

Welcome to Our June Edition of Good News You Can Use from the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind

I'm Blake Lindsay, Manager of Communications. As a broadcaster who has been totally blind all of my memorable life, I am sincerely delighted to convey monthly motivation, education, and entertainment focused on inspiring and supporting people with visual impairment. Throughout the past 14 months, we have focused on useful assistive technology news, backed by educational opportunities supporting proper preparation. The Dallas Lighthouse team fervently believes it is essential that we educate the public on technological progress and display what people with visual impairment are accomplishing.

We will continue to share success stories in this realm to help initiate additional employment and educational opportunities for those who are blind or visually impaired. Professional development stories through newsletters are designed to inspire us to empower each other.

DLB's Good News You Can Use also brings you updates on Dallas Lighthouse expansion projects, special activities to get you engaged, employment opportunities, and services for people with visual impairment within our 11-county, 7,600 square mile North Texas territory.

Thank you for subscribing to Good News You Can Use. Don't forget to share this newsletter with family and friends!

(Click on the links below in the table of contents, or use your screen reader commands to guide you to specific sections in this Newsletter.)

If you are having trouble navigating the links, please let me know and I will send you the word file as an attachment in an email.

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Inspirational Story of the Month

By Blake Lindsay

As a person who is totally blind, John Tamez enjoys consistent exercise and sports. He also has a love for music variety, and his personal song collection is always expanding.

In 1990, John went to work for Parkland Hospital, and then, for 18 years, he developed film. This was an excellent occupation for a person without sight, considering John accomplished all his assignments in a darkroom. He has lived in the Dallas area ever since.

After his long-term film development career, John worked four years with the Children's hospital call center. Fortunately, friends and colleagues have noticed his work ethic and have consistently recommended him for employment opportunities.

John's current calling is with the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind. He's working in our ever-expanding sewing department. "I'm used to providing for myself," said John. "My primary thing is I want to work. I like it here. I get along with our team."

Recently the Dallas Lighthouse launched into the high-end fashion garment trade. Eight eager individuals from various departments within the Lighthouse, along with new recruits, successfully completed the rigorous 10-week journey that provided a mini-college education in fashion and design. This also included résumé building, interview skills, and work readiness training.

The Textile Apprenticeship program is built upon the Dallas Lighthouse mission "To train and find jobs for the blind and visually impaired in North Texas."

Through this groundbreaking program, Dallas Lighthouse is taking individuals to a level of professionalism and expertise that will allow each to be placed in a high-end textile position.

In October 2016, John graduated from DLB's schooling in fashion and design and now has the ability to produce quality products as found in the finest fashion houses around the world.

John is a proud father to an adult daughter and grownup son who are also successful.

We are pleased to have John Tamez's excellent work principles and positive attitude on our DLB team.

Community Needs Assessment – Your Chance for Input and To Win an Amazon Echo!

In an effort to better meet the needs of North Texas residents who are blind or visually impaired, the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind will be conducting a survey in June to determine particular areas of need for services. We'd like to receive your input. For those receiving this newsletter, if we have your phone number, we plan to call and offer a chance to respond to the survey by phone.

If we only have your email address, we'll send you a link to respond via an accessible Survey Monkey online survey, as well as a call-in option, in case you would prefer a phone response.

Every participant that provides their email and phone number in the survey will be placed in a drawing to win an Amazon Echo!

This survey is anonymous; we encourage you to speak frankly about your needs and interests. Thank you in advance for any input you would like to share.

Check Out the Accommodating Tools in the DLB Store

Lauren Merritt regularly adds beneficial items for purchase by people who are legally blind and totally blind.

Some of the merchandise includes a hand-held CCTV video magnifier, ladies and gentlemen's talking watches, unisex braille watches, Uno, Dominoes, fit-over anti-glare shades (available in amber, gray, and yellow), and readers with powers of 3, 3.5, and 4.

The address is
4306 Capitol Avenue
Dallas, TX 75204
(214) 420-9426

U.S. Currency Reader Program



[Pictured is a black bill reader with bills of different amounts scattered around the black bill reader. The amounts are \$1, \$5, \$10, and \$20.]

BEP is providing currency readers, free of charge, to eligible blind and visually impaired individuals.

Currency readers became widely available to all U.S. citizens, or persons legally residing in the U.S. who are blind or visually impaired, on January 2, 2015.

Individuals interested in receiving a currency reader through the U.S. Currency Reader Program must submit an application, signed by a competent authority who can certify eligibility.

Applications, available in English and in Spanish, can be downloaded below.

Additional information about the U.S. Currency Reader Program and about the currency reader device can be found in the links below. The BEP encourages organizations that support the blind and visually impaired community to distribute these materials, incorporate the information provided into individualized communications, or link to the website.

Link: [Audio Instructions for Using the iBill® Talking Banknote Identifier \[mp3\]](#)

Link: [Video Guide for Using the iBill® Talking Banknote Identifier](#)

Link: [Braille Guide for Using the iBill® Talking Banknote Identifier](#) [BRAILLE - RIGHT CLICK, SAVE TO DOWNLOAD THE FILE]

Link: [Print Guide for Using the iBill® Talking Banknote Identifier](#) [PDF]

Link: [U.S. Currency Reader Program Brochure](#) [PDF]

Link: [Braille U.S. Currency Reader Program Brochure](#) [BRAILLE - RIGHT CLICK, SAVE TO DOWNLOAD THE FILE]

Link: [Recorded Public Service Announcements \(PSAs\) in :15, :30, and :60 formats](#)

Link: [Images of the iBill® Talking Banknote Identifier](#)

Link: [U.S. Currency Reader Application](#) [PDF]

Link: [U.S.](#)

A Fresh Useful Resource



Pictured is the Insightful Publications logo with a picture of a person reading Braille on the left, the words Insightful Publications written in blue text in the middle, and a picture of a book on the right.

A Fresh Useful Resource

My name is Christine, and my company is called Insightful Publications. We create State Resource Handbooks specifically designed for use by the blind and visually impaired in the United States. I am also visually impaired.

These screen reader-friendly resource handbooks cover anything from employment, to housing, to transportation organizations.

Contact information is included at the local, regional, and national levels. There are a total of 26 states completed. The resource handbooks include Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Nevada, South Dakota, and Texas.

For more information on pricing and formats, please contact Insightful Publications by email at insightfulpub@gmail.com or by phone at (808) 747-1006. Visit our website at in-sightful.com/orderpage.html

Important Update on Window-Eyes

In a move that is unsurprising to most, VFO/Freedom Scientific, makers of the JAWS for Windows screen reader, has discontinued sales and support for former competitor Window-Eyes, previously made by GW Micro and then AI Squared.

Current Window-Eyes users are entitled to a copy of JAWS 18 free of charge. Window-Eyes was the brainchild of Dan Weirich and Doug Geoffray, who created the screen reader based off of the success of Vocal-Eyes, one of the most popular screen readers for DOS computers in the early 90s.

Over time, Window-Eyes was the first to introduce many modern features including support for reading PDF documents and flash controls.

In version 7, an innovative scripting model using mainstream programming languages expanded the power of Window-Eyes.

Requests for upgrades must be submitted at <http://www.gwmicro.com/window-eyes/migrateform> or by phone at 800-444-4443 by July 31, 2017. Note, the free Window-Eyes Offer for users of Microsoft Office is not part of the conversion program.

To make this process as easy as possible, please complete this simple web form above, which will go directly to the team, who will then contact you with an authorization code for JAWS 18, or request additional information if necessary.

Window-Eyes was often hampered by a lack of resources and market share versus its competitors, namely JAWS which was and still is widely used in many corporate and government arenas.

In 2014, GW Micro was acquired by AI Squared, the makers of the ZoomText magnification software. This match seemed to create some synergies which resulted in a new product, ZoomText Fusion, which combined the screen reading features of Window-Eyes with the magnification power of ZoomText. Now, Fusion is running using ZoomText and JAWS.

In 2016, AI Squared was itself acquired by VFO, leading to today's news. This left VFO with two screen readers and two magnification programs.

Window-Eyes users can get a copy of JAWS 18 by filling out a form which we've linked to below. Users can choose the home or professional versions of JAWS.

DLB to Partner with McKinney Exhibit “Hues and Blues”

DLB is a community partner on the upcoming exhibit, “Hues and Blues,” a pairing of two artists who are visually impaired. Join us on June 16th from 6 to 8 p.m. for the opening reception at the McKinney Performing Arts Center.

Denton artist John Bramblitt will be on-hand to talk about his work. For more information, visit the exhibit website: <https://www.pairingseries.com>

The exhibit runs through August 11th.

New Transportation Option Beginning June 1st for McKinney Residents

Starting June 1, Collin County Transit will provide a Taxi Voucher Program for residents of McKinney, Melissa, Princeton, and Lowry Crossing who are 65 years of age or older or are disabled.

Eligible participants will enjoy the convenience of regular taxi service, at a fraction of the cost, for travel within Collin County.

This program is provided by the Denton County Transportation Authority in partnership with the four participating cities and Irving Holdings.

For more information visit the link listed below:

<http://www.mckinneytexas.org/1653/Public-Transit> AND <https://www.dcta.net/routes-schedules/other-dcta-services/collin-county-transit>

DLB Training and Employment Opportunity

Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind is seeking vision impaired individuals interested in a Call Center career. We have a 4-week training program on call center and advanced computer navigation. Individuals must have computer and assistive technology proficiency. Upcoming classes are being held Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm on the following dates:

June 19 – July 13, 2017

If interested and looking to submit a resume and set up a brief computer assessment, please contact Lauren Merritt at

lauren.merritt@dallaslighthouse.org or call (214) 420-6577

Even if you do not have the current computer skills needed, you can get free training from our Assistive Technology (AT) group in a future class.

Your career is waiting!

DFW Spring/Summer Sports for People with Visual Impairment

The Lone Star Roadrunners are getting ready for the 2017 Beep Baseball World Series. This is a weeklong tournament which happens annually. The team is comprised of people from all around the DFW metroplex. If you would like to get in contact with the Lone Star Roadrunners you will want to call Ozzy Calamaco at 817.706.4995. The practices are being held at 2820 Wingate St, Fort Worth, TX 76107.

Practice time is on Saturdays from 12-2pm. The Roadrunners are in need of help, from players with a visual impairment to sighted volunteers.

They will be traveling to the National Beep Baseball Association 2017 World Series in West Palm Beach, FL. The dates of the tournament are July 23-30.

lonestar@nbba.org

Our Friend Rhanda Hasley Has an Annual August Event She Hopes You Will Consider

Hello Everyone,

As many of you already know, the Texas Church Conference of the Blind (TCCB) holds its annual retreat every year at Camp Mt. Lebanon in Cedar Hill. Those of us who have attended find it a very wonderful and uplifting time of fellowship and rich Bible teaching. This year, it will take place from August 25-27 at the same location.

Please look over the information below and spread it far and wide through your networks. We look forward to seeing you in August.

You are cordially invited to join us for a weekend of kingdom worship, bible education, great food, fun, inspirational music, and fellowship.

We will take a look at “Overcoming Faith” as our theme for 2017. Our scripture will be from 1 John 5:4-5, and our theme hymn will be Victory in Jesus. We will explore what it takes to have overcoming faith in the 21st century. You will experience a weekend filled with fun activities to encourage everyone to walk closer with Christ through healthy Christian relationships.

The cost for 2 nights lodging and six meals with all the trimmings will be \$100 per person. The room accommodations will be two individuals who will be sharing a room. We need to receive your funds by August 1, 2017.

If transportation is needed from the bus station, please contact Rhanda Hasley in Dallas at 214.522.9817 and Linda Williams in Houston at 281.444.6335, to help you make the necessary arrangement.

You can mail in your check or money order to our treasurer:

Glenda Goodwin

1500 North Garrett Avenue Apt 323

Dallas, TX 75206.

707 – 0459.

Make your check or money order payable to **TCCB** and place **conference** in the memo line.

If you would like to find out more information about the camp, you can access their website @ www.mtlebanoncamp.com

Beneficial Free Offers

Yoga Classes at the Dallas Lighthouse

Our yoga get-together takes place Fridays from 1:15 to 2:15 PM. Join Bruce and others in the auditorium for some exercise and camaraderie. He has participated in Blindfold Yoga, increasing his knowledge on coaching people with visual impairment.

Our volunteer Bruce Boyd desires for us to be in good health and good shape. You can count on yoga at the DLB nearly every Friday from 1:15 to 2:15 PM. The Dallas Lighthouse invested in 10 mats and 10 foam yoga blocks for this program. You are welcome to bring your own, in case the participation demand exceeds 10. Tipping \$2 per session is encouraged to express our appreciation to Bruce.

Please RSVP with Blake Lindsay if you are interested in joining us.

Call (214) 420-9419

or email Blake at

blake.lindsay@dallaslighthouse.org

DLB's Proposition for Free Fun!

Bring your friends and meet new ones as you join our host Al Rodriguez for Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind's Bingo Night on Friday, June 16.

Look forward to free prizes, free food, and best of all...free fellowship. DLB Bingo is on the third Friday evening of every month from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Follow Dallas Lighthouse on Social Media

Discover what's happening at the DLB through our YouTube channel. We are adding interesting interviews and much more.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVTqHPzOkX8>

If you have not yet liked our [Facebook](#) page, we would appreciate you doing so.

We are also on Twitter (@DallasLighthouse) and Instagram (DallasLighthousefortheBlind)!

Follow DLB and share!

Top Access Technology Training for People Who Are Blind or have Low Vision

For those of us who are blind or who have low vision, access technology has considerably changed our lives. Screen readers, braille displays, and screen magnification software became available for our use in the early '90s and continues to be enhanced. We are able to easily read printed text, the Internet is effortlessly accessed, and we can read our mail with camera-equipped devices. These inventions are outstanding solutions for our use.

They also provide opportunities for employment for those committed to using access technology. This valuable instruction is offered at the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind's technology training center.

Keeping up with technology increases our confidence and capabilities, which benefits us by expanding our employment and education opportunities. There are state-approved instructors teaching access technology at the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind.

The fact that these instructors are blind and low vision add to the value of the training, making the instructors relatable to the clients, as well as demonstrating the need to use technology without the option of turning the access technology off for convenience.

In addition to screen readers and screen magnification programs, Dallas Lighthouse technology instructors also teach clients to be competent iOS users making customers proficient with the Apple line of products. iPhones and iPads have built-in accessibility features that persons who are blind and with low vision find useful.

Upon the completion of our education program, it is always thrilling to observe the transformation that takes place in the lives of students who are blind or with low vision.

Learn more about growing your technology skills by calling Marci Duty at (214) 420-9401.

Or, email her at

Maricela.duty@dallaslighthouse.org

14 Quotes on Courage to Help Conquer Your Fears

Life takes a lot of courage. Whether you are changing jobs, thinking about ending a relationship or beginning one, preparing for a tough conversation, or starting a new project, it can be uncomfortable, painful, and scary. No matter what the change you are facing, fear is there in its many forms. You may fear failure or what's next. You may fear judgment, looking stupid, or making a mistake. One thing is for sure, we all experience the dread and anxiety that fear can bring. What's encouraging is that these feelings, even though they are unpleasant, are normal and necessary for our safety, personal growth, and happiness.

So how do we become more courageous? Just like exercise builds our body muscles, taking action in spite of our fears builds our courage muscle. As Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "Do one thing every day that scares you." Consistently doing what scares us makes us stronger and more mentally tough. When we step out of our comfort zones, challenging ourselves to be bigger, better people, what we gain is freedom, empowerment, and confidence. And that's huge! The rewards outweigh the fear, every time.

These quotes on courage below can inspire you to push past your fears and live life more fully.

1. "You can never cross the ocean unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore." ~Christopher Columbus

2. "The best way out is always through." ~Robert Frost
3. "All you need is the plan, the road map, and the courage to press on to your destination." ~Earl Nightingale
4. "Do the thing you fear, and continue to do so. This is the quickest and surest way of all victory over fear." ~Dale Carnegie
5. "Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear – not absence of fear." ~Mark Twain
6. "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear." ~Nelson Mandela
7. "You get in life what you have the courage to ask for." ~Oprah Winfrey
8. "You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, 'I lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along.'" ~Eleanor Roosevelt
9. "Courage is going from failure to failure without losing enthusiasm." ~Winston Churchill
10. "All of our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." ~Walt Disney
11. "What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything?" ~Vincent Van Gogh
12. "Courage does not always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'I will try again tomorrow.'" ~Mary Anne Radmacher
13. "Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage." ~Anais Nin

14. “Courage is not simply one of the virtues but the form of every virtue at the testing point.” ~C.S. Lewis

Do you have an upcoming event you want our readers to know about?

Email or call us with the details so we can share your good news. Would you like to share a personal story? Please email or call me to coordinate a 15-minute interview.

Feel free to also share a significant article about assistive technology or inspiring news and stories related to the blind community. Send us your comments, suggestions, and ideas by emailing blake.lindsay@dallaslighthouse.org or by calling (214) 420-9419.

Until next time, Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind encourages you to live your lives to the fullest. Stay tuned for more Good News You Can Use, serving people who are blind, visually impaired, and beyond.

Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind
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