

Welcome to Our July 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 naturally delighted to bring you monthly motivation, education, and entertainment focused on inspiring and supporting people with visual impairment. Throughout the past 15 months, we have highlighted beneficial assistive technology news and reinforced these updates by offering you educational opportunities providing proper preparation for using access technology for people who are blind and visually impaired. The Dallas Lighthouse team believes it is critical that we inform the public on technological progress. Just as significantly, we believe it's advantageous to reveal the accomplishments and determination of people with visual impairment.

We will continue to share success stories in this realm to help initiate additional employment and educational opportunities for those who have visual impairment. Professional development stories through these newsletters are designed to inspire and empower us all.

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. 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

By Elizabeth Segran, Fast Company

[Link to original article](#)

Elaina Tillinghast, a 54-year-old seamstress, spends her days in a Dallas clothing factory sewing blouses and gowns for [Tish Cox](#), an up-and-coming American designer who counts Zac Posen and André Leon Talley among her fans. The clothes are made from luxurious, brightly colored silks and are full of unexpected flourishes, like billowy sleeves and ruffles. Tillinghast's sense of the Cox aesthetic comes entirely through touch—she's been blind since birth. When Tillinghast was a

child, her parents worried whether she would be able to make her own way in the world when she grew up.

“Mother thought it was her duty to make sure that I could fend for myself should I ever need to,” says Tillinghast. “She taught me sewing, cooking, budgeting, and nearly everything else she could think of.”

Related: [Zac Posen Is Ready for His Close-Up](#)

Tillinghast emerged a woman with the determination to live life to the fullest. And she has. After getting a degree in computer science, she worked in the call centers of telecom and internet service provider companies. She then had a stint as a massage therapist, helping people with serious physical ailments.

Eight years ago, she landed at the [Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind](#), an 85-year-old nonprofit devoted to training the visually impaired and getting them jobs. Its cavernous North Texas facility is a hive of activity, where blind workers keep busy labeling, welding, filling bottles with liquid, and answering customer service questions on the phone, among other things.

“With the right amount of education, training, and assistive technology, a blind person can do just about anything a sighted person can,” Lighthouse CEO Hugh McElroy says. “Once you wrap your head around that, things suddenly become possible.”

Of the 7 million Americans that are blind, 30% live below the poverty line, largely because they struggle to find jobs. Most blind people don’t know what they are capable of, so the organization does a lot of outreach, trying to connect them with opportunities to earn money. In the sewing department, workers make between \$9 and \$20 an hour.

At the Lighthouse, Tillinghast's creative juices flowed when given a chance to do the detailed stitching for the Tish Cox collection. "It requires a little more mental work," she says. "You're not doing the same thing for the next three hours."

Tillinghast is intimately familiar with each design. Before she starts on a new style, she feels it out with her hands. Then she strategizes about all the steps it will take to create it. "You have to juggle shapes in your mind," she says. "You work in stages, turning sections inside out to sew, leaving spots open so you can sew them up later. It's jigsaw puzzle work."

Tillinghast uses her fingers to measure exactly how wide a hem might need to be: Does it need to be a quarter or half of a finger nail wide? It has taken years for her to fine-tune these skills, starting from her childhood when her mother taught her how to sew by hand. Over time, however, sewing has become second nature.

Tish Cox started working with the Lighthouse a year ago. She was looking for a new factory so she could expand her production. After seven years of growing her business in Texas and building a strong following in the South, she decided it was time to expand nationally. She wanted to keep all her production in Dallas to stay on top of the manufacturing. Her husband encouraged her to check out Lighthouse.

The idea of a blind dressmaker seemed like an impossible concept. Sight seemed crucial to the process of sewing clothing, especially complicated designer pieces that sell for \$500 or more. But Cox saw the light—so to speak—when she visited Lighthouse's facility.

"As you walk into this automation area with all of these crazy sewing machines, you think, surely most of these workers can

see," Cox says. "Then you quickly realize that most of them can't."

It was an elaborate military belt created for soldiers to carry around tools on projects that convinced Tish Cox to make her clothes at the Lighthouse. "Every single piece was perfect," she says. "The belts had a lot of parts to them and involved a lot of detail, but they were sewed perfectly."

Cox asked McElroy if the Lighthouse was equipped to sew designer fashion garments. He noted that they had never attempted anything like that. "But just because it's never been done before doesn't mean we can't do it," McElroy tells me. "Let's just sit down and figure it out."

He brought on a team of experts and designers who were able to figure out how blind people could sew these garments. He also brought in a team of sighted employees who work alongside the blind, doing tasks that require vision. Then, they were off and sewing.

Cox was surprised by how quickly the Lighthouse could start the project. "In six days, the Dallas Lighthouse figured out how to source the fabrics and make 4,000 pieces for me," she explains. "The beauty of this is that if I need to scale up production, the Lighthouse will be able to accommodate me."

McElroy purchased sewing machines for the Lighthouse and brought in engineers who know how to adapt equipment for the blind and visually impaired. Safety, he says, is key. There are several guards in place to protect the sewers' fingers from the needles. There are other adaptations that are specific to sewing Tish Cox garments: Markers help the user gauge distances and know which part they are working on. Employees go through extensive training before they start working on the machines.

“It’s not uncommon to go years without even a small injury,” McElroy says. “Once a person has gotten these skills down, we begin to find ways to improve on the process to make it quicker and more efficient.”

Tillinghast was there from day one. After a three-month course sponsored by the Lighthouse, her days have been filled with making Tish Cox dresses. Right at the start, there were hiccups, as the team struggled to understand how to use the brand-new technology. But after a few weeks, they were churning out beautifully crafted, impeccable garments that would appear in high-end stores and be worn by women attending fancy events.

Tillinghast feels some ownership over the final product. “Tish Cox does not do things that look like they’re off the rack,” she says. “She tries for a more open and freeing shape to her garments.”

For Cox, it was vitally important for her clothes to be well-made. The first surprise, when working with the Lighthouse, was seeing how impeccable the craftsmanship of the products was. But the second surprise was seeing how content the workers at the factory appear to be whenever she’s stopping by for a visit.

“Walking through the Lighthouse is a really moving experience,” Cox says. “These are Americans who want to work, have a real career, and be able to grow. It **is** the happiest workplace I’ve ever been to.

Helpful Facts and Useful Points about the ADA

July 26, 2017 marks the 27th 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](https://disability.gov) is celebrating ADA27, visit [Disability.Blog](https://disability.blog). More info available on ADA, at <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USODEP/bulletins/1570a0c>

Invitation for Your Participation in DLB's Enjoyable Event

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](#), starring the one and only Blake Lindsay.

We hope to visit you at this special event.

Celebrating Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind's 2017 Employees of the Year

Each year, the National Industries for the Blind (NIB) organizes and hosts a special memorable three-day celebration, honoring all agencies' choices for their Employees of the Year.

This year, we recognize Alice Watson for earning the Salmon Award. As an assembler for 8 years, Alice inspects finished markers to make sure they have the necessary stamping and are properly labeled.

Although she excels at her work, Alice is best known for bringing people together personally and professionally through food and fellowship. Alice is considered the "momma" at the Lighthouse because she is an outstanding and compassionate listener, always willing to hear her co-workers out and help them through their day. Married for more than 35 years and a mother of three, Alice loves playing bingo and often buys baking supplies with her winnings to make food for her second family at the lighthouse.

The Samuelson Award goes to Laurence Ellman this year. In seven years with Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind, Laurence has earned five promotions, a testament to the value he brings to the agency. Currently a cost/pricing specialist, Laurence holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Houston and an MBA from the University of Dallas.

Before his vision loss, Laurence ran his own catering business and was director of catering at the local location of an upscale national grocery chain. Committed to bettering the lives of

others, Laurence is a fighter and champion for people who are less fortunate than himself. Outside the agency, he teaches cooking to children from abusive homes or broken families at the YMCA Casa Shelter in Dallas.

We congratulate Alice Watson and Laurence Elman for their notable contributions.

MIT Is Building a Cheap Handheld Device for Translating Braille Instantly

By Luke Dormehl

MIT's low-cost handheld Braille translator could be a game-changer for millions of people around the world.

Thanks to the power of modern machine translation tools, the ability to instantly translate from one language to another is commonplace. Due to the advancement of technologies like deep learning, it recently got a whole lot better, too. However, a group of six researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) — calling themselves Team Tactile — are interested in doing something far less common: Creating a device that can carry out a real-time translation of text to Braille. The results could be a game-changer for millions of people around the world who are either blind or have low vision.

“We are creating the first dedicated text-to-braille converter to give people who are visually impaired greater access to the large amount of printed text information encountered in daily life,”

Grace Li, a researcher on the project from MIT's Department of Mechanical Engineering, told Digital Trends. "With our device, people who are visually impaired can take an image of any printed text and immediately read the resulting braille translation."

The Tactile device features a scanning mechanism with which users can take a photo of a particular image they wish to translate; anything from a textbook to a restaurant menu. Optical character recognition (OCR) tech is then used to extract the text, the device translates it into Braille, and the lines of text appear on a physical display, which uses pins that move up and down to form the Braille characters.

At present, the device only captures a small portion of a document but in the final product, the team wants to be able to apply the technology to imaging an entire document.

"The ultimate goal with real-time translation is braille on demand," Li continued. "We are aiming to have our final prototype ready for manufacture within the next one or two years. We will then be working with manufacturers and distributors to bring our device to market the following year." Team Tactile is hoping the finished device will cost users less than \$100, making it significantly cheaper than any other comparable solution on the market.

Source: Digital Trends

https://www.digitaltrends.com/cool-tech/tactile-mit-braille-translator/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DT:%20Brief%20Daily%202017-05-15&utm_term=DT%20Newsletter%20-%20Daily%20Subscribers

Come Check Out the Accommodating Tools in the DLB Store

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

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) 420-9438

Meet One of the First Guide Dogs Specifically Trained for Runners

Millions of American runners pound the pavement every day, many running several miles. But few run them like Tina Jinkens. The Eudora, Kansas native is one of the first in the U.S. to receive a guide dog specifically trained for running.

"Sometimes it's hard to find people every day that will run with me," said the blind runner who just recently retired her last guide dog.

Jinkens always wondered what it would be like to have the freedom to choose whenever and wherever to run. Once she heard about the new, unique program training guide dogs specifically for running, she jumped at the chance to have her own.

"Since she's specifically trained to do that I feel really safe with her," said Jinkens.

Her new companion is Clara, a two-year-old black lab. "We work as a team. I tell the dog, like, 'forward' at a street intersection. But if a car were to run a light or something then she's trained to back away from it," she said.

Tina and Clara run three to four miles a day and always keep their route simple.

"I always make sure people know I'm not running a marathon. Dogs don't have that kind of stamina so I wouldn't run a long distance with her," said Jinkens.

Clara is also trained just like a normal guide dog, only with an emphasis to dodge obstacles and move more quickly. She was trained as part of the new program from the non-profit, Guiding Eyes For The Blind, out of New York state.

"A dog that makes a good running guide is simply a dog that loves to run," said Tom Panek, president and CEO Of Guiding Eyes For The Blind. "So we select the dogs that enjoy working at a fast pace."

Tina is now thrilled to have not only a running companion but one she can consistently trust with her life one step at a time.

"I just have the freedom to, if I decide I want to go running today I don't have to wait for a person," she said. "I have trained with her to get ready for the race and I feel more ready than I've ever felt."

Tina is a graduate of the Children's Center For The Visually Impaired and recently ran in the Trolley Run in Kansas City.

Article Link: <http://www.kshb.com/news/state/kansas/meet-one-of-the-first-guide-dogs-specifically-trained-for-runners>

EUDORA, Kan.

A Valuable Access Technology Class from the DLB

Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind seeks individuals who are blind or have low vision interested in enhancing computer skills. The goal of this class beginning on August 21 is computer preparation for the upcoming call center class. These two classes ultimately prepare you for an excellent career opportunity with the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind.

We encourage you to come learn the necessary technology skills required for more success! It's a 3-week training course on basic computer navigation skills. Individuals must have keyboarding proficiency to enroll in this class. The next course is scheduled Mondays through Thursdays from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm beginning Monday August 21, 2017. Each Friday, from 10 am to 12:00 pm, are review days.

This is for class participants wishing to instill the things learned throughout the week.

Please call Marci Duty with any questions, and to sign up for your typing test and to enroll.

Call (214) 420-9401.

New Transportation Option for McKinney Residents

Starting June 1, Collin County Transit began providing 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>

DFW Spring/Summer Sports for People with Visual Impairment

The Lone Star Roadrunners are nearly ready for the 2017 Beep Baseball World Series. This will be 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 reach out to 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 and 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

Beneficial Free Offers

Free Fun at the DLB!

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, July 21.

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!

Resource for Home Repairs

There is a free resource helping with home repairs for people 60 or older or have a disability who live in the Plano ISD. There is no charge for their service.

The phone number is (469) 366-4286.

Yoga Classes at the Dallas Lighthouse

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

An Invitation Worth Your Consideration

From Rhanda Hasley

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 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 through your networks. We look forward to seeing you next month for a weekend of kingdom worship, bible education, great food, fun, inspirational music, and fellowship. You will experience a weekend filled with activities to encourage everyone to walk closer with Christ through healthy Christian relationships.

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.

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 @ 214 522 – 9817 and Linda Williams in Houston @ 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

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!

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. These inventions are outstanding solutions for our education.

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. There are state-approved instructors teaching access technology at the DLB. The fact that these instructors are blind and low vision add to the value and relatability of the training.

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.

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

Or, email her at

Maricela.duty@dallaslighthouse.org

Independence Increased Through Teamwork

By Blake Lindsay

From the days of my sister pulling me around on her tricycle with me behind on my roller skates, I thrived on the independence I felt when soaring on two wheels. That same fascination continued

into the spring of my second grade year when Dad proudly accommodated my request to remove the training wheels from my bike.

To ensure a painless experience, I first learned how to ride a bicycle in the front yard with Mom and Dad walking beside me. Once I was confident riding in our front yard, Dad bought a nice, two-seated bike called a tandem from a retired couple right before my ninth birthday so I could ride on the street.

They were very pleased that a blind boy and his dad would enjoy the bike while having plenty of quality dialogue along the way. It had only twenty miles registered on the odometer.

A couple of times each week during the summer and early fall, Dad and I rode in tandem on a six-mile journey. The ride took us just over a half hour to complete, as we averaged ten miles an hour. Throughout the last couple of minutes of our ride, we opened up and traveled at our top speed of twenty-five miles per hour, resembling an eager horse running for the barn after a vigorous day's work.

Dad's legs were much quicker than mine, so if we happened to speed up to around twenty-eight miles an hour, I took the liberty of enjoying a Blake break until he slowed down to twenty-five, where I could keep up again. It was exciting maintaining the momentum with a motorized vehicle driving along a residential street. I hoped the person driving observed our fast pace and was as thrilled as I was with our energetic team effort.

The next spring, a few months before my tenth birthday, Dad surprised me with this abnormal action: He put my hand on the single bike which I often rode in our yard and asked if I would like to follow him on nearby residential streets, trailing close behind him. I was reluctant but decided to give this a try. I got right

behind him and heard him peddling. When he wasn't peddling, he would talk to me so I could stay lined up with him. Initially I encountered a few accidents but became better and more confident each ride.

I quickly learned to stay in Dad's direct path or else I would experience the discomfort of an unpleasant ouch from running into a mailbox, street sign or curb. I had complete faith my Dad would alert me to anything unknown which could pose a problem. He trusted I would follow his navigational lead from his voice and bike noise. If Dad ran over a small object, such as a paper cup someone had previously thrown on to our path, I was then able to steer the exact pathway and my two wheels would literally roll over the same litter. I was now more at ease than ever and gained great assurance knowing Dad was leading the way a few feet ahead of me.

True victory came when we were able to travel around town with me on my own bike. It was especially exciting when someone occasionally assumed I was my sighted older sibling Brad riding along with Dad. They would say "Hi Brad."

I would turn to them with a big happy grin, and say, "Hi, I'm Blake." Since they knew I had no sight, I imagine they thought that was a genuine father-son adventure.

Dad and I haven't lived close enough to consistently ride together for more than two decades. After our more than twenty-year hiatus, Dad surprisingly suggested that we take this challenging and enjoyable kind of bike ride again. I was a little off the beaten path at first, but within a few short minutes, I was enjoying an incredibly fun time like before.

During one ride, a friendly neighbor and Sunday school teacher, Dorothea Mack, was riding her bicycle and saw me following Dad in

complete trust. I had never met her before, and she turned to me and said with total interest and passion, "Wow! You're doing great!"

A couple of weeks later during a telephone visit with my mother, Dorotha eagerly mentioned that it was very uplifting to her as she was going through a down time. I was thrilled to hear Dorotha was inspired by our demonstration of trust.

Most people, myself included, would probably think that my Dad should have been satisfied with us riding together in our stress-free comfort zone on the tandem bicycle; however, when I heard Dorotha's awesome observation, it became obvious to me that God had simply looked ahead and knew that we had some inspiring to do.

Dad demonstrated the huge impact one person can have on another who is willing to listen, believe and obey wise guidance and coaching.

This is also the kind of trust we should have in our Lord, so that we can enjoy the best quality and most productive results in our lives. I also made a brand new, priceless friend named Doratha Mack because of this awesome event. People are watching us, so let's take advantage of the opportunity to do our best to inspire when possible.

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

Blake Lindsay, Manager of Communication

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