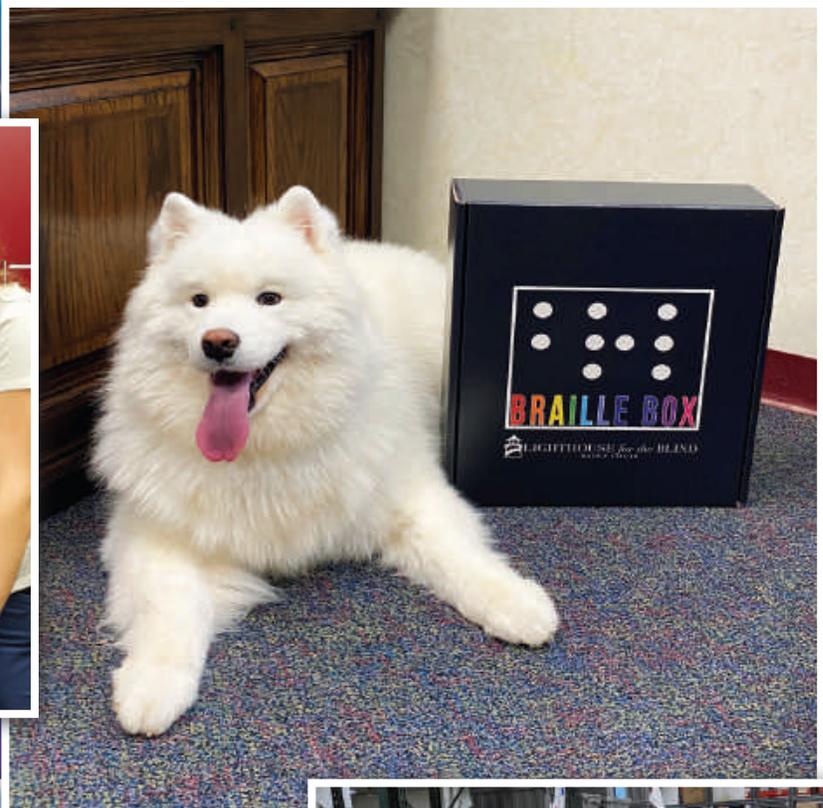


INSIGHT

A Lighthouse for the Blind - Saint Louis Publication
Winter 2020



Our Mission is to assist individuals who are legally blind maintain dignity and independence by making available employment, education and support services.

 **LIGHTHOUSE** *for the BLIND*
SAINT LOUIS



President's Perspective – 2020

To say this year was challenging would be a cliché; however, to say otherwise would be fallacious. 2020 was a year of adaptations, disappointments, and change, but ultimately success for our organization. We are so thankful for Lighthouse management, employees, and “See the Future” program directors who came together to ensure our organization continued to provide products, services, and opportunities throughout 2020.

The mission-critical nature of our business, which includes the fulfillment of Government contracts, classified the Lighthouse as an “essential business” and allowed us to remain open and operational during the COVID-19 crises. We continued fulfilling orders for our SKILCRAFT®, Quake Kare, Tear Mender®, RapidFix®, Badge Magic®, and CosBond branded products throughout 2020.

COVID-19 prompted us to integrate vital modifications to our company operations at all levels. Initiating safety precautions to help protect our employees from the virus and prevent it from spreading became Management's top priority. Initially, COVID-19 created substantial challenges for our manufacturing and shipping operations, such as increased lead times for raw materials and delayed customer shipments. We adapted by sourcing additional suppliers of materials and hiring extra personnel.

During the Spring and Summer of 2020, The Lighthouse experienced an unexpected surge in our newest product line addition: Pine Oil Disinfectant Cleaners. We proudly filled and shipped thousands of gallons of Pine Oil Cleaner to our Government and Military customers across the nation as they worked to keep their facilities clean and disinfected. One of our commercial brands, Quake Kare Disaster Preparedness Kits and Supplies, also experienced a spike in orders. Prior to COVID-19, we routinely included PPE items as an offering in this line. These items quickly became best sellers and ultimately sold out.

Despite the stability of our business during 2020, we did not remain unscathed. The pandemic forced us to cancel or adapt many of our “See the Future” programs to protect the health and safety of participants and staff. Canceled programs included Summer Orientation & Mobility and Adapted Living Resources (SOAR), our 3-week residential training program held at Webster University in St. Louis, MO. In addition to SOAR, we regrettably canceled Sports Camp, Camp Barnabas, and Space Camp. Southwest Kids in Action (SWKIA) went virtual in Springfield, MO, and Goal Ball's instructional series was suspended until 2021. Fortunately, but with less sessions than normal, we were able to continue offering our Children's Low Vision Project throughout the year!

Despite the cancellations and suspensions, we succeeded in growing our “See the Future” program offerings. Southeast Kids in Action (SEKIA), a sister program to Southwest Kids in Action (SWKIA), launched in late Summer, virtually at first, then in-person during socially distanced activities. City-wide quarantines inspired



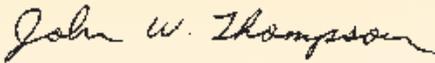
On the cover, clockwise from the top left: Teacher of the Visually Impaired Lexi Theis gives student Nathan Mercnicker an adaptive cooking lesson; Samoyed Stuart lounges next to a Braille Box; Production Line Attendants Rita Timmons and Shirley Davis gather items to build a USAMMA medical kit; SEKIA students learn how to golf.

the creation of The Braille Box, a quarterly subscription-style box containing activities to help students improve their braille reading and writing skills by completing fun, instructional activities at home. Each quarterly box features a different theme and is provided at no cost to students who are legally blind.

The pandemic's other casualties included the Mind's Eye Ultimate Beepball Championship Tournament and the Fall Classic Tournament, thus eliminating the Lighthouse Beeper's chances of taking home the Championship title in 2020.

The pandemic demonstrated the positive impact assisting each other can have on a community. We are so thankful for the understanding and encouragement we received from our community of supporters, donors, and customers. We look forward to embracing 2021 and sharing our growth and success with you next year.

Sincerely,



John W. Thompson, President



Our Calendar of Events has gone virtual

Visit our website for recent news and happenings at the Lighthouse and in the Blind Community.

Online Calendar: lhindustries.com/events

News & Blog: lhindustries.com/news



A Thank You to the United States Army Medical Materiels Agency (USAMMA)

Since 2004, the Lighthouse has provided Medical Sets, Kits and Outfits (SKOs), in service to our soldiers. Our outlet to provide these essential provisions are contracts won through the United States Army Medical Materiels Agency (USAMMA).

Headquartered in Fort Detrick, Maryland, USAMMA focuses on providing medical equipment and supplies to support our troops. The unit operates medical maintenance depots located at strategic locations across the globe where essential medical stock is maintained.

The SKOs Lighthouse provides consist of medical/surgical supplies and medicines that deliver all the necessary materials required to outfit specific assemblies such as Ground Ambulance, Air Ambulance (helicopter), Tactical Combat Medical Care, Combat Medic, and a host of other specialized sets. The Lighthouse recognizes these sets represent life

sustaining supplies for soldiers. Much care and effort are taken to source, assemble and ship these essential kits. We are proud of our record of providing SKOs that meet USAMMA's exacting specifications, delivered on time and assembled in a manner that makes them as easy as possible to receive and implement quickly in the field, where time is of the essence.

The Lighthouse would like to say a heartfelt "THANK YOU!" to our soldiers and all the great personnel at USAMMA for their service to our country. We are grateful for the opportunity they have afforded us to be of service to our troops.

Did You Know?

You can help make a puppy's dream of becoming a guide dog come true! Chances are you have seen working guide or service dogs dutifully assisting their handlers. These special dogs provide their owners with a life of freedom, safety, and independence. To become a handler's trusted companion, guide dogs must first graduate from highly specialized and intense training programs.



A guide dog's training begins during puppyhood and only dogs who exhibit a specific type of temperament advance in their training. Guide dogs must possess the ability to follow commands willingly, pay strict attention, respond to positive reinforcement, demonstrate initiative, and handle a variety of social settings and environments.

Families volunteer to foster the puppies for their first 12–15 months. A guide dog's foster family plays a critical role in establishing a strong foundation for its future training. The foster owner teaches and reinforces basic obedience skills, properly socializes the puppy, and introduces them to different environments. Specialized trainers and veterinarians monitor the puppy throughout this instructional phase to ensure the puppy is a candidate for the next stage in their training.

Formal training begins around 15 months of age. The dogs participate in 18–20 weeks of highly focused and guided training designed to teach the dogs approximately 35 different commands. Trainers instruct dogs how to negotiate obstacles, obey directional commands, and how to navigate street crossings. About midway through their training, dogs are introduced to traffic training. This training phase tests the dog's ability to take the initiative to make an independent decision despite his handler's commands. For example, the first nine weeks of training taught the dog to sit back in his harness if he sees a car approaching a crosswalk. If his handler gives him the command to walk forward, the dog must intuitively decide to sit back in his harness rather than follow his handler's direction. At this point, the dog understands his role in the handler/dog relationship. Not all dogs reach this level of understanding. These dogs must leave the program and return to their foster families. The final weeks of a dog's training include navigating buildings, heavy city traffic, escalators, and elevators.

"Paying it Forward," An Interview with Austin Schwan



Austin Schwan is a typical 14-year-old High School Freshman. What sets him apart from most of his peers are the clear set goals he has for his future. Austin is a member of the Lighthouse family and has participated in several "See the Future" programs, including Camp Barnabas, and his favorite, Space Camp. Throughout Austin's schooling, the Lighthouse granted him adaptive equipment to use in his studies. These devices provided him with a drive to learn and experiment with his capabilities as a student.

Austin's success and positivity with adaptive devices, and with those who taught him how to productively use these devices, inspired him to "pay it forward"



Upon completion of the program, trainers match the dogs with their new student handlers. Many factors are involved in pairing a client to the perfect dog, including the individual's travel pace, physical size, and stamina. Once a dog finds a match, both the client and dog must undergo training to learn how to work as an effective team. Clients must learn to trust their new guide and listen to the dog when he overrides a command.

The Michigan-based organization, Leader Dogs for the Blind (Leader Dogs), focuses on training Guide Dogs for individuals who are legally blind. Leader Dogs is a donation-based organization that matches clients with a dog that best fits their needs and lifestyle. The organization then

provides training free of charge to orient the client to their new dog. Programs such as Leader Dogs exist throughout the country and many need kind-hearted and dedicated volunteers to sponsor or raise the puppies.

If you are interested in sponsoring or providing a loving home for a guide dog in training, reach out to a guide dog training school near you: guidedogusersinc.org/resources/guide-dog-training-schools/

For more information on Leader Dogs for the Blind visit leaderdog.org

by creating a tutorial service teaching teenagers who are visually impaired how to use their adaptive equipment. Austin himself is completely blind and fully understands how daunting it can be to use a new piece of equipment for the first time.

"I hope that the service I am providing helps out others as much as it helped me. I want to give that to other people. I want to give them the same experience I had," says Austin.

Austin feels he can relate to his peers in ways adults can't. He understands the courage and dedication it takes to properly utilize an adaptive device and feels his experiences can help ease the transition for a fellow student.

After Austin graduates High School, he plans to attend college and study game and sound development. Austin is an avid gamer and has observed a lack of accessibility in video games for people who are visually impaired. He dreams of developing audio games for people who are blind and is an active advocate to make popular games, such as Fortnite by Epic Games, blind accessible. Austin's mantra is to "stand up for yourself." He encourages his fellow peers to stand up themselves when faced with adversity and discrimination towards their disability.

If you would like to learn more about Austin's tutorial service, email Austin at austinschwan647@gmail.com or call 800.542.3697.

“Seeing the Future” With The Children’s Low Vision Project

This year marked the tenth anniversary of our Children’s Low Vision Project (CLVP)! CLVP provides low vision instruction and adaptive devices at no cost to children through mobile and site based low vision clinics. Over the past ten years, CLVP changed the lives of hundreds of children. The program held over 160 clinics throughout Missouri and Western Illinois and administered 1,215 low vision exams to children with visual impairments.

What is a Low Vision Exam?

A low vision evaluation is different from a traditional optometric exam. An optometrist specializing in low vision performs the exam. The exam determines the student’s visual function and how their visual impairment affects them in their day-to-day lives. When a student comes to CLVP, program staff gathers information regarding his or her history, goals for the evaluation, and information about what they would like to see better. A variety of charts are used to gather information about the student’s vision. A near acuity and distance acuity are determined (as appropriate), along with contrast and color deficiencies, and field restrictions also noted. The doctor then determines and prescribes adaptive tools to assist the student. Any devices recommended are provided to the family at no cost. A Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments will then follow up with the family to train the student on how to use their new devices and to ensure they reach a comfort level using the device.



Meet the CLVP Team

Three amazing and highly-qualified Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments manage CLVP clinics and follow-up visits.

The Program’s Director, Jennifer Coy is an ACVREP certified low vision therapist, certified orientation and mobility specialist, and teacher of students with visual impairments. She has a Bachelor of Science and Masters of Education degrees from Peabody College of Vanderbilt University in the area of Special Education with an emphasis in visual impairments, hearing impairments, and multiple/severe disabilities.

Ashley Bement is an ACVREP certified low vision therapist, certified orientation and mobility specialist, and Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in early

childhood education and a Masters of Education from Missouri State University with an emphasis in visual impairment.

Izzy Breiter is a teacher of Students with Visual Impairments. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and a Masters of Education from Peabody College of Vanderbilt University in the area of Special Education with an emphasis in visual impairments. She is also the Director of the “See the Future” Braille Brilliance Program.

A Program that Changes Lives

CLVP clinics make a substantial impact on the life of a student who has low vision. Looks of wonder appear on a child’s face when they can finally see an image more clearly. The devices prescribed during these clinics provide students with the ability to read and study independently. One pleased parent stated, “I cannot say enough positive things about CLVP. Our daughter was first diagnosed with her [vision] impairment at three months; however, it wasn’t until our assessment with CLVP where I felt that we were provided access to devices and an assessment that would truly impact and improve her day to day function. The entire staff was wonderful, and we had an exceptional experience. CLVP is a great program for families!”



NEW “See the Future” Programs in 2020

Despite the year’s challenges, we excitedly launched two new additions to our “See the Future” Community Outreach Programs.



Southeast Kids in Action (SEKIA)

SEKIA is a recreational and developmental group for youth ages 8-18 who are blind or visually impaired and reside in Southeast Missouri. The program takes place in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and is the sister program to Southwest Kids in Action (SWKIA). Cape Girardeau resident Erin Brewer manages the program’s fun and interactive events. During the monthly meetings, participants engage in various physical, social, and constructive activities. Social distancing, extraordinary volunteers, and cooperation from venue staff allowed the participants to meet in person for several activities this year including tennis and golf lessons and fly fishing. Planned outings for 2021 include horseback riding, scuba diving, gardening, and more.

Want to learn more about our “See the Future” programs? Visit lhbindustries.com/our-programs



The Braille Box

The COVID-19 pandemic inspired Children’s Low Vision Project (CLVP) Teacher Ashley Bement to conceptualize The Braille Box, a quarterly subscription-style box offered at no cost to children who are visually impaired or blind. This unique subscription service helps students improve their braille reading and writing skills by completing fun, instructional activities at home. Each box features a different theme and includes a braille book and a fun project for the student to complete independently or with their family. The inaugural box included an indoor herb garden growing kit, tasty herb centric recipes, braille measuring cups and spoons, and a braille book on caring for and growing plants. It shipped to 56 participants in Missouri and received rave reviews!

The Winter Braille Box theme was Game Night! This festive box included braille games for students to play individually and with their families and a cooking activity.

The Braille Box program encourages braille literacy, addresses areas of an expanded core curriculum, and provides enrichment activities for school-age students (ages 5 – 21). The box is offered in Grade 1 (uncontracted) or Grade 2 (contracted) braille.

If you are interested in the Braille Box, please visit lhbindustries.com/the-braille-box



Over a Century of Accumulated Dedication to the Lighthouse; Employees with over Three Decades of Tenure and Commitment!

The Lighthouse would like to honor four remarkable employees who have worked at the Lighthouse for over 30 years! These devoted individuals personify our mission and truly make the Lighthouse a great place to work. *Thank you to these amazing employees for their dedication and incredible work ethic.*



Jimmy Miller | 35 Years

Although quiet and unassuming, Jimmy is one of our most dedicated and loyal employees as evidenced by his 35-year tenure at the Lighthouse's Berkeley facility. Severe cataracts took much of Jimmy's sight in early childhood. He discovered the Lighthouse through Life Skills, an organization devoted to assisting individuals with developmental and other disabilities by providing job placement and housing.

His work mantra is to "come in every day and be nice to everyone," which he does daily. According to Berkeley Production Manager, Mike Schaub, "Jimmie" is a pleasure to work with. He is an important part of the team and is counted on to fill manufacturing rolls on the aerosol production lines and tree mark paint line. In my years of managing and working with Jimmy he has always displayed fantastic behavior to his co-workers and manager."

Jimmy works on multiple production lines, including our commercial brand Tear Mender Fabric Adhesive. Jimmy loves coming to work and interacting with his fellow employees. He also enjoys watching cans of products move down the production lines.

We have many Cardinals fans at the Lighthouse, including Jimmy. He enjoys watching and listening to games with his family.

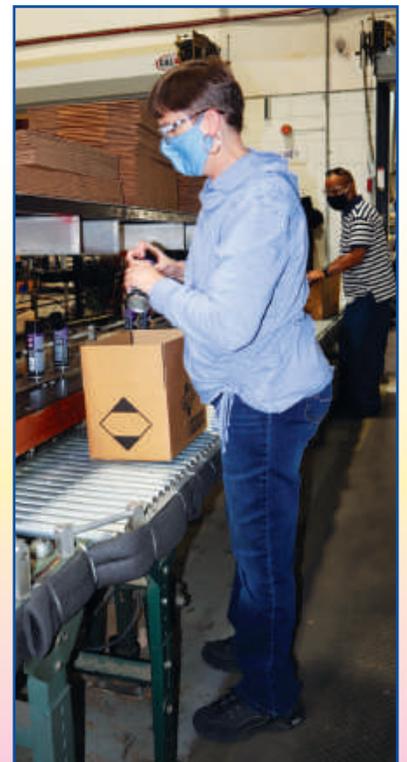
Pam Korte | 31 Years

Over the past 31 years, Pam has served as Production Line Attendant, Receptionist, and currently, Shipping and Receiving Clerk at our Berkeley Manufacturing Plant. Born with optic nerve damage, Pam completed her schooling at Missouri School for the Blind (MSB) where she received her first introduction to the Lighthouse when Pam and her MSB classmates were invited to tour the Lighthouse's two manufacturing plants. The President of the Lighthouse then delivered the commencement address at her graduation ceremony.

After graduating, Pam went on to work as a receptionist at MSB, then for a public relations firm. She enjoys secretarial work and fell in love with computers. When the public relations firm laid her off, she recalled the mission of the Lighthouse and decided to seek employment. When asked about her tenure at the Lighthouse, Pam simply states, "this is a good company to learn and to grow." Pam's career goal is to consistently develop new skills as evident in the diverse positions she's held throughout the years.

According to her supervisor, Randy Cali, Berkeley Supply Chain Manager, "Pam does an excellent job. She works with the shipping department on clerical tasks and ensures shipping containers are properly labeled. Pam also helps in production when needed. She has an important role in the Lighthouse family and can do so many things. Pam is a real asset to the company."

Outside of work Pam loves to bowl and looks forward to the Lighthouse's annual bowling tournament.



Jane Roth | 32 Years

Jane Roth has been an integral member of the Lighthouse family for over three decades! She is almost 100% blind and must rely on a cane to navigate through our Trenton Headquarters but don't get in her way! Jane can move through the building more efficiently than our sighted employees, especially during a fire or tornado drill. Not sure where to go? Follow Jane.

Jane grew up in a small town in Illinois before moving to St. Louis. She began losing her sight from Retinitis Pigmentosa while in her mid-twenties. As a young woman, she participated in the Special Olympics, earning awards for the 50-yard dash, the 440-yard dash, and the softball throw. Jane continues to make exercise a priority in her free time.

Jane currently works in the Trenton manufacturing plant packaging male external catheters for the US Veteran's Association, surgical blades for the US Defense Logistics Agency, and assembling medical kits for the US military and US Forest Service.

"I've seen a lot of people come and go, and I've seen this building change," says Jane. "A lot of people ask me when I am going to retire, but I love to work!" she exclaimed. Jane is thankful for the opportunities given to her at the Lighthouse and for her fellow employees. Having a job gives her independence and the ability to make a living and enjoy her many hobbies. When asked what advice she has for new hires, she says, "come to work because this is a nice place. There are a lot of opportunities."

Trenton Production Manager, Tonia Walters describes Jane as "a very dedicated and trusted worker, as well as a die-hard Cardinals fan to boot. She knows who's pitching and who's winning, and always keeps us informed on the National League Central Division standings."



Charlie Kamp | 31 Years

Charlie has lit up the Lighthouse with his bright smile for over 30 years. He exemplifies positivity as he greets his fellow employees at the Berkeley manufacturing plant where he is a Line Attendant. Charlie and his team operate liquid and aerosol filling lines for a variety of products including SKILCRAFT® branded Aerosol Paints & Primers, Biobased Liquid Hand Soap, Correction Fluid and Power Duster.

Berkeley Production Manager Mike Schaub says, "Charlie Kamp is a dependable, reliable and knowledgeable worker. He is counted on to perform many tasks on our production line including placing tips on cans, preparing products for shipment and palletizing inventory. Having been around and working with Charlie for 18 plus years I do not remember him ever showing that he is having a bad day. He always puts on a smile and a happy face."

In 2017, the Lighthouse chose Charlie as our Employee of the Year in recognition of his outstanding performance and dedication to the Lighthouse. National Industries for the Blind (NIB) honored Charlie at a National Symposium in Arlington, VA. Employee of the Year candidates from blind agencies across the country joined Charlie as NIB celebrated their achievements with a recognition ceremony and banquet, tours of Washington D.C. and a dinner cruise along the Potomac River. Charlie was amazed with the underground shopping mall in Crystal City, VA and enjoyed meeting his fellow peers from other agencies.

Charlie looks forward to spending the rest of his career at the Lighthouse. When asked what advice Charlie would pass on to a new Lighthouse employee, he said, "I would tell them to show up on time and don't be late! It's a great place to work. Be flexible, be safe, be productive, and be humble!"

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

The Lighthouse sincerely thanks all of our 2019 – 2020 donors and supporters! 100% of your donations go towards funding our “See the Future” programs.

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- Mail a check to the Lighthouse for the Blind: PO Box 870490, Kansas City, MO 64187
- Call us at 314.423.4333
- Visit us online at lhbindustries.com

Thank you for your contribution!

*"There is no better way to thank God for your sight than by giving a helping hand to someone in the dark."
-Helen Keller*

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