

Welcome to our fifth edition of News You Can Use from The Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind

I'm Blake Lindsay, manager of communications. I appreciate your encouraging comments on our new news outlet. Being a longtime broadcaster and author, I particularly take pleasure in this opportunity to share some news that especially matters to us each month. Assistive technology and educational events are significant in supporting all of us with visual impairment. We can also gain inspiration through true success stories. Our newsletter will continue to identify these subjects, along with Dallas Lighthouse expansions in our services and employment. We will also inform you about special activities which include you. Thank you for spreading News You Can Use to your families and friends.

An Inspiring Invitation for You

Make your plans to join us for Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind's grand 85th Anniversary Celebration! On Thursday evening November 3rd at 7:30, we'll commemorate this major milestone with a major entertainer. Mr. Ronnie Milsap is a tall gentleman with tremendous talent. He's credited for top tunes on both country and pop hit music charts. Ronnie will perform his music we know and love. For an incredible 38 years, Ronnie has performed hundreds of live concerts. Being a key contributor to society, he's also a solid advocate for the blind and beyond.

This live concert is at the Winspear Opera House in downtown Dallas, at 2403 Flora Street. All proceeds from the event will benefit several significant donor supported outreach programs offered through the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind. Tickets go on sale August 29th, 2016.

Meet Andrew Bernet, a True Advocate and Inspiration for the Blind and Beyond

At age 20, Andrew began slowly losing his sight from Diabetic Retinopathy. He received treatments, which helped maintain enough vision to drive to work and college for the next two years. One evening on his way home from working with a large animal vet clinic, Andrew was struck from behind on a two lane country highway in Argyle TX. This situation intensified what had been a gradual sight loss of sight to total blindness in only two days. A couple days after his auto accident, he went to sleep with sight, but woke up to an unpleasant surprise. "It was like looking through a sheet of wax paper" Andrew recalls.

With no familiarity of our many resources which help people overcome obstacles from blindness, Andrew didn't know where to turn for proper support. So, he first went to the pharmacy for assistance. Wanting to be helpful, the pharmacist ordered a common pencil thin identity cane which people who are partially blind carry to identify their sight reduction to the public, not the more useful white cane. At the same time, Andrew was in school at North Central Texas College in Corinth. He asked his teachers, if he could turn in term papers by speaking into a recorder. This worked well until semester finals, which were another challenge.

Andrew's sight loss began to become a deterrent to living independently, fortunately he found the Division for Blind Services, (DBS). Andrew pursued their proposed solutions, and quickly followed through, beginning with Orientation & Mobility (O&M) training. O&M expert Alexa McIntyre immediately observed Andrew's natural orientation and mobility skills. "By my third lesson, she even discovered my potential to teach O&M, and encouraged me to pursue my official certification." Ironically, Andrew had already wondered about the possibility of teaching O&M to others, and Alexa had just confirmed his vision.

During Alexa's lessons with high school students, she began allowing Andrew to mentor her beginners with helpful pointers as well as critiquing technique. With Alexa's supervised

opportunity to teach, Andrew was encouraged. This dream wasn't just potential any longer. With Alexa's support, Andrew pursued the official certification.

There are nearly no O&M instructors without sight, so Andrew was delighted when Alexa introduced him to a man named Winford. Winford was among the few totally blind O&M teachers. "I was able to bounce my ideas around with this relatable trainer during my certification program at Steven F. Austin in Nacogdoches, TX" Andrew recalls. Without use of sight, Andrew has only needed to slightly modify his techniques without compromising essential teaching practices.

Andrew is currently teaching one of the most important skills we can learn to support true independence. He's also teaching the significance of staying healthy. Andrew is now an O&M instructor, as well as a wellness coach with the Fort Worth Lighthouse for the Blind. He's an excellent computer user, as well as knowing how to read and write Braille. "I'm fortunate to have networked with all the right people to prepare me" Andrew stated.

His primary hobbies include participation in sports for the blind and visually impaired, like Beep Baseball. Andrew is team captain and is also active in GoalBall. Andrew encourages others who are blind to get connected with these sports. For about 7 years, Andrew maintained a little light perception, which faded last year. But his career combined with his many life accomplishments continue to shine and inspire everyone who knows his story of transformation. Andrew, congratulations for maintaining your inspired vision beyond sight.

Dallas Lighthouse Bingo is Back in September

Join your familiar friends and make some new ones at Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind, on Bingo night Friday, September 16th. Food, prizes, and best of all fellowship. DLB Bingo is on the third Friday evening of the month from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. We'll look forward to hearing and seeing you soon.

A True Trail Blazer in Accessibility for the Blind

Recently, the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) recognized Comcast for breakthroughs in making its technology and programming accessible to people with vision loss by honoring them with a Helen Keller Achievement Award. The company made history in 2015 when it launched the industry's first voice-guided TV interface—the X1 Talking Guide—which allows customers with a visual disability to operate settings and explore programming independently. Comcast made headlines again later that year with its video-described broadcast of NBC's "The Wiz Live!"— the first live entertainment program to be aired with video description.

In addition, Comcast Cable serves customers with vision loss by making available braille or large-print billing statements, large-button remotes, and an Accessibility Support Center that can be contacted seven days a week (7 a.m. to midnight) by phone, chat, or email. Comcast's closed captioning is adjustable by color and font size, and the company also offers online support videos with American Sign Language for customers with hearing loss.

Comcast Corporation is a global media and technology company with two primary businesses, Comcast Cable and NBCUniversal. Comcast Cable is one of the nation's largest video, high-speed Internet, and phone providers to residential customers under the XFINITY brand and also provides these services to businesses. NBCUniversal operates news, entertainment and sports cable networks, the NBC and Telemundo broadcast networks, television production operations,

television station groups, Universal Pictures, and Universal Parks and Resorts.

In past years, AccessWorld has followed these and other technological advances of Comcast that have increased access to people with vision loss, and we look forward to bringing you more information from Comcast in the future. Congratulations to Comcast for its leadership in accessibility!

Audio Description for State Parks from Blake Lindsay

Each time I have an opportunity to serve as a mentor for a person experiencing sight loss, I begin our conversation by affirming “if you have to be blind, now is the best time.” I state this claim because of the latest available assistive technology and expanded resources that people with diverse needs are benefiting from these days.

A few years ago, I was invited by Joel Snyder, a 35 year veteran in audio description, to help fine tune scripts for audio tours. One of my fondest memories is working with Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico. State park audio tours enable people who are blind to tour the caverns independently. These scripts are so well-defined; we often receive even more beneficial information. The narrative not only covers facts about each exhibit, it expands on visual observations. The navigational instructions correspondingly assist in explaining when to turn right, left, and precisely how many feet to walk to the next exhibit.

With state park audio description, the describer visits the site twice: first to observe all that can be seen at the exhibit while taking hundreds of photos and video and consulting with staff. Once the descriptive team completes a draft of an audio described tour to be recorded, they consult once more with site staff to make revisions. The audio describer visits the site a third and final time to test the material on a person who is blind. These audio tours will soon be available through apps for smart phones, therefore eliminating the need for portable mp3 players currently provided upon request.

Earlier this year, I traveled to Tucson Arizona’s Saguaro National Park to refine their instructional script. There are at least 2,000 types of Cacti’s plants. I admired a 100 year old Saguaro tree standing over 40 feet. I encourage you to take a trip to these fascinating places. With Google, there are accessible facts to help manage your expectations. Before visiting any new site, it is helpful to inquire if tours are equipped with audio description.

This ongoing project, will take several years to complete. Please help support this productive mission through your participation and advocacy. Let’s encourage joyfulness that they are investing in our independence.

Changes to Texas Independent Living Services

By Scott Bowman

As a result of legislation passed during the Texas 84th Legislative session in spring 2015, significant changes are coming this fall for consumers receiving services from the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). Beginning September 1, 2016, consumer services programs currently provided by DARS will be moved to Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) or to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). Centers for Independent Living (CILs) located throughout Texas will be providing the Part B (Title VII, Part B of the Rehabilitation Act) services under contracts with HHSC.

Specifically, DARS is working collaboratively with HHSC and CILs to contract independent living (IL) services to 16 Texas CILs; each Texas county will be served by one of those CILs. The contracted agreement for services will be between HHSC and CILs, and is expected to be in place by the time of this publication. Services for Independent Living for Older Individuals who

are Blind (OIB grant) will be transitioned to TWC. TWC plans to contract with HHSC to provide OIB services through the same CIL contracts. Draft standards for the contracted services can be located here: Texas CIL Standards. The latest version is available at this site: [Texas IL Program Rules](#).

A limited number of staff currently working in the DARS IL program will transition to HHSC on September 1, 2016, to provide technical assistance and training or contract oversight to the CILs. Those staff as well as CIL staff and directors are being trained by DARS this summer. You may learn more about the current status of the IL transition and the contracted CILs at: [Texas IL Outsourcing](#). To find more information about the other DARS programs that will transition, please visit: [Texas DARS Transition](#).

Dallas Lighthouse Improvements in Progress

[if !supportLists]· [endif]A new product line of pet products and sportswear for men, women and children is presently in development and will soon undergo product testing. We anticipate the first products will go live before year-end and we will enter an additional hiring mode to support market projections.

- We have recently hired 18 new full time employees and presently have openings for new positions. All personnel previously on layoff status in 2015 have been recalled to work. Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind is on YouTube, to post informative interviews. Discover what's happening at the DLB on our new channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVTqHPzOkX8>.

Helpful Facts Empower Learning - Useful Points About the ADA

July 26, 2016 marked the 26th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Laws such as the ADA exist thanks to the leadership of dedicated disability rights advocates, including Justin Dart, Jr., Ed Roberts and Judith Heumann. These individuals are positive role models that youth with disabilities should know about as they become the next generation of disability leaders. Justin Dart, Jr., called the “father of the ADA,” traveled around the U.S. gathering stories from people with disabilities about the discrimination they faced. These accounts directly impacted the creation of the ADA. Ed Roberts helped create the Independent Living Movement, formed the first Center for Independent Living and co-founded the World Institute on Disability with Judith Heumann

1. Heumann assisted with the passing of the ADA, served as the Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services and is now the State Department's Special Advisor for International Disability Rights. Young people with disabilities who wish to follow in the footsteps of these leaders can start by reading these self-advocacy guides.
2. The ADA & Service Animals. Many people with disabilities use service animals to help them with daily activities so they can live as independently as possible. The definition of a service animal is a dog that has been trained to assist a person with a disability in completing tasks that are directly related to their disability. This ADA National Network guide explains that emotional support, therapy, comfort or companion animals aren't considered service animals and aren't protected under the ADA. Service animals can be used in the workplace as a reasonable accommodation under the ADA. Businesses and organizations that serve the public, such as restaurants, hotels and retail stores, can't refuse to serve a customer with a service animal, and neither can taxi drivers. Under the Air Carrier Access Act, people with disabilities are legally permitted to travel with service animals. The Transportation Security Administration

has information about security screenings procedures for people with disabilities, including those using a service dog. It's important that both travelers and transportation operators understand the rights of people traveling with a service animal.

3. Getting from Point A to Point D (& Back to Point A). Title II of the ADA protects people with disabilities against discrimination on all modes of public transportation services operated by state and local governments. In addition, the ADA applies to rail transit systems. The ADA doesn't apply to air travel, which is instead covered under the Air Carrier Access Act. Under the ADA, the U.S. Department of Transportation provides paratransit services, which are door-to-door transportation services that eligible customers can use to travel within a specific area if they're unable to use traditional "fixed-route" public transportation. The Amputee Coalition has a fact sheet about paratransit that includes information on eligibility requirements. Read the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center's tips for using ADA paratransit services or the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund's guide, "ADA Paratransit Eligibility: How to Make Your Case" to learn more.

If you believe you've been discriminated against because of your disability while using public transportation services, you can [file a complaint](#) with the Federal Transit Administration. For more information on how this groundbreaking law [changed the lives](#) of Americans with disabilities, and how [Disability.gov](#) is celebrating ADA26, visit [Disability.Blog](#). More info available on ADA, at <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USODEP/bulletins/1570a0c>

Textile Apprenticeship Opportunity Awaits You at Dallas Lighthouse

A new apprenticeship opportunity is available in the Textile Department. We will train individuals for new jobs which are planned to start soon. If you are flexible, have fine finger and hand dexterity, are detail oriented, eager to learn new things, and want a valuable trade as your career this is a wonderful opportunity. No prior sewing experience is needed, but assessments will be required prior to being accepted into the program. We prefer individuals with a high school education or equivalent. Individuals who are blind or visually impaired are encouraged to apply quickly. First classes will begin in late August.

You request an application or set up an assessment by calling: Kathy Goodin-Mitchell at 214.420.6573 or send an email to kathy.goodin-mitchell@dallaslighthouse.org Please don't delay. More than one opening is available, but going quickly.

Seasonal Raffle Attendant Job Opportunity

The Texas Rangers Seasonal Employment Team is looking to add more individuals to their work family by hiring a 50/50 Raffle Attendant. If you know anyone interested in working as a 50/50 Raffle Attendant please feel free to provide them with the following link, or have them apply on our career site www.texasrangers.com/jobs. Directly Apply Below:

<https://rn12.ultipro.com/TEX1006/jobboard/JobDetails.aspx? ID=777>

Audrey Nguyen

Texas Rangers Baseball Club

Coordinator, Seasonal Employment

1000 Ballpark Way, Suite 211

Arlington, TX 76011 ANguyen@texasrangers.com

817.273.5164

Other Careers to Consider with the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind
Desktop Support Tech in our IT Department
Kluge Machine Operator in our Paperbased Division.

If interested, please reach Melissa Hildebrand, HR
Director. Email Melissa.hildebrand@dallaslighthouse.org

Inspirational Quotes on Dreams

1. All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them. *Walt Disney*
2. Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world. *Harriet Tubman*
3. If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with success unexpected in common hours. *Henry David Thoreau*
4. A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work. *Colin Powell*
5. A man is not old until regrets take the place of dreams. *John Barrymore*
6. Dreams are necessary to life. *Anais Nin*
7. The world needs dreamers and the world needs doers. But above all, the world needs dreamers who do. *Sarah Ban Breathnach*
8. When you cease to dream you cease to live. *Malcolm Forbes*
9. If you don't know what your passion is, realize that one reason for your existence on earth is to find it. *Oprah Winfrey*
10. If you want to be comfortable, don't try to live your dreams. *Emily Trinkaus*

Your Input...

Do you have an upcoming event you want our readers to know? Email or call me with the info. We'll spread your news. Would you like to share a personal story? Please email or call me to coordinate a 15 minute interview. Please feel free to share a significant article such as assistive technology or inspiration relating to the blind community. Also, offer your comments and suggestions by emailing info@dallaslighthouse.org or call me at (214) 420-9419.

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

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