

# Lighthouse

## Tampa Lighthouse

for the Blind

Tampa • Winter Haven

## News Update

*Maximizing independence and providing employment opportunities for persons who are blind or visually impaired*

### 65 YEARS OF SERVICE

January 2005

May 3, 2005 will mark the Lighthouse's 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to the Tampa Bay community. Throughout the years, the Lighthouse has endeavored to provide services that help its clients to achieve the highest level of independence possible. This is in keeping with its mission to "maximize independence and provide employment opportunities to persons who are blind or visually impaired."

The Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind is a private non-profit corporation. Originally founded in 1937 by Tampa's Chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women, the Lighthouse became officially incorporated on May 3, 1940 under the name of Hillsborough County Association for the Blind. The name was officially changed to Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind in 1971. In 1975, the agency earned accreditation from the National Association of Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped.

Over the years, the Lighthouse expanded from a sheltered workshop with limited rehabilitation services to a comprehensive rehabilitation center with many programs designed to address the many aspects of independent living. Currently these programs include daily living skills, orientation and mobility, communication skills, computer training, vocational evaluation, job placement,



*THEN*



*AND NOW*

on-the-job training, low vision clinic, social services, early intervention for infants and preschoolers, and a retail store that sells adaptive aids and appliances. To provide more and better job opportunities, the Lighthouse contracts with the federal government to provide services including telephone switchboard and a mailroom operation that includes records management. These operations employ a total of 15 skilled workers who are legally blind as telephone switchboard operators and mail clerks.

The Lighthouse is working to add more service contracts and expand the job opportunities that they provide.

The Lighthouse operates two facilities. The main office is located near downtown Tampa and the Polk County facility is located near downtown Winter Haven. Most of its services are offered at both facilities. The Lighthouse provides direct services to over 600 persons each year in all of its programs combined.

# Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind

Tampa • Winter Haven

## Contact Information

### Tampa

Administrative Offices,  
Rehabilitation Services,  
and Services Contracts  
Magnifiers & More Store  
Low Vision Clinic  
1106 W. Platt Street  
Tampa, FL 33606  
Phone: (813) 251-2407  
Fax: (813) 254-4305

### Winter Haven

Rehabilitation Services  
Early Intervention  
Low Vision Clinic  
206 Avenue D N. W.  
Winter Haven, FL 33881  
Phone: (863) 229-3633  
Fax: (863) 299-3559

### Web Site

[www.tampalighthouse.org](http://www.tampalighthouse.org)

### E-mail

[tlh@tampalighthouse.org](mailto:tlh@tampalighthouse.org)

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## MAYOR IORIO PRESENTS WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY PROCLAMATION



*Participants gather in the City Hall courtyard prior to the ceremony*



*Mayor Iorio reads a proclamation to participants at the event*

Many people aren't aware of the White Cane Law. The White Cane Safety Day was established to provide needed public education about the rights of pedestrians who are blind. Essentially, the law states that blind persons carrying a white cane have the right of way when crossing a street. The same applies to guide dogs, used extensively by blind persons as an alternative to cane travel. It's the law in all 50 states. A major problem is failure of vehicles to yield to pedestrians while making turns, especially right turns on red.

To celebrate White Cane Safety Day October 14th, the members of the Tampa Bay Chapter of the National Federation for the Blind and supporters from Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind and Division of Blind Services organized a gathering on the corner of Ashley Drive and Kennedy Boulevard in downtown Tampa. Many carried informative signs while being escorted across the busy intersection by a police officer. Some of the passing motorists honked their horns in support of the marchers. They continued to City Hall to receive a proclamation presented by Mayor Pam Iorio, who spent about a half-hour with the marchers following the ceremony. Following the meeting with

the Mayor, the marchers continued to the County Center where they met with County officials.

A similar event was held the week before in downtown Winter Haven, a few blocks away from the Lighthouse's Polk County facility. Winter Haven Mayor Mike Easterling appeared and read a resolution declaring October "National Federation for the Blind Month" for the city. A reporter for the Lakeland Ledger covered the event and agreed to be blindfolded and guided along the route. Mayor Easterling also agreed to be blindfolded for a street crossing with Winter Haven Lighthouse employee Eva Crowder and her guide dog, Cara, her 4-year old golden retriever-labrador mix. The reporter's first-person account of her 45 minutes under the blindfold appeared in the Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup> Lakeland Ledger. Her reaction was one of fear, exceeding that of many of her prior experiences including whitewater rafting and rock climbing, among others. Unfortunately, this is an all-too familiar feeling experienced by the many people who lose their eyesight each year. However, much of this fear can be overcome with proper training that is readily available at the Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind.

# DALE SNYDER: AN EXCELLENT ROLE MODEL

*“He’s very industrious!”*

“He’s very industrious!” exclaims Dale Snyder’s teacher, Susan Matthews at the Polk Training Center in Lake Alfred. “He rarely misses a day and is very responsible and conscientious,” she continued. These sincere accolades describe nearly everyone’s notion of the ideal employee. However, Dale Snyder is a far cry from

your typical worker. Dale, 25, is totally blind and suffers from mild to moderate mental retardation. He lost his eyesight from a brain injury in the early 1990’s.



*Dale meticulously strips small leaves from a delicate cutting that will be used for propagating other plants*

Dale has been working as a Plant Nursery Worker at the Polk Training Center since July 8, 2003. This is his first job ever. However, he has won the Worker of the Week award on more than one occasion. To win this award, a worker must maintain very good attendance, punctuality, and work attitude, and demonstrate a strong sense of responsibility. These have been consistently positive characteristics of Dale ever since he began, according to his teacher and others who have been working with him. This includes his Orientation and Mobility Instructor, Rebecca Leng, who has been teaching Center employees how to work with blind individuals like Dale.

One of Dale’s duties is to prepare cuttings for propagation (replanting) by stripping off the leaves. This requires careful, precise work to avoid damaging the tender cuttings. Dale’s sense of touch, good finger dexterity, and ability to work meticulously has made him an ideal worker for this type of work, which can be tedious and painstaking. Dale, however, loves his job and looks forward to coming to the Center every day. Rosemary Snyder, Dale’s mother, described how diligent he has always been at home with his chores. She also described his strong devotion to her and sense of caring for others. In addition, Dale has been saving his money for a new bowling ball, bag, and shoes, as bowling is one of his favorite leisure time activities. The Center hosts regular recreational outings including bowling for its clients.



*Dale and his fellow coworkers*

# HOLIDAY PARTIES FOLLOW GRADUATION CEREMONIES IN TAMPA AND WINTER HAVEN



*Generous discounts by Whaleys Markets helped defray the cost of the food and beverages*



*Proud Tampa graduates eagerly display their well-earned diplomas*



*Santa and Mrs. Claus and a very young helper who just happens to be Samuel Clanton from our Early Intervention Program*



*Our Winter Haven Graduates are equally proud of their hard-earned diplomas*

A holiday tradition of the Lighthouse continued in combining our annual graduation ceremonies with our annual holiday parties in the Tampa and Winter Haven locations. The holiday spirit contributed to the warmth and festiveness experienced by the honorees and their families and friends as they celebrated major milestones accomplished while attending the Lighthouse programs.

At the Tampa graduation party, the Coleman Chamber Orchestra (from Coleman Middle School) provided the Christmas music and other entertainment. Coleman Chamber Orchestra has provided entertainment for the past five years. We are most grateful for their contributions of youthful talent and energy, which added a great deal of spirited entertainment value to our event. Former graduate Fortune Bosco motivated the graduates to give back and then blessed us with

several holiday songs sung Acapulco-style. We also wish to thank Whaley's Market for granting us a generous discount in honor of their family matriarch Audie Whaley.

At the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Winter Haven graduation party, Dwayne White and Eva Crowder provided the holiday music. Both Eva and Dwayne blessed us with a solo during graduation and then Dwayne played the keyboard. We are most grateful to the State of Florida

*Holiday Parties continued on Page 5*

*Tampa Lighthouse For The Blind*

# SUN CITY TOUR SHOWCASES STORE AND OTHER SERVICES



*Demonstration of a closed circuit television system used to enlarge printed materials*



*Tour of the instructional kitchen*



*Low Vision clinic tour and presentation*

The Lighthouse invited a group of visually impaired seniors from Sun City for a special tour of the Lighthouse that highlighted the newly refurbished and expanded Magnifiers and More Store. Hartline sent a bus to transport them to and from the Lighthouse. The group of about 20 persons arrived mid-morning

and were served refreshments prior to a welcome presentation and tour of the Lighthouse. A representative of HartLine was also there to provide information about their programs for persons with disabilities. The group was served a complimentary lunch of sandwiches before returning to Sun City.

Several of the members of the group expressed a great deal of enthusiasm in the store and what the Lighthouse had to offer in the way of other services. One of them called the next day to arrange a return visit for a closer look at the store and its many new offerings.

## Holiday Parties - Continued from Page 4

for allowing us to use the Nora Mayo Hall in the Florida Citrus Building as they have for all of our past holiday parties. A delicious lunch and cake followed the graduation ceremony. Low Vision patient and veteran Paul Albright and his wife, Geneva, entertained the children and adults as Santa and Mrs. Claus. Our newest Santa has the real look with his white hair and beard and gives to children each year by visiting schools in Polk County. This year we included the Early Intervention children in our holiday party. Jolly Ol' Saint Nick arrived with presents and candy for each child.

We also wish to thank our hard-working Lighthouse staff for their efforts in organizing and carrying out these wonderful events. In addition, we would like to express our appreciation to retiring District Administrator Ted Hull and new District Administrator Anthony Ames and their staff from the Division of

Blind Services for attending and participating in these events as they have each year.

### TAMPA GRADUATES (in alphabetical order)

Louis Atchison Jr., Gail Bell, Julie Bonney, Joshua Burch, Harley Burnett, Regina Cannata, Dale Carnrike, Keith Conner, Carolyne Crenshaw, Betty Driggers, Robert Ekstrom, Janice Fitzpatrick-Ahearn, Dominick Fridella, William Gilbride, Bert Green, Dan Hicks, Equilla Hollis, Emily Johnson, James Kirk, Albert Lucas, Shelia Mitchell, Carlette Ogle, Mahmoud Osman, Darlene Reed, Gloria Ross-Hu, Jerry Salemi, Charles Small, Oliver Stewart, Shawn Sturges, Richard Sydnor, Betty Varnadoe, RoseAnn Walker, Gerald White, Mattie Doris Wilson.



*Serving lunch at the Tampa party*

### WINTER HAVEN GRADUATES (in alphabetical order)

Mildred Brewington, Shirley Cannon, Greg Childers, Kim Gaskins, Catherine Goodwin, Cora Hargraves, Arleatha Jackson, Josephine Kelley, Mary Lewis, Ronald Lewis, Jean Miller, Donna Naylor, Nikkie Parker, Louise Pease (deceased), Doug Reynolds, Lola Righton, Carol Roberts, Matilda Rugenstein, Loretta Stewart, Milton Turner, Karen Williams.

# WINTER HAVEN PICNIC PROVIDES COMMUNITY INFORMATION

The Lighthouse recently hosted a picnic at the Moose Lodge Picnic Grounds in Winter Haven for the Polk County adult clients as part of its efforts to acquaint them with the local support groups and related organizations of interest in the community. This is in keeping with Lighthouse objectives to integrate our clients into the community and acquaint them with resources and group activities. Representatives from the Lions Club, Federation of the Blind, Division of Blind Services, and two of the local support groups came to give presentations.



*The turnout was excellent!*

Many turned out to enjoy a picnic lunch of chicken, potato salad, cole slaw, beverages, and dessert. After the presentations, lunch was served, fol-



*Boat rides on Lake Idylwild*

lowed by boat rides on scenic Lake Idylwild. Many thanks to the Moose Lodge for the use of their picnic grounds and to everyone who participated.

## NEW SCHOOL NAMED IN HONOR OF FORMER LIGHTHOUSE CLIENT



*Hilda Turner dances with classmate Robert Jordan at a spring social several years ago*

The Hillsborough County School Board recently honored the late Hilda T. Turner by naming a new elementary school after her. The new school will open near Live Oak Preserve near Wesley Chapel for the 2005-06 academic year. It is to be named Hilda T. Turner Elementary School.

Hilda Turner was a teacher who successfully sued the Hillsborough County school board in 1943 in order to bring about equal pay for all teachers, regardless of race. Her monthly earnings in 1943 were \$89.68, which was about

\$60 or 40% less than white teachers with the same education, credentials, and experience. Her success brought about a pay system based on equality along with the above criteria, thereby eliminating race and color in determining how much a teacher is to be paid.

Alice Dorsett, who was among those nominating her for the honor, was quoted as saying, "That woman was so brave because she was the only one who would come forward and stand up for equal rights." This was at a time when there was absolutely no legal protection against recrimination for these kinds of actions. Therefore, Hilda Turner was at a tremendous risk of losing her livelihood for standing up for her beliefs.

Hilda Turner received her inspiration from the following poem written by Edward Everett Hale (who had no idea of how much impact his poem would have on our community through the far-reaching actions of one community leader):

I am only one,

But still I am one.

I cannot do everything.

But still I can do something;

And because I cannot do everything

I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.

Born in Tampa to Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Turner, Miss Turner earned her Bachelors Degree from Atlanta University, and took additional courses to continue her professional development, at DePaul University, Chicago Teachers College, and Northwestern University. In addition to her work as a classroom teacher, she served as a member of National Education Association, National Retired Teachers Association, and the Florida State Teachers Association where she additionally served as President. After her retirement, she became visually impaired and attended classes at the Lighthouse that helped her maintain her independence throughout her later years. She passed away in 1999 at the age of 96.

# CONTRIBUTORS

Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind truly appreciates all of our donors. All contributors support programs and services at Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind. Although we can only list contributors who give gifts totaling \$50 or more, we are grateful for each gift. The names listed below include those whose contributions were received between July 1, 2004 and December 31, 2004. If we have inadvertently omitted or misspelled your name, we apologize and ask that you please let us know by calling (813) 251-2407.

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Martin Kledzik  
Target - Store # 1299  
Thompson, Sizemore, &  
Gonzalez  
Wal-Mart - Store # 1960

## Tributes

*We thank the following contributors for choosing Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind as a means of expression to honor or memorialize a friend or loved one*

### In Memory of...

**Lee Altman**  
Mrs. Hertha H. Altman  
Mr. & Mrs. R. Firestine  
**Estill Bowman**  
Ernestine Maupin  
**Thelma Cross**  
Iris Durrett  
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**My Father**  
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### **Addie Turner**

Judith K. Means  
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Capt. Daniel Cardin

### In Honor of...

**Carol Bava**  
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**Joseph Newquist**  
Mr. & Ms. George Kramer  
**Anthony Daniel Roca**  
Angel Roca  
**Becky Weiner**  
Abigail Ann Martin

# DIVISION OF BLIND SERVICES NAMES NEW WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

On December 1, 2004, Anthony Ames was named District Administrator, succeeding Ted Hull who retired in December. Anthony Ames was promoted from his previous position as Supervising Counselor in the same

District office. The Lighthouse wishes to extend its congratulations and looks forward to continuing its close working relationship with the Division of Blind Services.

## MAJOR FUNDING SOURCES

City of Tampa  
Division of Blind Services (Florida  
Department of Education)  
Polk County BOCC

Hillsborough County BOCC  
United Way of Central Florida  
United Way of Tampa Bay

## **AFFILIATIONS**

**Association for Education and Rehabilitation  
of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER)**

**National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving  
People with Blindness or Visual Impairment (NAC)**

**National Industries for the Blind (NIB)**

**Tampa  
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1106 W. Platt Street • Tampa, FL 33606-2142

## UPCOMING EVENTS

January 17

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Day observed (closed)**

February 3, 5:30-7:30 pm

**Cocktail Party Fund Raiser  
Hosted by *Absolutely Optical*  
International Plaza - Bamboo Club  
Asian Bistro. \$20 per person. Call  
(813) 251-2407 for more information.**

February 12, 9 am - 3 pm

**Low Vision Expo  
Doubletree Hotel - Tampa Airport.  
Call (813) 251-2407 for  
more information.**

February 25

**Virtual White Cane Walk (Polk  
County). Ending date for  
contributions.**

April - May (TBA)

**17th Annual Beepball Classic**

May 30

**Memorial Day observed (closed)**

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