Horizons

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Jobs. Independence. Empowerment.

Our Mission: We empower people who are blind, DeafBlind, and blind with other disabilities by creating diverse, sustainable, and meaningful employment opportunities.

Photo with caption: Trieva Smith standing in front of her workstation smiling

“I am the perfect example that blindness can happen to anyone. I was anyone. Not only did I lose my job, I lost my independence and I felt scared and defeated.” — Trieva Smith

Trieva Smith is a dynamic presence at our Seattle facility. She is small in stature, mighty in spirit, has an unwavering passion for life, and an inspiring story.

Fourteen years ago, Trieva was a pre-school teacher and had been for 15 years. She was earning her teaching certificate and had plans to become an Assistant Director for her employer. “I loved my job and all the kids I got to work with. I was living on my own and could easily run errands, go out with my friends, or go to the mall and shop till I dropped!”

Unfortunately, it was during this time she began having a series of migraines, which inevitably affected her vision. Slowly, she began to go blind. She did her best to hide her vision loss, and completed her degree. But her eye condition soon became obvious, as her supervisor began noticing Trieva fumbling around. “Yep, the gig was up!” shares Trieva. The job she loved so much was no longer going to work out for her, and Trieva found herself unemployed.

After six months of wondering what she was going to do, Trieva connected with the Department of Services for the Blind, who connected her with the Orientation and Training Center, where she learned to navigate the world as a person who is blind. “Being around other people who are blind was comforting to me,” says Trieva, “and I learned a lot.” One year later, she graduated from that program and with her confidence back, was looking for a job.

Trieva was hired by another non-profit organization where she worked for nine-and-a-half years but ultimately did not see a future there. Thanks to one of her coworkers, she heard about another organization called the Lighthouse. She applied and was hired and immediately found a sense of belonging.

At the Lighthouse, Trieva works in production, manufacturing products under the AbilityOne Program. She is thankful for her work environment, saying, “All my immediate coworkers are people who are blind or vision impaired. “Even my supervisor, Carla, is a person who is blind and encourages me all the way.” In her three-and-a-half years at the Lighthouse, Trieva has taken advantage of all the classes and opportunities the Lighthouse provides: braille, American Sign Language, and Orientation and Mobility, which all have helped her become more independent. She is grateful for the doors these classes open, and says, “I want to better myself and gain skills so that I may move up in my career.”

“Fourteen years ago my life came to a sudden halt when I became blind. Today I have a full time job, I am living independently, and I am definitely feeling empowered!” – Trieva Smith

Visit our website at www.thelighthousefortheblindinc.org to see a video about Trieva’s story and to learn more!

Because of You

Photo with caption: Richelle Ross (right) communicates with a Job Coach (left)

For the past 30 years our daughter, Richelle, would say that her BEST days are the ones spent working at the Lighthouse. With both sight and hearing deficits, our daughter knows too well the barriers that so often exist in pursuing opportunities. But at the Lighthouse, because of friends like you, these barriers don’t exist. Richelle has been given dignity, acceptance, friendship, and a sense of self-worth through doing jobs at the Lighthouse and doing them well. Because of YOU, her job is fully accessible and her goals are hers for the taking. Your donations go directly to provide training and support services to Lighthouse employees. Thank you for making a difference in not only my daughter’s life, but the lives of so many men and women at the Lighthouse. Because of YOU, people’s lives are better.

Thank you,

Barbara Ross

Foundation Board President

The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.

Individuals who are blind, DeafBlind, and blind with other disabilities in our community are waiting for a chance to succeed. Your gift today can help create that opportunity. It costs an average of $18 per employee every day to provide services through our Employee and Community Services programs. Please help shape the future for people like Trieva and so many more by giving a gift today.

How much can you help today?

(check boxes next to desired amount)

[ ] $18

[ ] $36

[ ] $54

[ ] $108

[ ] $216

[ ] $ (any amount) to provide as much support and training as possible for individuals who are blind, DeafBlind, and blind with other disabilities!

Please use the enclosed envelope to send a gift of independence! No postage necessary. To put your gift to work faster you can make a donation online at www.thelighthousfortheblindinc.org or contact Faye Green at (206) 436-2199 or fgreen@seattlelh.org.

Lighthouse Centennial Celebration

Photo with caption: Richard Turner (left) speaks to guests

Photo with caption: Employee Meka White at the podium

On Saturday, September 15th, 2018 we welcomed over 320 guests to The Museum of Flight to celebrate 100 years of jobs, independence, and empowerment. Together we raised over $361,000 for our Employee and Community Services!

We were honored to have former host of KING TV’s Evening Magazine, John Curley as our emcee, and blind card magician, Richard Turner as our keynote speaker for the evening. Both men dazzled and entertained our guests!

Special thank you to our generous Lighthouse Centennial Celebration sponsors:

CamelBak

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The BoxMaker Inc.

Amber Janitorial

Thank you everyone who made an impact at the event! We could not have done it without the support of our employees, donors, corporate and foundation partners, and business and community leaders. We are excited to launch into the next 100 years!

Visit our website at www.thelighthousefortheblindinc.org to see photos and videos from the event!

Lighthouse Employees: What are you thankful for?

“I am thankful for the Lighthouse opening up a facility here in South Carolina. As the largest employer of people who are blind in the state, it is exciting to see employees grow both in their jobs and in their personal lives.”

* Shawn Dobbs, Development and Public Relations Director, Summerville, SC

“I am thankful for learning many blind tricks at the Lighthouse from my valued co-workers. And they have taught me about blind sports, which I love.”

* Christopher Annis, Production Worker, Spokane, WA

“Although we are states away, we are grateful that the Lighthouse supports us as we strive to maintain independence in our professional lives!”

— NAVSUP San Diego Team

“I’m thankful to be cancer free, and for meeting all of the wonderful folks I have met at Inland Northwest Lighthouse.”

— Wanda Johnson, Production Worker, Spokane, WA

A New Mission for the Lighthouse

Photo with caption: Director of Public Relations and Development Greg Szabo (left) and Production Worker Karen Kane (right)

As we launch into the next 100 years at the Lighthouse, we made the important decision to review and refine our organization’s mission to reflect our future. It is our pleasure to share our new mission statement with you.

The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.’s Mission Statement

*We empower people who are blind, DeafBlind, and blind with other disabilities*

*by creating diverse, sustainable, and meaningful employment opportunities.*

We believe this mission encapsulates who we are today as an organization and who we want to be in the future.

Bennett Prows, *Board of Trustees Chairman*

Barbara Ross, *Foundation Board President*