



THE SPOTLIGHT

Official Newsletter
West Texas Lighthouse for the Blind

Fall/Winter 2021

Benefits of the New Building

- Allows us to expand our opportunities and continue to hire people who are blind or visually impaired.
- 60,000 square feet, allows us to move four buildings into one.
- Allows us to consider projects that were previously not possible due to limited space.
- **Additional Space** makes our manufacturing process more efficient.
- **The Loading dock** allows shipping and receiving to be more stream lined.
- **Lighthouse Office Supply** is now in the main building and as you shop you can see manufacturing in process.

WE DID IT...MADE THE MOVE



555 East 6th Street, San Angelo, Texas

Well we did it!!! We have made the move to our new building. We knew it wouldn't be easy and we worked hard, so it would not interrupt our day to day business.

Our new location is 555 East 6th Street, some of you may remember this as the Winn Dixie from the 90's and later Christians in Action.

It is such a great feeling to have all of our operations under one roof; offices, ware-

house, manufacturing, shipping and receiving and the Lighthouse office supply store.

The much needed space has allowed our manufacturing to spread out and not be so compact. Also, the additional space for the warehousing of our raw materials and finished goods in one location has already made us more efficient.

A **BIG Thank you** to all our donors who helped make this possible.

Lighthouse Office Supply

The Lighthouse Office Supply store is now located at our new building.

The store carries a variety of office supplies, toner, furniture, etc. Our catalog offers over 50,000 products, with free shipping and in most cases arrives the next day.

We also have an entire section of blind made products, so you can purchase items that are made or packaged right here in San Angelo.

Stop by and check out our new store:

Monday-Friday Hours: 8:00-4:00

Or shop online: www.LighthouseOfficeSupply.com



WorkQuest Banquet & Expo



Doug pictured with guest speaker Daryl Johnston, former Dallas Cowboy.

WorkQuest held its annual banquet and expo during September in Austin, Texas.

The Works Wonders Program provides job opportunities for people who are blind or have other disabilities in the State of Texas. There are 125+ agencies in Texas that provide products or services for the State Use Program and this program employs over 6,000 people with disabilities.

Doug Wheatley was the Lighthouse nominee for Employee of the Year at this year's banquet. Doug is the production foreman at our Abilene

location and does an outstanding job. Doug worked for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice as a prison guard and during an eye exam he was told he was losing vision in both eyes.

Doug needed to work to provide for his family and the Division for Blind Services told him about the Lighthouse. He has worked for the Lighthouse for over two years and is a great asset to our agency.

Doug is so thankful he found the Lighthouse; *"This job provides me the opportunity to do things I didn't know I could do again"*

COVID IMPACTS ORDERS

It has definitely not been business as usual since Covid appeared. The Lighthouse has modified work stations and put in safety measures for the safety of the staff and employees.

We were lucky and did not have to suspend or shutdown operations, we were able to continue to process and ship orders.

With many of the state and federal offices working remotely, the size and make-up of orders were different than in years past. We are seeing more agencies going back to the office and orders are now trending back to normal.

The virus did provide us with the opportunity to add some new PPE equipment to our current product offerings. We now offer face shields; reusable face mask, disposable face mask and neck gaiters. These new items helped keep our employees working.

All of these products are available on our website or in the Lighthouse Office Supply Store.

Stop by or order online:

www.lighthouseofficesupply.com



Mark Dudley Nominated for NIB Award

Due to Covid, the National Industries for the Blind had to cancel the 2021 training conference and expo in DC, so we were unable to attend and take Mark.

He was nominated for the Peter J. Salmon Award, which is the outstanding worker of the year.

Mark was born with very low vision in his left eye and after several unsuccessful surgeries, they were unable to repair the

vision. He really cannot see anything with his left eye, but does have limited vision in his right eye. He is a graduate of Angelo State University and has worked for the Lighthouse for over five years.

Mark works in hand assembly and is very versatile. He has worked as an office and logistics clerk and can operate a majority of the machinery in production. He has a great can-do attitude and we are lucky to have him.

Manuel Zavala Nominated for Upward Mobility Award



Manuel was nominated for the Milton J. Samuelson Award for upward mobility.

Manuel came to work at the Lighthouse in 2008 in the position of hand assembly. He soon was promoted to material handler. When the opportunity became available, he moved into the position of Product

Development Assistant.

Manuel's job is to help find and develop products that can be packaged, assembled or made by people who are blind or visually impaired.

Manuel is no stranger to blindness, having experienced vision loss due to diabetes in 2006. He understands the day to day challenges of being visually impaired.

Manuel uses a ZoomText magnifier, which enlarges and enhances everything on the computer screen, making it easier to use and see.

Pictured are some of the most recent products that Manuel has helped develop: Mini correction tape; gel highlighters and credential holders.



Congratulations To Lorenzo

Our very own Lorenzo Reyna graduated from Angelo State University in May, with a degree in business management.

This is such an accomplishment and we are so proud of him. Lorenzo has worked at the Lighthouse for over three years and is the human resource specialist and customer service.

Lorenzo has a condition called Retinitis Pigmentosa, which is genetic and is from the Usher's Syndrome, which impairs his sight

and hearing. He is a true example of not letting anything stop you.

Not only was Lorenzo working full-time, he was also carrying a full class load. He is also a family man and has been married for nine years and has two children ages eight and seven.

He's not stopping now, he is currently taking classes and pursuing his master's degree.

We are so proud of you...keep up the good work.



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Every Purchase Provides Jobs for People Who are Blind or Visually Impaired



www.lighthousefortheblind.org

www.lighthouseofficesupply.com

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Due to COVID we have not been able to schedule an open house, so here's a *Sneak Peak!*

Come on in—

