

# **Lighthouse Awareness Brochure**

## **The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.**

**Photo with caption: Lighthouse machinist Alex Carter standing on the Machine Shop floor holding a tool from his machine**

### **WHAT WE DO**

**Pie chart showing breakdown of employees**

**44% of employees are blind**

**44% of employees are sighted**

**7% of employees are DeafBlind**

**5% of employees are blind with other disabilities**

**We are the largest employer of people who are blind west of the Mississippi and the largest employer of DeafBlind individuals in the U.S. From aerospace machining, production, service businesses, retail, administration, accounting, human resources, employee training, and executive-level management, there are people who are blind and DeafBlind powering everything we do. Over half of our dedicated staff members are blind, DeafBlind, or blind with other disabilities.**

**44% Of Employees Are Blind**

**5% Of Employees Are Blind With Other Disabilities**

**7% Of Employees Are DeafBlind**

**44% Of Employees Are Sighted**

### **MISSION**

**Photo with caption: Lighthouse Receptionist Deng Kong smiling and holding a white cane outside**

**Pullquote: “Our vision is to be the industry leader in the U.S. in providing sustainable, livable-wage employment, with support services for people who are blind, DeafBlind, and blind with other disabilities.”**

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

other disabilities by creating diverse, sustainable, and meaningful employment opportunities.

## **MANUFACTURING**

Nearly 70 years ago, the Lighthouse began our machine shop operation. We have been a continual contractor with The Boeing Company since 1952 with a 99% acceptance rate for manufactured parts. Today, we are an ISO9001- and AS9100-accredited manufacturer. We specialize in precision machining, assembly, injection molding, and SKILCRAFT Products.

## **ABILITYONE BASE SUPPLY CENTERS**

We operate over a dozen AbilityOne Base Supply Centers (BSCs) up and down the U.S. West Coast, which offer one-stop shopping to military personnel and federal employees.

## **MANAGED SERVICES**

We offer a variety of services to commercial, federal, and military customers. These include Contract Management Support services for government contracting offices. Our vision is to be the industry leader in the U.S. in providing sustainable, livable-wage employment, with support services for people who are blind, DeafBlind, and blind with other disabilities.

## **OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

Photo with caption: Michelle Denzer with her guide dog Sooner, smiling and standing in the garden

Pullquote: “More than 20 dog guides come to work with their handlers at Lighthouse facilities”

The generosity of our community allows us to meet people where they are in their journey of vision loss. Employees are able to receive ongoing training and support, enhancing skills that lead to upward mobility in the workplace.

## **ACCESSIBLE WORKSPACES**

The Lighthouse is dedicated to providing an accessible work environment, including braille displays, adaptive computer technology, enhanced lighting, and more. Each employee has the opportunity to customize their environment to suit their individual needs.

## **BRILLE LITERACY**

Braille literacy is a vital skill for upward mobility and employment, and the Lighthouse seeks to address this need through classes, individual instruction, and reading clubs.

## **COMPUTER TRAINING**

The Lighthouse offers a computer training lab where employees can learn to use a wide range of adaptive technology resources, software applications, and skills for upward mobility.

## **DEAFBLIND COMMUNITY CLASSES AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

The DeafBlind Community Class creates a space for DeafBlind people to come together, share or learn information in an accessible format and environment.

## **DEAFBLIND RETREAT**

For over 40 years, the DeafBlind Retreat has offered a fully accessible experience to campers from all over the country, giving DeafBlind people the opportunity to network, learn, educate, recreate, and connect.

## **ETHEL L. DUPAR FRAGRANT GARDEN**

The Ethel L. Dupar Fragrant Garden is a beautiful place for employees and community members to relax and relieve stress during the workday, and enjoy the sensory experience of the fragrant garden.

## **INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM**

The Independent Living Program (ILP) provides instruction in the home or at the workplace to help individuals new to vision loss learn new techniques to perform everyday tasks.

## **INTERPRETING SERVICES AND PROTACTILE AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE**

The Lighthouse hires freelance interpreters to meet the needs of DeafBlind employees and employees who require a language other than spoken English. ProTactile American Sign Language is taught to employees who are sighted and blind to facilitate communication with DeafBlind colleagues. The Lighthouse is one of the only places in the country where people who are blind are taught sign language so all colleagues can communicate with one another.

## **LOW VISION SERVICES, CLINIC, & STORE**

Available to the community as well as employees, Lighthouse Low Vision Services seeks to meet the immense gap in services for individuals with low vision, providing rehabilitation services, clinical exams, and tools to assist people as they adjust to vision loss.

## **ORIENTATION & MOBILITY PROGRAM**

Our Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Specialists ensure that employees who are blind can safely navigate to work, home, and around their communities. From busy city streets and public transit to local coffee shops, our O&M Specialists equip people with the technology, tools, and training needed to safely and independently navigate their communities.

## **SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM**

The Supported Employment Program utilizes the Lighthouse's expertise in designing accessible workspaces to gainfully employ

people who are blind with other disabilities, which broadens employment opportunities to people who may need additional assistance, including the support of a Job Coach.

## **TECHNOLOGY TRAINING CENTER**

The Technology Training Center offers fully accessible computer stations to DeafBlind employees and community members, along with individual courses taught by DeafBlind instructors.

## **WHY WE ARE HERE**

Photo with caption: A Lighthouse employee folds up a box containing a wallboard in the Spokane Facility.

Pullquote: “More than 19 languages are spoken at the Lighthouse”

At The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. we are forging new employment opportunities and innovating accessible technologies and work processes. Through training and technology, we offer a new trajectory for how people live their lives. Our employees inspire others by demonstrating that working with vision loss is possible.

Many employers don't know how to accommodate employees with disabilities, and in some cases, they can't conceive of how a person who is blind could work in positions falsely considered suitable only for people with sight.

Infographic showing 10 humans standing next to one another with the first seven colored in blue, the other three in purple.

7 out of every 10 adults who are blind are unemployed or significantly under employed in the United States.

For adults who are DeafBlind, that number rises to 8 out of 10, and for adults who are blind with other disabilities, it's 9 out of 10.

## **OUR LOCATIONS**

**Photo with caption: Lighthouse Machinist Rachel Talley holding a part in front of her machine in the Seattle Machine Shop**

**Pullquote: “On a Boeing plane over 7,000 parts are made by employees who are blind and DeafBlind.”**

**The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. is a private, not-for-profit social enterprise providing employment, support, and training opportunities for people who are blind, DeafBlind, and blind with other disabilities. Since 1918, the Lighthouse has provided employment and support to people who are blind in our community.**

**We have three primary manufacturing facilities and administrative offices located in:**

- **Seattle, WA**
- **Spokane, WA**
- **Summerville, SC**

**Our AbilityOne Base Supply Centers and their Supporting Offices and Warehouses are located in:**

- **Joint-Base Lewis McChord, WA (3)**
- **Seattle, WA**
- **Lakewood, WA**
- **Fallon, NV**
- **Ft. Irwin, CA**
- **China Lake, CA**
- **San Diego, CA**

**Our Contract Management Services are based in:**

- **San Diego, CA**
- **Redstone, AL**

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