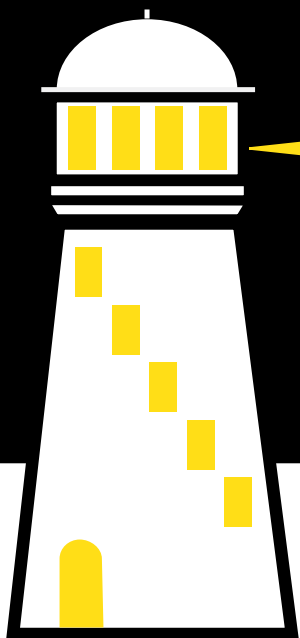


Winter 2013



INSIGHT

Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth

817-332-3341

lighthousefw.org

SHOT *in the* DARK GOLF TOURNAMENT

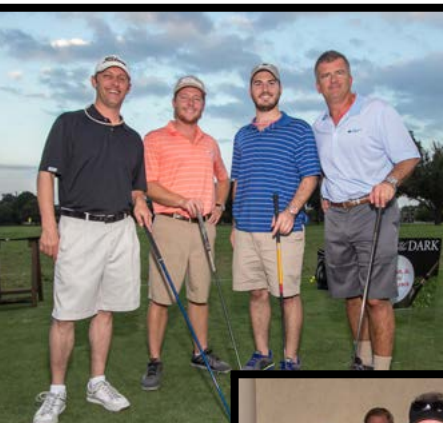
Presented By:



The 2013 Shot in the Dark Night Golf Tournament and Wine Dinner presented by EnerVest resulted in another banner year for the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth. Over 100 players enjoyed playing golf under the moonlight while another 100 guests enjoyed a delicious four course dinner prepared by River Crest Executive Chef Paul Williams. Each course was paired with wines from the Raymond Vineyards and livened up with a wine-themed auction. We were also proud to have joining us Bruce Hooper and Harry Hester, two golfers representing the American Blind Golf Association.

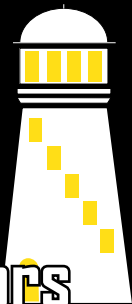
Shot in the Dark is more than just about playing a fun game of golf or enjoying a delicious dinner entree with a nice glass of wine; it is about making a difference to someone who is blind by providing them the means to acquire the skills, support and confidence that will empower them to lead independent, successful lives.

We greatly appreciate all of our planning committee and sponsors, many of who have been a part of the event since the beginning. A complete list of sponsors and volunteers can be found on page 10.



Check out the photos from the evening by going to:
www.shotinthedarkfw.com





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On the Cover: 2013 Shot in the Dark

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Pg. 4 *Inside Independent Living Skills*

Pg. 5 *Blindness Awareness Training*

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Sgt. Reo Crousen*

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LIGHTHOUSE

for the Blind of Fort Worth

Kirk Sneed - The TIBH Industries, Inc. Employee of the Year

Eager, dependable and persistent are just a few words Kirk Sneed's coworkers and supervisors have used to describe him. It's no wonder he is this year's winner of the TIBH Employee of the Year.

"Kirk exemplifies the qualities that an employee must possess to be considered," Tommy Jaynes, the Vice President of Industrial Operations said. "They must be dependable, conscientious, set a good example for others, and be cheerfully willing to do any job that needs to be done. It's pretty basic stuff but it's not common either."

PERSISTENT:

March will mark Kirk Sneed's 3rd year at the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth but Sneed has a long history here.

"I worked here during the summers off and on in high school since my freshman year," Sneed said.

Kirk was born in Fort Worth but grew up in Aledo and moved back in 2000. A few years later he tried again to work at the Lighthouse but no positions were available.

"I wanted to work here for a long time," Sneed said.

While working various other jobs in the years to follow, Sneed said he was always checking back at the Lighthouse.

In 2011 Sneed's persistence paid off.



Jobs for People with Disabilities

DEPENDABLE:

Currently Sneed works in the paper department loading pallets but is also cross trained to work in the pen and energy pad departments. Sneed works on high speed production lines and is always willing to help those who need assistance.

"Kirk is someone that I would not hesitate to call upon to do any task that I may have. He is also respected by the people he works with and as always, he gets

along with everyone," Van Dell Bryant, operations

manager and Sneed's supervisor said.

EAGER:

"I like everything about my job!" Kirk said.

Rick Watkins, said Kirk is always punctual with an excellent attendance record.

"Kirk is very polite and dependable young man," Bryant said, "He is also eager to learn new things about the job that he is working on."

INDEPENDENT:

Beyond his time spent at the Lighthouse, Sneed lives independently; something he and his mother, Kathy Sneed attribute to his employment at the Lighthouse for the Blind.

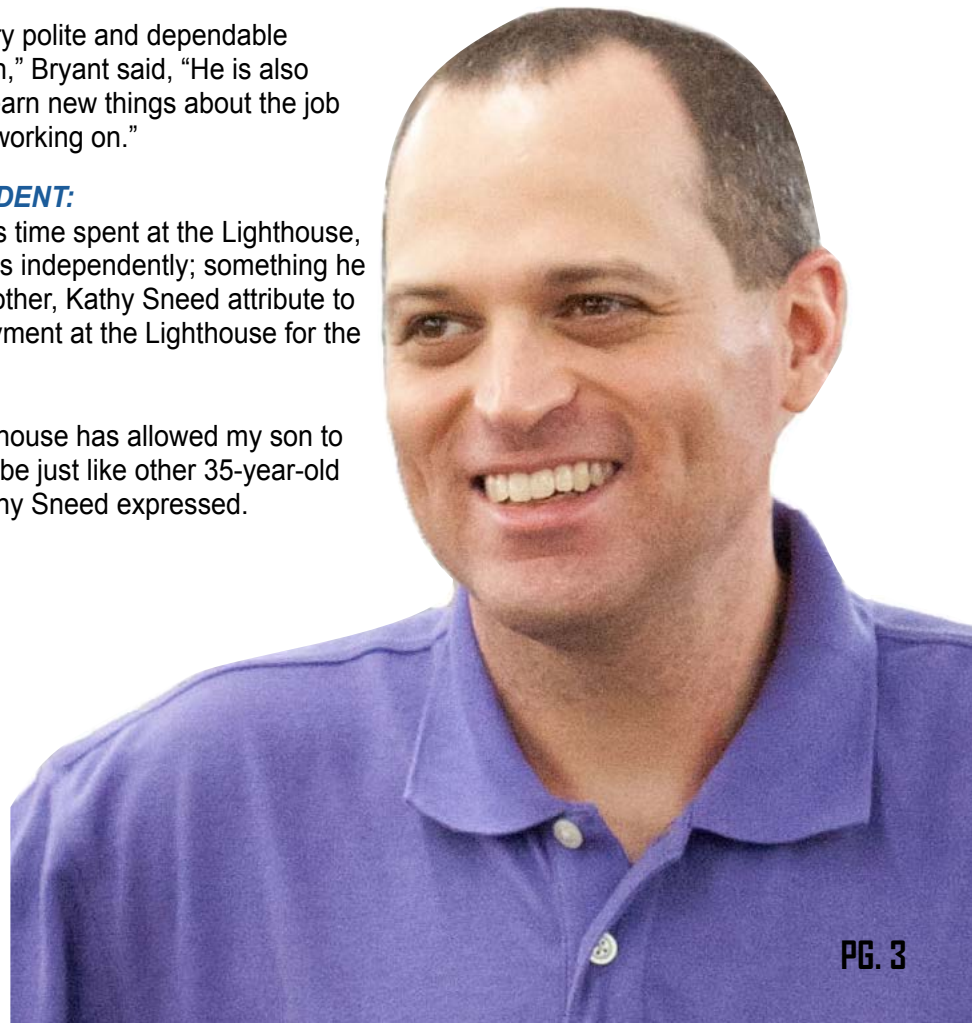
"The Lighthouse has allowed my son to be able to be just like other 35-year-old guys," Kathy Sneed expressed.

Sneed is an avid sports fan and his favorite teams are the Rangers and the Cowboys.

Recently, Sneed was able to attend an award ceremony in Austin with his mother and said he was especially excited to get to hear Spike Dykes, the former head football coach of Texas Tech University speak.

"I had a great time at the ceremony," Sneed said, "and I didn't expect this award, but I was proud of it."

[Kirk and his mother Kathy serve as Lighthouse spokespeople and are featured in the Lighthouse video, **More Than Just a Job**. Check it out on our website: Lighthousefw.org]



Inside Independent Living Skills

When someone loses their vision it can be extremely challenging to adjust and perform basic life tasks. Imagine what it would be like to have to read in a new way, prepare meals without vision, or navigate your way around your home and community.

We often hear from consumers that when they first lost their vision they thought their life was over. They had no idea how they were going to continue to function in a predominantly sighted world.

At the Lighthouse we empower people who are blind or significantly visually impaired by providing them with the skills necessary to be as independent as possible, and function to their fullest capacity.

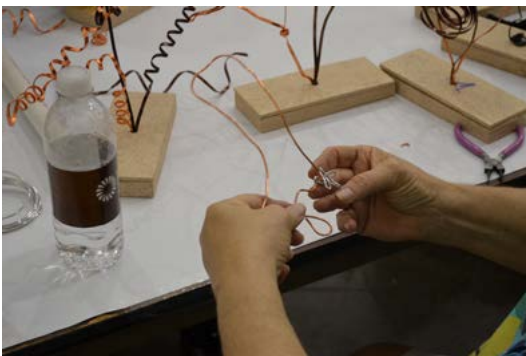
“Lighthouse is helping me to regain my life. I am cooking for my family again and I am about to go back to

my teaching job. I honestly didn’t think that I would be independent as a blind person, but now anything is possible.” - a consumer of the Lighthouse recently shared.

Every blind person has different needs. The first step towards an independent life is meeting with a Lighthouse Rehab staff professional. Needs are identified through an Independent Living Skills Assessment. Areas explored include preparing meals and kitchen safety, personal grooming, identifying money and managing finances, organizing and labelling, and accessing printed material, to name only a few. We also explore other areas that they may want to learn to help with their journey towards complete independence. Learning opportunities are also available in the way of Braille classes, adaptive technology, orientation and mobility, and vision

rehab. There are many things to take into consideration. Following the assessment, the staff and the client implement a specific training plan and timeline. It’s a personal decision and investment of time that each person has to make for him or herself. As with any new skill, it takes practice and patience. Family members may also need to be coached on the importance of allowing their loved one to do as much for themselves as possible.

Along with important independent living skills mentioned, the Rehabilitation Services department offers support groups as well as opportunities to participate in social and recreational activities that include: bingo night, tactile art classes and book club. For more information or to make an appointment, please call 817-332-3341.



Once a month Rehabilitation Services provides tactile art classes as a way to express creativity and to socialize. Participants create masterpieces using materials that are perceptible to the sense of touch.



Guide Dogs for the Blind, from San Rafael, CA., held a 3-day educational seminar at the Lighthouse for both orientation and mobility instructors and for people who are blind. Approx. 100 people were in attendance.



The TCU Delta Gammas hosted a Bingo Night for the Lighthouse employees and their families. They assisted in reading the cards and calling out the numbers.

Rehab Happenings

Below: Students from The Oakridge School (left) had an opportunity to work on the production floor, assembling pens while blindfolded. A student from the Key School (right) is learning how to distinguish money while under blindfold.



Blindness Awareness Training Offered by Rehabilitation Services

The Lighthouse proudly provides tours and presentations highlighting our programs and our mission in action. With the recent expansion of the Rehabilitation Services, a new opportunity is now available that we think proves to be “eye-opening” as well. Blindness Awareness Training is now offered for sighted and low vision individuals, students and adults, and is offered to the public free of charge.

This is an experience you won’t forget. Conducted by Rehab staff in the most sensitive way, participants are put under blindfold and receive training on cane travel, independent living skills such as pouring water from a pitcher, spreading peanut butter on a piece of bread and counting out change, use of a computer with assistive technology software, and even working on the manufacturing floor alongside our very own Lighthouse employees. This unique experience is memorable for participants as they learn more about the individuals we serve and how the Lighthouse is able to make a positive impact on their lives.

Recent trainees include students from The Key School, The Oakridge School, new Lighthouse employees and Alcon employees. Many positive comments were made including, “There’s nothing more eye-opening than putting on a blindfold”. We think that says it all.

If you are interested in learning how you or a group can participate, please contact Nancy Fisher in Community Development at 817-332-3341, ext. 7782 or at nfisher@lighthousefw.org.

When You Meet a Person Who is Blind



- 1** Treat me the way you would anyone else. I do the same things you do, but sometimes use different techniques.

- 2** Speak to me in a normal tone of voice. Blindness doesn't equal hearing loss.
- three** Talk to me directly, not to my companion. Loss of sight is not loss of intellect.
- 4** Ask before you assist.

- 5.** Address me by my name so that I know that you are speaking to me.

- six** When entering a room, identify yourself. When exiting, be sure to mention that you're leaving.
- 7.** Don't worry about using words like "See you later!" or "watching TV".
- eight** Use orientation clues like, "The door is to your left."

- 9** Leave doors all the way open or all the way closed. Half open doors or cabinets can become a hazard.

- 10** Avoid grabbing my arm and please don't touch my dog's harness.


Produced at:

 **LIGHTHOUSE**
for the Blind of Fort Worth
By: Ariel Humble

lighthousefw.org



Drug Testing Kits

The Lighthouse for the Blind sells drug testing devices which screen for drugs of abuse that provide accurate results within minutes. These devices include dip drug tests, NxScan cups, SalivaScan oral fluid tests, and specialty tests like the K2/Spice dip drug test. All of these devices are high quality, cost-effective, easy to use, and 100% U.S. made. Currently the Lighthouse sells drug testing devices to county probation departments, small businesses, drug rehabilitation facilities, and Texas state agencies through the Works Wonders program. The Lighthouse is working to grow their customer base by selling to the federal government through the Ability One program and partnering with Lighthouses from other states.

Featured Product

For more information or to order
call: 817-332-3341 or
e-mail: sales@lighthousefw.org

Celebrating Independence 2013 White Cane Day

A little rain didn't stop the Tarrant County 100+ walkers from gathering in celebration of the 2013 White Cane Day. Young and old, sight-impaired and sighted, white cane walkers and those with guide dogs, consumers and service providers, all participated.

The procession started at the First United Methodist Church, downtown Fort Worth and made one stop at City Hall. City Councilmen Zim Zimmerman (District 3) and Dennis Shingleton (District 7) brought city greetings and a proclamation. Steven Townsend, chief of staff for Tarrant County Commissioner J.D. Johnson (Precinct 4), delivered similar greetings from Tarrant County Court.

The walk concluded by returning to the church where all walkers enjoyed lunch generously donated by Dominos Pizza, Frost Bank, and the District 2E2 Lions Organ & Eye Bank. A highlight of the day was the personal sharing by students of "what they love about being independent."

Collaborating partners for the annual White Cane Day Walk included American Council of the Blind, DARS/XI, First United Methodist Church, Fort Worth, 2E2 Lions Organ & Eye Bank, Lighthouse for the Blind, local Lions Clubs, and National Federation of the Blind.





Welcome a New Community Partner... **Community Eye Clinic**

Established in May 2013, the Community Eye Clinic is located inside of the historic First Christian Church. The clinic is supported primarily by Alcon, the University of Houston College of Optometry, and the Rosenberg School of Optometry at the University of the Incarnate Word. The clinic provides full scope medical eye care to patients who may not have access to traditional services. Many of the patients served at the clinic suffer from conditions such as diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and macular degeneration, which often result in visual impairment. The clinic doctors and staff are proud to partner with Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth in order to enhance the lives of those with visual impairment.

Prevention, early intervention, and appropriate treatment for eye disease are very important to preserving sight and maintaining good eye health. Systemic conditions, such as diabetes and high blood pressure can cause complications in the eye that result in vision loss; in these cases, controlling the underlying disease is essential. Other ocular conditions, like glaucoma, need to be treated with ocular medications and early identification during complete eye examinations. If a patient has visual impairment, either from birth or from progressive eye disease, it is still important to have regular eye health exams to monitor for conditions like infection, inflammation and dry eye.

The Community Eye Clinic is honored to be a part of the collaborative resources for eye health and vision in the Fort Worth area. The clinic accepts all insurance plans, including Medicare and Medicaid. For patients without insurance, there is a reduced fee schedule based on income. Assistance is provided for ocular medications, and there are community partners for assistance with surgical needs. The clinic has no residency requirements, and hopes to increase access to medical eye care for all members of the community.

Please contact the
Community Eye Clinic at
817-289-6800 or
communityeyeclinikFW@gmail.com
for questions or appointments.

(Special thanks to Jennifer Deakins, OD Clinic Director)

Celebrating Independence continued...

Allison Smith's Words of Wisdom

Excerpts from: *What I Love About Being Independent*

"Being independent is great! I can do things that I wouldn't be able to do if I always depended on my parents to do everything for me.....I practice being independent every week. Once or twice, every week, my cane teacher Mrs. Nelson takes me off campus. We go to stores, the post office, the library, and other places in the community to practice a variety of things including cane skills and asking for assistance. Sometimes, we practice crossing streets in residential neighborhoods. Residential neighborhoods can get pretty interesting. Mrs. Nelson teaches me skills I will need to be independent when I grow up. I like knowing I can safely do something by myself."

(Allison, pictured to the right, is in 6th grade at Cross Timbers Intermediate School in Mansfield.)



Welcome

to the Lighthouse Family

Bob Morgan is joining the Sales Team. Born and raised in Fort Worth, he left home to attend the University of Texas. After 12 years of living in California, Texas came calling and Bob relocated back to Austin to run several successful 6th Street restaurants that included Dan McKluskey's and Louis 106. Eight years later, Bob moved home to Fort Worth to be close to his parents and the love of his life. He worked as a wine sales representative for the next two years. Sadly, Bob's fiancé passed away in March 2013 but in the last few days of their time together, they talked about Bob's future and how he would find happiness. She assured him that he was going to have a good life and that he should pursue his dream of working in a career where he could make a difference. Soon after that, he learned about the opportunity at the Lighthouse. "I want to honor her memory by helping as many individuals as possible become productive members of society. I can only do that two ways. One is by telling our story to as many people and groups as I can to help spread the word. The other is by making as many sales as I can. I feel certain that my ability and connections will allow me to do that but as a sales guy I am not very patient so I want that process to begin soon," explains Morgan.



2013 TCU graduate **Ariel Humble** joins the Community Development team as the External Communications Coordinator. Originally from Malakoff, Texas, Ariel knew after visiting TCU while in middle school that she wanted to attend college in Fort Worth. Now after graduating with a degree in journalism, she wants to start her career here as well. As the External Communications Coordinator, she will be responsible for ensuring communication activity for the Lighthouse including media relations, social media, internal communications, and brand management. When asked what attracted her to the Lighthouse, Humble stated, "It's a way the words I say and write can make a difference."

Mark Donithorne has spent over 20 years in the warehouse industry and recently joined the Lighthouse as the Industrial Warehouse Operations Supervisor. He will oversee a wide variety of warehouse activities including shipping and receiving of raw materials and finished goods and maintaining inventory and customer relations. Prior to locating to Texas, Mark lived and worked in Oregon. This is Mark's first time to work for a nonprofit and he has found it to his liking. The Lighthouse is smaller in size than Mark's former companies, but he says that is one of the perks of his job. "I am able to interact more closely with the management team and my co-workers. One of the best things about the Lighthouse is the people. They all take such great pride in what they do."

Also joining the Lighthouse family:

Machine Shop:

David Buitron
Daniel Caldera
Mark Ehlers
Paul Grimes
Vu Le

Luis Marquez
Gary Martin
Alexis Powell
Zachary Powell
Gary Sides

Servmart/Base Store:

William Ferguson
Travis Malone

Warehouse:

Michael Moore

The Lighthouse Proudly Serves Air Force Sgt. Reo Crousen

November has been both a time of thanks and a time for recognizing those who have served in our country's military.

The Lighthouse of the Blind considers it an honor to be able to serve Air Force Sgt. Reo Crousen. We've been able to provide him orientation and mobility training as well as a video magnifier that he uses to read his mail. "With the machine that you guys have loaned me I can read a letter," Crousen said, "I will always be eternally grateful to you people for letting me use your machine."

Born sighted, Crousen's eyesight has diminished with age. He has had cataracts removed and has been diagnosed with glaucoma as well as macular degeneration. Crousen has lost all sight in his left eye and only sees peripherally out of the right. But at 94

Crousen has experienced enough in his lifetime to keep himself distracted from his loss of sight and enough stories keep listeners entertained for hours.

Crousen served in the Air Force as a radio operator during World War II from 1943-45. Crousen was part of the 40th Mobile Communication group and he served in five battles including the **Battle of Normandy** and the **Battle of the Bulge**. He sent weather reports using Morse code and was able to transmit 22 words per minute.

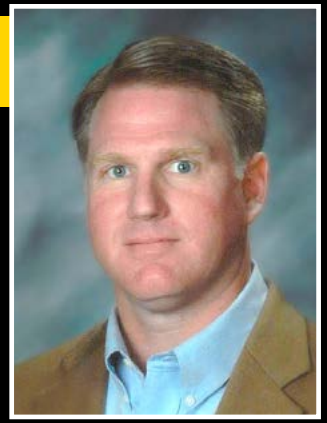
Crousen's O&M trainer, Landon Graham said, "The first thing you notice about Reo Crousen is the amount of vigor and unabashed optimism he still retains at the age of 93. This becomes even more inspiring when he begins to reveal the story of his life, and realize that he is not only a man of great

accomplishment, but a hero who participated in one of the most important events of the 20th Century."



Thank you for your service
Sgt. Reo Crousen!

President's Message



One Word can sum up the task of the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth –

Opportunity.

op-por-tu-ni-ty äp-r't(y)oonitē noun

1. a set of circumstances that makes it possible to do something.

Yep. That's it. That is what we do. How do we create opportunities? I'm so glad you asked.

The Lighthouse makes it possible for people who are blind to enjoy meaningful employment through our Industrial Operations. We operate an 80,000 square foot facility just south of downtown Fort Worth, a 16,000 square foot machine shop just 3.7 miles south of our main office and a retail base supply store at the NAS Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base.

We create nearly 180 different products in our main office and over 300 different machined parts in our machining operations. These products are crafted using production methods that maximize efficiency and labor. (Remember that we are trying to create jobs.) In so doing we are able to maintain at least 80% blind direct labor across our operations. So, the more products we sell, the more production we need and the more jobs we create.

Opportunity.

We provide rehabilitation services to the community of individuals who have or are losing a significant amount of their vision. The rehabilitation services range from teaching a person how to use a white cane for independent travel to Braille and keyboarding classes, assistive technology training, support groups, tactile art classes, cooking classes, social activities and narrated theatre productions.

Our objective is to help individuals be as independent as they want to be. We provide a safe environment for people to learn, explore, and grow so that anything is possible.

Opportunity.

We engage the broader community as well. Through an immersion program we make it possible for those with perfect sight to experience the loss of that sight. Michael Hingson, a New York Times best-selling author and a member of the Lighthouse Board of Directors, says that those with perfect sight are the ones with a disability – they are light dependent. Our program allows participants to experience a sliver of life without the dependency. Most walk away from the half-day experience with not only a much greater appreciation of the challenges that a person who is blind overcomes every day, but also with the confidence that they too can overcome a significant challenge and be successful.

Opportunity.

I am proud of the difference that we are making in the lives of those that we touch and the opportunities that we create to challenge limitations and explore horizons. During this holiday season I challenge you to remove limitations and expand horizons. Create an opportunity for someone else.

Yours in service,
Platt Allen, III
President/CEO

BEACONS OF HOPE

GIFTS RECEIVED BETWEEN JULY 1, 2013–OCTOBER 31, 2013

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

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Nancy & Dan Hagan
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Melissa B. Taylor
Melissa & Leo Taylor
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Allen, III
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Shannon Shipp

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Tingle
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~ In Memory of Imogene
McClure
Susan & Ron Thomas
~ In Memory of Imogene
McClure

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Bob Mosteller
~ In Memory of Imogene
McClure

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Lori Bird
Chili's (University Drive)

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Skip Cook
Crowley Public Library
Harold Cunningham
Lori Harris
Randy Hewett
Stephanie Hulsey
Joyce Marshall
Christopher Massey
Linda Peters
Shale Exploration
Janice Tancred
Village Bible Church
Debbie Watterson

2013 WHITE CANE DAY

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Frost Bank
First United Methodist
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Fort Worth Police
Lions
2E2 Lions Organ &
Eye Bank
Steven Townsend
Melanie White

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Drew Martin, Chair
Ann Allen
Chuck Berend
Theresa Berend
Mark Cundiff
Nancy Fisher
David Garcia
Michael Graves
Julie Jones

Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth strives to accurately reflect all of those who generously support 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. 7782.

Proud of Our Past; Excited About Our Future

Gifts of Time, Talent & Treasure Make Opportunities Happen

Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth is doing more for our community in the way of job training, rehabilitation services and community activities than ever before! This is possible thanks to the ongoing endorsement of our donors, board members, volunteers, community partners, clients, and employees— **folks like you who have been with us along the way supporting our life-changing mission with your time, talents and treasures.**

Walk in the doors of the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth today and you will notice a positive buzz of activity and energy. An immediate realization by many is that we are not the same Lighthouse as in years past.

Certainly, given that the Lighthouse has been serving Tarrant County and adjacent western counties for over 78 years, it is only natural that we look different than we did in 1935 or even how we looked and operated in 1975.

When the doors first opened, it was the production of mops, brooms and other household items that provided the revenue stream.

Under the leadership of Bob Mosteller, the production area evolved to include copy paper and foam cushion boxes. Rehabilitation services were added later.

Today, we remain true to our original mission!

Lighthouse employees proudly follow in the footsteps of those early independent workers but in a different manufacturing environment. Under the governance of a very dedicated Board of Directors and the vision of a dedicated senior staff, the Lighthouse has expanded our production capabilities to create even more employment opportunities. We constructed a state-of-the-art bottling operation capable of labeling, filling and packaging a wide variety of bottle shapes and sizes. We also purchased a successful machine shop that provides both training and employment opportunities for

people who are blind. Perhaps the biggest change is happening within Rehabilitation Services. Our goal is to be the number one provider of social services and advocacy for blind adults and youth. New programs in the way of Braille classes, adaptive technology training, support groups, tactile art classes, cooking classes, socialization activities and more make for a very engaging and exciting Lighthouse.

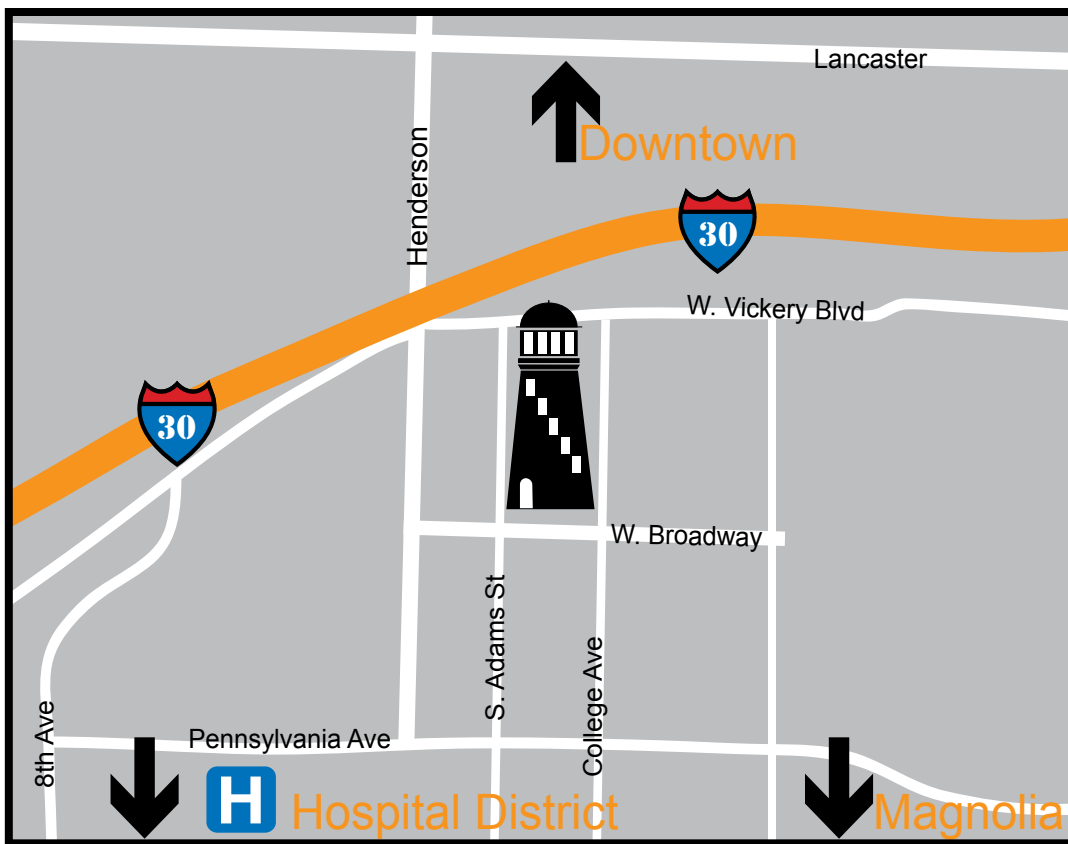
"Our mission is to serve. Our objective is to change lives. Our task is to make a difference in every life we touch."

~Platt Allen, III

We hope you will continue to be a part of the excitement because honestly we cannot do it without YOU. By making a gift today, you are assuring quality and purposeful programs that impact the lives of children, youth and adults who are blind. Your thoughtfulness ensures that the Lighthouse's beacon of hope shines brighter in the coming year.

For more information, contact Nancy Fisher at 817-529-7782 or to make a gift online with a credit card, visit www.lighthousefw.org





Located south of downtown and just north of the Hospital district, the Lighthouse shines a beacon of hope to all those who wish to enter. We welcome you to come visit.

**Monday - Thursday
7:00AM - 5:30PM**



**912 W. Broadway
Fort Worth, TX 76104**

Visit us online at **LighthouseFW.org** or on any of our social media sites:



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A *Holiday* Gift That Keeps On Giving



What kind of gift never expires, never goes stale, never gets returned, is always in fashion AND you can feel great about giving it?

A TRIBUTE GIFT TO THE LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND OF FORT WORTH

This holiday season make a gift in honor or in memory of a loved one, dear friend or colleague. Your gift will warm their hearts and will make a difference in the lives of people in our community who are blind or visually impaired.

Please note: To insure gift notification by Christmas Eve, donation and names with mailing addresses must be received in the Lighthouse office by **December 18th**.

Mail to:

Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth
Attention: Community Development
912 W. Broadway
Fort Worth, TX 76104



To make a gift online with credit card, just visit our website at **www.lighthousefw.org**
For questions or additional assistance, please call Nancy Fisher at **817-529-7782**