



**West Texas Lighthouse for the Blind**

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

Creating Jobs, Changing Lives

# *the* **Spotlight**

June 2020

## The Lighthouse is on the Move



As we are half way into the new year, we are delighted to announce that the Lighthouse will be making a move in 2020.

Last year, the Lighthouse purchased the former Christian's in Action building at 555 6th Street. Those of you who are familiar with the Lighthouse, know that we have been bulging at the seams for years. In order for us to expand our opportunities and continue to hire people who are blind

or visually impaired, we needed more space.

And what a space it will be! The new building is 60,000 square feet (about double the size we currently have), and will allow us to move all four buildings under one roof; our manufacturing facility, Lighthouse Office Supply store and our two warehouses.

This much needed space will allow us to work more efficiently, and allow us

to consider projects in the past we were unable to pursue due to the limited amount of space.

We have a long way to go, but we are so thankful for this new opportunity and excited for the months ahead when we will begin the remodel phase of the building.

The West Texas Lighthouse for the Blind currently has 83 employees at three locations; San Angelo, Abilene and Midland.

# SKILCRAFT Reusable Shopping Bags

The Lighthouse packages reusable shopping bags for the military commissary. Pictured below are employees packing one of the summer collapsible bags.



Paul Valdez



Mary Ferguson



Louis Mann



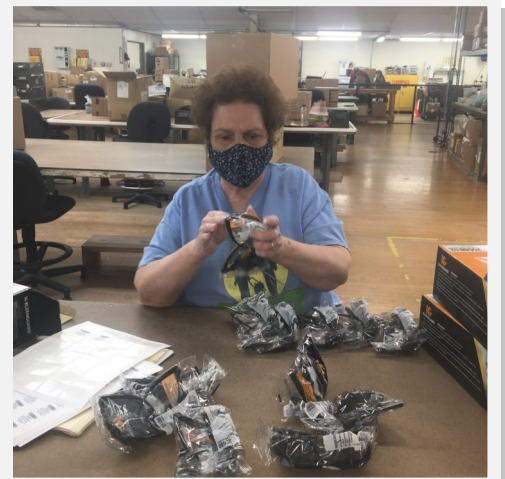
Pallets read to go out.

## State of Texas Purchases Safety Equipment

The Sales of our safety items have been strong with the State of Texas.

With the outbreak of Covid-19, the sale of our PPE Equipment; dust mask, gloves and safety glasses have been steady. This has helped keep our employees busy with the packaging of these items. With a large majority of the state offices working remote, there has not been a great need for office supplies.

These safety items, along with other safety products have allowed us to continue to keep people employed. We currently offer 25 different styles of gloves, two different styles of



dust mask and 24 different styles of safety glasses we sell to the State of Texas.

## Midland Gets Facelift

The building has been remodeled and now has new siding it looks great. The building was purchased in 2018 and

renovations are now complete. We currently have 10 blind and visually impaired employees and a supervisor.



Midland Lighthouse,  
211 South Lee Street, Midland, Texas

They assemble several different styles of writing instruments and neck lanyards for our state and federal customers.

If you would like to apply for a job or have questions, call the Lighthouse for details 325-653-4231.

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# Meet Rachael Salazar from the Abilene Lighthouse

Meet Rachael Salazar, she works in hand assembly at our Abilene location.

She is visually impaired due to a traumatic childhood injury and has had numerous operations over the years to help retain the limited sight she has.

Rachael always dreamed of being a court reporter, so she took shorthand and stenographer classes. She had excellent grades, but her vision became progressively worse causing blackouts, so she had to stop taking classes.

“Losing my vision was hard, I got depressed, felt useless and didn’t think I would ever be able to do anything again”. “Coming to work at the Lighthouse, has given me a purpose and self worth. I found out that I can do things and I plan on taking computer classes in the future”.

Rachael has worked at the Lighthouse



for 3 1/2 years and was named Employee of the Month for February.

When not at work, Rachael loves to cook. She said family members have their own special dish and they put in request for her to make it. She has two great kids and three adorable granddaughters. Rachael feels blessed and thankful for her family and the Lighthouse.

## Thank You GSA

We want to thank the staff at GSA (General Services Administration) for working with us and approving our new products.

Carol Brown and her team (top picture) in GSA New York, Region 2, review and approve all the office products.

Cassandra Reed and her team (bottom picture) in GSA Ft. Worth, Region 7, review and approve all of the Janitorial/Safety items; lanyards, barricade tape, lens wipes.



## Store is Open for Business

Due to the Covid-19 virus, the store was shutdown temporarily for employee and customer safety. We are now back open for business and ready to serve you. Shop online for our full catalog, [www.lighthouseofficesupply.com](http://www.lighthouseofficesupply.com) or stop by the store 1953 Austin Street.

The store will be moving to our new location 555 East 6th in the near future. Watch for clearance and moving sales on our Facebook page.

**2020** will be a year of change and great things are taking place.

## 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:

- Shelving
- Scissor Lift
- Production Tables
- New breakroom tables and chairs

Donations can be made on our website:

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

or mail to:

2001 Austin Street

San Angelo, Texas 76903

# EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

# Service Awards



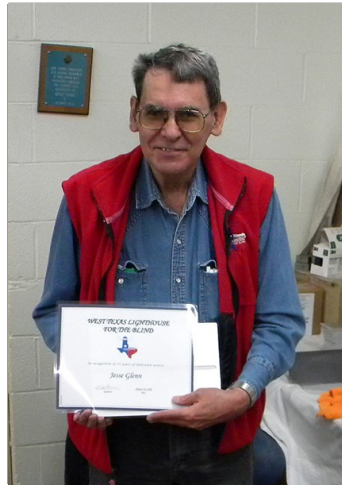
**January**  
Manuel Zavala, Jr.



**February**  
Rachael Salazar



**March**  
Alice Grajeda



Jessie Glenn –35 Years



Joshua Glaze—10 Years



Louis Mann—10 Years



Paul Cabajal—2 Years



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

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West Texas Lighthouse for the Blind ● San Angelo, Texas | Abilene, Texas | Midland, Texas ● 325-653-4231