

# 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*

### CARLETTE OGLE ENJOYS SUCCESS AT HER FIRST COMPETITIVE JOB



*Carlette (right) enjoys a well-deserved break with her Pizza Hut supervisor.*

Carlette Ogle, 54, has always been a friendly, upbeat person with a positive attitude and a great sense of humor. She is easy-going and never one to complain. These characteristics endeared her to coworkers and staff alike when she worked in the Lighthouse's Industries

Program from early 1987 until 2002 when the program closed. During her tenure at the Lighthouse, her industriousness and ability to work well with others earned her the Worker of the Year award in 1995 and the Frank A. MacDonald Memorial Award the same year.

Carlette took a break from working after the Industries Program closed, but became eager to get back to work so she sought help from our Supported Employment program. Not just any job would do so she patiently waited for the right opportunity - a job where she would feel confident and comfortable with her surroundings and coworkers as she did at the Lighthouse. Her patience was rewarded when she was invited to enter a training program at the Pizza Hut on South Dale Mabry near Britton Plaza. The prospects for Carlette's

success were good as the Lighthouse has enjoyed an excellent working relationship with the Pizza Hut organization for many years, generating many successful job placements at several Bay Area Pizza Huts.

After several weeks of on-the-job training in the preparation of chicken wings and other duties, Carlette was considered successfully trained. Her case was closed by the Lighthouse, but not without a celebration luncheon at her Pizza Hut on March 27<sup>th</sup> with her Employment Specialist Sherryl Cook and several other proud Lighthouse employees.

When Carlette's not working, she is active in the community with her church and other organizations. She also enjoys dining out, reading Talking Books, and just chatting with her many friends on the phone.

July 2007

### NOW AVAILABLE: NEW "A STATE OF VISION" SPECIALTY AUTO TAG, BENEFITING FLORIDA'S PRIVATE AGENCIES SERVING THE BLIND



*The new license tags are now available for purchase at your local Florida auto tag agency.*

The new "A STATE OF VISION" specialty auto tags are now available for sale at your local Florida auto tag agency. After extensive efforts by the Florida Association of Agencies Serving the Blind (FAASB) to design and promote the brightly colored new plate with the inscription that reads "A STATE OF VISION," Governor Bush signed the House Bill 281 into law on June 23, 2006 authorizing this new specialty license plate for the benefit of Floridians who are blind or visually impaired. State

Representative Dennis Baxley (R-Ocala), the plate's prime sponsor, attributes his interest to his son, Jeffery, who is visually impaired. His efforts were supported by State Senator Carey Baker (R-Eustis). This is the only specialty plate out of 100 in Florida that benefits persons who are blind or visually impaired. FAASB agencies, including the Lighthouse, will receive the \$25 voluntary user fee each time a plate is purchased or renewed. Please purchase your tag today!

## TALENTED TEEN MUSICIAN WHO IS BLIND SUCCEEDS THROUGH HARD WORK

# Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind

Tampa • Winter Haven

## Contact Information

### Tampa

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

### Winter Haven

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

### Web Site

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

### E-mail

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*Matthew plays one of his compositions on his piano at home.*

Matthew Oliver, 14, is quite a talented young man. He earns his success the old fashioned way – through hard work. Although he can see only light and some colors, this does not stop this National Honors Society member from earning top grades in all of his honors classes. He has achieved much notoriety with his gift in music playing the piano, trumpet, and harmonica.

Matthew has never known what it is like to see. He was born with a condition called microphthalmic eyes, a rare eye condition that leaves the orbits of the eyes too small to see. Learning Braille was no small accomplishment as he had to learn regular Braille for reading, Nemeth code Braille for mathematics, and music Braille code for his music. Because he cannot read Braille while playing the piano, he has to spend hours memorizing each musical piece one hand at a time (using the other to read the music in Braille).

Several years ago, Matthew's parents contacted the Lighthouse's Winter Haven facility and arranged for him to work with Rehabilitation Teacher Eva Crowder on daily living skills which include meal preparation, personal management, communication skills, and

other skills designed to help Matthew live and function independently in the home and community. Now that Matthew is 14, he is participating in the Lighthouse's Transition program that will help him learn about the world of work and participate in work experiences at local job sites.

Matthew combines his gifts and talents with many hours of hard work every week studying for his honors classes and working on his music. His teachers cannot say enough good things about him.

His passion for music started at an early age, starting with piano lessons at age 6. His piano teacher decided early on to throw out the instruction book and work with Matthew using a flexible and creative approach designed to stimulate his interest and facilitate learning. This innovative approach worked very well – by age 7, Matthew was performing for public audiences. He can simultaneously read Braille music with one hand and play the trumpet with the other, no small feat. He has composed several songs and won a national award last year from the National Music Association in a songwriting competition for musicians who are blind or visually impaired. He attends the Jewett School of the Arts and will be starting at the Harrison School for the Arts (on the Lakeland High School campus) after earning one of only six slots available, when he starts high school in the fall.

When asked what music he enjoys listening to, Matthew mentioned Glen Miller, Beethoven, Chopin, Eddie Howard, and popular musicians such as the Cars, Hall and Oates, and Elton John.

Matthew is not just musically inclined. He is a Boy Scout who has achieved the rank of First Class and aspires to become an Eagle Scout. He enjoys many other outdoor activities

*Continued on Page 3*

*Tampa Lighthouse For The Blind*

## BOWLING 101 – BEHIND THE SCENES



*The Lighthouse's Polk Transition students learned about the various pin patterns that bowlers have to deal with.*

As a popular indoor sport and source of recreation, bowling provides many hours of entertainment to families and avid bowlers alike. However, most people do not realize how popular bowling is among people who are blind or visually impaired. This is because much of the skill of bowling is based on muscle memory which is even more important than the use of eyesight in launching the ball. However, to really appreciate the sport, it is important to



*The students learned the function of each piece of equipment used by bowling centers including lane machines such as this one.*

know what goes into the operation of a bowling center.

To learn more about what goes on behind the scenes at a typical bowling center, a field trip to the Kegel Training Center was scheduled for the Winter Haven Transition program students. Kegel Training Center, located in Lake Wales, was selected for its emphasis on training, research, and development in the field of bowling. Kegel is also known for training bowlers for world-

class and professional competition.

When our students arrived, they were greeted by the Center staff and escorted into a classroom setting. They were given an introduction about the center which included its mission and what sets Kegel apart from other bowling centers. Each of our students got to handle the actual pins and physically examine the various pin patterns typically left standing following the first throw of a frame. The students were then led down an actual alley (prior to conditioning) to get a hands-on “tour” of the pin setting equipment and the lane machines that automatically apply wood conditioners and buff the wood. Everyone was encouraged to “touch” and handle everything, even to lie down on the alley to examine the underside of the pin setting equipment.

All of this hands-on learning caused the students to work up healthy appetites which were quickly satisfied with plenty of pizza served in the snack bar.

### *Talented Teen Musician, continued from Page 2*

including walking, swimming, tandem bike riding, fishing, camping, going to Cypress Gardens and riding the roller coasters, even picking his own oranges and other produce at farms open to the public. Because of his wide-ranging interests and sense of humor, Matthew has many friends and is popular at school.

An unusual interest he has is the geographic layout of the land, namely that of the United States. Just give him the name of any state at random and he can tell you where it is in relation to its neighboring states. He can also describe the route to get there from his current location, naming interstate and other highways along the route. He can give accurate directions locally as well - his father said he had no need for a naviga-

tion system in his car whenever Matthew is with him. A few years ago, when Matthew was just starting at Jewett School of the Arts, he managed to learn every detail of the school's layout by the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, not just the routes he needed to take to get to his classes.

Matthew aspires to make a career of music, either as a composer or bandleader. With his gifts and penchant for hard work, his future appears very bright regardless of the direction he takes.

### **LIGHTHOUSE UNDERGOES REACCREDITATION REVIEW**

The Lighthouse underwent its 7<sup>th</sup> NAC (National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving People with Blindness or Visual Impairment) accreditation review from May 6<sup>th</sup> to May 9<sup>th</sup>. This involved a visit by a team of three highly credentialed professionals from the field of services to the blind and visually impaired. The team examined every aspect of the Lighthouse's operation, interviewing managers and employ-

ees, touring facilities, and reviewing hundreds of documents. Overall, the team's report was very positive. On June 9<sup>th</sup>, the Commission on Accreditation awarded the Lighthouse the full five-year reaccreditation.

The Lighthouse was first accredited in 1975 and has since been reaccredited an additional six times, each time for the full five-year maximum.

# 19TH ANNUAL BEEPBALL CLASSIC: NICE TURNOUT, GREAT GAME!

## LIGHTHOUSE 4, ALL STARS 1



The victorious Lighthouse players are all smiles!

It was a beautiful day on April 21<sup>st</sup> for our 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Beepball Classic with lots of sun, mild temperatures and light breezes to keep it comfortable at the New York Yankees Community Field (at Legends Field). The turnout at Community Field in the New York Yankees complex was good, especially with all of the groups that came out to help. The game itself was fun and exciting with plenty of action on the part of both teams. For much of the game, the Lighthouse led by only a single run until the fourth inning when they gained a comfortable lead that was maintained for the rest of the game. However, the blindfolded All Stars made a decent showing with some impressive fielding, especially by Tampa Tribune Health and Fitness Writer Patti Kim. The All Stars made four hits, one of which resulted in a run by Dellin Betances of the New York Yankees. NewsChannel 8's Alicia Roberts and Steve Jerve each made a hit that was fielded out. The highly adept Lighthouse fielders successfully intercepted all but one of the All Stars hits. Three of the four Lighthouse runs were made by Lee Kimbrell and the fourth was made by April Stanley.

Several well-known personalities came out to participate. Long-time All Stars coach and Tampa Tribune columnist Steve Otto; Phil McNiff, Executive Vice President of the New York Yankees; Scott "Pinetop" Peterson of the Quivering Rhythm Hounds; Jeff Houck, Tribune Food Writer; B. C. Mannion,



Lee Kimbrell connects for a Lighthouse run.

Tribune Feature Writer; Patti Kim, Tribune Health and Fitness Writer; Albert (Bucified Bert) Owens with his over-the-top Tampa Bay Buccaneers outfit; Dennis Joyce, Tribune Metro Editor; Charlie Miranda, Tampa City Council Member; Alicia Roberts, NewsChannel 8 Traffic Reporter; Steve Jerve, NewsChannel 8 Meteorologist; Dellin Betances, Pitcher, New York Yankees; Ron Dock, Tampa Yankees; George Kontos, Tampa Yankees; Zack Kronke, Tampa Yankees; and "Hopalong Cassidy", former Detroit Tiger and Ohio State football player, former Heisman Trophy winner, and now a coach with the Tampa Yankees.

The victorious Lighthouse team included Berchaun Clark, Lonnie Coston, Stuart Davis, Ronald Eby, Lynn Hunt, Tristen Hunt, Lee Kimbrell, David Niver, Enrique Oliu (voice of the Devil Rays), Michael Randall, Jean Carlos Saez, April Stanley, and Betty Wade.

With all of the fun and frivolity, there were some important lessons to be learned from this event. First, people who are blind typically adjust quite well over time with proper training and support. Second, those who put on blindfolds are often able to compensate for it in a short amount of time, (witness some of the impressive plays pulled off by the All Stars players).



Allstars player Patti Kim goes for it, scoring an out against the Lighthouse.

Beepball is patterned after softball with some adaptations. Players with partial or full vision wear blindfolds. The softball has a beeper that the players listen for when batting or fielding. Bases are equipped with beepers that sound differently from that emitted by the ball. Only one of the two bases (1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>) is used after a hit. The beeper in the base farthest from the ball in play is activated to prevent noise

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### COLUMBIA RESTAURANT'S 10th ANNUAL COMMUNITY HARVEST



Harvest days are coming soon. During the month of September, Columbia Restaurant customers may designate a favorite charity to receive a donation of 5% of the tab at no extra cost. This year also marks Columbia Restaurant's 102nd anniversary. Please make a September meal date and designate Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind as your choice to receive this gift.

Tampa Lighthouse For The Blind

## 19th Annual BeepBall Classic, continued from Page 5



Thomas Hughey and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 87, conducted the color guard ceremony.

interference with the ball's beeper. A run is scored when the batter who makes a successful hit makes it to the beeping base before the ball is fielded. If a fielder finds the ball and raises it up in the air before the batter gets to base, the batter is out. There are six fielders: two in right field, two in center field, and two in left field. In each section of the field, one fielder plays the infield and the other plays the outfield.

**We wish to thank everyone who came out to watch, participate, or assist with this event. Special thanks** again to **Steve Otto, Coach of the All Stars** despite his threat to retire as All Stars coach once he beats the Lighthouse Team (the Lighthouse has steadfastly pledged never to allow that to happen). We also wish to thank **James Gleason, Marine Raider, Director of the Friends of the Tampa Bay Marines; Thomas M. Hughey, R.N., and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 87** for the Color Guard Ceremony; **The Coleman Middle School Orchestra – Chamber Ensemble**, led by its **Director Edward Thanz** for their outstanding rendition of the Star Spangled Banner; Lighthouse Staff and family members for organizing and carrying out this event; **Richard Bower**, our announcer and his wife **Terri** who helped with concessions; **Chris Abdnour** and **Daryle Glaser** for

coaching the Lighthouse team; **Chamberlain and Wharton High Schools** for helping fill the stands; **Dave Kelsey** for umpiring, and **Phil McNiff** with the **Tampa Yankees**, and **George Steinbrenner** with the **New York Yankees** for providing the use of the Community Field along with support staff. We wish to congratulate **Wharton High School** for winning the trophy award, presented by Coach Robert Ennis and the Friends of the Tampa Bay Marines for the high school with the most members in attendance.

We wish to recognize our sponsors and other contributors who were key to the event's financial success. Our **Major League Sponsor (\$1,000 +)** was Lee Kimbrell. Our **Banner Sponsors (\$650)** included Amerigroup; Ferman Motor Cars; Hilb, Rogal & Hobbs Insurance; MetLife; and Thompson Cigar Company. **Inning Sponsors (\$400)** included Jim and Debbie Brown, Kuhn Honda-Volkswagen, and Tampa Bay Steel. **Player Sponsors (\$250)** included PAR, Inc.; Phil Dinkins and Ed Lally, and William and Patricia Morris. **Other cash contributors** included A-1 Staffing, James and Sara Alley, Adeline Bailey, Stephen Barbas, Harriet Blymiller, Jana Chaffin, Cut Rite Lawn & Maintenance, Molly Emmons, Benny Estevez, Catherine Flood, Ron Flood and JP Morgan Group Associates, Carol Goodson, Barbara Gordon, Debra Guest, Don Harris, Jr., A.C. Howell, Bill and Lucy Lancaster, James Larson, Leonard and Veronica Sicilian, and Capt. Frederic F. Szymanski. We also thank the Friends of the Tampa Bay Marines for selling over \$500 in advance ticket sales and for boosting attendance.

**In-kind donations** were contributed by Antonio's Pasta Grille, Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar, Bok Sanctuary, Busch Gardens, Caspers Company, Explorations V Children's Museum,



Once again, the Allstars made the Lighthouse work hard for its victory!

Ferg's Sports Bar & Grill, Gold's Gym - Tampa, Hilltop Memories, Independent Living Aids, Kathy Laubenthal, Kid City, Lowry Park Zoo, Magnifiers and More Store, Mike's Smokehouse Grill, MOSI, Orlando Museum of Art, Publix Super Market Charities, SeaWorld, Side Splitters Comedy Club, StarLite Cruises, Sun 'n Fun Air Museum, Tampa Bay Lightning, Tampa Theatre, Walt Disney, and Windy City Pizza.

The Lighthouse raised just over \$9,000, all of which will benefit our Tampa-based programs serving persons who are blind or visually impaired.

### DISASTER PREPAREDNESS



Hurricane Andrew, 1992, was one of Florida's most destructive hurricanes.

If you have a loved one or know someone who would qualify for special needs attention during a disaster, please be sure to register this person with the Hillsborough County Special Needs Shelter by calling 813-307-8015, extension 6006. Please do not put this off! Space is limited and on a first come, first served basis!

## PMSI ADOPTS THE LIGHTHOUSE FOR CASUAL DAY FUNDRAISER



*Penny Broseghini, PMSI's Human Resources Manager (right) presents a \$10,000 check to Veronica Chesbrough, the Lighthouse's Program Contracts and Grants Manager.*

One hundred years ago in the business office setting, men typically wore cuffed trousers, stiffly pressed dress shirts with tall, winged collars, stylishly thin neckties, and buttoned vests called waistcoats. Women wore floor length skirts, puffy blouses and 'health' corsets – if women were allowed in a business office at all. Fifty years ago, business office wear for men usually consisted of a dress shirt and tie, dress slacks, and perhaps a suit coat or sports coat – whereas women would wear conservative dresses, or business suits with matching skirt and jacket but certainly not a pants-suit. And last Thursday, before a scheduled biweekly Friday payday, business men and women at PMSI wore blue jeans if they so desired—and if they paid a nominal fee! Indeed business office attire has changed notably over the past one hundred years. And there's been a gradual cultural relaxation in socially-acceptable business office wear in general. Blatant formality has given way to a 'business casual' style. Soon neckties and dresses became a virtual thing of the past in most business organizations. This became true within PMSI's business operations as well. PMSI's dress code calls for a casual, yet business-appropriate style of clothing Monday through Thursday, and a designated Friday dress code permitting associates to wear blue jeans if they wish.

Then, about ten years ago or so, someone within PMSI proposed an idea

to take this practice a step farther, and at the same time do some good within the community. Thus was the creation of the 'Casual Thursday' fund raiser at PMSI. Associates can elect to pay a few dollars to a PMSI Activities Committee member for the privilege of wearing blue jeans on the Thursdays that fall before a payday. In addition, from time to time PMSI also allows associates to dress more casually to raise extra money for charity. This practice creates a win/win, as PMSI associates can dress more comfortably, which is seen to foster greater productivity, and the local community benefits by receiving a donation from PMSI on behalf of its associates. And in 2006, the Lighthouse was privileged to be that charity!

In March 2007, we were presented a \$10,000 check—comprised of \$8,000 from associate donations and other fund raising activities with the balance matched by PMSI. Furthermore, the PMSI Activities Committee has decided to adopt the Lighthouse

again for 2007's campaign, and they are already working hard to beat 2006's donation. We are looking forward to the results and thanks to PMSI for your continued support!

### About PMSI



PMSI is a Tampa-based company, employing over 1,000 associates nationwide. Founded in 1976, today PMSI is the nation's largest full-service network provider of pharmacy, Medicare Set-Asides, medical services and equipment, and clinical services for the workers' compensation industry. PMSI promotes quality care for injured workers while helping clients contain costs and control utilization. PMSI is a subsidiary of AmerisourceBergen Corporation—ranked #27 in the Fortune 500 list and among the Top 5 in the Pharmaceuticals Service Providers category. To learn more about PMSI visit us at: [www.pmsionline.com](http://www.pmsionline.com) or call us at: 877.ASK.PMSI.

## CRYSTAL BAY ENTERPRISES NAMED EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR



*Debbie Hietala (L), owner of Crystal Bay Enterprise, with employee Andrew Irizarry. Both are visually impaired; Andrew is also deaf.*

Debbie Hietala, owner of Crystal Bay Enterprise, Inc. was awarded Employer of the Year Award by the Mayor's Alliance for Persons With Disabilities because of her strong commitment to recruit, hire, and accommodate people with disabilities. Since January 1997, Debbie Hietala has served as a mentor to her many

employees of the past and present. The business, located in the Hillsborough County Courthouse, is involved in the Randolph Shepherd Vendor program, a program established by a federal law that provides opportunities for blind and visually impaired people to run business enterprise programs. In Florida, every state building that has a food service facility must offer the contract to a Randolph Shepherd vendor first.

Over the years, Debbie has hired and trained many blind and visually impaired people, mentoring several of them to become managers themselves in the vendors program. Mentoring others has required a lot of hard work and patience. She currently has a new employee in training to manage a vending facility. Congratulations, Debbie, on your award and especially for helping so many others over the years.

*Tampa Lighthouse For The Blind*

# CONTRIBUTORS

*Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind truly appreciates all of our donors. All contributions 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 January 1, 2007 and June 30, 2007. 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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PMSI, Inc. (employees + company match)

The Walter Foundation

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Windy City Pizza

## 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*

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**Brian Brady**

Ruth Burton & Family

**Lula James**

Rosa L. Carver

**Irene King**

Ruth Boucher

**Walter J. Kochanek**

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## In Honor of

**Loxley Banks**

A. K. Henning

## PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION APPROVED FOR TOTALLY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED PERSONS

Governor Crist has approved HB 1051 that provides property tax exemptions for totally and permanently disabled persons, including those who are legally blind. The bill went into effect July 1st. To qualify, a legally blind person must obtain a signed certification from his or her State of Florida licensed optometrist and present this certification to the county property appraiser on or before March 1

of each year. The exact wording required for the certification, is contained within the full text of House Bill 1051 which can be accessed via the internet at [www.myfloridahouse.com/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=\\_h1051er.doc&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1051&Session=2007](http://www.myfloridahouse.com/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=_h1051er.doc&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=1051&Session=2007)

### MAJOR FUNDING SOURCES

City of Tampa

City of Winter Haven

Division of Blind Services (Florida Department of Education)

Hillsborough County BOCC

Polk 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)

### Upcoming Events

August 29

Live Music Series

6:00 p.m., Old Hyde Park Village

September 1-30

Community Harvest

Columbia Restaurant

(see bottom of Page 4)

September 3

Labor Day (closed)

October 18

United Way Day of Caring (Tampa)

November 22-23

Thanksgiving holidays (closed)

December 7

Graduation/Holiday Party (Tampa)

December 14

Graduation/Holiday Party (Winter Haven)

December 24 & 25

Christmas holidays (closed)

January 1

New Years Day (closed)

## Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind

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