Thank you to all who joined Weston Wright and his Lighthouse friends for our 8th Annual Weston Wright "Lighting the Way" 5K Run/Walk family event on Saturday, October 22nd, at the Valero Energy Corporation Campus. It was amazing to see the hundreds of people, and a handful of pets, who joined us on a beautiful fall morning in support of our blind children’s programs.

Thanks to all of our sponsors, volunteers and local businesses who donated to this event! With your help, we will be able to continue making a difference in more young lives - we could not have done this without you!!

Mark your calendars today to join us in support of our blind children’s programs for this year's event on Saturday, November 4th at McAllister Park - Pavilion 2 located at 13102 Jones-Maltsberger Rd. Lighthouse friends and family will enjoy the morning run/walk on the newly paved trails as well as the great food/drinks, face painting, prizes, medals and photo opportunities with our Lighthouse mascot, Mr. Beamer.

Presenting Sponsor

H-E-B

Helping Here.

Sponsors

[Logos of various sponsors]
Blind golfers and their coaches from across the United States and Canada traveled to San Antonio to compete in our 8th Annual American Blind Golf National Championship Tournament and "Fore" the Blind Charity Scramble, held on October 10th - 12th at the beautiful Republic Golf Club.

The first two days of the event began with each of the 20 blind golfer/coach competing in three divisions: B1 - totally blind, B2 and B3; limited degrees of sight for the National Championship title. Each coach assisted their blind golfer with lining up the ball over their shots and describing the look and feel of the course. San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind Leadership Advisory Council members, Bruce Hooper and wife/coach, Judy Hooper, are instrumental in helping us coordinate this event each year. Bruce, who finished 1st place in the B2 category, is also a national and international golf award winner.

San Antonio’s National/International Champion Blind Golfer, Bruce Hooper and Coach, Judy Hooper.

The three day event concludes with the "Fore" the Blind Charity Scramble. Teams of sighted golfers are given the unique opportunity to have an amazing, fun-filled day playing side by side with a blind golfer and their coach. The day concludes with dinner, awards and raffle prizes.

Every dollar raised will go directly to benefit our blind children's programs. Last year because of the support we received, including this charity scramble, we were able to provide over 700 services to children with blindness and vision loss.

Mark your calendars today to save the date for our 9th Annual "Fore" the Blind Charity Scramble - Wednesday, October 11th. For more event and sponsorship information, contact Nancy Lipton at nlipton@salighthouse.org or 210-531-1533.

The San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind & Vision Impaired is fortunate to have a wonderful "family" of sponsors that have given of themselves and their companies in supporting us. We would like to offer a heart-felt "thank you" to each and every sponsor for helping to make our 8th Annual American Blind Golf National Championship Tournament and "Fore" the Blind Charity Scramble a huge success.

Presenting Sponsor

DOCUMATION

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Lighthouse Commemorates National White Cane Day

Each year, the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind & Vision Impaired plays an integral role in San Antonio's National White Cane Day Celebration, an annual commemorative day created by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1963 to bring awareness to the independence of people who are blind and vision impaired.

On Wednesday, October 12th, a large crowd gathered to commemorate the celebration at Travis Park located downtown. The Fort Sam Houston 323D Army Band "Fort Sam's Own" performed during the two hour ceremony that was emceed by Sonny Melendrez, radio personality and award-winning inspirational speaker. Representative Lloyd Doggett presented National White Cane Day Proclamations for the county and city. Representatives from BiblioTech and Owl Radio were presented with recognition certificates for their support and contributions to the blindness community throughout the year.

The San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind & Vision Impaired, as well as the Alamo Council for the Blind, the National Federation of the Blind, Guide dogs of Texas, Lone Star Guide Dogs, Department of Rehabilitative Services - Division of Blind Services, Blind Veterans Association, City of San Antonio - Disability Access Office and VIA Metropolitan Transit worked together to organize this event and were in attendance at the celebration.

San Antonio residents who came out to support National White Cane Day

(From L. to R.) Lighthouse CFO, Gaye Preston; Rep. Lloyd Doggett; Event Co-Chair, Athalie Malone and Event Emcee, Sonny Melendrez.

Lighthouse Military Liaison, Terry Braddock with Vietnam Veteran, Douglas Navarro, representing the Disabled Veterans.
Representatives of the City of San Antonio, Disability Access Office

Kiara Lago performed the National Anthem

Ft. Sam 323D Army Band "Fort Sam's Own"

Guest Speaker, Representative Lloyd Doggett

Athalie Malone with emcee Sonny Melendrez

Athalie Malone presents certificate to representative from Owl Radio

Larry Rosher from SA Lighthouse Lions Club presents certificate to representative from BiblioTech

Volunteers and dogs representing the Lone Star Guide Dog Raisers
Twenty-seven children with low vision from the San Antonio area each received free life-changing, high-tech Electric Video Magnifiers (EVM) during a two-day event on August 15th and 16th, 2016 at the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind & Vision Impaired. During the event, each child was individually trained on every function of the EVM equipment and was able to take it home the same day. This equipment magnifies images up to 131 times and is the highest standard of low vision equipment available on the market today. This technology makes it possible for the children to see their mother's face for the first time, groom themselves, read, write, complete schoolwork independently and so much more with less eye fatigue and back and neck strain.

Seven low vision doctors from the University of Incarnate Word - Rosenberg School of Optometry, who had previously evaluated the children, consulted with Jeff Haddox, President of Sight Savers America - a non-profit organization, that provides low vision technology free to children who qualified for and may need EVMs.

EVMs cost $2,600 per unit and are not covered by medical insurance. The EVMs were purchased through grants received from Greehey Family Foundation, the Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation, Meadows Foundation, the Genevieve and Ward Orsinger Foundation and St. Luke's Lutheran Health Ministries.
Grants

The San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind & Vision Impaired received more than $80,000 in grant funding from five great organizations this quarter. Our Blind Children's Education Program received a $25,000 grant from the Valero Benefit for Children and a $7,500 grant from the Faye and William Cowden Foundation. The Perry and Ruby Stevens Foundation provided a $25,000 grant to our Seniors Program, in order to support services for seniors in the Hill Country area. The G.A.C. Halff Foundation also awarded a $3,000 grant to the Seniors Program. Finally, the USAA Foundation awarded a $20,000 grant which was used to purchase equipment for our blind-staffed manufacturing plant. The Lighthouse would like to thank all of these generous organizations for their support.

Seniors Program Services

Did you know the Lighthouse Seniors Program provides five different program services?

1. In-Home Independent Living Skills Training: Provides instruction to address such tasks as household management, cooking, personal finance and communication, utilizing adaptive aids when necessary.
2. In-Home Orientation and Mobility (White Cane) Training: Includes a variety of safety techniques for personal travel, which can aid in fall prevention. A trained Orientation and Mobility instructor is provided to teach the proper use of the white cane.
3. In-Home Counseling: Certified counselors help seniors deal with and adjustment issues related to vision loss and recommend positive methods to adapt.
4. Low Vision Clinic Services: The Low Vision examination provides an eye evaluation to help visually impaired seniors maximize the use of their remaining vision.
5. Low Vision Devices: The Program assists seniors with obtaining specialized low vision devices that are recommended by the Low Vision Doctor.

For information, contact Michelle Gawlik at 210-533-5195 ext. 2804.
High School to Work Transition Program

Twelve students enrolled in the Lighthouse 2016-2017 High School to Work Transition Program have been working hard to learn and practice soft skills needed for employment as well as various vocational skills. Students began the school year working on laundry room and housekeeping skills which included folding/stacking laundry, sweeping, mopping, vacuuming, window washing and changing bed linens. During the school semester they were also introduced to a four-week floral design program and had the opportunity to showcase their holiday designs at the annual Lighthouse Rehabilitation Open House. Students also contributed to various community service projects for the Texas Department of Health and Human Services and the Lighthouse Children's Program. In 2017, students will be learning bicycle repair and restaurant skills as part of their training. Students represent Harlandale, San Antonio, Northside, Southside and Somerset Independent School Districts.
Commercial Corner

A referral is the highest honor a business can receive from a customer.

The San Antonio Lighthouse receives compliments and praise every day for the commitment and hard work demonstrated by our team members, our Board, and our volunteers in service to our mission to empower the blind and vision impaired. Accolades and recognitions, while often unexpected, are always humbly appreciated.

A customer referral is regarded as one of those special honors and is the welcome result of hard work and caring customer service. We appreciate our customers and are always thankful for their patronage and praise.

At the San Antonio Lighthouse customer service is not a department, it's everyone's job.

The commercial division of the SA Lighthouse has been growing steadily for the past seven years. Much of that success is due to the loyalty of our customers and their satisfaction with the service they receive before and after the sale. There are many choices when it comes to doing business, so the little things often make the difference.

*There are no traffic jams along the extra mile.* ~ Roger Staubach

SWBC initiated its contract with the Lighthouse after a tour. "The tour was the genesis of our relationship, but the reason we continue to do business with the Lighthouse is that they're a very good provider," says Karen Clark, SWBC’s vice president of procurement. "Their service is fabulous, the prices are competitive and it feels good doing business with them."

We thank our military, government and commercial customers for their support and for their business. All purchases help create blind employment opportunities and support the critical services and rehabilitative programs offered by the SA Lighthouse for the Blind and Vision Impaired. The proceeds from commercial sales are reinvested locally and help the entire San Antonio community. It is neighbors helping neighbors. Join the over 250 companies such as SWBC, USAA, VIA, SAWS, UTSA, Bill Miller’s, and The Wash Tubs that are doing business with the SA Lighthouse for the Blind and Vision Impaired. We offer one-stop shopping including office products, furniture, janitorial and break room items. The SA Lighthouse Commercial sales department can help businesses with national branches or locally based companies. Big or small- we can help all!

Many businesses ask how they can help support the SA Lighthouse. Contact us about setting up a commercial account and become a VISIONARY Partner. If you are already a customer, then consider referring a business, your school, your church or business associates to the SA Lighthouse. By creating a commercial account, you will receive customized and discounted competitive pricing, customized account set-up, access to the online catalog of over 41,000 products, dedicated sales representative and FREE next day delivery.

Contact Chris Crane at 210-846-3775 or ccrane@salighthouse to create a password and an account.
2nd Annual Halloween Bash

Over 230 dressed up in their Halloween best for the Blind Children's Education Program's Halloween Bash on Friday, October 28th from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Children and their parents enjoyed Halloween fun with trick-or-treating, face painting, dancing with a DJ in the cafeteria and refreshments in the Eads building. Lighthouse staff provided activities for visually impaired students, parents, siblings and volunteers.

Devine Acres Farm
"Pancakes with Santa"

The students enrolled in the Blind Children's Education Program and their families participated in a fun, winter family event organized by Lighthouse staff at Devine Acres Farm, a family-owned and operated farm located approximately 30 miles southwest of San Antonio in Devine, Texas.

Over 170 people, 37 families with vision impaired students, made the trip to Devine Acres Farm to enjoy a fabulous pancake breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 10th. After breakfast, children had the opportunity to meet Santa and have their picture taken with him. Both parents and children enjoyed their day visiting the farm and participated in games and activities organized by the farm, including a hayride out to the Christmas trees where you could cut your own tree. The winner of the Christmas Tree Raffle was Bardo Giovanni Perez.
Volunteer Day

This special 3-hour event was held on Saturday, November 12th in the children's classrooms at Eads. Staff of the children's program believe it is important to demonstrate to vision impaired students the importance of volunteering and the value of giving to others. Two projects were chosen that would help students to focus giving to others in need.

Students in grades 1 - 12, and their families, worked eagerly to assemble two separate projects to benefit children in need living in San Antonio. The volunteers assembled 300 hygiene kits to benefit Cable Elementary School - Communities in Schools. Items such as toothpaste, tooth brushes, combs, brushes, shampoo, conditioner and hand sanitizer were put into the kits. Another project included filling 150 backpacks with snacks to benefit students at Blessed Sacrament Charter School. Donations of snacks were provided by the children's program but assembled by the volunteers on November 12th. An art box filled with donated art and craft items which had been contributed by families at the Halloween Bash was also packed for the pre-school program at Blessed Sacrament School.
Lighthouse Halloween Celebration

At the San Antonio Lighthouse we take our Halloween seriously. Employees can be seen dressed in imaginative, original costumes. Prizes were awarded to our 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place winners in four separate categories: funniest, scariest, most original and group theme. Annual Lighthouse Halloween traditions include a food eating contest and costume parade.

This year’s food of choice for the food eating contest was donut holes.
With These Hands... Awe Inspiring Employees of the Year

Melissa Padron - Blind Children's Program Coordinator
Milton J. Samuelson Award

Melissa was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas.

Needless to say, growing up with Albinism in a predominantly Hispanic part of town had its own challenges. Early on in her life, the teasing and harassment from other kids made it hard for her to accept her blindness. However, spending some time at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Austin changed her perspective. Here she learned how to get around with a cane, read Braille and accept her blindness. This empowered her to graduate from Harlandale High School in the top ten percent of her class.

After high school, Melissa was accepted to Texas A&M University in College Station, TX. While earning her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology she learned how to be fully independent. She joined the student organization Insightful Connections, where she did community presentations and became an advocate for the visually impaired. In her senior year, she was the president of the organization.

In December of 2012, over New Years, Melissa flew out San Rafael, California to meet, Cameo, her guide dog in training at Guide Dogs for the Blind. Cameo is a beautiful companion who has her led her through many "interesting" experiences. The duo has been together for four years. As a matter of fact, Cameo is also a fighting Texas Aggie. She walked the stage with Melissa during graduation in her own cap and gown.

After college, Melissa went to work at the Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living in Bryan, TX as an Independent Living Facilitator. She returned home to work on her teaching certification and to help visually impaired children. In September of 2014, she came to the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind to apply for volunteer work. She was immediately offered a position in the children's program. In the children's program she:
Roberta Perales - Machine Operator
Peter J. Salmon Award

Roberta was born and raised in San Antonio, TX.

She's been a fighter since she came into this world prematurely at 2lbs 10oz.

That same spirit helped her to graduate from John Jay High School in 1984. After high school, Roberta worked as a Teacher’s Assistant for several local elementary schools and she also ran her own daycare facility. Her passion has always been to work and care for children but with her eventual vision loss, it wasn’t possible.

In 2007, Roberta came to the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind. She had an immediate and positive impact on her supervisors and co-workers alike. She accepts tasks and work duties with a smile on her face, never complains and gets along well with everybody.

In her spare time, Roberta sings in the Lighthouse Choir, likes to crochet, loves to dance and walks various 5K events. She is always up for a good challenge and enjoys learning new things.

Rehab Open House

A great time was had by all on December 7th when the Lighthouse Rehabilitation Department hosted their annual Open House to showcase their programs and services and to thank local businesses, agencies, groups and teachers that they work with throughout the year. During the two-hour event, approximately 200 guests enjoyed a holiday “mix and mingle,” catered lunch, door prizes and entertainment provided by our very own Lighthouse Choir and La Reyna de Mariachi, Cindy Garcia.
Choir Performs in the Community

Each year, our Lighthouse Choir receives numerous invitations to perform at local businesses during their holiday parties. This past December, choir members enjoyed sharing their holiday spirit with employees of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, The Memorial Branch - San Antonio Library and Texas Capital Bank.

Lighthouse Holiday Ugly Sweater Contest

Employees at the San Antonio Lighthouse are always eager to join in the fun no matter what season of the year is being celebrated. This past December, employees proudly displayed their most unique and fun holiday ugly sweaters.
Get to Know Us!

2017 Open House Lunch/Tour Dates
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

February 23
March 23
April 26
May 23
June 22
July 27
August 24
September 26
October 26
November 14
December 14

To RSVP, contact Kari Bridges at kbridges@salighthouse.org or 210-531-1532

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Did you know you can make a donation online to the San Antonio Lighthouse?

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

Buy your office supplies online where every purchase creates jobs for people who are blind and vision impaired.
Shipped within 24 hours with no shipping costs!!
No order is too big or too small!!

For information, contact customer support at customersupport@salighthouse.org or 210-531-1548

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STAY CONNECTED

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