

THE SPOTLIGHT



SUMMER 2010

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Associated Agencies



National Industries
for the Blind (NIB)



Texas Industries
for the Blind and
Handicapped (TIBH)

Manuel Zavala is Top Worker of 2009

At this year's holiday luncheon, Manuel Zavala received the honor of "Worker of the Year 2009". In addition, San Angelo Mayor Alvin New stopped by the Lighthouse in April to formally recognize Manuel's achievement.



Manuel Zavala (right) and
Mayor Alvin New

Manuel is visually impaired and was recently promoted to Material Handler. He received this honor due to his good attitude, attendance and work ethic.

Manuel has been an employee of the Lighthouse since 2008.

Margene Hale Reaches 35 Years of Service

Long time employee, Margene Hale was recognized for her 35 years of service at the Lighthouse.

She started at the Lighthouse in 1974 when the pen factory was just opening. Working with inventory was her first job, and over time, she earned more responsibility with several different positions in different departments. Margene spent a majority of her years working in the Development Department before becoming the Office Manager, a position she has held for the last 15 years.

She has seen a lot of changes during her time at the Lighthouse. Everything has increased: our size, our number of employees, our products, our sales, and even Margene's satisfaction. "It's been great," said Margene. "We've come a long way."

She was given this award for her outstanding service and dedication over the years.



Margene Hale (left) and
Steve Cecil, Chairman of the
Lighthouse Board of Directors

“Bio-Write” Launch



The highly anticipated launch of our “Bio-Write” pens and highlighter occurred at the beginning of 2010. These items, which are bio-based and biodegradable, are part of our ever-expanding line of Go Green products.

This Earth-friendly line of products currently includes recycled pens, recyclable canvas shopping bags, and “wet bags” used for waste disposal by U.S. Navy submarines. The launch of the “Bio-Write” highlighter and pens is projected to create nine jobs over the next three years.

Not only does it help to conserve our precious environment, but it shows our everlasting commitment to our motto: “Creating jobs, Changing lives.”



Congressman Conaway Awarded for Support



Congressman Conaway (left) and David Wells

Congressman Mike Conaway, who visited the Lighthouse last August, was awarded the “AbilityOne Champion” award by National Industries for the Blind. Congressman Conaway supports our efforts to create good paying jobs with excellent benefits for people who are blind.

He clearly understands the current 70 percent unemployment rate for blind people across the nation is unacceptable and is willing to take action. This award honored his continued commitment to support the employment of people who are blind and visually impaired.

Mayor Alvin New

We were honored to have San Angelo Mayor Alvin New visit our facility on April 2nd. Throughout his tour, he became more aware of how organizations like the Lighthouse benefit the blind and visually impaired by providing them with jobs and economic independence. Mayor New was impressed by our operations and supports our mission.

Leadership and Teamwork Training

In March, Sandra Finley from National Industries for the Blind (NIB) headquarters visited the Lighthouse to conduct leadership and teamwork training to all of our employees. She organized lessons and activities to teach us all how to be effective leaders and co-workers.

Mrs. Finley, who is blind, taught that blindness is not a reason to give up on life but rather an opportunity to succeed. Near the end of her training sessions, she encouraged our employees to continue their education with Business Leadership programs offered by NIB.

Burgers and Bowling



Due to the hard work of our employees, the Lighthouse met its sales goal for January 2010. As a reward, our Executive Director, Dave Wells, treated all the Lighthouse employees to some

food and fun at the Stadium Lanes bowling alley in San Angelo. The employees had long anticipated their return to the bowling alley since the Lighthouse's first trip in April 2009.



After the employees chowed down on burgers and french fries, they wasted no time in knocking down bowling pins. While some bowlers took a slow approach, others were



chunking their ball down the lane to hear a satisfying crash. One crash was different, however, as one employee accidentally threw his bowling ball onto an adjacent lane.

All in all, the crew had fun and bowled quite well. One of our newer employees in particular scored a 225 as he bowled strikes frame after frame. To no surprise, the employees are still working hard to meet our sales goals in hopes that we will someday bowl again.

Holiday Luncheon

The San Angelo Garden Club repeated their annual gift to the Lighthouse by once again providing food for our Christmas Party. For more than 26 years, these ladies have been sharing their holiday season and their goodwill with the Lighthouse. A sincere "THANK YOU" goes out to the Garden Club for their dedication.



Maria Mann: "February Employee of the Month"

Employee of the Month

Each month the Lighthouse recognizes an employee for their hard work and for going the extra mile. We are very fortunate to have these employees working at the Lighthouse.



Jorge Castillo: "March Employee of the Month"

Visit the Lighthouse



We are delighted to show off our Lighthouse, our employees, and our products. If you would like to schedule a tour of our facility, please call us at 325-653-4231.

Recent visitors include:

- KLST News Staff
- Central Florida Lighthouse
- Sandra Finley – NIB
- Cheryl Graeve – President’s Committee
- Bryce Leggett – Leggett Tactical Solutions
- Alvin New – Mayor of San Angelo
- Nancy Ramos-Campanelli – NIB



New Employees

The Lighthouse has again succeeded in its fight to lower the number of unemployed blind people in West Texas and is proud to announce the newest additions to our team:

- Linda Shaffer – Hand Assembly
- Jimmy Berry – Quality Control Tech
- Donald Biniecki – Maintenance Assistant
- Joshua Glaze – Accounting Clerk

Our Wish List

Though the Lighthouse has been striving to increase sales and remain competitive, we are in need of additional equipment and donations. If you are looking for a way to help, please consider the following needs:

