

News You Can Use - April 2016 Edition

Welcome to News You Can Use from The Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind

I'm Blake Lindsay, our manager of communications. I am a longtime radio broadcaster, and author of the book titled *Blind for a Purpose*. Turning life challenges into Purpose in life. I've been blind since infancy. I'm passionate about staying current on assistive technology and educational events supporting people with visual impairment. I also gain inspiration through success stories. I'm happy to know that my sighted family and friends also find value on these topics.

Our brand new newsletter will identify these subjects, along with expansions in our services, and special activities which include you. Thank you for spreading **News You Can Use** to your families and friends.

To Blind and Visually Impaired CVS Pharmacy Customers

As you may know, both cvs.com and Caremark have been offering ScripTalk talking labels to mail order customers. CVS is now able to ship prescription medications with the ScripTalk talking label to a customer's local store for pick up. Controlled substance medications are available with the ScripTalk talking, braille and large print labels from Caremark.

If you would like to receive your prescription medications or refills with the ScripTalk label through cvs.com for pick up at your local CVS store with a 2-3 day pickup window, call 888-861-4363. If you have any problems or concerns, or want to share positive experiences, the CVS customer service number to call is: 1- 800-SHOP-CVS.

Topnotch Technology Training for the Blind and Visually Impaired

There are 4 State Approved Instructors, teaching assistive technology at the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind. Whether you are learning computers for the first time, or you want your technology skills to shine, consider our experts to get you there. Your instructor will be blind or visually impaired, enabling them to relate with your vision impairment.

DLB technology instructors can also teach you to be competent IOS users with Apple products utilizing voice over feature.

Call Brad Snyder, at (214) 420-9439 to learn more. Get set to grow your technology skills.

MIT Finger Device Reads to the Blind in Real Time

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)

Scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are developing an audio reading device to be worn on the index finger of people whose vision is impaired, giving them affordable and immediate access to printed words. A prototype produced by a 3-D printer, fits like a ring on the user's finger, equipped with a small camera that scans text. A

synthesized voice reads words aloud, quickly translating books, restaurant menus and other needed materials for daily living, especially away from home or office.

Reading is as easy as pointing the finger at text. Special software tracks the finger movement, identifies words and processes the information. The device has vibration motors that alert readers when they stray from the script, said Roy Shilkrot, who is developing the device at the MIT Media Lab. The promise of the FingerReader is its portability and offer of real-time functionality at school, a doctor's office and restaurants.

Developing the gizmo has taken three years of software coding, experimenting with various designs and working on feedback from a test group of visually impaired people. Much work remains before it is ready for the market, Shilkrot said, including making it work on cellphones. The FingerReader can read papers, books, magazines, newspapers, computer screens and other devices

The Dallas Lighthouse News

The Dallas Lighthouse is celebrating its 85th year in 2016 and under the new leadership of CEO Hugh McElroy, it is engaged in positive transformation. The Dallas Lighthouse serves 11 counties and over 150,000 people who are blind and visually impaired. To prepare for the explosive growth and the influx of 1500 new families each month into North Texas, which will double the blind and visually impaired over the next ten years there is need to expand our accessibility, support services and job opportunities. Main campus refurbishments, increasing the capacity of our assistive technology area, job coaching, training department and our manufacturing capacity are already underway. Updates on the Dallas Lighthouse happenings will be posted in future newsletters.

Come Have Some Fun

Join your friends at Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind, for Bingo night, Friday, April 15th. Food, prizes, and best of all fellowship. Bingo is on the third Friday evening of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. We'll look forward to seeing you there.

Money Saving News on Mobile Phone Service

Sprint is excited to share a new custom service plan for the blind and low-vision community.

- Unlimited talk and text
- 2GB of data while on the Sprint network
- Only \$45 a month with Sprint Easy PaySM or Sprint Lease device option.

Sprint is committed to providing affordable plans, accessible devices and extraordinary customer service to our blind and low vision customers. Visit www.sprint.com/accessnow to learn more.

Contact Kelly Egan with any questions or comments, at Kelly.egan@sprint.com
702-988-6744

Facebook Debuts A New Way To Help People Who Are Blind Experience Photos

The social network launched a new feature called “automatic alternative text” (AAT), which will describe images to people who are blind or visually impaired. If your friend posts a picture from her hiking trip, for example, the app will now be smart enough to recognize visual cues from the photo and say aloud, “Image may contain: two people, smiling, sunglasses, sky, outdoor [sic], water.” The social network works best when words and pictures combine to create meaning. Someone might caption a photo with the words “I can’t believe I did this!” — but if you can’t see the picture, you would have no idea if they were referring to eating an entire wedding cake or hitting a reindeer with their truck. Enabling the feature is easy, though you’ll need an iPhone or iPad to use it right now.

The company launched a formal Facebook Accessibility team five years ago, but its Core “The goal of the company is to connect the world,” Jeff Wieland, the project manager for Facebook’s accessibility initiative, told HuffPost. “If we’re going to achieve that goal, then we’re going to develop strategies that work for accessibility. It’s not going to happen automatically.” If you’ve taken a writing class at any level, you’ve heard that the trick to evocative prose is “showing, not telling.” Put another way, seeing someone smile communicates a bit more than hearing the words “He is smiling.”

To that end, Facebook is working on making the spoken descriptions more personal. “We’ll continue to expand the number of activities described as we improve the product,” Shaomei Wu, a data scientist at Facebook specializing in accessibility, told HuffPost.

Success Story

For 8 years, Jennifer Watts has exemplified our mission and vision at the Dallas lighthouse for the Blind (DLB). Over the years, her numerous projects have ranged from manufacturing eyeglass cases, to constructing binders, and making markers, as well as taking on sewing center assignments. “I was fresh out of high school, and needed something to do with my life. Preferably a job.” Jennifer recalls.

With her limited 20 over 600 sight, Jennifer was happy to hear about the longtime leading employer for the blind and visually impaired in North Texas. She already knew a few folks who appreciated their employment with DLB. She secured an interview, and impressed on the Lighthouse leadership team that she was prepared to perform. Jennifer demonstrated her determination by sharpening necessary skills to become a multipurpose contributor.

Around two years ago, she became a mother. And a year later, gave birth to her second daughter. She soon realized it was time to transition her career to work behind the desk if possible. This would allow her to reserve physical energy needed for nurturing her daughters. Ultimately A customer service job became available and she applied. Jennifer had previously acquired useful communication and computer skills for this new position. Her new supervisor Martha Cross is very pleased. "Jennifer has exceeded our expectations on the job, and is making a great team member!"

Jennifer is appreciating the new challenges fluctuating from tracking down orders, to insuring customer deliveries are met, to working directly with accounting and the warehouse to make certain every order is correct and on time. "It's seldom the same routine which is what I like," Jennifer stated. "I'm really happy to actually be a part of the blind and visually impaired staff in customer service. That makes me proud as a lighthouse employee."

Jennifer's hobbies are singing, dancing, writing, and playing with her young children. Thank you Jennifer, for your example in taking on new challenges, when opportunity knocks.

Employment Opportunities with the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind

Purchasing, Purchasing Agent

Administration, Executive Assistant

Molding, Material Handler

HR, Human Resources Assistant

HR, Safety Engineer

Shipping, Warehouse Admin.

Paper Based Binder, Assembler

Business Services, Mailroom Clerk

Vinyl, Assemblers, 2 people needed.

Maintenance, Maintenance Technician

Writing, Material Handler

To apply for any of these employment opportunities, please contact Melissa Hildebrand, Director Human Resources:

Melissa.hildebrand@dallaslighthouse.org

(214) 420-9405)

10 Quotes to Inspire You!

1. Life is either a daring adventure or nothing. *Helen Keller*
2. All the art of living lies in a fine mingling of letting go and holding on. *Henry Ellis*
3. The grass is greener where you water it. *Danielle Luedtke*
4. Do not dwell in the past; do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment. *Buddha*
5. Believe that life is worth living and your belief will help create the fact. *William James*

6. Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined. *Henry David Thoreau*
7. Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated. *Confucius*
8. Every man dies. Not every man really lives. *William Wallace*
9. My life is my message. *Mahatma Gandhi*
10. We can't plan life. All we can do is be available for it. *Lauryn Hill*

Your Feedback...

We want to know, your favorite topics to read. If you have a personal story to share, please let me know a good time to interview you.

Feel free to make comments and suggestions to me by emailing

Blake.lindsay@dallaslighthouse.org or calling me, at (214) 420-9419.

Stay tuned for more news you can use, for the blind, visually impaired, and beyond.

Blake Lindsay

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