

⋮Lighthouse⋮

Vision Loss Education Center

SARASOTA • MANATEE • CHARLOTTE • DESOTO • HIGHLANDS



Lighthouse eNewsletter December 2020

Michael was diagnosed with Stargardt disease (juvenile macular degeneration) and began losing vision as a teen. He did everything possible to maintain a normal life, not letting many others know that his vision was failing.

As an adult, Michael worked for years, but he had a keen interest in the technology field. He enrolled in college to work towards a computer engineering degree. However, impediments arose including a professor who wouldn't provide specific needs to accommodate Michael's success in the classroom.

Recalling how frustrating this period was, Michael sought help and finally found it in the Office of Disability.



Michael was also referred to the Lighthouse to help his search for suitable employment in the technology field. Joining others with vision loss, Michael enrolled in Lighthouse's Employment Services Training. This weekly course is coached by instructor Judi Boylan, who is certified in Assistive Technology Instruction. Michael, who also attended Lighthouse's Assistive Technology course, was well versed in using technology devices. He excelled working through the six training modules from career exploration to preparing for an interview. Soon after his own interview, Michael received exciting news; the company hired him. "Judi (Boylan) has the Midas Touch and I'm grateful for the opportunity," Michael said. "I met with the owner and saw my personal workstation. I cannot wait to get started," he added.

Year-End Donations Help to Build our Mission!

Lighthouse is grateful to our donors for their continued support of our mission. As we close calendar year 2020, your year-end charitable gifts received before or postmarked by December 31 are tax-deductible for tax year 2020 and will continue to provide education, training and support to individuals with vision loss at NO-COST to them!

Please consider making a year-end donation to the Lighthouse, in any amount convenient to you. If you recently made a donation, please accept our heartfelt gratitude!

[Make your one-time or recurring gift online using our secure donation form!](#)



Lighthouse Vision Loss Education Center is participating at the Festival of Trees event this holiday season.

University Town Center's Festival of Trees runs nightly from **6:30-9:00 PM through Dec. 20**. Explore the winter wonderland of nearly 50 charity-trimmed trees and 100 gingerbread houses decorated by the Girl Scouts. Admission is free.

You can also vote for your favorite tree for only \$1 per vote. The Festival of Trees is located at the former Stein Mart between Michael's and Bed Bath and Beyond, **125 N. Cattleman Rd., Sarasota**. Enjoy the trees, light show, fireworks and more. Please abide by all safety precautions! Go to **Lighthouse Festival of Trees** to learn more.

Questions, please email Nicole Mobley, **nicole.mobley@LighthouseEducationCenter.org**



PEEPERS is Online!

PEEPERS, your trusted source for low vision items and supplies for your home and office is now online!

Check out the amazing items and order online with a credit card. Items will be shipped directly to your doorstep.

Visit Peepers online: **<http://LighthouseEducationCenter.org/about-peepers/>**

Bring a Smile to Your Holidays

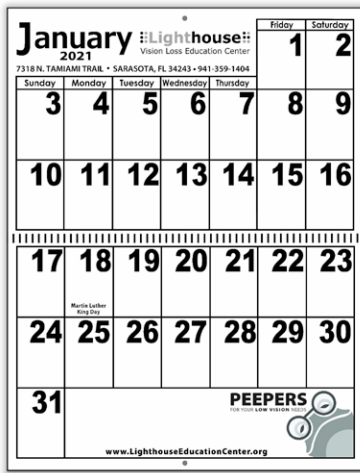
Most of the shopping this season is done online, including shipping gifts to family and friends. When you sign up online with **Smile.Amazon.com**, the company will donate a percentage of your sales to Lighthouse. It doesn't cost you a penny more, and the prices and shopping experience are the same.

Shop using your phone, computer or tablet. To get started, download the AmazonSmile App from the App Store or Google Play or go to **Smile.Amazon.com**.

The first time you go to **Smile.Amazon.com**, you will be asked to create your log-in. After logging in, choose "Lighthouse of Manasota dba Lighthouse Vision Loss Education Center," as your favorite nonprofit to receive a portion of the funds. Once completed, anytime you order from Amazon, a portion of the sales will go directly to the Lighthouse. Thank you!



Smile.Amazon.com



2021 Peepers Giant Print Calendar Makes a Great Gift!

Perfect for someone with low vision. Each month opens to 17 inches wide and 22 inches tall, with bold numbers over an inch high. Bold lines are easy to see with room for notes each day. It is printed on heavy non-glare paper, most markers don't bleed through. A limited number of calendars are in stock, don't miss out!

[Order yours online at the Peepers Store](#)

Email Peepers@LighthouseEducationCenter.org

or call 941-359-1404 to order today.

Lighthouse offices will be closed for the holidays, December 24-January 3. We look forward to resuming our programs on Monday, January 4, 2021.

Make an Impact Today and Join our Monthly Giving Sustainers Club!

Our [Sustainers Club](#) is a monthly giving program with 100% of every dollar going directly toward changing the lives of those living with vision loss. Our programs are **NO COST** to our clients and teaches them daily living skills, mobility training, job readiness, technology training, self-sufficiency and so much more. As a member of our [Sustainers Club](#), you can be assured that your gift each month will provide hope, empowerment and independence to those we serve.

Why Giving Monthly Matters:

- It fits your budget
- It plans for the future
- It builds our community
- It's easy, flexible and effective
- It supports the blind and visually impaired!



We wish you all the Joy and Happiness of the Holidays

To all of our friends and extended family,
Thank you for your support!



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From all of us at Lighthouse to everyone in our extended family, have a Holiday that is happy and safe. We miss seeing you in person, but are thankful for your support!

OUR MISSION: To educate and empower those affected by vision loss so they may enjoy happy, healthy and independent lives

DONATE

Connect With Us!

www.LighthouseEducationCenter.org | info@LighthouseEducationCenter.org

941-359-1404



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