

Welcome to Our August 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 since infancy, I'm naturally delighted to bring you monthly motivation, education, and entertainment dedicated to inspiring and supporting people with visual impairment at all levels. Throughout the past 16 months, we have spotlighted ongoing improvements of assistive technology. Part of DLB's excellent educational approach is to build up your assistive technology access skills. The Dallas Lighthouse team believes it is also critical to inform the public about current accomplishments from those who are legally or totally blind. We will continue to share your success stories to help initiate additional employment and educational opportunities. Professional development stories through these newsletters often inspire and empower us to achieve more.

DLB's Good News You Can Use 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. Please 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

A Teacher Who Is Blind Leading Sighted Students

Cecilia Wagner's 38-year teaching tenure is plenty inspiring. What makes this professional educator stand out even more is the fact that she has, at most, only 20 over 800 vision and teaches pupils in public school who are fully sighted.

Cecilia delights in recalling how she discovered her passion for education. "My best friend was the first African American teacher of the deaf in Dallas," said Cecilia. "She would bring students home to learn sign language. It was interesting watching them communicate in this special way, and I knew that I wanted to teach and help inspire others through my vision impairment."

She then pursued an education at East Texas State University in Commerce, and her graduate work was completed at the University of Phoenix. After earning her bachelor's degree in Education and a master's degree in Organization Management,

she was off to the races. Cecilia's model for education was apparently well received by her two college-educated daughters who are fully sighted and successful in their own right.

Cecilia's significant teaching time in Dallas Public Schools consists of everything from special education to second grade reading language arts and social studies. "Kids are kids no matter what their condition," Cecilia says.

In a year, Cecilia will consider concluding this long-lasting career. She is wasting no time in preparing for a second useful mission. Her desire is to help resolve a common barrier that hinders people with visual impairment — transportation.

"Reliance on family and friends isn't always feasible," Cecilia related. She is eagerly developing a solution for driving impaired adults, transporting groceries, medications, dry cleaning, food from non-delivery restaurants and more, directly to your door. Cecilia's service, called Gopher (We'll Go for You) DFW, will one day achieve this for people.

"Gopher will also accommodate picking up something from you, and bringing it where you want it to go within a 7-mile radius," Cecilia said. The service will be exclusive to the greater Dallas area, with varied levels of service based on numerous needs.

Another distinctive way Gopher can benefit the blind and visually impaired community is through employment. Cecilia was inspired

about hiring people with visual impairment when discovering the Dallas Lighthouse's new call center through DLB's Good News You Can Use. Once it's time for a business plan to be crafted and agreed on, Cecilia desires to hire a few DLB call center representatives to take gopher's orders and dispatch them to the drivers.

By providing this feasible transportation freedom and employment opportunity to people with visual impairment, Cecilia's vision resembles Dallas Lighthouse's mission:

To enhance the quality of independence for people who are legally and totally blind.

Texas Summer DREAM Program Prepares Students for Bright Futures

DREAM is a learning platform allowing students who are blind or visually impaired to expand their opportunities and increase their responsibilities. The program is designed to prepare them for adult life. The acronym (DREAM) means Dallas Regional Employment Access Meet.

On Friday, July 21st, twenty hardworking high school age students graduated from the 9th annual summer program. Earlier

in the school year, these young ladies and gentlemen were asked to write an essay relating their life and career aspirations.

These essays were reviewed by local Transition Counselors from Texas Workforce Solutions. The process of narrowing down to around 20 students is somewhat difficult. The students who effectively communicated sincere passion through their thoughtful essays were ones that were rewarded with this unique summer educational opportunity.

The program was sponsored by the SMU Hegi Family Career Development Center. They provided valuable interview training and participation in a mock interview. The Meadows Museum of Art hosted the DREAM Orientation and provided a multimodal art accessibility tour of their collection. There was also a stimulating presentation and art activity provided by blind artist John Bramblit.

The prized students are from all over Texas. For five weeks, they lived on the campus of Southern Methodist University (SMU), a generous DREAM contributor. The DREAM program expanded the students' independence on several levels. For example, they received paid, on-the-job training. Employer participation included CVS Pharmacy, the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind, and Walmart. These three employers each stated how much they look forward to working with these bright DREAM students each summer. After work, participants were engaged through invigorating recreational experiences and team building activities.

Their events ranged from indoor sky diving to flying to Austin and returning on a train. During their Austin visit, DREAMers also visited historical sites such as the Capitol, the Bullock Texas History Museum, and the Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center for the Blind.

Throughout the program, students were taught how to accurately keep track of their expenses and properly budget their income.

Orientation and mobility instructors coached these students to become familiar with normal fixed route public transportation. DART buses and light rail trains enabled flexible roundtrip commutes to and from their summer jobs, enhancing their real-life experience. DREAM is primarily put on by Texas Workforce Solutions Vocational Rehabilitation Services, which supports Texans who are blind or visually impaired. The jam-packed program paves the way for future employment and provides motivation toward achieving career goals.

Our Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind team is delighted to have a part in this well-rounded, life-learning opportunity for young people with low or no sight. We wish these DREAMers and doers the best in their bright futures.

Come Have Fun at DLB's fundraiser

There are over 150,000 north Texans who are blind and visually impaired. The Annual Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind Golf Tournament provides free services that lead to employment opportunities and improved quality of life for residents with visual impairment within our community.

Join us Monday, September 18th at Las Colinas Country Club for lunch, prizes, and a day of golf.

\$200 per player, or \$800 for a foursome.

Sponsorships beginning at \$500.

Visit www.dallaslighthouse.org/golf for more details.

And be sure to check out [our golf tournament promo](#).

We hope to visit you at this special event.

Take Advantage of Top Access Technology Training

For those of us who are legally or totally blind, access technology has considerably improved our lives. Screen readers, braille displays, and screen magnification software 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.

For those committed to using access technology, they can provide opportunities for employment or expanded education.

This valuable instruction is offered at the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind's technology training center by state-approved instructors. The fact that these instructors are blind and low vision adds value and relatability for quality training.

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

Learn more about growing your technology skills by calling Bill Herzler at

(214) 420-9401.

Or, email him at

Bill.herzler@dallaslighthouse.org

A Fresh Useful Resource



[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.]

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 includes the local, regional, and national levels.

A total of 28 states have been completed, which include Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut,

Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, 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

A Worthwhile Visit to our Nation's Capital

Each year, my wife Jennifer and I fly to Washington DC to represent the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind (DLB) and the National Industries for the Blind (NIB). This year, the productive National Symposium took place on June 27th and 28th.

We visited Capitol Hill to propose solutions for specific challenges directly affecting employment for those who are legally and totally blind. I'm grateful for achieving employment throughout most of my adult life, but the fact remains that 7 out of 10 people with visual impairment still do not have a paid job.

Occasionally the reason is that someone chooses not to accept an employment opportunity that isn't their preferred career. More frequently, however, people with visual impairment encounter additional difficulties in securing reputable occupations.

Before we got to the Hill, NIB's Public Policy Team enhanced our ability to communicate through several hours of instruction. These experts taught us best practices for leading into our specific obstacles, as well as to clarify the ideal solutions.

Once we've improved our leaders' awareness on our current concerns, our legislators can then ensure improving impact through their influence. I want to thank our friends Congressman Pete Sessions, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, Senator John Cornyn, and Senator Ted Cruz for considering our proposals for improving specific legislation, which will enhance employment opportunities for those without sight.

I express my sincere gratitude to The Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind and National Industries for the Blind for making great strides in improving employment for people with visual impairment by facilitating quality careers and teaching excellent preparation and motivation.

In addition, I'm grateful to Congressman Pete Sessions and Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson for visiting the DLB.

They were inspired by the camaraderie and work they both witnessed during their visits. Congressman Pete and his staff will soon visit us at the new DLB Richardson facilities located at Spring Valley and US 75 beside the Spring Valley DART Light rail Station.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Making Advancement on Description Expansion

Washington, July, 2017 /PRNewswire-US Newswire

The American Council of the Blind applauds the Federal Communications Commission's recently adopted new rules increasing the number of hours of audio-described programming available on top-rated broadcast and cable networks.

Advocating for Americans who are blind or visually impaired, ACB played an active role in the passage of the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 (CVAA), which paved the way for video-described programming.

"ACB is excited the FCC adopted new rules providing a 75 percent increase in the number of hours of audio-described programming available," said ACB president Kim Charlson.

"Every day, ACB strives to increase the equality of opportunity for people who are blind or visually impaired, and access to audio-described programming gives those of us who are blind a chance to enjoy entertainment with sighted friends and colleagues."

The new FCC rules, effective July 1, 2018, require audio-described programming be available from 6 a.m. to midnight, maintaining the 50 hours of prime time and children's programming and adding 37.5 hours of additional audio-described content.

The networks that must currently comply with this rule are ABC, CBS, Fox, NBC, Disney Channel, History, TBS, TNT, and USA.

Audio description, also referred to as video description, provides spoken descriptions of on-screen action during pauses in dialogue, enhancing the viewing experience for individuals who are unable to see the screen or action taking place around them.

Link to press release:

http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/acb-applauds-fcc-on-description-expansion-300488035.html?tc=eml_cleartime

Philips Televisions and Video Players Now Offer Enhanced Accessibility for the Visually Impaired

The full line of 2017 Philips brand televisions and video players now offers Enhanced Accessibility to allow blind and visually impaired users to control the devices' functions. Adding Enhanced Accessibility to products entails the addition of voice guide descriptive menus, easy to read user interface, guide dots on remote controls, easy access to closed captioning/subtitles and

secondary audio, easy access to support, and an easy way to identify these products both at retail and on the Philips website with the help of an Enhanced Accessibility logo.

The user interface voice guide and other features are new requirements established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as part of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 (CVAA). The new rules mandate that certain built-in functions in TVs, Blu-ray players, and DVD players, among other consumer electronics products, be usable by individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

The deadline for meeting the new requirements was December 20 2016.

Remote controls on the affected Philips products feature guide dots so that users can easily control key functions, such as power on/off, volume adjustment and mute, channel selection, playback functions, input selection, and other important functions.

The new rules mandate that any key functions available only via an on-screen menu must offer user interface voice guides, with the menu options spoken and user selections audibly confirmed.

Philips groups these new capabilities under its Enhanced Accessibility feature set, which also includes an easy-to-read and navigate user interface, large format support information, and

closed captioning, a long-mandated requirement for assisting the hearing impaired.

"The FCC regulations on Enhanced Accessibility allow us to design our products so they can be enjoyed by more consumers," said Karl Bearnarth, executive vice president, sales and marketing, P&F USA, Inc., the exclusive North American licensee for Philips consumer televisions and home video products. "We took this initiative very seriously and were determined to ensure that our entire line of TVs and video players, including basic DVD players, met the requirements and that they were as intuitive as possible to use for those who are visually impaired."

The full line of Philips Enhanced Accessibility enabled TVs can be seen here:

<http://www.usa.philips.com/c-m-so/televisions/latest...>

Useful Tools for Sale in the DLB Store

We regularly add beneficial items for people who are legally or totally blind for purchase. Some of our merchandise includes a hand-held CCTV video magnifier, ladies and gentlemen's talking watches, unisex braille watches, talking clocks, signature guides, large print paper, large button phones, and TV remotes.

We also have oven Mitts, 20/20 pins, and big sticky text dots to help you mark your appliances for convenience and accuracy. There are also Uno, Dominoes, fit-over anti-glare shades (available in amber, gray, and yellow), and readers with powers of 3, 3.5, and 4. We'll keep adding more. Come visit the DLB store; we're here to serve you.

The address is

4306 Capitol Avenue

Dallas, TX 75204

If you have questions, call

(214) 420-9438

The Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind HR department recently introduced a convenient way for you to keep up with DLB's current job openings and apply for them when your talents fit the position.

Go to

[*Jobs at Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind*](#)

We'll promptly follow through with an email including next instructions.

Valuable Free Offers

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, August 18.

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 hearing and seeing you here!

Our yoga get-together takes place Fridays from 1:15 to 2:15 PM. Please join our thoughtful volunteer Bruce Boyd 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. Bruce wants for us to be in good health and good shape.

The Dallas Lighthouse invested in 10 mats and 10 foam yoga blocks for this program. Let's express our appreciation to Bruce by participating.

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

Call (214) 420-9419

or email Blake at

blake.lindsay@dallaslighthouse.org

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/channel/UCEle_aQ_41cQTXH1gRrZTJw

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!

Inspirational Quote to Inspire You Daily

"Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful."

Albert Schweitzer

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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