



*KING 5 News Anchor Mark Wright (center top) emceed the event*

## The *Redefining Vision* Luncheon was a Success!

The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.'s 2017 *Redefining Vision* Luncheon was a success! On Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed over 220 guests to The Westin Seattle Hotel and raised over \$126,000 for the continued support of accessible jobs, adaptive technologies, and vital training programs for people who are blind, DeafBlind, and blind with other disabilities in our community.

Guests had an opportunity to meet employees and mingle with other attendees before the start of the program. In addition, guests had an exclusive opportunity to visit our display tables showcasing a selection of products manufactured by the Lighthouse in our Seattle, Spokane,

and Summerville locations. Also featured was a demonstration table hosted by Orientation and Mobility Specialists from our Employee and Community Services department.

Guests were treated to an inspiring and motivational program featuring

KING 5 news anchor and emcee **Mark Wright**, inspirational speaker and blind athlete **Jake Olson**, who delivered our keynote address, as well as Lighthouse employee **Jorge Aristizabal**, who is DeafBlind and works in the Machine Shop at our Seattle facility.

The highlight of the afternoon was when Jorge Aristizabal spoke about his career at the Lighthouse. He reflected on the positive influence the organization has had in peoples' lives and how it has impacted him personally. In addition, he gave a spirited lesson in culturally appropriate applause for the DeafBlind community, which consists of stomping feet and banging

on tables in order to create vibrations that someone who is DeafBlind can feel.

It has become a tradition to debut a new video about the Lighthouse at the *Redefining Vision* Luncheon. This year's video was inspired by the ways the Lighthouse is "making an impact," featuring Lighthouse employees CNC Specialist **Mike King**, Contact Center Representative **Meka White**, and Accessibility Manager **Antonio Rozier**, along with Foundation Board members **Katherine Perry**, **Barbara Ross**, **Doug Fischer**, and Doug's husband and Lighthouse donor **Stephen Hadden**. Visit our blog at [www.redefiningvision.com](http://www.redefiningvision.com) to read more about the event, watch our new video, and view photos from the event.



*Lighthouse employee Jorge Aristizabal (right) addresses the audience*

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOEY SHAW

### **Jobs. Independence. Empowerment.**

Our Mission: To create and enhance opportunities for independence and self-sufficiency for people who are blind, DeafBlind, and blind with other disabilities.

Visit our website at  
[www.thelighthousefortheblindinc.org](http://www.thelighthousefortheblindinc.org)  
and stay in the loop on Lighthouse  
news and upcoming events!



# 2017 INL Food Truck Rally!



**W**e kicked off the summer at our second annual Inland Northwest Lighthouse (INL) Food Truck Rally on Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup>! To everyone who donated, attended, and lent their resources thank you for supporting the Lighthouse's mission of jobs, independence, and empowerment!

We were able to raise over \$11,000 for individuals who are blind in the Greater Spokane area. Over 250 people showed up for this fun community event. Everyone had a great time enjoying the amazing food and beverages, tours of our wonderful facility, the lively raffle, and even the kids with the bouncy house!

Thank you to the Greater Spokane Food Truck Association for partnering with the Lighthouse!



*Director of Public Relations and Development  
Greg Szabo and his guide dog Finn*



*Vendors serving pizza to guests at the event*



*Community members sitting and enjoying delicious food from the food trucks at the event.*

A special thank you to our generous sponsors of this year's food truck rally! Thank you for your commitment to the Lighthouse!

Acco  
The BoxMaker  
Novation, Inc.  
Baker Construction and Development, Inc.  
Broadway Group Flying Jay Truck Stops

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RICK DIFFLEY





## Summerville Open Houses: Getting to Know our Neighbors

Members of the South Carolina Lions Club meet President and CEO Mike May (center right) and Lighthouse Production Workers at the Summerville One Year Anniversary

During its first year of operation, the Summerville location of The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. continues to hold a variety of open house events to build awareness of who we are by inviting businesses, elected officials, and community members to visit our facility and take part in fun events.

Last October, over 70 individuals joined us to celebrate the official grand opening of our building. In February, we held a happy hour open house where members of the community enjoyed hors d'œuvres, drinks, and a tour of our manufacturing area. On May 9<sup>th</sup>, the one year anniversary of the opening of our Summerville location, the Lighthouse held an anniversary celebration which included a taco bar, tour, an employee speaker, along with the opportunity for everyone in attendance to enjoy a piece of anniversary cake.

Our next open house event will be on September 21<sup>st</sup>, giving community members a chance to learn how the Lighthouse creates opportunities for jobs, independence, and empowerment for people who are blind, along with how we create quality products and services for our customers. Holding numerous open houses is an exciting way to build momentum as we look forward to continuing to employ more people who are blind and hosting our first major fundraising event in Summerville in 2018!

If you would like to come in for a tour of our Summerville facility, please contact Shawn Dobbs at [sdobbs@seattlelh.org](mailto:sdobbs@seattlelh.org) or (843) 376-2805.

## Upcoming Events

### ⌘ Redefining Vision Garden Party ⌘

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2017 – FROM 5:00 – 8:00 P.M.  
Ethel L. Dupar's Fragrant Garden at The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.  
2501 S. Plum Street, Seattle, WA 98144

Enjoy a relaxing evening with friends, music, food, and drinks in this unique oasis specifically designed for individuals who are blind, DeafBlind, and blind with other disabilities. The garden will be in full bloom, with last year's restoration efforts complete. The event will also include a short program, silent auction with incredible prize packages, accessibility and technology demonstrations, and special tours of the Lighthouse's Machine Shop. RSVP today at [www.redefiningvision.org](http://www.redefiningvision.org).

### ⌘ Get to Know the Lighthouse ⌘

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2017 FROM 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.  
The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. – Boardroom  
2501 South Plum Street, Seattle, WA 98144

### ⌘ Summerville Open House ⌘

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2017 FROM 3:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.  
The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.  
230 Deming Way, Summerville, SC 29483

### ⌘ Seattle Dim Sum Lunch ⌘

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2017

Save the date for the fifth Annual Lighthouse Dim Sum Luncheon! All you can eat Dim Sum will be provided thanks to Lighthouse Foundation Board Member **Howie Dickerman!** Everyone is invited to attend; bring your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers! There is a minimum \$50 donation request for each guest.

For more information on upcoming events please visit our events page on our website at [www.thelighthousefortheblindinc.org](http://www.thelighthousefortheblindinc.org), or contact Events and Development Coordinator Molly McLachlan at [mmclachlan@seattlelh.org](mailto:mmclachlan@seattlelh.org) or by phone at (206) 436-2253.

## Orientation & Mobility Instructor Meg Johnson Retires

The Lighthouse congratulates **Meg Johnson** on her years of dedicated service and tenure to our employees.

After 36 years in the workforce, Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Instructor, Meg Johnson is hanging up those walking shoes to do some gardening, house repairs, and to get back into her art and traveling.

As a young girl, Meg wanted to be a scientist. She started college majoring in biology but ended up with a Bachelor's degree in art, and worked in an art gallery for a couple of years after graduation.

It wasn't long though that Meg knew her heart wasn't in showing art, but rather, serving others. She worked at The Little Red Schoolhouse for twelve years working with special needs children and then as an Intervener with DeafBlind children for ten years. When an opportunity came up for her to go back to school she jumped at the opportunity and received her certification in Orientation and Mobility.

Meg came to The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. ten years ago to work as an O&M Instructor for Seattle employees. She not only provided training in safe travel to and from work, in many home communities, and wherever else an employee may need to become acclimated, but Meg will continue to be a true champion for the rights of those who are blind, DeafBlind, and blind with other disabilities.

Her greatest reward are the individuals with whom she worked. Meg recalled, "It's always rewarding when someone gains independence."

Beloved by all those she worked with, Meg's retirement on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 was bittersweet. Employees will sincerely miss her and the professionalism and passion she brought to her job each and every day. The good news though is that she promises to be back in the near future as a volunteer, and we know her advocacy in the community will continue for many years to come. Thank you Meg for your dedication to the Lighthouse's mission!



*"It's always rewarding when someone gains independence."*

–Meg Johnson–

Meg Johnson (center left) greets student and friend Darlene Hilling (center right) at Meg's retirement celebration in Seattle

## Lighthouse Tours

We offer informative and fun tours of our facilities so the community can better understand how the Lighthouse creates and enhances opportunities for those that are blind, DeafBlind, and blind with other disabilities. As the largest employer of individuals who are blind on the West Coast, we provide an accessible work environment along with skills training and the necessary support programs and services for our employees to be successful at work and in their communities. Tours are a great opportunity for students, employers, donors, community members, vendors, and customers to experience first-hand what we do at the Lighthouse.

To schedule a tour, please connect with our **Contact Center** via email at [contactcenter@seattlelh.org](mailto:contactcenter@seattlelh.org), or by phone at (800) 799-0402, and press "0." We hope to see you soon!

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn for blindness and Lighthouse information, plus our popular Throwback Thursday photo series. Invite your friends to "like" our pages as well! On Facebook and LinkedIn search for The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. Our Twitter handle is [Lighthouse\\_Inc](https://twitter.com/Lighthouse_Inc). Find our business page on LinkedIn that you can follow, also called The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.



## Join Our Foundation Board!

If you have a passion for your community, a belief in the abilities of individuals who are blind, DeafBlind, and blind with other disabilities, and a little extra time — The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. needs you!

The Lighthouse for the Blind Foundation Board promotes the mission of the Lighthouse and raises philanthropic support for our programs and employment opportunities. By participating in and promoting fundraising events, increasing community awareness of the Lighthouse and its programs, and recruiting volunteers and Lighthouse supporters, the Foundation Board provides critical supports that ensure the continued creation of employment opportunities for individuals who are blind and DeafBlind.

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the Lighthouse Corporation; its members work closely with the executive body by participating and engaging in the ongoing strategic planning process, and ensuring the continuity and dedication of the organization to its articles of incorporation. Members contribute personal resources to uphold confidentiality and other significant responsibilities inside and outside of meetings and promote the Lighthouse's mission, values, and purpose.

Join our Foundation Board or Board of Trustees and bring your expertise, enthusiasm, energy, and passion to an organization that values diversity and make a difference in the daily lives of our employees! For more information, contact **Kate Wiegel**, Director of Institutional Relations, at [kwiegel@seattlelh.org](mailto:kwiegel@seattlelh.org) or (206) 436-2116.

## The Lighthouse Can Come to You!

Do you have a group who would like to learn about what we do at The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.? We will bring the Lighthouse to you! Our "Get To Know" the Lighthouse events are the perfect way to share with the community on how the Lighthouse is making a difference for individuals who are blind, DeafBlind, and blind with other disabilities. If you would like to share the mission and story of the Lighthouse with your colleagues, classmates, students, or friends and family, let us know!

Please contact our Development and Community Outreach Coordinator, Cindy Van Winkle at [cvanwinkle@seattlelh.org](mailto:cvanwinkle@seattlelh.org) or (206) 436-2116 to schedule your "Get To Know" the Lighthouse event. You provide the location, people, snacks (if you choose) and we'll bring the Lighthouse story!



We would like to extend a BIG thank you to everyone who participated in GiveBIG this year! We raised over \$7,500 to help support specialized training for our employees! Now more than ever your support is making a difference for individuals who are blind, DeafBlind, and blind with other disabilities!

Thank you for supporting our  
*Redefining Vision Luncheon!*



*Keynote speaker Jake Olson (right) speaks to the audience at the Luncheon*

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