



# *the* Spotlight

July 2022

## 2022 Federal Employee of the Year

### Zebadia Rodriguez

Zebadia has worked in our assembly and packaging department since 2019. Everyday she walks through our front door with a big, beautiful smile ready to work.

Her first few years were not easy, having both eyes removed by the age of two, due to Retinoblastoma, a rare type of eye cancer.

She was born in Micronesia, but her mother wanted her to receive a better education, so they moved to Salem, Oregon. She graduated from high school in 2012 and moved to Texas in 2019.

Zebadia loves to listen to audiobooks of all different genres and plans on attending college in the near future. She feels her two greatest accomplishments so far, are graduating from high school and being named employee of the year.

Her hard work ethic, great attitude and personality are a great example of why she was selected for this award.

Zebadia will be recognized at our National Training Conference in Washington D.C. in October.





We continue to introduce new products to provide jobs for people who are blind or visually impaired.



Julia Macias assembling the new RFID Flip & Scan ID Card Holder



Marilyn Parsons assembling the new Patriotic Lanyard



Frances Toothaker assembling the new Frosted Card Holder

## Congressman August Pfluger Visits Lighthouse

Congressman Pfluger stopped by the Lighthouse to tour our new facility and hand out some awards.

He is a great supporter of our mission and the work we do here, and it is always an honor when he stops by.

"Hearing the stories about how each of these people got here and how they came to work here is really neat. We go through different circumstances in life and you can't plan for it but to see the opportunities that are presented here is amazing," said Representative Pfluger.



## Time to Hit the Road....

Stephen Horton, our production manager, retired at the end of December.

Stephen worked at the Lighthouse for almost 15 years. He managed the production floor, receiving, shipping and maintenance. He was also our IT guy—so he will definitely be missed.

Stephen took the lead on our new building and worked with the city and contractors to help make the move as smooth as possible.



Stephen plans on traveling, working in his garden and just taking some time to relax. We will miss you, enjoy your much needed retirement.



Come Visit our Store at our New Location  
555 East 6th Street  
325-653-4231

# Saying Goodbye to Bob Porter

Robert "Bob" Porter the former President and CEO of the Lighthouse passed away in April of this year.

He spent more than 25 years leading and directing the Lighthouse and saving the organization from bankruptcy. His efforts and steadfast dedication to provide jobs to the blind and visually impaired made the Lighthouse one of the most successful small lighthouses in the country.

Bob was the inventor of the Bend EZ flexible pen. This pen is sold today to prisons and medical facilities all over the US and is 100% made by blind Americans.

For 25 years, when anyone talked about the West Texas Lighthouse, they would always refer to Mr. Porter.

Bob considered one of his greatest accomplishments at the Lighthouse during his 25 years was keeping the



doors open, and he would always say that was only by the grace of God.

Mr. Porter, you will be missed.



## Lighthouse Employees Attend National Symposium

National Industries for the Blind held their National Symposium in Arlington, Virginia in April.

Mark Dudley and Manuel Zavala 2021 Employees of Year, attended the symposium and NIB had activities designed to celebrate their achievements.

Manuel, who is also a member of the Advocates for Leadership Employment program, had meetings with members of Congress and their staff, on providing employment opportunities for people who are blind or visually impaired.



## Schedule a Tour

We are all moved in and would love to give you a tour and show off our new facility.

We take great pride in our mission and providing jobs for people who are blind or visually impaired.

We would love to show you our manufacturing operation.

### Come See Us

Tours are available Monday-Friday. Just give us a call and we can take care of you.

Call: 325-653-4231

555 East 6th Street  
San Angelo, Texas 76903

## 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.

Thank you for your continued prayers and generous support over the years.

Donations can be made on our website:

[www.lighthousefortheblind.org](http://www.lighthousefortheblind.org)

or mail to:

555 East 6th Street  
San Angelo, Texas 76903

# Faces Around the Lighthouse



**BUY FROM US—Make a purchase that makes a DIFFERENCE**



[www.LighthouseForTheBlind.com](http://www.LighthouseForTheBlind.com)

[www.LighthouseOfficeSupply.com](http://www.LighthouseOfficeSupply.com)

[www.LanyardsXpress.com](http://www.LanyardsXpress.com)

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