

The Visionary

Summer 2008

A publication for friends of the Lighthouse of Broward County



Our Mission:

To enhance the independence, productivity and quality of life of blind or visually impaired children and adults

For more information about our services call (954) 463-4217

or visit: www.LHOB.org

e-mail: vision@LHOB.org

Dreams and Preparation



Katie finds a beeping egg at the Third Annual Egg-stravaganza

Special Thanks for record contribution from Peacock Foundation

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Lighthouse story on Comcast and Channel 2

Thank you to the Josephine S. Leiser Foundation for outstanding support

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Independence for the Visually Impaired. Our Focus Everyday!

LHOB

a special
thank you

to Mrs. McIntyre's
4th Graders!
See page 3

Just down the hall from my office is a photograph of a man in a heavy orange parka reading a Braille book. In the distance, behind his handsome, smiling face is the snow capped peak of the highest mountain in the world. It is May, 2001. The man is Erik Weihenmayer, the first blind man to reach the summit of Mount Everest. Having already reached the top of the highest peaks in North America, South America and Africa, Erik was ready for Everest. On at least one occasion he has lead his sighted partner back to safety, when night came before a descent was complete.



After Everest, he spent months teaching six blind Tibetan teenagers to climb a nearby mountain - scaling ice, crossing ravines, scrambling over rocks. Crazy!

Of course, they didn't do it alone. Nobody does it alone. They had each other. They had their equipment. They had their "ropes team." They all came back safe. They all came back with mountain-sized dreams and the mental, emotional and physical skills to attain those dreams. Some of these once ostracized young men and women are the breadwinners of their families today because of the skills attained at their special school, *Braille Without Borders*.

How does a blind person prepare to meet the challenges of daily life? What does it mean to be safe? When is a danger too great? Where do you draw the line between appropriate safe-guarding and damaging over-protection? Lighthouse professionals spend years of study and practice to learn to grapple with these questions. Each year, the Lighthouse is the "special school" for hundreds of brave individuals seeking to scale the heights in their own lives. The reward is the toddler riding a tricycle, a child's happy giggle at the top of the giant water slide, a teen preparing a resume for a summer job interview, a father dancing with his daughter, a grandmother volunteering in the community.

Due to recent funding cuts, the Lighthouse needs to raise \$55,000 for its annual summer camp for children between the ages of 6 and 13. Will you join their "ropes team?" Please use the envelope provided with this newsletter for your valuable donation. Thank you.

Please see page 3 for more information about our Summer Camp.

Dr. Elly du Pré, Executive Director

World Arts Now Storyteller Weaves His Magic

On January 5, 2008, World Arts Now producer Dr. Donna Goldstein brought famed storyteller and teaching artist, Larry Robinson, for a special Saturday presentation to the children in the Lighthouse KIDS—Keys to Independence program. The after-school support the educational efforts of the year olds critical skills that will lead impaired adults. The children, their an African traditional story and African instruments. “We seek to might otherwise have no chance experiences,” said Dr. Goldstein. She planned the day, for “creating an be included.”



school and weekend KIDS activities classroom and teach six to fourteen to future success as blind or visually impaired siblings and some parents enjoyed accompanied the tale by playing bring the world to children who to be exposed to authentic arts also gave kudos to Brett Gili, who environment where all the kids could

Young Philanthropists Boost Egg-stravaganza



It started out as a simple idea. Phyllis McIntyre thought her 4th graders in Riverglades Elementary School might agree to bring in a few dollars each to help out with the Lighthouse’s annual spring party for the Bright Beginnings program—the EGG-Stravaganza. Boy was she surprised! The class loved the idea and asked all their Parkland neighbors for donations. In just four days, they raised \$333! That was enough to buy 6 beeping eggs plus goodies for the toddlers to take home in their baskets.

The EGG-Stravaganza at Plantation Heritage Park on March 15th was a big success—fifty families came and enjoyed food, a petting zoo, pony rides, a bounce house, the Easter Bunny and of course the egg hunt! Volunteers set plastic eggs in the grass, turned on the internal beepers and the race was on. Blind or visually impaired children listened, reached, and pocketed the chocolates that lay beside their “sound clues.” Someday they will know about using other sound clues as part of being safe travelers in bigger environments.

The Lighthouse provides essential skill building for blind and visually impaired young people leading to successful adulthood—Bright Beginnings for babies and toddlers, KIDS for 6 – 14 year olds and TRANSITION for teens soon to graduate high school. THANK YOU for YOUR SUPPORT!

Buddy Kava Honored as Lighthouse Volunteer of the Year

*Special" is a word that is used to describe
Something one-of-a-kind
Like a hug or a sunset
Or a person who spreads love
With a smile or a kind gesture*

*"Special" describes people who act from the heart
And keep in mind the hearts of others*

*"Special" applies to something that is admired and precious
And which can never be replaced*

"Special" is the work that best describes you



Buddy Kava came to classes here at the Lighthouse in 2007. After he finished his classes he came in to volunteer. His daughter Jodi was with him the day he signed up to be a volunteer. He couldn't imagine what he could possibly do but he would give it a try. He started coming twice a week and last year was named "Rookie of the Year". He is the most caring and wonderful guy and when he is off on vacation (usually cruising) the clients ask "where is Buddy"??

Buddy is the ultimate buddy and we love and appreciate all that he is!

Thank you to The Josephine S. Leiser Foundation for outstanding support.

The Josephine S. Leiser Foundation Trustees presented a generous check to the Lighthouse for development of an outreach video and public service announcements to inform the public about services for the blind and severely visually impaired. Additionally, the foundation donated a public service announcement on Channel 2 and airtime on Comcast Cable.



Left to right: Robert Judd, Ruth Turner Camp, Dr. Elly du Pré, Executive Director of the Lighthouse and Theodore Friedt

Our heartfelt thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers. We couldn't do what we do without you!!!

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single minute before starting to improve the world."
- Anne Frank



The gifts we receive are immeasurable in their importance to the Lighthouse of Broward. Each gift helps us deliver our promise to promote the independence of adults and children who are blind or visually impaired. That is our focus every day.

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A Living Tribute

These are gifts made to a special person in celebration/honor of a special occasion. Acknowledgement is sent to the person honored and donor receives a letter of appreciation.

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A Lasting

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These are gifts made in loving memory of someone special. Acknowledgement is sent to the family of the person memorialized and donor receives a letter of appreciation.

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A Special Legacy

A treasured gift and legacy is left by those who remember the Lighthouse in their estate plans. These special people are

recognized permanently as part of our Lighthouse Legacy Society. Listed below are those who made gifts to the Lighthouse in this period.

Estate of Milton Pulch
Estate of Doris Mayer Davis
Estate of Gloria S. Wilburn

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