



WINTER 2010

# THE SPOTLIGHT

## Walk for the Blind a Huge Success



John and Listene  
McCarthy out in front



Lighthouse employee  
Flora Duke, Mark  
Hernandez and  
Amanda Hernandez



Robbie and Toby  
Galindo cross the  
finish line with various  
Lighthouse employees

After last year's success, the Lighthouse was determined to make this year's Walk for Blind Awareness an even bigger event.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Walk for Blind Awareness was held at Kirby Park-San Angelo on October 16. The number of participants was astonishing, and the positive atmosphere was unforgettable.

At 8:00AM, the mass of participants set out on the two-mile walk guided by spotters from Alpha Phi Omega, a co-ed service organization at Angelo State University. Some of these spotters also held mile-markers depicting how far the walkers had gone on the path.

After walkers crossed the finish line, they were treated to fruit and healthy refreshments. The walkers also visited booths set up by the Division for Blind Services and La Esperanza Clinic where they received important information about blind issues. In addition, the Lighthouse staff set up a display of our products to show that our blind and visually-impaired

employees are capable and productive contributors to the workforce.

We chose to host the Walk in October because October is the official month for Blind Awareness. The purpose of the Walk, as well as Blind Awareness Month, is to promote awareness of the blind community and to help sighted people learn how to interact with the blind and visually-impaired.

This awareness brings the blind and sighted communities together and fosters understanding about the issues blind people deal with on a daily basis. In turn, this understanding drives out misconceptions about what blind folks are able to do.

Our hope is to build goodwill for the blind, awareness among the sighted, and a better world for all of us.

This year's Walk for Blind Awareness was incredibly successful and was made possible by our sponsors. We wholeheartedly thank HEB, Wal-Mart, Sam's Club and the Downtown Lions Club for their generous support.

## Company Picnic



The Walk for Blind Awareness wasn't the only event we repeated from last year. Since last year's picnic was so much fun, we could think of nothing better than to make it an annual event. On September 16 at 10AM, we closed the Lighthouse doors and our employees and staff headed to the Goodfellow AFB Recreation Camp, located on Lake Nasworthy.

The festivities began immediately with some employees playing tennis and some playing horseshoes. Throughout the day, we danced to a variety of music provided by Manuel Zavala who served as our DJ. The activities settled down, however, as hunger set in. Manuel Zavala's son, Dwayne, grilled beef and chicken, and several other employees brought the rice, beans, and desserts.



The meal was delicious to say the least, and as soon as everyone had their fill, we went on to the main event: BINGO! We played several rounds of Bingo with about two dozen prizes at stake. About half of our employees took home a lunchbox, sweatshirt, camping chair, or cash. With good weather, great food, and fun games, our picnic was a more than memorable event. All of us at the Lighthouse are looking forward to next year.

## Lions Bring Lunch



On October 13, the Dynamic Downtown Lions Club treated the Lighthouse employees to a home-cooked meal. The menu consisted of pork tenderloin, green beans, salad and various desserts. The Lions Club has arranged to provide lunch to all our employees on a quarterly basis. The meal was delicious and we look forward to their next visit. A sincere "THANK YOU" goes out to the Downtown Lions Club for their goodwill and dedication.

## Service Awards Show Appreciation

The Lighthouse initiated a new program this year for recognizing the continued dedication of our employees through service awards. We realize that the success of our Lighthouse is totally dependent on the efforts of our employees and staff; therefore, it was imperative that we express our appreciation to our valued employees by recognizing their length of service with the company. Altogether, we celebrated 450 years of combined service at the Lighthouse.

The service awards ranged from voice-activated alarm clocks to televisions equipped with DVD players. It was an honor to present our employees with such well-deserved gifts, and we are looking forward to repeating this recognition on a quarterly basis.

## A New Development



We are delighted to announce Flora Duke as the newest addition to our office staff.

Flora was referred to us by the Division for Blind Services and started working in our Development Office on August 3.

Since then, we have been training her on a variety of duties that are vital to our business. Flora's primary role is in customer service, wherein she assists clients and answers the telephone while exhibiting her warm personality.

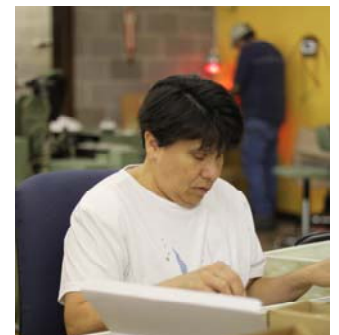
She has become very proficient with accounting tasks such as typing sales orders and invoices. She also completes the clerical work in the office such as filing and organizing mail-outs. At the same time, she has been working diligently at familiarizing herself with our donation software.

This has been a very challenging process for Flora, but she has met every task with hard work and a positive attitude. Flora adds, "The work can be tough, but I thoroughly enjoy my job and the people I work with. I hope to be here for many years to come."

## Maria Mann Attends TIBH Conference

In early October, Lighthouse employee Maria Mann attended the TIBH 32nd Anniversary Banquet in Austin, Texas.

Maria was nominated for the 2010 Artie Lee Hinds Award for Works Wonders Employee of the Year for the state of Texas. She was accompanied by her husband, Louis Mann, also a Lighthouse employee.



Maria was nominated for this award due to her great dependability, hard work, and team spirit. She has been employed by the Lighthouse since August 2009, and within one year, has proven to be a great asset to the Lighthouse. She is currently responsible for packaging and assembling writing instruments and has consistently performed these tasks quickly and accurately.

Maria is always respectful to her co-workers and is always willing to help others in any way she can. We are proud to have her at the Lighthouse, and we congratulate her on this well-deserved and prestigious nomination.

## Going Global



In an effort to actively reach out to the community, the Lighthouse has joined the social network. Look us up on Facebook to read our updates and view our photos. In addition, we have made significant improvements to our website. Check us out at [www.lighthousefortheblind.org](http://www.lighthousefortheblind.org).



James Alba

Louis Mann

Hank Schreiner

## Employees of the Month

Jorge Castillo

Rosa Zertuche

Rudy Munoz

Each month the Lighthouse recognizes an employee for their hard work and for going the extra mile. These employees exhibit a great attitude day in and day out. We are very fortunate to have them working at the Lighthouse.

## 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:

- Doug Chapman – Hanes Industries
- Carolyn Heath – Seeing Hand Association
- Mike Quinley – Hartley-Racon Inc.
- Mary Smith – Baptist Memorial Center
- Ben Stribling – Stribling Funding Corp.
- Dennis Vargus – Concho Resource



## 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:

- Rosa Zertuche
- Johnny Wilridge
- Rodolfo Munoz
- Francisco Padilla
- Allen Adamson
- Flora Duke

## 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:

*Forklift*

*Est. Cost: \$15,000*

*Production Tables*

*Est. Cost: \$1,200 ea*

*Warehouse Shelves*

*Est. Cost: \$20,000*