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 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 cosmetologist 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 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 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

continued on page 3
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
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 explains 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.”

You 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.
Thank You!

2015 SHOT in the Dark Sponsors
Golf Tournament & Wine Dinner

Presented by:

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TPG

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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
Facebook.com/LighthouseFW
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.
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 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 Encounters program offers an intimate, welcoming art museum experience.”

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

- February 10
- April 13
- June 8
- August 10

The program is free, although reservations are required (registration opens the first day of the month prior to the program). Call 817.989.5030 or email 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.

Provided by Tracy Greene
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 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.

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<th>Individuals, Corporations, Community</th>
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Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth
## Beacons of Hope continued...

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- Robert D. & Catherine R. Alexander Foundation
- Arlington Tomorrow Foundation
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- The Beasley Foundation
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- Amon G. Carter Foundation
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- Virginia Clay Dorman Foundation in honor of Luis Oliver Vargas
- The DuBose Family Foundation
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- The Holloway Family Foundation
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- Utta O. Whaley Trust, JPMorgan, Trustee
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- John McIntyre
- In Memory of Dick Cappleman
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- In Memory of Jay Morrish
- In Memory of Pat Eubanks
- In Memory of Jack Kibbee
- Sarah Ray
- In Memory of Alonzo Moss
- Mr. & Mrs. Harold Phillips
- Fran Smith
- In Memory of Janice Tancred
- Barbara Salers
- In Memory of Hazel Markum
- Jim & Norma Walker
- In Memory of Ed Lindsey

### Tarrant County Association for the Blind Endowment Fund
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- In Memory of Wayne Pound
- Elinor Cocca
- In Memory of Cecilia Klawitter
- R. Joe Dunnam
- Susan D. & Mark A. Jackson
- Charles Louderback
- N. David Moore
- Bob & Susie Mosteller
- In Memory of Mark Dodd
- In Memory of Marshall Cooper
- In Memory of Alonzo Moss
- Mr. & Mrs. Harold Phillips
- Fran Smith
- In Memory of Willie Mae Smith
- TPG Match
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- Fuzzy’s Taco Shop
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- Jim Byrd Photography
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- Lighthouse Employees
- Little Red Wasp
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.

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

For questions or additional assistance, please call Nancy Fisher at 817-529-7782.
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Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth

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!

Recently the following new employees joined the Lighthouse team:

912 W. Broadway  |  Fort Worth, Texas 76104
817-332-3341  |  www.lighthousefw.org  |  www.facebook.com/lighthousefw

Ad design: Ed Woolf