



Insight

Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth

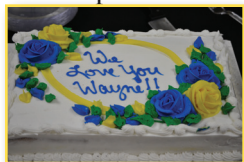
Summer 2010

WAYNE POUND

36 YEARS OF DEDICATION AND SERVICE

On August 1, 2010, Wayne Pound passed away from cancer. Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth is deeply saddened by this loss but certainly celebrates Wayne's life and is forever appreciative that Wayne chose to shine his light of caring and loving of others from the Lighthouse.

When Wayne Pound walked through the doors of the Lighthouse for the Blind in 1974 he certainly didn't know that he would spend the next 36 years making a difference in the lives of individuals who were confronting vision loss on a daily basis. The other thing he didn't realize was how the Lighthouse for the Blind would fill his world and touch his heart.



Like a lighthouse in the literal sense, Wayne served as a guiding light, providing hope, encouragement and direction for tens of thousands of individuals living with vision loss. As described by many, he was a source for anything from where to find the best pizza in town to how to navigate the complexities of Social Security disability benefits. His 36 years at Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth testifies to that, but his life of service extends to his church, professional organizations, community involvement, and his prior careers.



The Lighthouse for the Blind recently honored Mr. Pound upon his retirement. Platt Allen, III, Lighthouse's President/CEO, shared with over a hundred guests in attendance the organization's heartfelt appreciation for Wayne's extraordinary accomplishments and service to not only the blind community but to Tarrant County as a whole.

One of the highlights of the event came when Wayne shared some very special words and brought the crowd to tears when he softly sang "Happy Trails to You." And so in tribute to Mr. Wayne Pound, we leave you with this:

"Happy trails to you, until we meet again.
Happy trails to you, keep smilin' until then.
Who cares about the clouds when we're together?
Just sing a song and bring the sunny weather.
Happy trails to you, 'till we meet again."

Some trails are happy ones,
Others are blue.

It's the way you ride the trail that counts,
Here's a happy one for you.

Happy trails to you, until we meet again.
Happy trails to you, keep smilin' until then.
Who cares about the clouds when we're together?
Just sing a song and bring the sunny weather.

Happy trails to you, 'till we meet again."

A Feel Good Story

Seven years ago Mildred Trenshaw was diagnosed with age related macular degeneration. Soon after experiencing two strokes, she realized that she required a higher level of assistance with basic daily living activities. Mrs. Trenshaw then moved



to a faith based retirement community in Crowley, Texas. Mrs. Trenshaw has hand made rosaries for over 50 years. Most recently she was asked to make black rosaries for our military troops engaged in combat abroad.

Black rosaries enable soldiers to pray during the worst of times with no additional risk of being noticed by enemy combatants. Mrs. Trenshaw now sends her rosaries all over the world at her own cost. The Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth's Rehabilitation Services Department recently loaned Mrs. Trenshaw a CCTV, closed circuit television, to help her to thread rosary twine through the holes in the very small rosary beads. Mrs. Trenshaw was very much appreciative for the CCTV which she said has been a tremendous help in continuing her craft.



Rehabilitation Services Offered To Individuals with Vision Loss

Services for Children

- **Educational Information:** Helen Keller, Anne Sullivan, Louis Braille, guide dogs, eye safety, and much more
- **Children's Activities:** Children can hear and more fully participate in the Shrine Circus and Fort Worth Rodeo with the coordination of volunteers from the AT&T Pioneers
- **Summer Employment:** Six week summer work opportunity for teenagers to provide a realistic work experience
- **Tours:** Tours available to groups of children with vision loss and their parents/teachers

Services for Adults and Seniors

- **Appliance Marking:** Tactile stickers placed on appliances, telephones, remote controls, etc.
- **CCTV Loaner Program:** CCTVs magnify text and images to maximize functional vision
- **Educational Information:** Information on blindness prevention, eye safety, eye conditions, etc.
- **Employment in the Industrial Division (Adults):** Employment in a facility that produces a variety of products for sale to federal, state, and commercial customers
- **Home Visits:** Visits that may help increase independence with daily living tasks
- **Independent Living Assessments:** Telephone based assessments to explore how vision loss is affecting daily living activities such as meal preparation, medication management, literacy, socialization, etc.
- **Information and Referral:** Match individuals to appropriate supportive services
- **Magnification Demonstration and Assessment:** In-home demonstration of magnification equipment and provide resources where such equipment may be obtained locally
- **Mobility Canes, Tips and Cane Accessory Sales:** Inventory of canes, tips, and accessories available for purchase
- **On-the-Job Training (Adults):** Non-visual instruction, self-paced work, seated positions, guide dog breaks, and other accommodations specific to the dynamic needs of our workforce
- **Orientation & Mobility:** Training in the skills necessary to travel safely and independently using a mobility cane, guide dog, or other navigation aids
- **Placement:** Access to resources that may provide help with job coaching or adaptive equipment
- **Resource Application Assistance:** Assist with the application for services including Social Security Disability benefits, MITS (Mobility Impaired Transportation Service) Paratransit, Disabled Bus ID/Parking Placards, Meals on Wheels, Texas State Library Talking Book Program, Blind Fishing License Exemptions, National Federation of the

Blind Newsline Audio Newspaper Reading Service, North Texas Radio for the Blind, Housing, Public Benefit Programs, Directory Assistance Exemption, Guardianship Services, and other federal, state, and local programs

- **Technology:** Assist individuals with learning to use the latest technology in adaptive equipment
- **Work Adjustment Training:** Provide practical and comprehensive Industrial Division assessments



75th Anniversary Celebration

The Tarrant County Association for the Blind, also known as the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth, celebrated its 75th year of continual service to people who are blind in Tarrant County, Texas.

The agency came into existence on May 5, 1935. The Lighthouse supports the community from their 80,000-square-foot facility, employs 70 visually impaired employees and is serving 1,600 clients this year.

To mark the occasion, the agency celebrated with a special event on March 22 at the Lighthouse with the employees, city officials, members of the Board of Directors and Endowment Trustees. Platt Allen III, President/CEO of Tarrant County Association for the Blind, welcomed those in attendance and introduced the "75th Anniversary" commemorative pocket coin. Everyone in attendance received a coin. The coins will be passed on to suppliers, customers, vendors, donors, Board of Directors members, Endowment Trustees and all employees of the Lighthouse as a token of appreciation for their dedication and commitment to the mission over these 75 years. Dr. Charles Little, Chairman of the Board, shared his passion for the agency and program stemming from his years with GSA and his excitement to be serving his first year as Chairman. Dr. Little recognized various special guests, including prior President/CEO, Robert W. Mosteller.

Nancy Fisher Joins Lighthouse For The Blind Staff

Nancy Fisher has joined Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth to lead Community Development efforts. She brings over twenty years of nonprofit and development experience to this long time established Tarrant County agency.

Upon graduation from Texas A&M University, Nancy taught school for six years; three were with the international Oil Companies School in Tripoli, Libya, North Africa. Returning stateside, she lived in Amarillo, Texas and became a Big Sister in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program. As a result of this involvement, Nancy began her career in nonprofit management as the Executive Director of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Amarillo in 1988.

Nancy came to Fort Worth in 2003 when she was named Executive Director of Child Advocates of Tarrant County, now known as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Tarrant County. Under her leadership, that program expanded from a staff of 4 to a staff of 13, from 75 volunteers to over 200 volunteers, and increased operating income from \$150,000 to \$850,000, enabling the advocacy program to serve a greater number of abused and neglected children in their quest for permanent and safe homes.

Nancy loves being a part of the Fort Worth community – great people, great causes and great philanthropic spirit. She is married to Jack L. Fisher. Nancy is active at First United Methodist Church, Fort Worth, participates in the Association of Professional Fundraisers (AFP) Fort Worth Chapter and serves on the boards of AFP, Guardianship Services, Inc. and HALO Society. Platt Allen, III, President/CEO, made the recent announcement, “We are delighted to have Nancy on the Lighthouse team as we move forward in our mission of providing employment opportunities and high quality services to individuals who are blind or significantly visually impaired.”

Equally noted, Nancy is excited to be a part of the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth team.



Ready for Hurricane Season

June 1st marked the beginning of hurricane season and even though Fort Worth is certainly not threatened by such deadly storms, there is the opportunity for our community to play a significant role this summer when hurricanes strike.

Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth recently began assembly of hygiene kits for contracted purchase by GSA and FEMA. A total of 100,000 kits, each containing nine products, were supplied to the agencies over the next two months for distribution when needed as a result of a major disaster.

Lighthouse for the Blind is able to satisfy their contractual obligation because of their trained workforce of individuals who are blind or significantly visually impaired. This particular contract provided jobs to 24 local employees who might otherwise not have the opportunity to work. Not only does Lighthouse for the Blind provides a much needed and welcomed product to disaster relief workers and victims but also meets a critical need in regard to employment.



Work Adjustment Training

The Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth (LHFW) has participated in a Work Adjustment Training (WAT) partnership with the Division for Blind Services (DBS) since 1974. WAT is a 30-day program that provides a practical training experience for individuals with vision loss. Some of these individuals have never worked before and others may have not worked since losing their vision. Participation in the WAT Program permits a person to become a temporary employee of the LHFW while vocational potential and job readiness is assessed. At the conclusion of WAT, a meeting is held between the trainee, the LHFW Work Adjustment Coordinator, and the DBS Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor to discuss the trainee's progress, strengths, and weaknesses. A comprehensive report is also composed that addresses daily attendance, communication skills, work traits, problem solving abilities, mobility, time management, and more. If a position is available at the conclusion of the training period, a formal offer of employment may be extended to the trainee. If a position is not available immediately following WAT, the trainee's contact information is retained on file for future availability.

BEACONS OF HOPE

GIFTS RECEIVED BETWEEN 1/1/2010 – 6/30/2010

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

General Fund Donors

Gus Bates III
Cliff Beasley, M.D.
Combined Federal Campaign
Frost Bank (Rodeo Tickets)
Stephen A. Goodwin
Ira Gross
Dr. Charles D. Little
Molyneaux Charitable Foundation
W.W. Pound
Rosen Heights Baptist Church
Gretchen & Whit Smith
Southwest Bank
Mary Tabb & Clyde B. Thompson Trust, JPMorgan Chase, Trustee
Target Corporation
Julie & John Via
Ulta O. Whaley Trust, JPMorgan Chase, Trustee
E. Lavelle White
Stephen Wilson

In-Kind Donors

Ann's Book Rack Store
Jim Bahner
Emilee Brown
DARS Division of Blind Services
Sue Harris
Ron Hitchcock
Judy Howard
Anita Olson
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Partin
Linda Pereth
Joe Rollins/JRMS
Earl Snavelly
Adolphus White
Fort Worth Delta Gamma Alumnae Chapter

Memorials and Honorariums

Zella Mae Horton
- In Memory of William D. Barclay
- In Memory of Ginny Davis
- In Memory of Toke Manskir

Becky & Wayne Pound
- In Memory of Tillman Campbell

Jo Throckmorton
- In Memory of Elaine Carroll
- In Memory of Charlie Duffy
- In Memory of Jeanie Kilpatrick
- In Memory of Maurene Mastenbrook

Louis Daniel
- In Memory of Sally House

Frances Wohler
- In Memory of Ethel Louise Hunnicutt
- In Memory of Tommie Lou Pound

Elton & Christine Hyder Foundation
- In Honor of Joan Brashear

Mr. and Mrs. R.M. Adair
Sydna Bacon
Ava & John Butts
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Vaudine & Herschel Dean
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Dunn
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Mr. & Mrs. Wes Hampton
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Howard
Gail & Gregory Hubbard
Adele & John Nelka
Ruth M. Powers
Arla Richter & H. Juergen
Irvin Robinson
Maria & Charles Skelton
Evalyn Tabb
- In Memory of Tommie Lou Pound

Robert D. & Catherine R. Alexander Foundation
American Council of the Blind of Fort Worth
Ruth Ann Kearley
Monna & Shelton Loftis
- In Honor of Wayne Pound

Endowment Trust

Texas Pacific Group – Matching Gift

Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Mosteller
- In Honor of C.T. Scott
- In Honor of Mike Smith
- In Memory of Ethel Hunnicutt
- In Memory of Sally House
- In Memory of Tommie Lou Pound

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION – LIGHTHOUSE STYLE!!

Yummy burgers and hot dogs, plenty of soft drinks, funny games, and great music----what does this all add up to? 4th of July Celebration – Lighthouse style!

Lighthouse employees and family members started the 4th of July celebration with the annual company picnic on July 1st. President/CEO Platt Allen teamed up with volunteer Kevin Brown for the cooking duties while management staff served up all the fixings. Once all appetites were satisfied, the games began for adults and kids. Not just your run-of-the-mill games either but games based on the popular TV show, “Win It in a Minute” that required the unique skills such as capturing a stacking apples or shaking ping pong balls out of the tissue box that was tied on to one’s back without the use of hands. Some of the team games included pitching marshmallows into a paper sack and stacking cookies on one’s forehead. Prizes were of all sorts and sizes but the coveted first place award was a custom 4th of July T-Shirt. Thanks to the generous volunteer support from Trinity Valley School students, all Lighthouse employees were able to participate. Along with the games, young and old also took advantage of face painting and other art activities.

The celebration concluded with live country music entertainment by Randy Brown, a Texas singer, songwriter, musician and showman. The concert was enjoyed by all as indicated by toe-tapping, hand clapping and dancing!

Kudos go to Donna Miller for the wonderful coordination of the festivities. Donna stated, “The event would have not been a SUCCESS without the help from the Lighthouse staff.”

Special thanks to the following community volunteers and in-kind donors:

Becky Haskin
Lisa Conley
Jacey Conley
Leah Conley
Nick Commuelli
Sarah Caty Cochrum
Kenneth Cochrum
Krishna Tiwari
Ram Tiwari
Mr. Tiwari

Kendall Flynn
Tucker Cosby
Ann Clair Cosby
Mia Williamson
Kevin Brown
Gayle Wood
Accent Food Services
Laurie Lado
Marigrace Lado
Albertson’s in Westcliff



Trimble Tech Student, Kayla Roberson, Tours Lighthouse

On Wednesday, June 23rd, Fort Worth Independent School District teachers of children that are blind/visually impaired, Donna Clopton and Michelle Gatton, brought a student from Trimble Technical High School to the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth for an overview of services and a tour of the facility. Student Kayla Roberson and Lighthouse employee Dennis Lynch discussed adjustment to vision loss and college resources. Dennis and Kayla also discussed being made fun of by other students in a public school setting, the importance of concentrating on schoolwork, pros and cons of using a guide dog, future goals and many other aspects of surviving high school years with vision loss. Dennis then provided a tour through the building introducing Kayla to other Lighthouse employees and describing their duties in each respective department. It happened to be Kayla’s 15th birthday and she was provided with souvenirs of her visit. We thank Dennis, Donna, Michelle, and the Rehabilitation Services department for making Kayla’s visit an experience that was both informative and memorable.



Fort Worth to Celebrate White Cane Day October 14, 2010 - Call the Lighthouse for details.

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



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President's Message

Dear friends,

"Change" seems to be the buzz word around the Lighthouse for the past quarter.

We celebrated the retirement of Wayne Pound following 36 years of dedicated service to the employees of the Lighthouse and to people who are blind in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, and the great state of Texas. Wayne's impact on the Lighthouse is indelible. He will be missed by all of us.

Nancy Fisher joined the team to head up our community development efforts. She is profiled within this newsletter so suffice it to say that I am excited to have her on our team. You should look forward to a phone call or note from her.

We are upgrading our accounting systems. We are replacing our disconnected systems with the fully integrated Microsoft Dynamics solution. It brings together all of our raw material, finished goods, sales, and operations information so that each level of management can be better informed of their impact on the agency. It will take a lot of work by our accounting team, but the end product will be well worth the effort.

Within the Industrial Division, we continue to add new products. Most recently we have added a suite of drug testing kits, two grades of instant coffee, a FEMA Hygiene Kit and two commercial cut-sheet paper programs. We have also started construction of the bottling line room. When completed, this room will house our 6-station bottle filling equipment. We will bottle graffiti removers, cleansers, and other liquids with this equipment.

Our Rehabilitation Services Division is adding a new employee. We have made room for our second Orientation & Mobility instructor. Kent Bowers has carried the load for the last few months, so the addition to staff is certainly welcome. With the additional staff member we will continue to hone the skills of our employees and reach out into the community to serve individuals referred by the Department for Blind Services and to assist others that contact us for help.

Due to our anticipated growth, we are remodeling the office areas for our sales and rehabilitation employees. We are replacing the six desks in that area with modular furniture that will accommodate twelve employees and guests with more efficient workspaces.

We have painted the exterior of our facility on Broadway. After years of the multi-color paint, we selected a tan color for the bulk of the building and a dark brown for the trim.

We removed the overgrown bushes from the front beds and are going to replace them with a multi-tiered planting scheme that will not encroach on the sidewalk or interfere with the mobility of those walking with canes. To keep the new plants alive, we are installing a drip irrigation system that will not waste water. Last we checked, no matter how much you water the concrete it just won't grow.

You have an open invitation to come by and see the changes taking place.

I recently came across this quote by Pauline R. Kezer: "Continuity gives us roots; Change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights." We are proud to say that the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth is indeed growing and reaching new heights. Thanks to all of you for your support and interest.

--Platt Allen, III President/CEO