



# THE SPOTLIGHT

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## A Tidbit of History

The West Texas Lighthouse for the Blind is a manufacturing facility in San Angelo, Texas which employs people who are blind or have severely impaired vision. The Lighthouse was established in 1963 and now has close to 50 team members. We are primarily engaged in the production of writing instruments and over the years have developed several unique pens for niche markets. We are celebrating our 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

The West Texas Lighthouse is a private, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization which is affiliated with the National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and Texas Industries for the Blind and Handicapped (TIBH). The majority of our income comes from the products we make and sell. We do, however, appreciate monetary donations and have many Friends of the Lighthouse who are long time contributors.

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We invite you to visit our updated website at [www.lighthousefortheblind.org](http://www.lighthousefortheblind.org) and browse our products page to learn more about the items that are produced by our visually impaired employees. When you purchase from us, you are helping us to provide jobs for our blind employees.



## Employees Attend TIBH and NIB Conferences

In early October, Lighthouse employee Mary McKamie attended the TIBH 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet in Austin, Tx. She was nominated for the 2008 Artie Lee Hinds Award for Works Wonders Employee of the Year for the State of Texas. TIBH Industries helps provide employment by assisting us in selling our products to the State of Texas.

Ms. McKamie has been employed by the Lighthouse for 27 years. Mary learned Braille, typing and mobility training after becoming blind



## Employees (continued)

Also attending the TIBH conference was Lighthouse employee Kevin Brown who makes writing instruments and operates a tubing cutter. Kevin was blind at birth, after extensive surgery at age six he had partial tunnel vision until the age of 35 when he lost his sight completely. Kevin enjoys playing Jazz music, which he has been doing for 37 years. His credits include opening for the Jazz great BB King and performing for the Queen of England. His specialties include the saxophone, keyboard and percussions. His saxophone playing was the highlight of the TIBH 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Visit Kevin's website at [www.cursebustersound.com](http://www.cursebustersound.com) for his story and music information.



Kevin Brown



Dave Wells and  
Donald McCutcheon

In late October, Donald McCutcheon attended the 2008 NIB Training Conference in Houston, TX. Donald was nominated for the Peter J. Salmon Employee of the Year Award. Donald has been working for the Lighthouse for 33 years. He transferred to the West Texas Lighthouse from the Waco Lighthouse after the Waco Lighthouse closed. He lost his sight at age 21 from cataracts. Donald had a wonderful time at the conference and enjoys working at the Lighthouse.

## Lighthouse has New Executive Director

As of August 29<sup>th</sup>, the Lighthouse announced the selection of David Wells as the new Executive Director. With 20 years of experience, Wells will develop strategies that continue to enhance economic and personal independence of West Texans who are blind through the production of products for the state and federal government.

Wells, a retired Army Corps of Engineers officer, is a graduate of McMurry University in Abilene, Texas, and Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri. After retiring from the U.S. Army, he

worked with various government contractors in the area of facilities maintenance and repair. In addition, prior to joining the West Texas Lighthouse team, Wells worked as an operations manager for Maryland Environmental Services. His goal is to continue to create jobs for people who are blind and visually impaired in San Angelo.

*"Creating Jobs, Changing Lives"  
for over 45 years*

### Upcoming Issue

- Blood Drive
- Holiday Celebration
- Remodeling Completion
- Meet our staff and board members