Now Available at Dallas Lighthouse

For over twelve years, Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth has sold award and recognition items. Primary customers included the Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Attorney General's Office, Texas Comptroller's Office and Texas Department of Insurance.

Recently, the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind put out a call for additional products to provide employment opportunities for their declining workforce. Being a good neighbor, the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth answered the call and asked TIBH to reassign the WorksWonders Program Award and Recognition product to Dallas. In so doing, Dallas should get a boost of about \$300,000 annually in new sales. Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth will continue to provide a limited award spectrum through the AbilityOne program to federal customers.

Calling All Beep Baseball Players

During the 1980's and early 1990's, Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth sponsored a beep baseball team called the Fort Worth Roadrunners. The team brought home three National Beep Baseball Association (NBBA) World Series Championships during that time.

Baseball fever is alive and well thanks to those TCU Horned Frogs and the Texas Rangers. The Lighthouse is again entering the competitive beep baseball arena with the formation of the Cowtown Pounders. Chris Bowman, a former baseball and beep baseball player, will manage the team.

The team will be comprised of at least eight players. The fielding positions will be filled by six players who are blind or visually impaired. Pitcher and catcher will be played by two sighted players. Additional non-playing volunteers are needed to assist with transportation and logistics.

If you are interested in getting involved either as a player or as a volunteer, please contact Nancy Fisher at 817-332-3341, ext. 129 or nfisher@lighthousefw.org.

Lighthouse for the Blind Thanks EFW for Long-Time Allegiance

Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth, like many successful businesses, relies on the loyalty and longevity of its customers. One such customer is EFW, Inc., an Elbit Systems of America company, who has been purchasing fastpack shipping boxes for the last ten years, totaling an estimated \$600,000 in sales.



EFW is a full service electronics supplier, specializing in sophisticated hardware and software solutions for upgrade, integration, and enhancement projects. Their defense programs cover fixed and rotary wing aircraft, ground vehicles, naval vessels, trainers and simulators as well as

command, control and communications systems. EFW has a proven track record in the on-time, on-cost execution of complex ground systems, avionics development and manufacturing programs, helicopter upgrades and integration, and build to print programs.

Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth gratefully acknowledged EFW, Inc. recently by presenting Mike Henry, EFW, Inc. Vice President of Operations with an appreciation plaque for being a ten year loyal customer. Thanks to this on-going partnership, the Lighthouse is proudly providing jobs, special services and independence for the visually impaired.

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!

Tarrant County Association for the Blind
d/b/a



for the Blind of Fort Worth

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Friends,

In recent months, I find myself talking about "opportunity" often when asked about the Lighthouse. The success of our unique nonprofit agency depends on us seeking out and acting upon a variety of opportunities, such as providing more job opportunities, expanding sales opportunities, implementing capacity building opportunities, and reaching out to increase community awareness and community service opportunities.

As you read through this newsletter, you will learn more about several opportunities that have happened in the first quarter of 2011. At the end of February revenues are outpacing budget by 2.2% at \$7,564,060. Operating expenses are being kept in check against the budget resulting in a modest surplus year to date.

Intent on maintaining this trend, we took advantage of the opportunity to expand and enhance the Lighthouse sales team with the hiring of Frank Oliver as the National Sales Manager. In March we provided five new employment opportunities by adding a second shift within the Energy Dissipating Pad Production Line. An opportunity to assist a sister agency came in the way of re-assigning the WorksWonders Program Award and Recognition products to the Dallas Lighthouse which will hopefully allow them to increase their employment base as well.

You can also read about recognition of EFW, Inc. for their 10 years of customer loyalty. What a pleasure it was to have VP of Operations/Fort Worth Mike Henry in our office to accept a token of our appreciation. He took the opportunity to publicly thank our employees for what they are doing and how they contribute to the success of EFW.

The opportunity to provide services to the community at large through our Rehabilitation Services program continues to expand. Inbound phone calls for information and referral have been increasing. Orientation and Mobility training for consumers and individuals who are blind is also trending upwards.

With all the good things happening at the Lighthouse, the perfect opportunity for raising community awareness has also resulted. We were pleased to be one of eight local nonprofits spotlighted in the February issue of Fort Worth, Texas magazine in an article by Alison Rich on "The Fate of Philanthropy." The Lighthouse also has been recognized in the Fort Worth Business Press and the Star-Telegram. A fun and successful event was hosted by GRACE Restaurant which gave us the chance to be out and about in the community. Several community presentations were made to groups, including Lions Clubs and the Tarrant County Optometric Society. The presentation to the TCOS resulted in Todd Icard and I appearing on an hour-long radio program dedicated to issues relevant to people who are blind to specifically discuss the Lighthouse and our mission.

In the months ahead, we look forward to other opportunities such as developing and expanding special events and volunteer opportunities. - one being the re-formation after many years of a beep baseball team. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Nancy Fisher at the Lighthouse.

Speaking of baseball, I close with a quote from the late American Major League Baseball Pitcher, Bob Feller: "Every day is a new opportunity. You can build on yesterday's success or put its failures behind and start over again. That's the way life is, with a new game every day, and that's the way baseball is."

Here at the Lighthouse we look forward to stepping up to the plate every day and facing the next opportunity to build success. Thank you for giving us the confidence to dream and the courage to try.

-Platt Allen, III President/CEO