We are both happy and sad to announce the retirement of Alex Rosalez. Alex has been an outstanding employee for more than 30 years. His years of service have been a true inspiration for all of us and his contributions were integral to our success and continuity. “We’re going to miss Alex so much,” says co-worker Angela Yount. “I’m pretty sure most of us here would agree with me when I say: Thank you Alex, first for being a friend. Second, for being a great mentor to many of us. And third, for being the most wonderful co-worker anyone could have.”
Dear Blind People,

Is it true that you can’t work once you lose your vision? There can’t be that many jobs you can do...

Sincerely,
Sighted People

Dear Sighted People,

Believe it or not, with proper training and equipment people who are visually impaired or blind can gain successful employment in just about any industry they’d like! Take a closer look around your community and you can find people who are visually impaired in a wide variety of positions. Richard Bernstein is a judge of the Michigan Supreme Court and has been blind since birth. Russell Shaker starting losing his vision at age 10 and is now the Senior Manager of Corporate Affairs - Constituent Relations for Walmart. Mike Newman lost his sight at age 8 but this didn’t stop him from becoming a bank manager and the fastest blind race car driver holding over eight world records!

Here at the Lighthouse, we have over 35 employees who are visually impaired or blind, working in client services, manufacturing, sales, and even an optical lab. Losing your vision doesn’t mean life stops. You just find new ways to continue doing the things you did before.

Sincerely,
Blind People

Let's Get SOCIAL

Are you following Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth on social media? If not, here are three good reasons to hop on board!

1. Keep Yourself Up-to-Date: We are actively sharing stories on our social media channels about everything we have going on.
2. Ask, Comment, or Praise: Social media is a wonderful place for communication! We will gladly answer all your questions and will appreciate all feedback and suggestions.
3. Get To Know Us: Follow us to hear the stories of the people who make up our Lighthouse family and how you can help to support our mission.

facebook.com/Lighthousefw

@FortWorthLighthouse

@FWLighthouse

youtube.com/Lighthousefw

www.lighthousefw.org

Main Phone: 817.332.3341
Volunteer Opportunities

**Home Visitor** – Assist Lighthouse clients with grocery shopping, mail reading, letter writing, and running errands. *Commitment: 2 – 4 times a month*

**Telephone Reassurance** – Call homebound Lighthouse clients to provide friendship. *Commitment: 2 - 4 times a month*

**Lighthouse CCTV Loaner Program** – Assist in the delivery of donated CCTVs to Lighthouse clients. *Commitment: 2 – 6 times a month or as needed by Client Services*  *Must be able to lift 50 pounds*

**Transportation Driver** – Provide transportation to Lighthouse clients and/or staff for Lighthouse activities and appointments, running errands and medical appointments. *Commitment: 2 – 4 times a month and as needed*

**Special Events** – Assist with Lighthouse events ranging from monthly classes to holiday parties. *Commitment: Varies depending on event needs*

Apply online at LighthouseFW.org/volunteer.

If you have any questions, please contact **Rebecca Smith** at 817-332-3341 or rsmith@lighthousefw.org.

*All volunteers are required to complete a background check*
Oscar Olvera operating our brand new Wire Contour Cutting Machine

Pete Geren with the Sid W. Richardson Foundation presented a check to the Lighthouse for the Blind in the amount of $106,000 to purchase a Wire Contour Cutting Machine. Left to right: Anael Luebanos, Pete Geren, Platt L. Allen III, Kristi Hasty, Lisa Fellers

Dennis Lynch and Dennis Pike working on the new box stitchers funded from the 2017 Spring Appeal

James Shelby working on the new box stitcher

Ira Smith Employee of the Year - 2017 National Industries for the Blind National Symposium

Kevin Higgins, Senator Ted Cruz & Rebecca Smith Coffee with Cruz on Capitol Hill
Client Services and Aetna Volunteers with all the campers

Each camper received a backpack full of gifts

Students working together during their orientation and mobility scavenger hunt

Our campers were full of laughter and smiles

Students learned how to cook burgers on George Foreman Grills

Enjoying chips and a cheeseburger
"Before getting out of your Uber or Lyft, ALWAYS ask the driver exactly where you are in relation to your destination to avoid looking like a burglar!" – Steve

Steve found himself in quite an uncomfortable situation one day after catching an Uber home...
"After being dropped off by Uber, I used my white cane to locate the path up to the door and tried using my key to unlock my front door. For some reason the key wouldn’t turn, I kept wiggling the key trying to unlock my front door but it wouldn’t turn. I began running through the different reasons as to why my key wasn’t working. Did I have the wrong keys or maybe my wife changed the locks on the door thinking it’d teach me a lesson... And then I began noticing other things that didn’t seem right, my surroundings were out of place. When did we put a potted plant next to our door? What happened to the shrubs in front of the house? Don’t we have a window next to our front door? I then realized I had a bigger problem. Perhaps I had been dropped off at the wrong house! Fearing that the owner may think I’m trying to break into their home, I did what any reasonable person would do! Turned around, began walking away quickly, and looking over my shoulder occasionally to make sure no one saw me and realizing simultaneously that looking over your shoulder doesn’t help if you’re blind! Once I reached the sidewalk, I headed for the next driveway in hopes it would be mine. Luckily it was and I was able to calm down. I can only hope that my neighbors were not home that day!" – Steve

Send your Awkward Blind Moments to: rsmith@lighthousafw.org or post them to our Facebook page for a chance to have it featured in our next issue!
Ways You Can Help...

- **Make A Donation:** No gift is too small to make a difference in the life of someone who is visually impaired. Donate at [www.lighthousefw.org/donate](http://www.lighthousefw.org/donate)
- **Volunteer:** We appreciate each and every person who donates their time and efforts to support our mission. Apply at [www.lighthousefw.org/volunteer](http://www.lighthousefw.org/volunteer)
- **Randalls Good Neighbor Program:** Tom Thumb and Albertsons shoppers can link Lighthouse’s account number (233257) to their Remarkable card, and we will receive a percentage of the sales.
- **Kroger Community Rewards:** Kroger shoppers can link their rewards card by using our account number (NN121) in your account settings online, and we will receive a percentage of sales made. [https://tinyurl.com/y9r4fu3j](https://tinyurl.com/y9r4fu3j)
- **Smile.Amazon.com:** Smile.Amazon is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth.
- **Amazon Wish List:** In-kind donations are always appreciated as well. To see what we are in need of, check out our Amazon Wish List at [https://tinyurl.com/y9ygvt7y](https://tinyurl.com/y9ygvt7y)
- **Purchase Lighthouse Products:** Each time you purchase a Lighthouse product, you are creating meaningful and competitive job opportunities. [www.lighthousefw.org/our-products/](http://www.lighthousefw.org/our-products/)

Your support allows Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth to be a companion to individuals who are visually impaired or blind.
Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth is here to help guide and train you through this difficult time of transition. Our Client Services team will be your companion as you learn new skills to continue living independently. We specialize in the following areas:

- Assistive Technology
- Independent Living
- Orientation & Mobility

All services are offered at no charge! Call us today at 817.332.3341 for a tour of our facility or visit our website for more information - www.lighthousefw.org.