



## Kay Littlejohn – Loving Life and Living Fully

Kay Littlejohn's story is one of success, survival, challenge, persistence, passion, and faith. Kay has been described

by those who know her as, "a very positive person." Her calm, yet confident, demeanor, as she talks about her life in soft, almost hushed tones, would put even the most nervous person at ease. After spending any significant time talking to Kay,

or interacting with her, one can't help but feel uplifted. It's that "I'll have what she's having" feeling.

Kay lives a full life. She enjoys writing, reading, cooking, participating in church activities, getting involved in her community, and she described her family and three grandchildren

as her "joy and passion." She explains her view on life by saying this, "God gives us the gift of life, but the opportunity to live it fully, is our responsibility. That's on each person." It is very obvious that Kay is loving her life and living it fully.

Prior to losing her

society, she had no idea that individuals with blindness could live productive, happy, full and independent lives. She took refuge on her sofa in her living room, and did not leave her house for one year.

With the help of family and friends she got involved in community organizations

and resources including Safe Haven, Division for Blind Services, and the Lighthouse. She

**"The things that I do blind, I have always been doing them, it's just that now, I have to concentrate more and I do them differently."**

vision in 2012, due to a severe blow to the head, resulting in Cortical Vision Impairment, Kay worked as a runway model, a business owner, a cosmetolo-

gist and a reservation agent for American Airlines. The trauma of the horrible attack she endured at the hands of her ex-husband changed all that. She spent months recovering, and was finally told by doctors that she had no light perception in either eye, and there was

no treatment, surgery or expectation that her sight would improve. She lost her business, was unable to work as a reservation agent, and thought her life was over. You see, like many people in our

slowly began the journey of emotional healing and learning new skills.

Lighthouse's Rehabilitation Department began Orientation and Mobility training with Kay. It was a slow process. The first lesson consisted of getting off the sofa and finding the front door, then turning around and finding the sofa again. Slowly, she began to travel independently throughout her home. Then, she ventured outside the front door of her house to walk around the yard. Kay describes that with each O&M lesson, her fear decreased. The Lighthouse's Rehab Department also provided Kay training on cooking skills, cleaning, laundry, matching clothing, and applying make-up by feel. With each new skill

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**TARRANT COUNTY ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE BLIND  
dba LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND OF  
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## *President's Message*



*Platt Allen, III*

### **Opportunity.**

Those of you who have followed the Lighthouse for any time have heard me use this word often. At the Lighthouse, it is what we do. We provide opportunities.

If you are employed on one of our production lines, we provide an opportunity for you to learn new skills, improve your performance and to be part of a successful team. If you are a client, we provide the opportunity for you to explore your limits and reach your full potential. If you are a volunteer, board member or donor, we provide the opportunity for you to engage with a dynamic and exciting mission.

### **Opportunity.**

As we approach the New Year, I see opportunity all around us. We are expanding our production capability through the addition of sonic welding and pouching. Both will initially be used to manufacture and package tests for the detection of drugs of abuse. We continue to identify new products to further diversify our offerings to Federal, State of Texas, and commercial customers. The drug test kits and lab verification services are the most recent additions.

### **Opportunity.**

I want to take this opportunity to say "Thank you." It is with very heartfelt gratitude that I say thanks to my senior leadership team. 2015 was not the easiest year. But together we weathered the storms and are positioned for a terrific 2016. Thanks to my production team. It is through their dedication and hard work that we are able to provide our customers with products that exceed their expectations. Thank you to our vendors for keeping our raw materials flowing onto our production lines. Thank you to our Board of Directors for their leadership and good governance. It is their vision for our organization to be recognized as "world class."

Finally, thank you for being a part of our family and sharing in the individual and collective success of each person we serve.

Platt Allen, III

# SHOT<sup>in the</sup> DARK<sup>®</sup>

**Golf Tournament & Wine Dinner • Benefitting Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth**

*Presented by*



ENERVEST

## **Golf under Starry Skies, Award Winning Wine, and Guide Dog Pups**

**Y**ou know it is going to be a special evening when you walk into River Crest Country Club and are warmly greeted with wagging tails by the Lone Star Guide Dogs pups in training!

The 2015 Shot in the Dark Night Golf Tournament and Wine Dinner is being applauded as a SUCCESS. A highlight of the evening came in the way of a heart-warming testimony by 14-year-old Louise Anne and parents, Keith and Paige Berger, as to how they are benefitting from the life-changing programs available through Rehabilitation Services.

Another highlight was the presentation by Hailey Trefethen of the Trefethen Family Vineyard. She shared the history of this 45-year-old, Napa Valley winery

and described each wine as it was presented with the paired dinner course.

CBS 11 meteorologist Jeff Jamison served as Master of Ceremonies throughout the evening and encouraged strong participation in the live and silent auctions resulting in a banner year for both.

Meanwhile under a beautiful starry sky, volunteer extraordinaires greeted our

golfers at each tee and thanked them personally for being a part of the evening. On the final hole, golfers had the opportunity to experience blind awareness by teeing off under blindfold.

Special recognition was given to presenting sponsor EnerVest for their generous, ongoing participation since the event premiered.

The Lighthouse and the 2015 Shot in the Dark Committee sincerely thank all of our 2015 sponsors, guests and volunteers for joining us and supporting the Lighthouse's mission of empowerment towards independence for individuals who are blind or have low vision.

A complete list of our sponsors can be found on the next page.

## **Kay Littlejohn— *continued from page one***

mastered, Kay's confidence continued to increase. Additionally, the Rehab Department exposed her to computer technology and speech software. She is still in the process of technology training, and is progressing well.

Today, Kay walks in downtown Fort Worth, with her straight white cane, crosses busy streets alone, and travels independently with confidence. She cooks for her family, and participates in public speaking events on domestic violence and overcoming challenges. Kay shares her story freely; she writes and has a strong desire to help others. Kay ex-

plains that, "The things that I do blind, I have always been doing them, it's just that now, I have to concentrate more, and I do them differently." She goes on to add, "As a blind person, and because I have had sight before, I have the ability to dream. So I dream daylight. I imagine when I am talking to someone, their smile and facial expressions. I see beyond my sight. My vision is beyond what I cannot see."

So what's in store for this



go-getter? Kay's future goals include continuing with technology training, becoming successfully self-employed again, possibly writing a book, and enjoying each day as a gift. Kay stated, "I never thought I would be here at this moment, traveling independently, smiling, feeling good about me, and enjoying the company of other people. When I lost my sight, I thought my life was over. But thanks to the training by organizations like the Lighthouse, I enjoy each day and have hope for my future."

# Thank You!

## 2015 SHOT *in the* DARK *sponsors*

### GOLF TOURNAMENT & WINE DINNER

PRESENTED BY:



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

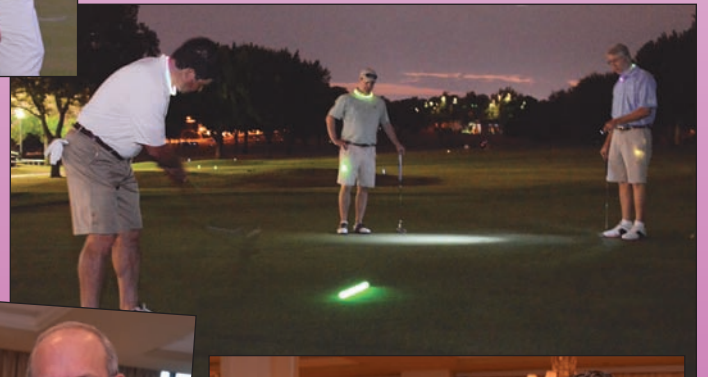
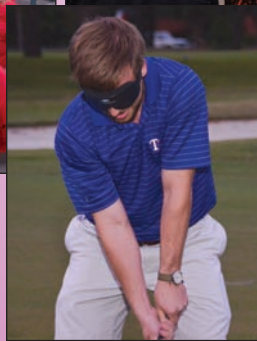


**LIGHTHOUSE**  
for the Blind of Fort Worth

[www.LighthouseFW.org](http://www.LighthouseFW.org)  
[Facebook.com/LighthouseFW](https://www.facebook.com/LighthouseFW)

# SHOT<sup>®</sup> in the DARK *Photo Highlights*

Photos: Jim Byrd Photography



# Empowerment through Employment

## New Attitude Spurs Growth in Manufacturing and Sales

As 2016 fast approaches, the Lighthouse is poised for a great year when it comes to manufacturing and sales. We have a renewed focus on our copy paper, which is our largest revenue generator. This line has been a staple for the Lighthouse since the mid-seventies, and we still see new opportunities for growth in the Fort Worth community as well



as throughout the state. With faster turnaround times, we are listening to our customers and delivering to meet their needs.

Fast Pack Shipping Boxes have been a great product segment for us. We have grown this product line year after year and looking for a record 2016. We have added a new box, XD-4, to the federal procurement list, which now includes over 30 different types. We currently employ over 17 individuals with visual impairments in our box department and are looking to add more with continued growth.

The sky's the limit for us with our Drug Testing product line. We recently added 3 new product categories – Oral Collection & Immediate Read Devices, Urine Sample Lab Kit, and Oral Fluid Drug Test Lab Verification Kits –



to the Works Wonders™ Program\*. We have big plans on the way of manufacturing our own cups by the middle of the year. Accomplishing this exciting goal will result in increasing employment opportunities for up to 5 individuals with visual impairments and hopefully more as we continue to grow.

We added our Spiral Wound Paper Tube line roughly two years ago. We have successfully integrated this product line into the Lighthouse and are becoming a top manufacturer

within this market. Our goal is to add Spiral Wound Mailing Tubes to the Works Wonders™ Program offering next year. Our goal is to have two tube lines operating full-time and being run by 2 individuals with visual impairments.

Finally, our Machine Shop has faced some adversity in the short time we have owned it. However, we have new production personnel in place and they bring with them an attitude of “we can do this and do it right!”

We are adding more customers and taking great care of our existing ones by delivering great quality products that meet the needs of the Oil & Gas markets as well as the Aerospace industry.

The Lighthouse is excited about 2016 and looks forward to a tremendous year! We greatly appreciate all of our vendors and customers and thank you for your support!

For information on the Lighthouse's manufacturing and sales, contact head of Sales and Marketing, Will Frederick at 817-332-3341.



\* WorksWonders is the name of the state use program in Texas. It is a phrase demonstrating the mutually beneficial partnership involving people with disabilities and the state and local government entities that purchase the products, services and temporary employment services offered through nearly 120 statewide Community Rehabilitation Programs.

The AbilityOne® Program is the largest Federal source of employment for people who are blind or have significant disabilities. Through a national network of more than 600 nonprofit agencies, the program provides the Federal Government products and services at fair market prices.



## Community Partners

# Close Encounters at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art

Provided by Tracy Greene

A new public program at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art offers people of all ages with low or no vision the opportunity to experience the artworks in the museum's collection. In the *Close Encounters* program, participants

**AMON  
CARTER**  
MUSEUM OF  
AMERICAN ART

**By hearing the paintings' details while simultaneously feeling the elements described in the tactile tools, visitors who are visually impaired can better appreciate and discuss the artworks.**

and their guests use tactile tools that mimic paintings through raised silhouettes, while museum educator Peggy Sell provides supplementary context and information. By hearing the paintings' details while simultaneously feeling the elements described in the tactile tools, visitors who are visually impaired can better appreciate and discuss the artworks.

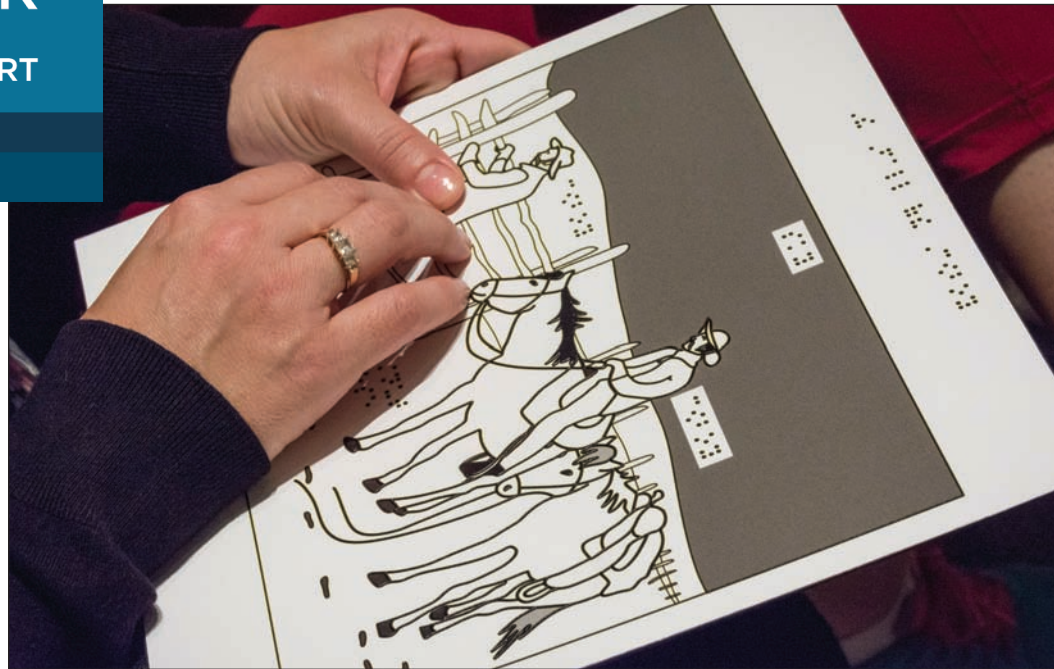
"We understand that visitors who are visually impaired may have a difficult time accessing and interpreting the visual arts," says Sell. "We want to change that. The *Close En-*

*counters* program offers an intimate, welcoming art museum experience."

The 2016 *Close Encounters* programs are scheduled on the following Wednesdays:

program). Call 817.989.5030 or email [visitors@cartermuseum.org](mailto:visitors@cartermuseum.org) to reserve your place and receive helpful instructions and parking information.

The tactile tools used in the *Close Encounters* program are



also available upon advanced request; please use the above contact information. Additional low/no vision resources at the Amon Carter include large print label booklets and tactile experiences in specific galleries, which are available anytime.

This program is generously supported by Alcon Foundation and the Helen Irwin Littauer Educational Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee.

February 10, April 13, June 8 and August 10. The program is free, although reservations are required (registration opens the first day of the month prior to the

In recent months, we have been spotlighting people, activities and opportunities that make us **Lighthouse Proud**. On behalf of the Lighthouse employees, board of directors, and our consumers, we thank you for investing in our mission of empowering the blind and the low vision.

As 2015 comes to a close, please join the Lighthouse in celebrating the ways we are impacting the lives of children and adults who are blind or live with significant low vision:

- The Lighthouse continues to be the **number one Tarrant County employer of individuals who are blind or have significant low vision**.
- On a daily basis, 50+ working aged adults who are sight-impaired come to the Lighthouse with the personal goal of **performing a competitive and meaningful job**. Employees hold positions such as **Receptionist** who greets all Lighthouse guests and callers, an **Orientation & Mobility Instructor** who provides white cane training, a **Band Saw Operator** who assembles boxes and a **Machinist** who runs a mill at our CNC machining operation.
- On a weekly average basis, nine new individuals contact the Rehabilitation Services for assistance and information. Reasons for contact are as varied as their circumstances and ages. It may be a simple question as to where to find an affordable **magnifier** or they may want to know why and how to sign up for



### Braille classes.

It might be a parent requesting someone to come to their home to teach their blind son **how to cook independently** or a son calling on behalf of his elderly mother who has been diagnosed with **Macular Degeneration**.

- The Lighthouse likes to have FUN by hosting the **Lighthouse/DBS Children's Holiday Party, Valentine Dance for Teens, Camp Lighthouse @ the Y, a Day at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, Bingo Night**, and **community service projects** like volunteering at a food pantry.
- The Lighthouse is viewed as a community resource and collaborative partner.

When it comes to what it is meant by being **Lighthouse Proud**, Leslie Hall, head



of Rehabilitation Services, captured it when she said, "The Lighthouse is providing services to more people and reaching more families in the community. Generally, when people think of blindness, words such as: *inability*, *sad* and *dependent* may come to mind. By expanding and connecting, there is an opportunity for more exposure to blindness, which in turn positively impacts the perception held by the general public. We

view it as chipping away at the negative social stigma that has historically been associated with the blind. Our continued goal is for the general public to associate blind individuals with words such as: *confident*, *independent* and *highly capable*.

Our purpose is to raise the general public's expectations of blind people for the purpose of creating a richer, more integrated, and diverse community."

We hope that you too are **Lighthouse Proud** and realize the benefit of continuing your support. Please consider making a year-end gift to the Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth as we plan for 2016. Use the enclosed envelope or visit us at [www.lighthousefw.org/donate](http://www.lighthousefw.org/donate) to make an online gift. For personal assistance, please contact Nancy Fisher at 817-529-7782. And again we say **THANK YOU!**

# Beacons of Hope

## Gifts Received Between November 1, 2014 – October 31, 2015

*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

Albertson's/Safeway  
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## Beacons of Hope *continued...*

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~ In Memory of Jack Kibbee  
Sarah Ray  
~ In Memory of Joan Richardson  
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~ In Memory of Janice Tancred  
Barbara Salers  
~ In Memory of Hazel Markum  
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~ In Memory of Ed Lindsey

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**2015 Shot in the Dark  
Committee**  
Ann Allan, Co-Chair  
Marian Frymire, Co-Chair  
Mark Cundiff  
Nancy Fisher  
David Garcia

Marie Hebron  
Julie Jones  
Drew Martin  
Bric Shelton  
Bridget Shelton  
**INKIND GIFTS**  
Zane Ahlfinger  
Tammy Anthon  
Courtney Blackman  
Casa Manana  
Colleyville Heritage Lions  
Colleyville Lions  
Pat Conner  
Kory Cummings, O.D.  
DARS/DBS  
Donald Davis  
Delta Gamma Alumnae  
Arya Firouzbalcht  
Friends of the Arlington Public  
Library  
Fuzzy's Taco Shop/Todd Olson  
– Berry Street  
**GRACE**  
James Grandpre  
Coach Kevin Harder  
Becky Haskin  
Jeffrey Haughey  
Hilton Garden Inn – Fort Worth  
Medical District  
Molly Holden

Homewood Suites – Fort Worth  
Medical District  
Rod Hood  
Carol Kenel  
Leaman Containers  
Lone Star Guide Dog Raisers –  
Fort Worth  
Patricia Manelli  
Mayda Arista Photographer  
Northeast Richland Hills Lion  
Club  
Robert Ohr  
Amy Quinn  
RadioShack  
Mary Ryglewicz  
Victor Scott  
John C. Tancred  
TCU Delta Gammas  
Texas Rangers  
The Flower Market on 7th  
Vicky Underhill  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Wrotenbery  
Brian Yost/DeckerJones

*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.*

**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 Holiday Gift is a Beacon of Hope*

### *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 21st.**

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

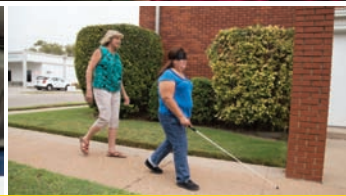
**To make a gift online with credit card, just visit our website at  
[www.lighthousefw.org](http://www.lighthousefw.org).**

**For questions or  
additional assis-  
tance, please call  
Nancy Fisher at  
817-529-7782.**



## EMPOWERING INDEPENDENCE

Serving Tarrant and adjacent counties since 1935, Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth stands ready to freely provide life changing orientation and mobility training, competitive & meaningful employment, and independent living skills training to anyone, any age, whose life has been altered by blindness or significant low vision.



912 W. Broadway | Fort Worth, Texas 76104  
817-332-3341 | [www.lighthousefw.org](http://www.lighthousefw.org) | [www.facebook.com/lighthousefw](https://www.facebook.com/lighthousefw)

Ad design: Ed Woolf

## New Faces at the Lighthouse

*Recently the following new employees  
joined the Lighthouse team:*

**Freddy Atkinson, Machinist III**

**John Bernard, Warehouse Associate I**

**Andrew Bernet, Certified Orientation &  
Mobility Specialist**

**Carl Commander, Jr., Machine Operations  
Supervisor**

**Will Frederick, III, Head of Sales &  
Marketing**

**Norberto Gonzalez, Warehouse Associate I**

**Samuel Hensley, Machinist II**

**Shawn Keen, Assistive Technology  
Specialist**

**Ken Kiesling, CMC Machining Sales  
Representative**

**Justin Martinez, Production Line Worker**

**Uriel Martinez, Machinist Trainee**

**William Patton, Jr., Production Line Worker**

**Joshua Perry, Production Line Worker**

**Joseph Pike, Inventory Control Purchase  
Analyst**

***Welcome! We're Lighthouse Proud!***