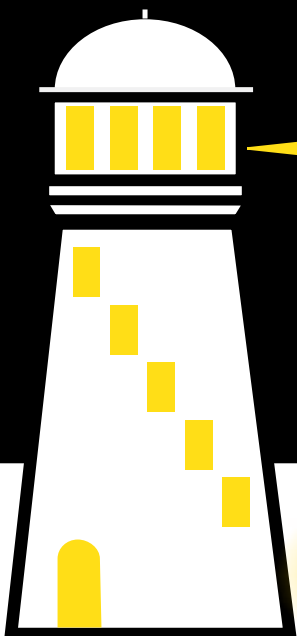


Winter 2014



INSIGHT

Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth

817-332-3341

lighthousefw.org

A Very Bright Future

Extend your arms out to the side. Now slowly move them in front of you until you can see them. Stop. Are your arms still extended more to the side than to the front? For 13-year-old Louise Anne Berger her arms stop moving almost directly in front of her. She has a type of retinitis

pigmentosa that limits her peripheral vision and one demonstration from Cecilia Nava, Assistive Technology Specialist, allowed Louise Anne's teachers to be that much more aware of her eye condition.

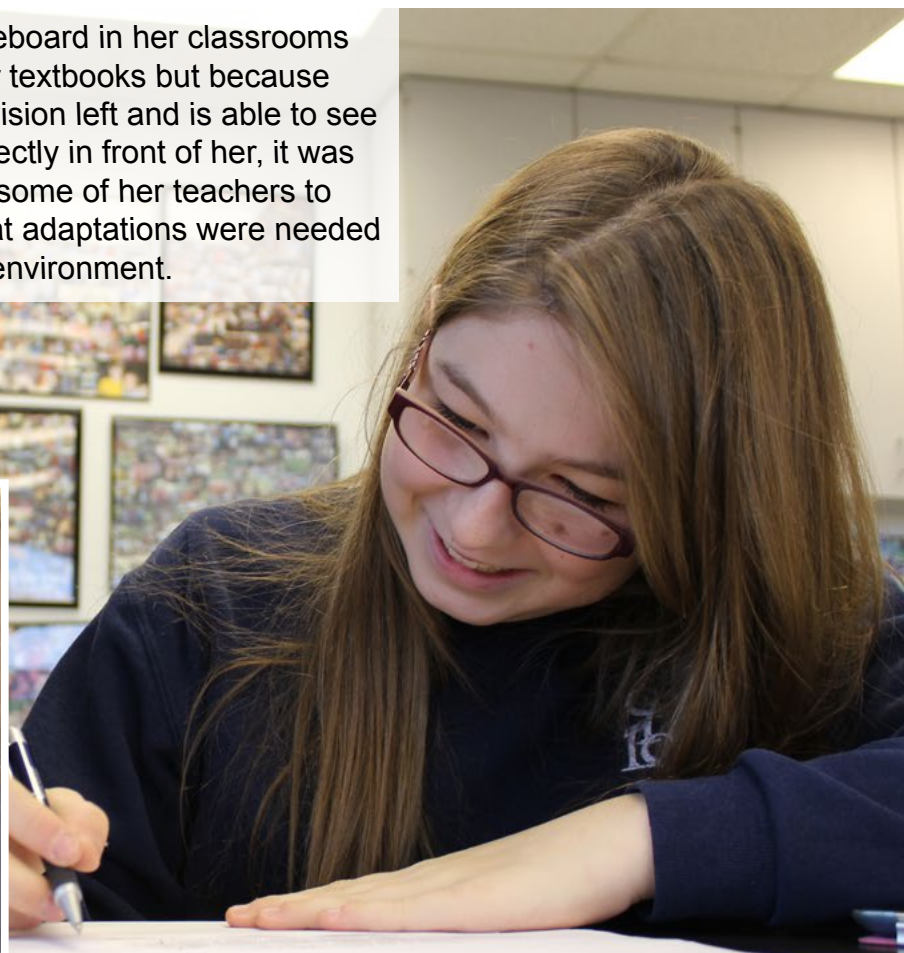
"It was like it just clicked," Nava said. Louise Anne had been having trouble

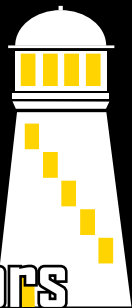
seeing the whiteboard in her classrooms and reading her textbooks but because she has some vision left and is able to see some things directly in front of her, it was a challenge for some of her teachers to understand what adaptations were needed in her learning environment.

"As we struggled through schoolwork, Louise Anne's VI teacher suggested I call the Lighthouse for the Blind. So, I did," Paige Berger, Louise Anne's mother said, "Within 24 hours they had rallied around us."

"Within 24 hours they had rallied around us."

continued pg. 3





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On the Cover: Louise Anne Berger: A Bright Future

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Keen Adaptive Technology

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LIGHTHOUSE

for the Blind of Fort Worth

At the Lighthouse part of our job is to be an advocate for individuals who might need adaptations at school or in the workplace due to vision loss. For Louise Anne, creating paper with larger spaces and bolder lines, placing a CCTV in her classroom and reflective tape on the stairs at her school was just enough to allow this go-getter to excel in her school work.

"They read tests to her, and cheer her on as she succeeds in her school environment," her mother said, "The Lighthouse has not only given Louise Anne the tools she will need to be independent, but they have also given her parents hope."

Louise Anne said her school feels more inclusive and that she has become more comfortable with adaptive technology in the classroom.

"It's become easier to use than it was before," Louise Anne said. For someone who is proficient in Windows and Mac products, Voiceover and Zoom that doesn't come as a surprise.

Assisting someone like Louise Anne is an easy task according to the Lighthouse Rehabilitation Team. She's a patient big sister, very studious and loves to read. She practices dance twice a week and is very involved in her church youth group.

"She's as smart as a whip and she's got a heart as big as Texas itself," Leslie Hall, Head of Rehabilitation Services said.

Getting to Know Louise Anne

What is your favorite thing about school?

"I like a lot of things about school. I enjoy learning new things and I enjoy reading. I love history and literature."

What do you do in your spare time?

"I dance lyrical and ballet. I'm really busy almost everyday. I enjoy being active in youth group and spending time with my two younger sisters and my little brother."

What is your favorite thing to read?

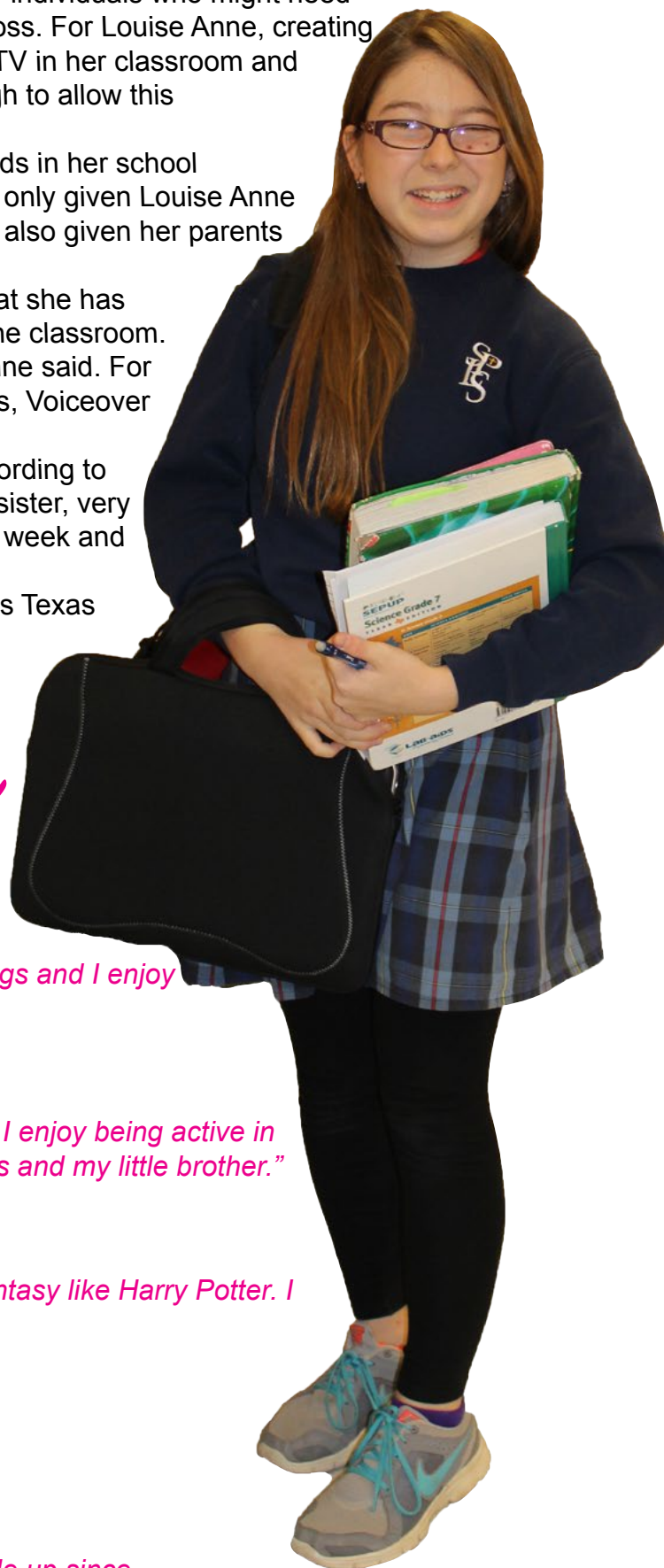
"I love historical fiction and realistic fiction. I enjoy some fantasy like Harry Potter. I like Dear America and mysteries like Nancy Drew."

What is your favorite technology to use?

"I really enjoy my Kindle."

What do you want to do when you grow up?

"I want to be an elementary teacher. I've had my mind made up since kindergarten. I want to travel."



As events, happenings and opportunities come and go around the Lighthouse, we are able to welcome new bodies to our facility whether they be two-legged or four-legged! We're happy to introduce you to our new additions to the Lighthouse team and the Fort Worth chapter of Lone Star Guide Dog Raisers!!!

New Employees

Garry Coufal - *Industrial Ops*

Supervisor

Daniel Keller - *Warehouse*

Associate

David Green - *Paper Tubing*

Melvin Goldman - *Warehouse*

Associate

Lee Martinez - *Machining*

Operations

Dennis Pike - *Machining*

Operations

Lone Star Guide Dog Raisers Fort Worth Chapter



Empowering Parents

Understanding Cortical Visual Impairment

Based on 2013 statistics from the Education Service Center Region 11, 13% of the visually impaired infants and youth receiving services are blind due to Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI). This is the leading diagnosis among all students being served and yet often it is the most misunderstood. According to expert Diane Sheline, during the past 20 years visual impairment due to various brain disorders has become the most common cause of visual impairment in Western countries.

On a November Saturday morning, 30 parents and other caretakers attended a free 6 hour workshop taught by Diane Sheline at the FWISD Administration Building. Another 20 professionals were in attendance. They not only learned about the 10 characteristics of CVI as described by Dr. Christine Roman-Lantzy in her book *Cortical Visual Impairment, An Approach to Assessment and Intervention* but also walked

away with strategies and activities to help their child.

The CVI Workshop for Parents was presented by the newly formed North Texas Vision Coalition and made possible through the generous funding of a Lighthouse ToolBox Grant from the Community Foundation of North Texas and the Jenny A. and Michael L. Herman Charitable Fund.

The Lighthouse and ESC Region 11 have taken the lead in the creation of the North Texas Vision Coalition comprised of concerned parents, caretakers, professionals and organizations to address and implement advocacy and training that will positively affect the educational success of children who are blind. The CVI Parent Workshop was the first collaborative effort of the group. For information on the coalition, please contact Leslie Hall at lhall@lighthousefw.org.

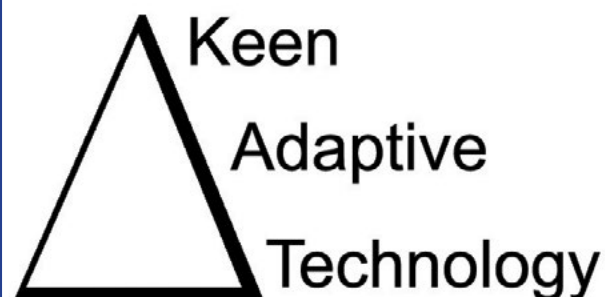
For more information on CVI or Diane Sheline, visit www.strategytosee.com.

Community Partners

The Lighthouse is committed to being the most accessible resource available and to developing an ongoing relationship with any individual at the earliest onset of vision loss so as to be there with them for their entire life. Shawn Keen is a great example of how that works.

Keen was born with Glaucoma and by the time he had reached his 20's, he had lost all light perception. Like many Tarrant County youngsters who were blind or had low vision, his memories about the Lighthouse are synonymous with Wayne Pound. According to Keen, "I went to a Lighthouse day camp for many years when I was kid. Wayne Pound was a huge influence on me not only as a kid but also in my adult life. I used to go see him from time to time to get advice on whatever was going on." As a teen, Keen did a job placement program through the Lighthouse and worked as a receptionist at TCU.

Keen has used adaptive technology personally and professionally for the last 30 years. He got his first computer at age 10 when his parents bought him an Apple 2E with an echo voice synthesizer. Two years ago, Shawn chose not to continue in the family business and with the support and love of family, chose instead to follow his passion of working in technology. He made a decision to follow his dream of owning and operating his own technology company. He was motivated by the fact that technology allows individuals who are blind or have low vision to be competitive in school and on the job.



Keen Adaptive Technology (KAT) specializes in technology training services to the blind and low vision population either through state agencies or individuals and private organizations. KAT trains all users, beginners to advance, on the following products:

- JAWS for Windows screen reader
- Openbook
- Magic
- Microsoft Windows XP/Vista/7
- Microsoft Windows 8 and 8.1
- Microsoft Internet Explorer
- Apple IOS including iPad, iPad mini, iPhone and iPod
- Customized training upon request



Keen along with two other KAT trainers are Division for Blind Services (DBS) approved and carry the Freedom Scientific JAWS certification. Today Keen and his team are traveling the state

and providing training and support to the blind community at large.

Congratulations to Shawn Keen and Keen Adaptive Technology on making his dream a reality!

To find out more about Keen Technology, visit www.keenadaptive.com or email info@keenadapt.com.

Thank You!

2014 SHOT *in the* DARK sponsors

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ENERVEST

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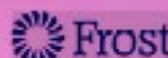


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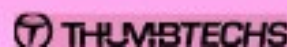
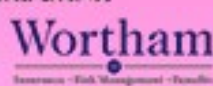


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Caitlin Hartwigsen
Mark Hernandez
Suitable for Framing
Ed Barrera
Harry Hester
Bruce Hooper
Nike
Fort Worth Museum of Art and
History
The Crowne Plaza Invitational at
Colonial
Estancia Winery

*Thanks to everyone who made our night golf tournament, wine dinner and
auction a success!*



The Lighthouse celebrated another banner year for the 2014 Shot in the Dark Night Golf Tournament and Wine Dinner presented by EnerVest. We had a 30% increase in net revenue. New this year was the addition of a silent auction and a golf clinic specific to blind and low vision youth and adult participants. The clinic was taught by blind golfer Bruce Hooper and low vision golfer Harry Hester. Special thanks to First Tee Fort Worth and the city of Fort Worth for hosting the clinic.



Counting Our Blessings

Given the time of the year, we recently polled some of our employees and consumers as to why they were thankful for the Lighthouse. Here is what we heard:

"I am thankful for the good people I get to work with at the Lighthouse." ~Alex Rosalez

"I am thankful for the Braille classes taught by Kevin. This new skill allows me to write myself notes, read books and avail myself of instructions in elevators and on restroom doors." ~ Bill Neff

"We are thankful for the Lighthouse giving us HOPE." ~Paige Berger, parent to Louise Anne

"I am thankful for my job which allows me to provide for my family." ~James Shelby

"I am grateful for the abilities that I have learned since working here!" ~Angela Yount

"I am thankful that I can freely travel around Fort Worth because of the Orientation and Mobility training I received from Angela." ~Denny Taylor

As well, throughout the year, we hear words of thanks at our special events:

"I am thankful for the AT&T Pioneers making it possible for me to come to the Fort Worth Rodeo and Stock Show." ~Jesse, 5th grade

"I am thankful that I was able to attend Camp Lighthouse and do the fun things with other campers. And also I am happy I learned how to use the iPad and that I get to keep it." ~Ethan

"Thank you Lighthouse for bringing Michael Hingson and his dog Africa to our school." ~Brittany

"Thank you for holding a very fun Valentine dance and dinner for my friends and me." ~Tyler

"The golf clinic was so cool. Thank you!" ~Ryan

Each statement reflects the various facets of the Lighthouse's purpose and the cross-section of the people we serve. I share these with you because every action or activity mentioned was made possible because of the generosity of you and other people like you. Every gift that is received at the Lighthouse is invested in our most prized commodity – a person. The Lighthouse depends on the generosity of individuals, families, corporations, and foundations to ensure continued excellence in providing innovative and life-changing opportunities for blind people of all ages. So as we count our blessings here at the Lighthouse, please know that we include each of you. Thank you for making the choice to impact the lives of Alex, Bill, Louise Ann, James, Tyler, Ryan and the others mentioned above along with thousands of others. Thank you!

We ask that you continue to be a part of our mission by making a year-end gift to the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth. Visit us at www.lighthousefw.org/donate to make an online gift or call Nancy Fisher at **817-332-3341**, ext 7782.

And again we say
thank you.

BEACONS OF HOPE

GIFTS RECEIVED BETWEEN MAY 1, 2014 - OCTOBER 31, 2014

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

INDIVIDUALS, CORPORATIONS, COMMUNITY

Platt Allen, III
Anonymous
Bell Helicopter United Way
Brian Baker
Paula & Rod Baum
Frank N. Baxley
Lori Bland
Elizabeth Campbell
Christal Vision
Dr. Charlene Conner
Susan & Neal Cornett
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Dr. Jennifer Deakins
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Shirley Wooldridge
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~ In Honor of Gus S. Bates
Gayle & John Boyd
~ In Honor of Denny
Taylor
Cheryl & Ray Brame
~ In Honor Denny Taylor
Nancy & Jack Fisher
~ In Honor of Shirley
Wooldridge
Aidan Flanigan
~ In Honor of Stephanie
Seidel
Christopher Hetreed
~ In Honor of Nancy
Fisher
Angela Johnson
~ In Honor of Monica
Harwig
~ In Honor of Mary
Johnson
Janis Jones
~ In Honor of Nancy
Fisher
Frank W. Sargent
~ In Honor of Denny
Taylor

Terri Slinkard
~ In Honor of Denny
Taylor
Rhonda Stringer
~ In Honor of Denny
Taylor
Ollie Taylor
~ In Honor of Denny
Taylor
Freeda Taylor
~ In Honor of Denny
Taylor
Shirley Wooldridge
~ In Honor of Family

MEMORIALS

Leslie Hall
~ In Memory of Jessica
Hunter
Doris Hawkins-Trew
~ In Memory of Kenneth
Hawkins
Zella Mae Horton
~ In Memory of Mrs.
Vivian Leibowitz
Loretta S. Mitchell
~ In Memory of Irvin S.
Mitchell
Cecil Morgan
~ In Memory of Lorene
M. Harris

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North Texas ToolBox
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Jenny A. and Michael L.
Herman Charitable
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Virginia Hulse Fund/
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Church of Fort Worth
The Ryan Foundation
Mary Tabb & Clyde B.
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J.P. Morgan, Trustee
Crystelle Waggoner
Charitable Trust, Bank of
America, N.A., Trustee

WAYNE'S WAY

Phil Green

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Archie's Gardenland
Sheryl Cassels
Dr. Kory Cummings
Jennifer Doneski
Estate of Anthony Cook
Estate of Electra Taylor
Estate of John E. Johnson,
M.D.
Eduardo Esteve
Federal Business
Association
Fort Worth Symphony
Orchestra
Robert Gray
Leslie Hall
James Granpre
Homewood Suites/Hilton
Garden Inn Fort Worth/
Medical District
Vijay S. Khanna, DPM
Chip Lanning
Daniel Nixdorf
Texas Rangers Baseball
Club
Ron Walker

In May of 2013 the Lighthouse acquired FW Hall, a machine shop operation. The Lighthouse made this decision to help diversify the revenue stream and provide cross training opportunities individuals who are blind or significantly visually impaired.

After gaining some essential knowledge and learning how to adapt the equipment, we are proud to say that we are integrating individuals with visual impairments into our machining operations. Those individuals include: Bob Chelette, Richard Simpson, Danny Garcia, Dennis Pike and Mauro Ramirez.

Mauro, Dennis and Bob have been at the machine shop since mid-summer. Mauro is operating lathes, Dennis is operating mills and Bob has started operating on the honing machine. Richard Simpson has been successfully operating mills for several months and has now moved on to the lathe

operation. Danny has been operating both of our saws for the last several months.

The Lighthouse continues to test possibilities and gain new insight about blindness adaptation in the industrial workplace. Our goal is to continue to expand the skill set of individuals that desire that opportunity and to continue to create more jobs for individuals who are blind or significantly visually impaired.

We continue to search for and expand our business ventures. If you or someone you know has an idea or existing operation you think could benefit from the services offered by the Lighthouse, or if you would like to learn more about what the Lighthouse is doing to create employment opportunities, we welcome you to tour our facilities.

A Word from the Chairman



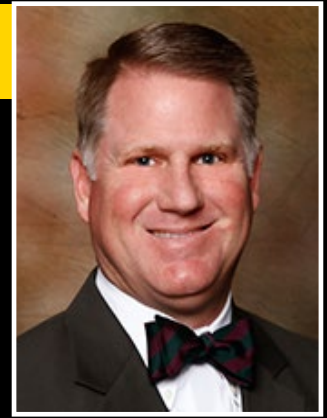
In the fall, daylight savings time always reminds me how dependent I am on light. The earliest known candles originated in China around 200 BC. Today the astronauts in the space station can see cities illuminated by artificial light. Why do we need so much light? The bottom line is: without light, there would be no sight. We have built a very elaborate and expensive system to make sure our lives are filled with light. Have you ever wondered what life would be like if you were without light. I have an offer that might change the way you see the world. I ask that you come take a tour of the Lighthouse for the Blind. We will show you all that goes on inside our building. Lighthouse President/CEO Platt Allen and his team will give you a special opportunity to work shoulder to shoulder with Lighthouse employees but you will do it under blindfold. This experience provides you an understanding and an education

as to what it is like to live without light. This tour will provide you with many new friends, a wonderful experience and a clear understanding of our mission. Please take me up on this offer and bring your children. It is a life experience that can be shared together as a family.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alston Roberts".

Alston Roberts, Chairman of the Board

President's Message



There is a short little song by the Oak Ridge Boys called "Thank God for Kids." Dale Hansen uses it every holiday season to highlight his kids and those that are making a difference. I've gotten to where I look forward to that episode and usually end up with tears on my face.

This holiday season, I continue to give thanks for my kids: Claire, Madelon, Gage and Marigrace. But there are a whole lot more that I give thanks for too. There's Taylor and Lauren, Ryan and Cooper, Zachary and Amber, just to name a few. They are part of my Lighthouse family and each of them is making a difference in our lives.

This past year, the Lighthouse has refocused some of our energy towards children and teens who are blind. We have had holiday parties, Valentine's Day dinner dances, game nights and other fun activities. But my favorite thing is when I get a note or a call from a parent or teacher telling us about something their child has done. Often they try to attribute the success to services provided by the Lighthouse. I usually disagree. What the Lighthouse does well is provide a platform for kid's to succeed. The rest is up to them choosing to take a risk and dare to fail.

Going forward I want to provide more opportunities to take a risk and likely succeed. Some of the ideas on the table are: a winter ski trip, a rock climbing wall, crossfit classes, tandem bike rides, and 4H or FFA opportunities. If any of these sound like fun or you have an idea about a different great adventure, give us a call. We want you to be involved.

Our future is in the hands of today's 10 year olds. Thank God for kids.

Yours in service,

Platt Allen III, CEO



Located south of downtown and just north of the Hospital district, the Lighthouse shines as 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 is a Beacon of Hope

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.