



West Texas Lighthouse for the Blind

The Spotlight

www.lighthousefortheblind.org

December 2016

Jobs Provide Independence



Linda Lawson grew up in Michigan, but she got to Texas as fast as she could. She was a normal teenager going to public schools and she graduated from Clarenceville High School in Livonia, Michigan.

She started working as a material handler for a conveyor systems company, Jervis B. Webb. Linda enjoyed her job and had no plans of leaving.

In 1996 at the age of 38, she noticed that her vision was getting a little

fuzzy, so she went to the eye doctor for a routine checkup, thinking she might have cataracts.

Unfortunately, she had a rare eye disease Serpiginous Retinopathy, and within two weeks Linda lost most of her sight.

"My first thought when I lost my sight," Linda said. "I'm 38 years old and I don't want to sit at home, what will I do." So, she started working for her mother's house cleaning business.

"Because of my low vision, I was very careful and made sure everything was super clean". The customer's loved her cleaning and always complimented her on doing a good job.

This led to another opportunity, working for the Marriott properties. Linda always gives 100% and in 2001 was named the Service Team Member of the Year and was later promoted to chief engineer of maintenance.

Linda's Story Continued

After both of her parents passed away, Linda decided to make a change in her life. She had friends that lived in Odessa, Texas and decided to make the move.

After living in Odessa for about a year, and unable to find any job opportunities, she heard about the West Texas Lighthouse for the Blind.

She contacted the Division for Blind Services and they set-up for her to take a tour of the facility. Shortly after, she moved to San Angelo and started working at the Lighthouse.



Linda working the tubing cutter for our Bend EZ flexible prison pen.

Linda enjoys working at the Lighthouse and is always willing to learn to operate new machinery or a new task when asked. "She is very versatile and can operate many different types of machines; auto stapler and bagger, tubing cutter, shrink wrapper and tape machine. I can move her to whatever position I need. She is dependable and always comes to work with a willing attitude", Leslie Bell, supervisor.

Linda's hard work has paid off and in 2015 she was named Federal Em-

ployee of the Year. Pictured to the left is Mayor, Dwain Morrison presenting Linda with her certificate. Linda attended the national conference in Alexandria, Virginia in September.

"Working at the Lighthouse has given me the opportunity to purchase my own home. I was able to watch the construction as it was being built, I take great pride in that".

"My plan for the future is to continue to work at the Lighthouse".

National Disability Employment Awareness Month



MAKE A PURCHASE THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

October was Disability Employment Awareness Month. We partnered with San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind at Goodfellow AFB and set-up a table at the Commissary to promote Ability One Skilcraft products and our military resale items.

The San Antonio Lighthouse operates the Base Supply Center at Goodfellow and has an office supply store on base.

This store allows military personnel and federal employees to shop for their office supplies and other items without leaving Goodfellow. Products made by the West Texas Lighthouse are available in the store.

Pictured left to right is: Manuel Zavala, West Texas Lighthouse for the Blind and Lois McGill, Base Supply Center. Both Manuel and Lois are legally blind.

Justin Unger

State Employee of the Year



In September the TIBH Industries, Jobs for People with Disabilities held their annual awards dinner and banquet.

Lighthouse employee, Justin Unger, was our State of Texas Employee of the Year and was nominated for the Artie Lee Hinds Employee of the Year Award.

Justin traveled to Austin and attended the banquet where over 100 employees were recognized for their outstanding job performance during the past

year.

Justin has been cross trained for pen assembly, packaging and operating several machines in the production line including; shrink wrapping, bagging, tube cutting and blister packing machines. Justin also works in the lanyard assembly line.

Justin's positive attitude, productivity and versatility is why he was selected for this honor.



L to R: Guest Speaker Rock Bleier, (former Pittsburgh Steelers player) Justin Unger and Ed Serna, (Deputy Executive Director of the Texas Workforce Commission)



Save money today, Change Lives Forever

What do you look for when ordering office supplies—low price, quick delivery, friendly customer service? Our office supply business, LighthouseOfficeSupply.com offers all of these and the customer service is local.

We offer over 50,000 products at low competitive prices and most orders ship the same day.

Canyon Sullivan, is the voice on the other end of the line. He is totally blind and with the use of adaptive equipment he is able to set up appointments, handle customer inquiries and do any task that any sighted person can do.

LighthouseOfficeSupply.com allows us to provide Canyon this job opportunity and with your purchase we can continue to offer new opportunities to people who are blind or visually impaired.

Order online anytime-anywhere or give Canyon a call 325-653-4231 or 844-496-3367
www.lighthouseofficesupply.com



Service Awards



Employee of the Month



Perfect Attendance



Halloween Costume Contest



The Lighthouse is pleased to announce the following new employees to our team:

Mark Dudley	Rita Temple
Nicola Trejo	Kim McDaniel
Tammy Fuson	Paula Minor
Anita Paulin	

BUY FROM US—Make a purchase that makes a DIFFERENCE



www.lighthousefortheblind.com

www.LighthouseOfficeSupply.com

www.LanyardsXpress.com

West Texas Lighthouse for the Blind • 2001 Austin Street • San Angelo, Texas 76903 • 325-653-4231