LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND OF FORT WORTH

817-332-3341

www.lighthousefw.org



RICHARD SIMPSON NAMED 2012 ABILITYONE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AT LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND OF FORT WORTH

Richard Simpson loves coming to work at the Lighthouse. Being legally blind doesn't stop him! Many would consider just getting to and from work an insurmountable task which might account in part for the high unemployment rate among working age adults who are blind or have significant vision impairment. But not Richard – a ten minute walk, riding two buses and a train, many times before sunrise or after sunset, is just what he does. He gives his daily commute no more thought than you and I do when we jump in our vehicles every morning.

From the moment he arrives for work – usually before the starting time – Richard is geared up and ready to go. He conveys one of the best work attitudes and doesn't shy away from any job assignment or request. Richard enjoys any challenge his supervisor throws at him and is always eager to learn something new. His fellow workers respect him and find him easy to work with. "He is considerate, consistent and highly productive even under the most stressful of situations," describes supervisor Richard McManaway. "Because of his can-do attitude, strong positive work ethic and pleasant disposition, Richard has been named the Lighthouse's 2012 AbilityOne Employee of the Year."

YOU PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT EMPOWER RICHARD AND HIS FELLOW WORKERS. THANK YOU!

Simpson

will be honored in the fall at the National Industries for the Blind Conference and Expo along with other honorees from around the country.

continued inside front page -

TARRANT COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND dba LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND OF FORT WORTH

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President/CEO Platt Allen, III

- AbilityOne Employee of the Year continued from front page

Diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa in 1994, Richard has limited vision. Richard has also been hearing impaired since birth requiring him to wear a hearing aid. Married for 18 years and a father of two children and three stepchildren ranging in age from 26 years to 15 years, Richard grew up in Benbrook and graduated from Western Hills High School. When he is not working at the Lighthouse, he is spending time with his seven grandkids, fishing, hanging out at Texas Motor Speedway watching NASCAR, or watching Rangers baseball.

Prior to coming to the Lighthouse in 2004, Richard worked in home building and remodeling. He also drove a van around the state delivering wholesale fresh flowers. Eventually his vision impairment limited his abilities to do these jobs. At the Lighthouse, Richard not only found employment with a paycheck but he also found his niche within the manufacturing operations. He has discovered that working at the Lighthouse provides him the opportunity to be a part of a caring community and a company that empowers him and instills in him a confident attitude. He resolves each and every day that he is going to be the very best husband, father, grandfather and Lighthouse employee that he can be.



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HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LIGHTHOUSEFW
AND TWITTER
HTTP://TWITTER.COM/FWLIGHTHOUSE

GOT GRAFFITI, GET SMART



Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth is now the master distributor for Smart Graffiti removal products for commercial sales in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America, South America, and Puerto Rico. The goal is to increase and diversify private sales.

The Lighthouse started selling graffiti remover through the Texas State Use contract in 2009. At that time, Lighthouse was purchasing the product from the master distributor in United States, BK Enterprises out of Denver, Colorado.

In the fall of 2011, Ted Smart, owner and inventor of Smart Graffiti products, made a trip to Fort Worth all the way from Australia where his company is based. Mr. Smart informed the Lighthouse that BK Enterprises had decided to get out of the graffiti removal business to focus on their core business of commercial painting. Mr. Smart offered the distribution rights to the Lighthouse. The Lighthouse readily accepted Mr. Smart's offer, and as of October 2011, officially took over the role of master distributor. More significant is that as a master distributor, the Lighthouse will be able to employ more individuals who are visually impaired to bottle, label, and ship Smart Graffiti removal products all across the United States (and beyond).

Smart Graffiti removal products provide fast and effective graffiti removal solutions – with performance that is far superior to the competition. Smart Graffiti removal products can remove graffiti from any exterior and interior surface quickly and completely, without changing or damaging the surface.

DR. SHANNON SHIPP

ASSUMES BOARD LEADERSHIP ROLE AT ANNUAL MEETING

Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth welcomed Dr. Shannon Shipp to the position of 2012 Board of Directors Chairman at its annual meeting in January. Dr. Shipp is the Department Chair of Marketing and an Associate Professor of Marketing at TCU.

Serving with Shipp on the Executive Committee are Mayor Pro Tem/District 3
Fort Worth City Councilman W.B. "Zim" Zimmerman as Vice-Chairman, R. Alston
Roberts as Treasurer, Dr. Charlene Conner as Secretary and Dr. Charles Little, as Past Chairman.

Newly elected trustees for the Tarrant County Association for the Blind Endowment Trust were also announced. They are Kevin Brown, Lee Smith, and Dr. Charles Little.

Also recognized during the evening's festivities were Richard Simpson, NIB Employee of the Year; Fred Ross, TIBH Employee of the Year; and members of the Employee Community Involvement Committee.

Highlights of a successful 2011 presented by President/CEO Platt Allen, III, were cause for a wonderful celebration and made for an exciting kick off to 2012.

Abuelo's GRAND OPENING

Raised \$5,300 for Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth



Abuelo's Mexican restaurant's March grand opening in Fort Worth raised \$5,300 to benefit the Lighthouse. Being involved in the local community is an integral part of the Abuelo's culture. Their restaurants and employees have contributed countless meals, funding and volunteer hours in our communities across the Unite States. They are proud of the partnerships that enrich and support local neighborhoods and nonprofits while carrying out the Abuelo's tradition of providing the rich, delicious flavors

of Mexico.



The new restaurant, located in the parking lot on the east side of Hulen Mall at 4740 S. Hulen Street, raised funds through proceeds from sales during the restaurant's pre-opening training services, as well as through donations from employees and guests.

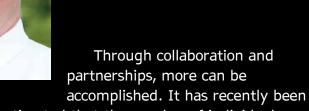
"We raised a significant amount of money for a very deserving charity and had a lot of fun in the process," said Joe Vaughan, General Manager of Abuelo's Fort Worth. "The local community showed wonderful support for the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth, which was great. We are thrilled to be able to benefit an outstanding organization that does such great work for their community."



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I heard a story the other day about a woman walking into a store. As she crossed the threshold a toddler was bubbling toward her at headlong speed. Instinctively she put her arms out to catch the child. The child, however, reached to its side as if to grab its guardian's hand. Support may not always be right in front of you; occasionally you have to look around.

Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth has certainly been looking around. I am proud to live, work, and contribute to a community that is so very willing to reach out that supportive hand to build and strengthen partnerships within the community. Within the last year, we have had the pleasure of working with several outstanding partners: the YMCA, Senior Citizen Services of Greater Tarrant County, the Fort Worth Symphony, the AT&T Pioneers, and Leadership Fort Worth as well as community businesses such as Alcon, the Dallas Mavericks, Neiman Marcus, Grace, the Texas Rangers, and Abuelo's Mexican Restaurants. Talks are also underway with other nonprofits in the cultural district that are sure to result in additional exciting joint ventures. The shared goal for each partnership has been to work for the greater good in providing a variety of services and assistance that range from empowerment to enhancement for individuals who are blind.



estimated that the number of individuals in Tarrant County alone that are blind or significantly visually impaired has increased from 30,000 to 37,000. The partnerships we are developing are necessary for us to be able to grow our job opportunities and to broaden our service offerings.

The Lighthouse will be taking the lead in exploring the many organizations, doctors, companies, and agencies that provide support or assistance to people who are blind in Tarrant County. We will use this information to build a consortium of caring contributors so that regardless of the vision issue, we can provide a pathway for care. We want to build a database of contact information for each of the 37,000 so that we can assess what each wants, needs, or expects from the Lighthouse. With this information we can then modify our existing programs or create new programs that are focused on the greatest wants, needs, and expectations along with our consortium partners.

The Lighthouse is reaching out. We hope that you will take our hand and help us make a difference in the lives of those with significant visual impairment in our community. Contact our Community Development office via email to nfisher@lighthousefw.org.

Kind regards,

Platt Allen, III President/CEO

Lighthouse for the Blind presents

Time to Tell Our Story

No longer wanting to be "the best kept secret" in Tarrant County, Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth has hired Red Productions to produce a series of short videos that will provide an insightful view of the nonprofit's operations and services.

YOU CAN VIEW THE VIDEO ON THE LIGHTHOUSE'S WEBSITE AT WWW.LIGHTHOUSEFW.ORG.



The first of the series premiered in January and was generously underwritten by a 2012 Toolbox Grant from the Community Foundation of North Texas. The video, titled "Time to Tell Our Story", spotlights 2011 AbilityOne Employee of the Year Angela Yount and can be viewed on the Lighthouse's website at www.lighthousefw.org.

The second video, partially underwritten by the Fash Foundation, will feature Jamie Larson who benefitted from orientation and mobility training provided through the Lighthouse's Rehabilitation Department.

An additional six videos will be completed in the next 18 months. The video series will serve as a motivating component for the following actions: facilitate new business partner relationships that lead to the manufacturing of new products and the creation of more job opportunities for local individuals who are blind; generate additional product interest and revenue for the underwriting in part the rehabilitation program benefitting the community at large; and provide general information and a heartwarming experiencing for current and future donors as to how their gifts affect the lives of people who are visually impaired.

"The Lighthouse for the Blind has served Fort Worth and Tarrant County for over 75 years. However, many folks still do not know exactly who we are, the services we provide, the type of employment opportunities available, the catalog of products manufactured and sold, and how they can assist in our mission," comments President/ CEO Platt Allen, III. "Our hope is that after viewing these short videos, they will have a better understanding and appreciation of the Lighthouse's local and global impact."

STAY TUNED IN THE MONTHS AHEAD FOR MORE VIDEOS AND TO LEARN ABOUT THE REST OF THE STORY!

Sherry Fowler has joined the Lighthouse's super sales team. A Fort Worth native who graduated from R.L. Paschal High School, she has worked in banking and sales for most of her professional life. Sherry became familiar with the Lighthouse when she played in the 2011 Shot in the Dark Night Golf Tournament. So impressed with the event and the Lighthouse's mission, Sherry knew it was a place where she wanted to work. Her territory includes Texas territories west of I-35W, San Antonio, New Braunfels, and the Valley. Nationwide she will be traveling the mid and western states. Welcome Sherry!





RODEO TIME FOR LOCAL STUDENTS WHO ARE VISUALLY IMPAIRED



THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD:

"Laughter rang out from the petting zoo when the cold, wet nose of a baby

goat nuzzled up to 6 year old Aimee. This was her first time to see or touch such an animal. Through the colorful words of her teacher, she was able to understand what was "loving" on her. Her smile was from ear to ear as she wrapped her little arms around the goat's neck. Later that day, she listened spellbound and hanging on to every word coming through her ear phones as a narrator painted a vivid picture of the activities happening in the rodeo arena. Tired as she boarded the school bus, Aimee was still smiling and sharing with her teacher her favorite memories of her rodeo adventure."

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-six year old tradition.

In late January, 60 students enjoyed the sights, sounds, and smells of the 116th Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo. School districts participating this year included Fort Worth ISD, Denton





ISD, Grapevine/Colleyville ISD, Crowley ISD, Mansfield ISD, Stephenville ISD, Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD, the Bluebonnet Co-op, and Denton County Special Educational Co-op.

Not only did the students enjoy play by play commentary of activities in the rodeo arena by Paula Reed Tollet through special headphones, but they got up close and personal with all kind of animals at the Bank of Texas Petting Zoo. Horseback riding and tours of the rodeo grounds were also available.

Special thanks to the AT&T Pioneers, the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, Coburn's Catering, Westland Petting Zoo, and the teachers and school personnel for their generous assistance.





The 2011 NBA champion
Dallas Mavericks provided
basketball tickets to the
last home game of the
regular season. Eight lucky
employees were awarded
two tickets each as a
result of a drawing. It
was a good night for our
employees and a good night
for the Mavericks; they
took a win over the Golden
State Warriors, 104 to 94!



One of our favorite foods around the Lighthouse is PIZZA and especially FREE PIZZA on a cold wintry day. Those fabulous Fort Worth Delta Gamma Alumni treated the Lighthouse employees to lunch on a January day. Thanks Delta Gammas!



Alcon's Community Partnership Day at the Lighthouse: PAINT AND PIZZA

Employees at the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth enjoyed delicious pizza with members of the various sales team members from Alcon as part of their annual Novartis Community Partnership Day. Alcon is now part of Novartis since a merger in April 2011. About 25,000 Alcon/Novartis associates across 54 countries engaged in volunteer activities on the same day to benefit people in their local communities.

In addition to providing and serving up pizza to the 90+ Lighthouse employees, Alcon also painted the break room and hallway of the nonprofit's facility, located at 912 W. Broadway.

The day's activities were coordinated by Russ Bowen, District Manager of Eye Care Sales, US Pharmaceuticals. A pep rally started the day off with welcoming remarks made by LHFW President/CEO Platt Allen, III, followed with personal testimonies by three LHFW employees on what it means to work at the Lighthouse. A tour of the 80,000 square foot manufacturing operation provided the Alcon sales team an up close look at the Lighthouse's mission of providing employment opportunities to individuals who are significantly visually impaired. Several of the Alcon employees also experienced white cane and orientation/mobility training resulting in a strong sense of respect and admiration for LHFW employees who utilize such skills on a daily basis.





"What a great day for Alcon's Community Partnership Day. The weather was perfect, everyone showed up ready to work hard, and the different sales divisions pulled together as one Alcon. We were able to make an impact on a wonderful organization, but the Lighthouse also made an impact on Alcon and the employees involved," commented Bowen.



On behalf of the Lighthouse, Allen shared these words of thanks, "Far too often we take for granted the philanthropic attitude of our metroplex. The time we were able to share with some Alcon employees during their Community Partnership Day reminded us of just how lucky we are. The Lighthouse staff and team members very much enjoyed sharing our story and mission with some new friends. We are very grateful for the new coats of paint in our break room and main hallway, for the pizza lunch, and for the kindness shown."



BEACONS OF HOPE

GIFTS RECEIVED BETWEEN November 1, 2011 - April 30, 2012

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

GENERAL FUND

Abuelo's The Anderson School Anonymous Brian Baker John Bean/Alliece Tinsley Marina & Cliff Beasley Bell Helicopter Carswell Retired Officers Wives Club Audrey Carter Gloria Carter Chubb Insurance Companies/Wortham Insurance Dr. & Mrs. Brett Cochrum Charlene Conner Susan & Neal Cornett DFW CFC Mark Edward Dreier Etta L. Graham Mr. & Mrs. Ira M. Gross Dawn & David Henderson Vickie Hinton Marion Linn Charles D. Little Peggy Lundgren M. Mallick Leon McCowan Sylvia M. Miller Ceanne & Weldon Miller Rudy Mugerza P. Michael Peck Janna Poland Aimee Reason The Estate of Violet Richardson Riverside Lions Club Alston Roberts Clara Sankary Claude & Peggy C. Scott Kathleen Searle Southwest Bank Target Linda Thomas

Chyau Song Tzeng

Whitney Smith Donna Arlene Williams

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MEMORIALS

Dr. & Mrs. James H. Atkinson In Memory of Wayne Pound John Brau In Memory of Dr. Robert H. Millwee, III Kathe & Steve Goodwin In Memory of Betty Wayne Keith Watson Pat & Bill Gordon In Memory of Iris Jackson Terry Huffington In Memory of Dr. Robert H. Millwee, III Mary Ann & Frank King In Memory of Willie Fay Lewis Tolli & Frank Macalik In Memory of Wayne Pound Janet Matthijetz In Memory of Dr. Robert H. Millwee, III Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Rabalais In Memory of Dr. Robert H. Millwee, III Martha Rodgers In Memory of Dr. Robert H. Millwee, III J.T. Rogers In Memory of William P. Cranz C.T. Scott, Jr. In Memory of Harmon Greene Martha & R.L. Strain In Memory of Dr. Robert H. Millwee, III Kendra & Randy Walker

In Memory of

Allyn Walker

Warner Radio & Communications, Inc. In Memory of Allyn Walker

HONORARIUMS Carol Margaret Allen In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. David Stovall In Honor of Ann Elwood In Honor of Sandra Plummer In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Mike Townsend In Honor of Kay Baker In Honor of Phyllis Van Aken In Honor of Sandra MacKey In Honor of Suzanne Mauze In Honor of Linda Monk In Honor of Carolyn Norman In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Ken Quinton In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. John Roach In Honor of Kay Vincent In Honor of Mrs. Robert Tomkins In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Greg Wilemon In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Jim Buell In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Lovell Glasscock In Honor of Mr. Marihelen Hickey

Fort Worth Federation of Women's Club In Honor of Nancy Fisher Beckie & Pete Geren In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Steve Goodwin Kathe & Steve Goodwin In Honor of Beckie & Pete Geren In Honor of Kay & Bill Howell In Honor of Kristi & David Newton In Honor of Nancy & Jim Phillips In Honor of Charlotte and Paul Tripplehorn In Honor of Carol & Steve Patterson In Honor of Patti & Mike McConnell In Honor of Nenetta & Steve Tatum In Honor of Norma Ellis In Honor of Caroly & Harold Staples Rosalyn Rosenthal In Honor of Dr. John Cohen Frances C. Woler In Honor of

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Charlie Wood

Alcon Foundation Robert D. & Catherine R. Alexander Foundation Fash Foundation Garvey Texas Foundation Edith Grace Charitable Trust Jackson Family Foundation Molyneaux Foundation NIB Rewards Program Ulta O. Whaley Trust

TCAB ENDOWMENT

Ann Allan Anonymous Zella Mae Horton In Memory and In Honor of Wayne Pound TPG, Inc Matching Gift Frances C. Wohler In Memory of Wayne Pound

R.W. MOSTELLER **ENDOWMENT FOR** SENIOR SERVICES

Lighthouse In Honor of Dr. Shannon Shipp In Honor of Dr. Charles Little

INKIND GIFTS

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Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth strives to accurately reflect all of those who generously supported our mission. If an error has occurred, please accept our sincerest apologies and let us know of our mistake by contacting us at 817-332-3341, ext. 129.

In Honor of Dr. & Mrs.

In Honor of Mr. & Mrs.

Tom Lawrence

Vicki, Ed & Madi Bass

Mr. Gerald Greene

Nancy Fisher In Honor of Platt Allen

Jack Larson

In Honor of

In Honor of

Donna Miller



Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra provides MUSIC TO OUR EARS



Special thanks to the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra for giving several Lighthouse employees the pleasure of attending symphony concerts over the last few months as part of the Beethoven's Buddies program and tickets generously donated by their patrons. This generous spirit has opened a new world to several of our employees here at the Lighthouse, the majority of who are blind or have significant vision impairment. The opportunity to enjoy beautiful music and the beautiful Bass Hall has been a first for several of them.



THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF THE LIGHTHOUSE'S STORY

"Try to imagine how you would feel if you were suddenly stricken blind today. Picture yourself stumbling and groping at noonday as in the night; your work, your independence, gone. In that dark world wouldn't you be glad if a friend took you by the hand and said, "Come with me and I will teach you how to do some things you used to do when you could see?"

- Helen Keller, 1925 Lions International Convention

These words resonate throughout the halls of Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth and thanks to the generous support of individuals like YOU; we are that friend to thousands of individuals who are significantly visually impaired.

Ten years after Helen Keller spoke these profound words, Willie Fay Lewis arrived in Fort Worth with the task of starting

Tarrant County Association for the Blind, today known also as Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth.

Her charge was to start an agency that would provide employment opportunities for local citizens who were visually impaired. Being blind did not stop Willie Fay from being independent and enjoying all that life had to offer, making her the right person to accomplish the task.

Willie Fay was there to encourage and empower her fellow colleagues to become independent and productive through training and gainful employment. And like Willie Fay, blindness did not stop the nine workers from producing quality products in the way of pillowcases, rugs, brooms, mops, and other hand-sewn items.



Seventy-seven years later, Willie Fay's legacy continues but instead of 9 workers there are close to 100 and instead of a mops and broom production line, the Lighthouse is a midsize manufacturing operation located in an 80,000 square foot facility on the southern edge of downtown Fort Worth.

The Lighthouse is also a leading community resource to anyone dealing with significant vision loss. Whether it is a retired teacher on the west side who is dealing with Macular Degeneration or a young girl in Arlington who has been diagnosed with Stargardt's disease or a homeless man off of Lancaster Street who is blind because of a gunshot or one of our very own employees who has been blind since birth, the Lighthouse provides quality vocational, social and rehabilitation services at no cost.

There is more to do so that our story carries on. We want you to continue to be a part of it as well, touching the lives of people like Richard, who you have read about in this newsletter.

PLEASE MAKE A GIFT TO OUR 2012 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN, OUR NEXT CHAPTER, AND HELP US CONTINUE WILLIE FAY'S LEGACY OF GIVING YOUTH AND ADULTS WHO ARE BLIND A LIFE OF INDEPENDENCE, HOPE, AND HAPPINESS. THANK YOU!



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E-MAIL ADDRESS REQUEST

If you would like to help the Lighthouse be "green", please send your email address to nfisher@lighthousefw.org for electronic delivery only of our newsletter. Thank you!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2012



PRESENTED BY



Lighthouse Legacy and Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth want you to be part of the fun at River Crest Country Club as we once again tee up in the dark to make a difference for youth and senior citizens who are visually impaired. Sponsorship opportunities are available at \$5,000, \$3,000, \$1,500 and \$750 levels.