-OLLOW US ON



AKING FIRST IMPRESSIONS FOR THE LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

Good first impressions are important for any business and so the person greeting customers and visitors or answering the phone can be critical to the success of the organization. Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth is fortunate to have Gloria Carter in this significant role.

Gloria has been greeting visitors and answering the phone since May of 1997. Her friendly greeting as you enter the Lighthouse immediately makes the quest feel welcome and genuinely reflects the positive work environment. Often, quests don't realize that Gloria is visually impaired. She is a wonderful example of the Lighthouse's mission of providing hope and independence to people who are legally blind.

A Fort Worth native and graduate of Brewer High School, Gloria has never let Retinitis Pigmentosa stop her from enjoying life to the fullest. RP is something Gloria was very aware of because of a family history with five of her seven siblings also diagnosed with the same condition. Upon high school graduation, Gloria took a job waiting tables in a café. Probably the best job came along after she married Harris and she was able to be a stay at home mom raising two daughters.

Gloria learned about the Lighthouse during her time as president of the local American Council for the Blind where she met Wayne Pound. When she decided she wanted to return to the workforce, the Lighthouse was her choice for employment. Fourteen years later she is still here.

Gloria especially likes the four day work week which allows her more time for fun. Whether she is hanging out with one of her daughters or a niece, you can be sure Gloria is having a good time, taking in concerts, cooking up something delicious or traveling to Las Vegas or Shreveport.

So the next time you call or visit the Lighthouse, say a special hello to Gloria and congratulate her on the fine job she does for the Lighthouse.



"MY JOB AT THE LIGHTHOUSE PROVIDES ME WITH THE FINANCIAL FREEDOM TO TRAVEL AND ENJOY FUN ACTIVITIES."

- GLORIA CARTER

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

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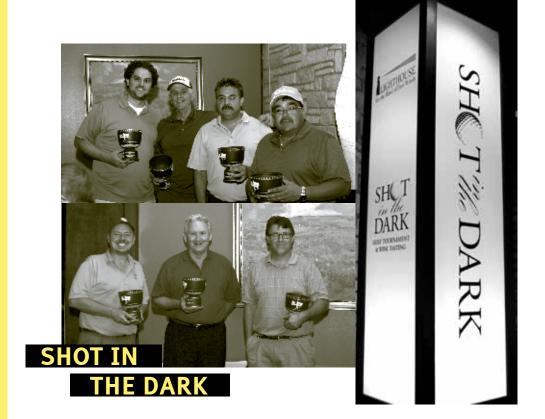
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One could not have asked for a more beautiful and perfect night for the premier of the first Shot in the Dark Night Golf Tournament and Wine Tasting that took place on Friday evening, October 21st at Mira Vista Country Club. All net proceeds will benefit the life-changing programs of the Lighthouse.

This event was spearheaded by Lighthouse Legacy, a recently formed networking group of professionals who actively supports the Lighthouse. Many of the charter members were part of the 2011 Leadership Fort Worth class. Under the leadership of Theresa Berend, an attorney at the law firm of Harris, Finley and Bogle, committee members hosted a fun and unique event that had people talking and making plans to participate again in 2012.

The evening kicked off with dinner and opening remarks by Master of Ceremonies Jeff Kedizor and Lighthouse President/CEO Platt Allen, III. Special guests for the evening included Lighthouse's founding Executive Director Willie Fay Lewis' daughter, Ann Allan, and "guest putter" eight year old Zach Killinger. Zach has vision issues due to Juvenile Batten Disease, but that did not keep him from having a good time at the 18th hole. Guests also enjoyed listening to the music of The Casey Thompson Band.

Golfers headed out to the links with flashlights in carts and glow-in-the-dark golf balls and necklaces to find specially lit tee boxes and holes. While over 80 golfers were enjoying the unique experience of golfing under the stars, another 60 guests enjoyed a wine tasting that featured several wines including Belleruche wines which have Braille labels. Golfers rejoined the wine tasters at the conclusion of 9 holes for dessert, raffle drawings, live music and the awarding of trophies. Special congratulations to the teams representing All Star Corrugated and TPG Capital for having best scores of the evening.

An event of this magnitude requires the support and efforts of many – sponsors and volunteers. Those names are gratefully recognized on subsequent pages in this newsletter, but we would like to publicly thank our Platinum Sponsors: TPG Capital, Fort Worth, Texas Magazine, and Future Foam and Gold Sponsor Cash America for their generous support this first year.

The Lighthouse wishes to also express a heartfelt thanks to the hardworking committee who had the vision and made it happen: Theresa Berend, Chair, Ann Allan, Chuck Berend, Zach Burt, Karen Dowling, David Garcia, Michael Graves, Julie Jones, Drew Martin, and Tanya Miro,

Lighthouse Legacy and Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth look forward to the 2012 Shot in the Dark. Please make plans to be a part of this special evening.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"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?"

This quote was made by Helen Keller when she addressed the 1925 Lions International Convention. It captures the very essence of the Lighthouse's mission and purpose. For over 75 years, we have been the only Tarrant County nonprofit organization that has specifically taken up this charge. We do so proudly.

As we approach the holiday seasons, especially this Thanksgiving season, I believe it is important for us to express our gratitude and say "Thank you" for the many blessing we receive. Specifically, I would like to thank Dr. Charles Little. Charlie has been our Chairman of the Board for the past two years. He has provided firm leadership and a steady vision of what the Lighthouse can be for our community. His efforts have been much appreciated and his hand on the gavel will be missed. Thank you, Charlie.

I want to express my gratefulness for my senior leadership team: Tommy Jaynes, head of Industrial Operations; Nancy Fisher, head of Community Development; Frank Oliver, head of Sales; Todd Icard, head of Rehabilitation Services; and Pat Monaghan, head of Accounting and Finance. I am proud of your commitment to our employees and the community of people who are blind in Tarrant County. Thank you for your dedication.

Donna Miller, my administrative assistant, warrants special mention. As we have grown the employee base and improved internal controls and information systems, Donna has taken on additional work load with a smile and a helpful hand. She, too, is a wonderful asset for the Lighthouse.

To end my list of thank you's, I want to invite each of you to visit the Lighthouse and see the incredible job that our team of first line supervisors do every day. They are wonderfully patient, kind, understanding, and demanding. They understand that our employees are visually impaired but do not let that be an excuse for poor performance. They are the unsung heroes of our operation. My thanks to them is insufficient gratitude.

In the last six months, manufacturing operations have geared up especially in the Foam-Cushion Box and Energy Dissipating Pad departments to meet demand from federal government customers. Second and third shifts were added in EDP which meant adding 33 new positions. The Box department continues to operate like a "well-oiled" machine. Copy paper and Computer Forms Paper continue on pace. Our bottling line will soon be adding a new super product for State-Use and commercial sale. Read all about Bio Defender Pro in this newsletter.

All this means more jobs for local individuals who are blind. The employment base reached an all-time high with a total of 118 employees on the Lighthouse's payroll in 2011 with over 94% of these employees being blind or significantly visually impaired.

Along with a being a vital Tarrant County employer, we also consider ourselves to be a resource and expert for anyone who is living with a significant vision change. This role involves many things. It is providing a onetime consult with general information to someone who has recently been diagnosed with Macular Degeneration or providing several hours of orientation and mobility instruction so that an individual can learn the needed skills that will allow him or her to return to a job after a vision loss. It involves working with high school students through the Summer Work program or providing educational opportunities for our employees and community neighbors on diabetes or topics of interest.

On behalf of the Lighthouse employees and Board of Directors, we wish to thank each of you for your continued support and interest that allows us to be that friend of whom Helen Keller spoke. The need and opportunity to serve continues to grow. We look forward to keeping you apprised of new endeavors and certainly invite you to call on me or anyone at the Lighthouse if we can ever be of assistance. Again, thank you.

Platt Allen, III President/CEO



The Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth, in partnership with the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services/Division for Blind Services, is committed to providing teenagers on DARS/DBS transition caseloads with a summer vocational program that will provide students with valid work experiences and an introduction to expectations in the workplace.

Four high school age students participated in a six-week (23 work days) Summer Work Program that started mid-June and ended the last week of July. Their workday began at 9:00 a.m. and ended at 3:30 p.m. with the students being paid minimum wage by the Lighthouse. The Colonial Country Club Charitable Fund through the Community Foundation of North Texas provided part of the underwriting for this program.

Two of the students represented the local school districts of Mansfield ISD and Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD and the other two are students at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired located in Austin.

At the conclusion of the program, the students returned to school or explored other employment opportunities out in the community and through the Lighthouse. Two alum of this vital program are currently employed on a full-time basis at the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth.

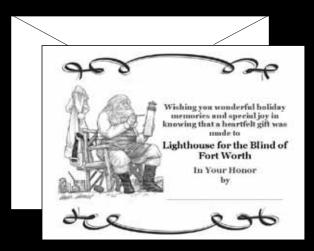
Lighthouse Introducing New Surface Protectant

With cold and flu season approaching, Lighthouse for the Blind is proud to introduce a highly effective surface protectant that is being marketed to government and nonprofit agencies as well commercial business.

Bio Defender Pro is an easily applied liquid concentrate that proactively protects virtually all solid surfaces and fabrics from a broad array of bacteria and microorganisms. This long lasting protection kills mold, mildew, viruses and eliminates microbes that cause odor. Used in conjunction with normal cleaning, Bio Defender Pro maintains a germfree surface.

The liquid concentrate will be bottled on site and provide six new employment opportunities for local individuals who are blind or have low vision.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PURCHASE CONTACT THE LIGHTHOUSE SALES DEPARTMENT AT 817-332-3341.



LET THE LIGHTHOUSE HELP WITH YOUR EARLY HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Lighthouse for the Blind offers you an easy and meaningful way to celebrate family and friends during the holiday season. Consider making a gift in their name to the Lighthouse.

A lovely acknowledgement card will be sent as a holiday greeting to those you honor. A minimum of a \$10 contribution per honoree is recommended. When sending your donation, please be sure to designate that the gift is for the holidays and clearly print the name and address of the honoree(s).

BUSY FALL AT THE LIGHTHOUSE

September and the hint of fall weather ushered in some fun activities for the Lighthouse employees.







On September 11th, thanks to the generosity of the Texas Rangers Baseball Club, several Lighthouse employees and their family attended a Sunday afternoon baseball game. Everyone enjoyed the afternoon game especially since the Rangers won.



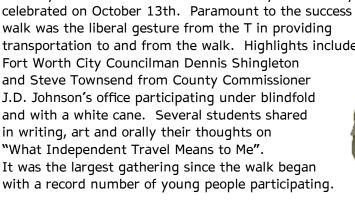




On October 7th, the Moslah **Shrine Circus** came to town. Over 50 students from across the Metroplex and who are visually

impaired attended this very special performance. Students listened through wired headsets to very descriptive commentary of all the fun happening under the "big top." Special thanks to the AT&T Pioneer Volunteers and Paula Tollett for their generous help.

White Cane Day is a national day of recognition happening annually on October 15th. Tarrant County community partners celebrated on October 13th. Paramount to the success of the walk was the liberal gesture from the T in providing transportation to and from the walk. Highlights included Fort Worth City Councilman Dennis Shingleton and Steve Townsend from County Commissioner J.D. Johnson's office participating under blindfold and with a white cane. Several students shared in writing, art and orally their thoughts on "What Independent Travel Means to Me".













BEACONS OF HOPE

GIFTS RECEIVED BETWEEN APRIL 1, 2011 - October 31, 2011

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

CAMPAIGN-INDEPENDENCE IS **OUR VISION GENERAL FUND**

Louis Bell Mrs. Pauline Benson Pat & Jim Bradley Dan Bruhl Juana Rosa & Ron Daniell Nancy & Jack Fisher Robbie Griffin Nancy & Dan Hagan In Honor of Nancy Fisher Mary & John Hood In Memory of Wayne Pound Denisha Ivey In Honor of her grandmother and her father Bill Jorgenson In Memory of Wayne Pound

Ruth Ann & Tom Kearley In Memory of Marilyn Jones Carolyn King Marion C. Linn Dr. Charlie D. Little Mr. & Mrs. Frank W. Maddock

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TCAB ENDOWMENT

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E. Lavelle White

Gloria Carter In Honor of Wayne Pound's Birthday Timothy Clark Ginger Kraft & Allen Cole In Memory of Mark Stapleton

MEMORIALS

Elinor Cocca In Memory of Mary Damian Creative Couples-FUMC Fort Worth Jean Dallmeyer Nancy & Jack Fisher Peggy & Tom Laskoski Mary & John McCrea In Memory of James W. Kline Mr. & Mrs. R.L. Dowdell Lucile Miller Kathy Wallis In Memory of Iris Jackson Mrs. Zella Mae Horton In Memory of Mrs. Fay Bruce Joseph Pignatelli In Memory of Ruth Coleman In Memory of Louis Pignatelli Dr. Irvin Robinson In Memory of

Thomson **HONORARIUMS**

Wayne Pound

George Thomson

Platt Allen, III Proud to support this life-changing mission with time, talent and treasure

In Memory of Margaret E. "Peggy"

Sherri & Wes Gideon In Honor of Nancy Fisher Ruth Ann & Tom Kerley In Honor of Charlie J. Wood Donna Miller In Honor of ALL the Lighthouse for the Blind employees Katie & Alston Roberts In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Platt Allen, III In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Cocanougher Gary Wright In Honor of Nancy Fisher

FOUNDATIONS/TRUSTS Anonymous

Colleyville Lions Club Foundation Community Foundation of North Texas ToolBox Grants J.E.S. Edwards Foundation Lockheed Martin **AERO Club** Mary Tabb & Clyde B. Thompson Trust-J.P. Morgan, Trustee Virginia Hulse Fund, 1st Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

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2011 SHOT IN THE DARK

Ann Tyler

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Uline Shipping Supplies David Van Barbara Wilson Rachel Wilson Jake Yarbrough

Donna Miller

Fred Ross Honored with Artie Lee Hinds Award Nomination

Lighthouse employee Fred Ross was recently named the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth's "Artie Lee Hinds Award" nominee.

Ross was selected to represent the Lighthouse because he demonstrates ongoing initiative, cooperation and professionalism in his job. He was honored at a TIBH dinner in September down in Austin where he joined other recipients from around the state.

Ross works in the copy paper department and has been employed at the Lighthouse since 2002. Richard McManaway, Ross' supervisor, describes him as follows, "Fred is an employee who you can count on. He has a great attitude and works well with his co-workers. He takes pride in doing his work and is a good role model for all members of the visually impaired community." In addition to his position, Ross also is an active member of the Lighthouse Employee Community Involvement Committee.

Patrick Monaghan Joins Lighthouse Staff to Head Accounting and Finance

The Lighthouse has announced that **Patrick J. Monaghan** has been hired to lead the Accounting and Finance Department. Monaghan, a CPA, brings over twenty years of accounting experience in both the nonprofit and for profit arenas to the position.

"Pat's knowledge and qualifications bring a much needed level of sophistication to our accounting and finance operations. His commitment



to our mission and experience with for-profit industrial operations and nonprofit agencies make him the perfect fit. He hit the ground running with the start of a new fiscal year, annual inventory, and preparing for our independent year-end audit," comments President/CEO Platt Allen, III.

Monaghan views the job as a great new opportunity that is further underscored by the life-changing mission of the Lighthouse in promoting independent living and self-sufficiency among local citizens who are blind through meaningful employment and rehabilitation services.

Charlie Wood



Retires as a Winner

All Charlie Wood has to do is greet you and you know

that he is not originally from Texas; but here at the Lighthouse we are sure glad that he found his way here from New Jersey in 1970. Charlie, Vice President of Sales and Marketing, retired from the Lighthouse on August 31st.

"When I started at the Lighthouse, I stood over the fax machine with fingers crossed and hoping that sale calls would turn into product orders. We started receiving two to five orders a day and that number grew monthly. Now we are no longer standing over the fax machine," recalled Charlie. Annual sales for fiscal year ending September 2010 amount to \$16,300,000 and 2011 sales are projected to exceed \$22,000,000, a 76 year high for the Lighthouse. "Charlie has an accent that is all New Jersey, but his heart is as big as Texas. Charlie's ability to grow sales revenue is the only reason we have been able to increase employment opportunities and services to people who are blind in Tarrant and surrounding counties," comments President/CEO Platt Allen, III.

Charlie will be more spending time with his lovely bride Gayle of 22 years and hanging out with his two grandsons. Retirement for Charlie also means a little more time for travel or trying his luck on the ponies at his favorite race track. Our tip for him is to bet on any horse whose name is Lighthouse; it is sure to be a winner just as Charlie Wood has been a winner for the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth! All of us at the Lighthouse wish Charlie lots of winning bets, safe travels, and family memory-making times.

Tarrant County Association for the Blind



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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!

HOLIDAY

LIGHTHOUSE CARDS



May your holiday be bright with an abundance of joy, good cheer and a happy new year.



Delivering the warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday season and happy new year.



and happy v year.

local artist,
Louis Daniel
Packaged by

Lighthouse employees Purchase benefits

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the life-changing programs of the Lighthouse

Wishing you a bright and delightful season.

Wishing you time to enjoy the simple pleasures of this holiday season.