

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mission Statement: To maximize independence and provide employment opportunities for persons who are blind or visually impaired.

In addition to its Rehabilitation and Vocational Training programs, the Lighthouse provides public education programs designed to build positive attitudes toward those who are blind or visually impaired.

Adaptive aids and appliances are available for purchase at each facility, and are also available through our website or by phone.

Eligibility. The Lighthouse serves anyone who has a visual impairment that prevents that person from functioning normally in day-to-day activities. Priority is given to those who are legally blind.

Hours. 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at our Winter Haven location), Monday - Friday. Closed weekends and major holidays.

Transportation is available on a limited basis to those participating in certain Lighthouse training programs.

A full array of Rehabilitation Programs are available in Hillsborough and Polk County. Limited services are provided in Citrus, Hardee, Hernando, Pasco and Sumter Counties. The Lighthouse provides opportunities to individuals irrespective of race, creed, gender, religion, or economic status.

Visitors. Please refer to the maps on the back cover of this brochure if you plan to visit one of our facilities. For detailed directions, please call the facility you plan to visit. The phone number for each location is listed above its respective map.

Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind is funded in part by the State of Florida Division of Blind Services, United Way of Tampa Bay, Cities of Tampa and Winter Haven, Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, United Way of Central Florida, and the Polk County Board of County Commissioners.



● **Independent Living Skills Training/Case Management.** Independent Living Skills Training helps participants learn skills and acquire knowledge to enable them to live independently, safely, and confidently. Each has the opportunity to learn basic kitchen and cooking skills, typing, home computing, Braille, money handling, communication tools, orientation and mobility, and other daily living skills. Case Management and Counseling are available to individuals enrolled in Lighthouse programs. The Case Manager and client together develop an individualized plan to best meet the client's needs. Clients are referred to other community programs as appropriate.



● **Computer Training.** Computer Training is available for both vocational and personal applications. Participants are taught how to use the speech and/or screen magnification programs on the computer. This allows them to become or remain employed and/or maintain contact with family and friends; and to complete personal tasks such as banking, ordering prescriptions, shopping, etc.



● **Rehabilitation Technology.** Following Vocational Computer Training, individuals who are placed into community jobs or have their own businesses are assisted by a Rehabilitation Technologist who helps them install their computer workstations (including hardware and software) in their place of business. The Rehabilitation Technologist conducts an assessment of adaptive equipment needed to enable blind or visually impaired individuals to carry out various tasks at work or at school. Workstations are modified using computer programs that convert text into speech (JAWS) or magnifies print on the computer screen (Zoomtext). Also available are Closed Circuit TV's (CCTV's) to provide powerful, adjustable magnification of printed material. CCTV's can be used in conjunction with a computer or as stand alone devices.



● **Job Development/Supported Employment** provides assistance in obtaining jobs in the local community. Supported Employment provides special intensive training at the job site to individuals with additional disabilities. Participants have their own employment specialists who remain with them at the site until they are fully trained, then continue to monitor their progress on an ongoing basis.



● **Service Contracts Program.** Initiated in 1999, this program provides employment opportunities to legally blind adults at competitive wages through contracts with Federal government agencies. The initial contract was to provide telephone switchboard services to **MacDill Air Force Base - Tampa, Florida** 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

● **Other Service Contracts:**



U. S. Army Corp of Engineers - Jacksonville, Florida. Provides complete mailroom services, and management of the records storage warehouse and the engineering map files.

Veterans Administration. Installation and user training of CCTV's and computers for blind veterans throughout Citrus, Hardee, Hillsborough, Pasco, Polk and Sumter Counties.



● **Low Vision Clinic.** An optometrist who specializes in low vision is available to provide thorough eye exams in order to identify how the individual can best utilize their remaining vision through the use of special glasses, aids, and/or devices



● **Early Intervention.** This community-based program provides Early Intervention Instructors to work with infants and children, ages 0-6, who are blind or visually impaired, and their families. The goal is to equip the children with the skills needed to improve self-sufficiency and independence; and maximize physical, emotional, mental, and social skills development.



● **Magnifiers and More Store.** This retail outlet in Tampa offers special aids and devices designed to help those who are blind or visually impaired to carry out day-to-day activities. Examples include closed circuit television systems (CCTV's), electronic aids, magnifiers, canes, Braille and large print watches, talking calculators and watches, self-threading needles, and many other items. Many of these same items are also available at the Winter Haven facility.



● **Transition Program.** Designed to assist blind and visually impaired youth to be ready to work, go to college, or attend a technical school upon completion of high school. Staff work with teens and young adults, age 13 - 22, preparing them for the responsibilities of adulthood by focusing on job readiness, social interaction, and independent living skills. An integral part of the program involves hands-on work experiences at local businesses.

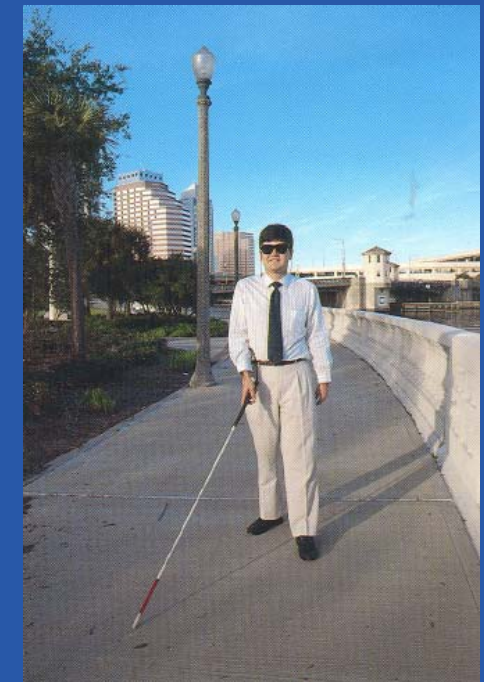
TAMPA FACILITY
 PHONE (813) 251-2407 FAX (813) 254-4305
 TOLL FREE WITHIN FLORIDA (866)251-2407



WINTER HAVEN FACILITY
 PHONE (863) 299-3633 FAX (863) 299-3559
 TOLL FREE WITHIN FLORIDA (877) 299-3633



WEBSITE
www.tampalighthouse.org
 email: tlh@tampalighthouse.org



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 Blind or Visually
 Impaired Since 1940**