

From The Dallas Lighthouse News Desk

**By: Dallas Light House for the Blind
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Welcome to Our October Edition of Good News You Can Use from the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind.

I'm Blake Lindsay, Manager of Communications. As a longtime broadcaster with total blindness since infancy, it is indeed my pleasure to bring you monthly motivation, education, and entertainment dedicated to inspiring and supporting people with any level of visual impairment. Throughout the past 18 months, we have updated you on current progress with assistive technology.

Part of DLB's excellent educational approach is to build up your assistive technology access expertise. The Dallas Lighthouse team believes it is also valuable to inform the public about current accomplishments from those who are legally and 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 even 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 large 11-county, 7,600 square mile North Texas territory.

Thank you for subscribing to Good News You Can Use. Please share this supportive 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.

Table of Contents

[Inspirational Story of the Month](#)

[DLB Celebrates National Employment Awareness Month \(NDEAM\)](#)

[DLB's First-Rate Training for Access Technology](#)

[A Fresh Useful Resource](#)

[GE's \\$99 'Talking Laundry' box was built for the blind](#)

[Expanding Horizons](#)

[See BOOST wins First Place at Silmo Paris](#)
[Come Celebrate Solo Travel Independence and Much More](#)
[During the 2017 Dallas White Cane Day](#)
[Useful Tools for Sale in the DLB Store](#)
[Employment Opportunities with the Dallas Lighthouse for the](#)
[Blind](#)
[Valuable Free Offers](#)
[Follow Dallas Lighthouse on Social Media](#)
["Your Greatest Dream"](#)

Inspirational Story of the Month

By Blake Lindsay

A Visionary Without Sight, Celebrating Completion of Her Incredible Career

After a full 44 year career, Annie Philips recently retired from Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Solutions. When Annie began her job in July 1973, the name of her employer was State Commission for the Blind.

In 1985, the label became specific to the individual states, and was called Texas Commission for the Blind. In 2004, the title became Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services/Division for Blind Services (DARS/DBS). Finally, in 2016, an acquisition took place with The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), to now be known as (TWC Solutions). Through these transitions their mission remains to serve people with visual impairment. Their service embraces unlimited education and employment opportunities.

Annie has primarily resided in Dallas, TX, and went to Stephen J. Hay Elementary School near Oak Lawn and McKinney. Beginning in the 3rd grade, her journey included commuting on the school bus. Initially, Annie was in a classroom with others who had

visual impairment. These students were educated by Ms. Garrett, a specialized itinerant teacher.

She not only taught the students to read and write Braille in the 3rd grade, Ms. Garrett also showed them how to type print on a regular typewriter.

This training advanced their communications to accommodate teachers who were unfamiliar with Braille starting the next school year. The non-Braille readers were able to then evaluate typed homework assignments from the Braille users.

In the fourth grade, Annie joined the students upstairs who had sight. Ms. Putman, her homeroom teacher, held high expectations for all students. "Each morning, we would have instructions on our desks stating what assignments to accomplish through that day" Annie said.

By 5th grade, Annie had a major motive to transition to Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired in the state's capitol, Austin. "My good friend Lesley Jo Bond had been at TSBVI for a year," said Annie. "She frequently talked about how much fun she was having, and that it would be fun for me if I joined her. I was convinced." Due to distance from Dallas to Austin, the TSBVI transition was difficult for Annie at first. This improved as she made new friends and settled into routines.

During 5th through 7th grade years, Annie played piano. Starting in 8th grade through high school, she played the cello. "I loved the cello," Annie pointed out with passion in her voice.

Following high school graduation from TSBVI, Annie went to Enterprises for the Blind in Arkansas, now known as Lions World Services. She learned best techniques for daily living, including orientation and mobility. She also took an English course.

Following her schooling in Arkansas, she came to the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind to learn how to cane chairs. Five months

later, Annie learned about an employment opportunity that she felt was a perfect fit for her personality.

She applied and was hired to become the receptionist with the State Commission for the Blind. "I started my job on July 16, 1973, and remained just over 44 years. I had a good memory for information, including phone numbers and advice I received.

I could then share the info when needed. When someone called me with an inquiry, I generally knew the answer, or knew who to go to."

Annie is a young 64, and has the energy to do much more. She thoroughly enjoys teaching a weekly Braille class in her Dallas TWC Solutions headquarters.

Annie has also made new friends by visiting the senior center sometimes twice a week. She loves getting together on Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons with her fellowship groups for a tasty meal and plenty of conversation.

Annie loves living a fulfilling life each day. A 44-year career is certainly something great to celebrate. Annie, your friends at the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind recognize and revel in your productive career. Well done.

DLB Celebrates National Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)

Becoming inclusive to people with disabilities drives positive results across the business.

US Business Leadership Network (USBLN) and American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) are proud to release the 2017 Disability Equality Index (DEI). 110 companies participated in the 2017 DEI, with results indicating where

companies are excelling in their commitment to inclusive environmental, social, and governance policies. This year a record 68 employers have earned the top rating of 100 – signaling to corporate America that becoming inclusive to people with disabilities drives positive results across the business.

Since the commencement of the DEI, corporate America has significantly advanced efforts to be inclusive of people with disabilities. In fact, the DEI report shows external employee recruitment has become even more inclusive with 95% of all 2017 DEI companies reporting having recruitment efforts in place that are specifically geared toward hiring individuals with disabilities; an 11 percentage point increase since 2014.

*To read more about the DEI, visit:
<https://disabilityequalityindex.org/Results>.*

*Companies that are interested in taking the 2018 DEI can sign up for the mailing list to be notified of the open registration period:
<http://bit.ly/2wjRiRM>.*

**Join us for a limited engagement performance, reception,
and talk back with Joe McBride and Dallas Lighthouse**

When: Thursday October 26th 2017
Time: 6pm

Use code DLB50 to buy two tickets and get a third ticket 50% off

DLB's First-Rate Training for Access Technology

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 and more with camera-equipped devices.

Those committed to using access technology find additional 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 teachers are legally or totally blind adds value and relatability for quality training.

Dallas Lighthouse technology instructors also teach clients to be proficient with Apple iPhones and iPads. These products have built-in accessibility features that people who are legally or totally blind find useful.

Learn more about expanding your technology skills by calling Blake Lindsay at (214) 420-9411.

Or, email him at

Blake.lindsay@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, and transportation organizations.

The contact information includes the local, regional, and national levels.

There are a total of 30 states completed. The resource handbooks include Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Massachusetts, North Carolina, 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 their website at in-sightful.com/orderpage.html

GE's \$99 'Talking Laundry' box was built for the blind

The device works with most current washers and dryers, too.

Article link:

<https://www.engadget.com/2017/07/20/ges-99-talking-laundry-box-was-built-for-the-blind/>

Doing laundry might be dead simple for most people, but the visually impaired don't have it so easy. To make that easier, GE Appliance's [skunkworks division FirstBuild](#) -- along with the help of a 14 year-old -- [has designed](#) a system called Talking Laundry.

With a name like that, the invention is pretty self-explanatory: it's a metal box (below) that audibly tells you how much time is

left in a given wash cycle, and simplifies controls to one knob each for a washer and dryer.

Using a board computer and FirstBuild's Green Bean tools that convert code to machine language, teenage Jack DuPlessis (his dad works for GE and gave him the task) put a prototype together in the span of a weekend. Talking Laundry can even be retrofitted onto existing laundry machines; [its sales page](#) states that the module will connect to "most" current and all future laundry units.

Maybe best of all, these are available to buy right now, and they won't break the bank. One unit will control both a washer and a dryer and will only set you back \$99 -- a far cry from that \$16,000 [voice-controlled laundry folder](#).

Expanding Horizons

Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind is well-known for employment and education opportunities created to increase independence for many North Texans with vision impairment. In August 2017, Dallas Lighthouse expanded our services by opening another facility in Richardson at 111 W. Spring Valley, right across from the DART Light Rail Spring Valley Station.

A major objective for our team is preventing blindness when sight restoration is feasible. A resource we are hopeful of advancing in our new location is a Low Vision Clinic. Their purpose is to assess patients with noticeably reduced vision and suggest best solutions for sight restoration.

Even though curing sight loss isn't always possible, there are many advancing treatment options that can be explored and refined low vision devices that optimize remaining eyesight. An excellent example of technology is a device called seeBOOST.

It's a wearable low vision tool that expands the field of vision for people who have experienced vision loss. seeBOOST has been

described as a “wearable CCTV monitor”. The Dallas Lighthouse has an exclusive global contract to distribute seeBOOST devices to not-for-profits.

The Ocutech Explorer Telescopic is another device which can help someone with low vision. In some cases, this device enables a person with deteriorating vision to see well enough to maintain their driving privileges.

Serving the blind community in this special capacity is our objective.

We are currently communicating with low vision doctors who are considering partnering their expertise with this mission.

seeBOOST Wins First Place at Silmo Paris

Richardson based optical technology startup's seeBOOST® wins First Place at Silmo Paris - the world's most prestigious eyewear industry event

PARIS – October 8, 2017–Med-tech optical manufacturer Evergaze LLC's flagship product seeBOOST was awarded First Place at the Silmo d'Or 50th anniversary eyewear trade show in the low vision category. Silmo Paris is the world's premier, oldest, and most prestigious international eyewear industry event.

seeBOOST is a new category of corrective eyeglasses integrating cameras and a microdisplay with a prescription lens. This combination compensates for the loss of vision of persons afflicted with Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) and Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) - the leading causes of blindness in the developed world. The ergonomic and lightweight design of seeBOOST makes it practical to use all day long, a simple yet previously technologically unachievable feat.

Patrick Antaki, co-founder and President of Evergaze said, "Our mission is to nullify the life-debilitating impact that AMD and DR impose on the lives of those afflicted. We will have met our goal when any person with these diseases can go to their local optometrist and purchase our electronic glasses as easily as one can now get fitted with regular prescription glasses or contact lenses."

"With seeBOOST, vision loss due to these diseases no longer needs to drastically reduce these individuals' Quality of Life, impact their daily routines, cause depression, or require dependence on loved ones. I am reminded of the importance of our mission every time I witness the joyful elation on the faces of users, and their loved ones, when they first try see BOOST.

I know that our technology and innovation are having a tangible, immediate, and positive impact on the lives of our users, and we will continue to work towards making seeBOOST accessible to the world."

In winning the coveted Silmo d'Or award, seeBOOST outperformed the latest product offerings from other nominees including established manufacturers Enhanced Visions' Jordy (Huntington Beach, CA) and eSight Eyewear (Ontario, Canada).

Evergaze LLC, developer of see BOOST®

(972) 896-4937

www.seeboost.com

Come Celebrate Solo Travel Independence and Much More During the 2017 Dallas White Cane Day

This October 15th is the 53rd anniversary since President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the White Cane Day proclamation into action. Due to our official national White Cane Day being on Sunday this year, we will celebrate the next day.

We encourage you to invite your families and friends and be a part of our extraordinary celebration and education with other North Texans with visual impairment. Our festivities are on Monday, October 16, beginning at 10:00 A.M., continuing until 1:00 P.M. Celebrate and support solo travel independence and much more at Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla Street in downtown Dallas, 75201.

The fall weather is usually perfect to begin the festivity with our healthy walk around Dallas City Hall. Afterwards, we'll gather in the front lobby for our inspirational program. We commence with Dallas Mayor Rawlings' proclamation, followed by inspiring speakers.

In addition, a tasty lunch will be provided by our steady sponsor Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers. Please RSVP with Blake Lindsay by Wednesday, October 11, 2017. Your response will ensure we have adequate food and minimal waste.

Email

blake.lindsay@dallaslighthouse.org

or call Blake at

(214) 420-9411.

We look forward to the North Texas White Cane Day Celebration on Monday, October 16, 2017, 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

White Cane Day volunteers will be on hand to greet you upon your arrival, as well as making certain you find our festivities.

[Watch our promotional video](#) on North Texas White Cane Day on our YouTube channel.

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 playing cards, Dominoes, fit-over anti-glare shades (available in amber, gray, and yellow), and readers with powers of 3, 3.5, and 4.

We're always adding more, so 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

Employment Opportunities with the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind

The DLB is seeking people who can sew and also people with call center skills. The DLB HR department recently introduced a convenient way for you to keep up with current job openings and apply for them when your talents fit the opportunity.

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

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

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, October 20.

Come enjoy free prizes, free food, and 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 in the DLB Auditorium at 4306 Capitol Avenue!

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 of 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) 420-9411

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.

If you have not yet liked our [Facebook](#) page, we would appreciate you doing so. We are also on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

Follow DLB and share!

"Your Greatest Dream"
**by Kenneth Semien, Sr. President of American Council of
the Blind in Texas (ACBT)**

Your greatest dream can be achieved with a goal, vision and
determination

Small steps in the right direction will get you to your destination

You can begin by identifying sources of inspiration and gathering
the necessary tools

Then create some guidelines and activate effective monitoring
rules

Be sure to include an "I Can" attitude, commitment and
perseverance

Then add a hefty dose of energy, enthusiasm and adherence

Be careful not to dwell on the presence of fear, doubt or
procrastination

Involve the experience and expertise of others with similar
aspirations

One key to always remember is that great achievers never do it
alone

Therefore surround yourself with people of character, integrity
and solidity like stone

In the midst of adversity there are opportunities for you to shine
Just continue to tackle challenges with an open mind

Naysayers and times of uncertainty are sure to come
Nevertheless, you must believe that you have already won

All of the above elements are essential to your success

Know that you have what it takes and be encouraged to give it your best.

October is National Disabilities Awareness Month!

Dallas Congressman Pete Sessions stopped by recently to videotape a special message for the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind in recognition of National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month. Enjoy this special message! I want to give a very special thanks to Congressman Pete for his continuing support of the blind and visually impaired.

[Watch the video here!](#)

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

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

Feel free to contribute 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) 420-9411.

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.

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