

THE SPOTLIGHT



Official Newsletter for
West Texas Lighthouse for the Blind
2001 Austin Street
San Angelo, Texas 76903

www.lighthousefortheblind.org

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VISION OF SUCCESS

For nearly three years Michelle Charles has been employed full time at the Lighthouse. She has been legally blind since 2003. Michelle was employed for many years and enjoys the independence she has rediscovered after struggling initially with the loss of her eyesight.

“Before I started working at the Lighthouse, I was living off of Social Security and wondering why I should even get out of bed when I had nothing to do.” When she began considering the Lighthouse, she questioned if she would be up to the task. “I used to think that



there was no way I could do any job again. Now I think to myself, why can't I do it?” While Michelle is thankful for her job, she is even happier with her renewed self confidence. “I want to be trained on everything. I like to operate the shrink wrap ma-

chine the best, but I want to try as many different jobs as possible. There are a lot of misconceptions we (people with blindness) can function and work, I live one day at a time, just like you. It's a good feeling to change your life.”

State Representative Drew Darby Visits Lighthouse

The Lighthouse was honored in October when State Representative Drew Darby took time from his busy schedule to tour the Lighthouse.

Representative Darby is a strong supporter of the

Lighthouse and knows how important our mission is to provide jobs for people who are blind or visually impaired.

Pictured L-to-R: Representative Drew Darby, Manuel Zavala, Dave Wells, seated John McCarthy.



70% of blind Americans are unemployed. Employment provides independence and self worth.



Lighthouse Employees Attend Conference



Allen Adamson and Kevin Lynch

In October, the National Industries for the Blind (NIB) held their annual training conference and expo in Alexandria, Virginia. The Lighthouse had two employees nominated for awards who attended the conference. Allen Adamson, Logistics Supervisor was nominated for the Milton J. Samuelson Career Achieve Award. Allen has worked at the Lighthouse for three years, and is cur-

rently enrolled in NIB Business Management classes and attending Howard College.

John McCarthy was nominated for the Peter J. Salmon Employee of the Year Award. John has worked at the Lighthouse for 35 years and was nominated based on his quality of work, productivity and attitude.

Allen and John are pictured with Kevin Lynch, President of NIB.



John McCarthy and Kevin Lynch



Lighthouse Develops New Products

The Lighthouse continues to add new products to provide jobs for people who are blind and visually impaired.

A complete line of self stick notes, flags and a pop-up dispenser (pictured) have been added through a partnership with the Lighthouse in Rochester, New York. Individual spices for the military commissary, clear vinyl re-sealable badge holders and emergency roadside kit have also been added to the product line over the past few months.

These products provide hand assembly and packaging opportunities for Lighthouse employees.



L-to-R: Bill Bates, Rudy Munoz, John Luna and Gib DuTerroil

Rudy Munoz Nominated for the Artie Lee Hinds Award

Texas Industries for the Blind and Handicapped (TIBH) in Austin held their annual awards banquet and expo in September. Each year they honor nominees from agencies throughout Texas who are nominated for the Artie Lee Hinds Awards.

Rudy Munoz has been employed at the Lighthouse for over a year and has low vision due to diabetes and macular degeneration. He is responsible for receiving inbound shipments in addition to organizing and maintaining the warehouse. Rudy's positive attitude and attention to detail were just a few of the reasons he was nominated for this award.

SkilCraft products are created with pride by Americans who are blind. Every purchase creates jobs.



Submarine Wet Bag—Made in the USA

The Submarine Wet Bag, also known as the compact trash bag, is made here in San Angelo, Texas. We are the only manufacturer for the United States Military.

These bags were designed to store biodegradable kitchen waste when the submarines are submerged under water. The bags fit into a rolled sheet metal can about three feet tall and about 12 inches wide. A weight is placed in the bottom of the bag and trash is compressed until the bag weighs approximately 50-60 pounds. This is done so the trash does not float to the surface. The bags are then placed in a vertical torpedo tube and launched to the bottom of the ocean.

These bags were designed during World War II so fisherman and other vessels could not gather up floating trash and go through it to collect valuable information.

These bags are made of 100% USA cotton material, thread and drawstrings.

Size: Top 14", Bottom 10", Side 25"

The bags are bundled 24 into one bag with the drawstring pulled to contain 25 total bags per bundle.



24 bags are packed into one bag to make a bundle of 25 bags.

White Cane Day

Lighthouse employees wear their White Cane Day shirts on October 15th. White Cane Day is a national observance to celebrate the achievements of people who are blind or visually impaired. The white cane is an important symbol of blind-

ness and a tool of independence.

Everyday, millions of Americans who are blind or visually impaired use a white cane to get to work, school, shop or travel. This year marked the 50th Anniversary of the White Cane Day.



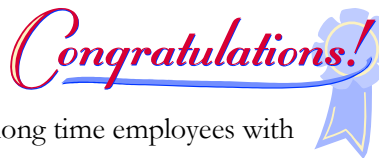
Lighthouse Says Goodbye

The Lighthouse lost one of our family members on Tuesday, August 26, 2014. Jack Compere worked at the Lighthouse over 20 years and will be missed by all of us. He was a man strong in his faith, he was kind, gentle and always had a smile for everyone. Every day as Jack would leave the Lighthouse he would always say, "Have a Blessed Day." He set a great example for all of us to follow. Jack, we will miss you. Rest in peace, our dear friend.



Jack Compere
April 12, 1943—August 26, 2014

Service Awards



The Lighthouse recently presented two long time employees with service awards.



Left: John McCarthy and Dave Wells
35 Years of Service



Right: Donald McCutcheon and Dave Wells
25 Years of Service

Our Wish List

Even though the Lighthouse has been striving to increase sales and remain competitive, we are still in need of additional equipment and donations.

If you would like to help, please consider the following needs:

- ◆ Talking Scales
- ◆ Packaging Equipment
- ◆ Equipment for Abilene

New Employees

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

- Margaret Alderman
- Martin Rosales
- Olga Garza
- Jeremy Simmons
- Amy Walls

Tours of the Lighthouse
Available: Monday-Friday
Time: 8:00-3:30

To schedule a tour:
Call: 325-653-4231



Faces of the Lighthouse

