



The Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind Beacon

focus on opportunity

Letter from the Chairman of the Board

This morning, as I write this quarter's newsletter, I find myself in Istanbul, Turkey. In the streets I hear many languages, see many different garments and people walking with a sense of purpose. What I feel from the crowd is optimism. In the U.S., optimism is hard to come by – job recession, European debt, oil dependency, natural disasters, and the list goes on.

"...there is plenty
of **optimism and
positive energy...**"

MARCEL BRUNEL

As we close down the fiscal year at the Dallas Lighthouse... there is plenty of optimism and positive energy. We are all getting ready for a new fiscal year, beginning in October, of working differently and together. **Nancy and team are putting a strong shoulder into growing relationships and results with employees, our community, and with our customers. This past year our Board of Directors have seen first-hand the leadership**

team give promotions, hire additional colleagues, expand existing employee roles and begin new projects that create a completely new pipeline of work and workforce. I am very grateful, proud, and excited about my upcoming final 12 months.

I ask each of you to send positive energy our way as we do what we do to provide opportunity and independence for those in our North Texas community who are blind or visually impaired. To quote Canadian leader Jack Layton, **"My friends, love is better than anger. Hope is better than fear. Optimism is better than despair. So let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic. And we'll change the world."** ●

Business Services/Fulfillment Warehouse

Two new expansions

The Dallas Lighthouse has finalized agreements for two unprecedented expansions; both provide opportunities for growth that will dramatically increase employment opportunities and our ability to offer business services in the Dallas community. Never before in

our 80-year history have we been in a position for this level of expansion in such a short period of time. It is truly an exciting time for our staff and those we serve!

On August 1, we purchased the adjacent office building at 4225 Office Parkway from the StoneEagle Group. The two-story, 12,000 square foot space will house our Business Services enterprise, which includes data verification and ●●●



Fall 2011 features:

New expansions...
White Cane Day...
Donations: StoneEagle phone system, Mary Immaculate School fund raiser, Brunel Brabson scholarship, Mayster Braille Looms...
Sponsors... Employee and Board profiles...
2nd Open House...
Employees of the Year...

Mary Immaculate School

Stepping forward to help

Students, faculty, and family members at Mary Immaculate School in Farmers Branch rallied to support second grader Zach Thibodeaux following his diagnosis of a progressive retinal degenerative disease. With rapidly failing vision and a prognosis of complete sight loss, doctors suggested that his parents begin researching educational solutions and take Zach to go "see" whatever he wants to see while he still has partial vision.

Zach's parents will have to assume financial responsibility for many of the services that Zach will need, including Braille instruction and the purchase of much of the equipment that state funds would cover if Zach were enrolled in the public school system. At Mary Immaculate School, discussion began prior to Christmas regarding how they could help Zach and extend assistance to the entire blind community as well. The consensus was to sponsor a dual-purpose fundraiser through a donation made in honor of Drew Bernet, an alumnus who is blind.

Various non-profits were under consideration, with the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind at the top of the list. In another serendipitous twist, the evaluation process brought to light that MIS dad Marcel Brunel is the Chairman of the Board for the Lighthouse organization.

A tour of the Lighthouse arranged for Zach and his parents, Drew, and school administration demonstrated the many ways that our organization is providing manufacturing jobs and computer-based training for those who are visually impaired – and the rest, as they say is history! The Dallas Lighthouse was selected to be a

lucky recipient of the proceeds from the Boosterthon fundraiser. The Mary Immaculate Boosterthon Fun Run took place on April 6, 2011. It proved to be a fun fitness event and a profitable fundraiser. Once all the laps were completed and the pledges collected, Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind received a check for \$14,303.27.

Thank you, Mary Immaculate, for the donation and for teaching your young people not only academics but also community service and philanthropy. We look forward to a long partnership with you, your students, and families. ●

StoneEagle donation

We have a new phone system!

During final negotiations for a new Business Services contract with the StoneEagle Group, local providers of software solutions and enterprise administration systems, business owner Bobby Allen and VP Phil Bogner offered to donate a new phone system to jump start our ability to grow our business!

Thanks to the financial support we received from our friends and partners at StoneEagle, the Dallas Lighthouse now has a new, direct line



ShoreTel phone system. It is more blind-friendly than our old equipment – a definite advantage for us. The main number remains 214-821-2375; however, individual

employees now also have direct lines and a state of the art system that allows for some of the most flexible call handling available.

StoneEagle – We cannot say thank you enough for supporting the Dallas Lighthouse, its programs, and the people who work here – one more time – THANK YOU! ●

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Operation Backpack

The Dallas Lighthouse contributed products to the Operation Backpack project organized by Industries for the Blind Milwaukee. Over 1,300 backpacks filled with school supplies were given to children of those who give so much to us – our men and women in uniform. The backpacks were distributed at nine Base Service Stores around the country.