



Welcome to this special edition of the Lighthouse Newsletter!

We're excited to share a powerful lineup of updates and events happening at Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches. In this edition, you'll meet one of our inspiring team members, learn how we're using cutting-edge technology like AI-powered glasses and smart navigation systems to empower our participants, and find out how you can help us shine in the 2025 Readers' Choice Awards. Plus, don't miss the *Save the Dates* for our biggest events—from *Art in the Dark* and *Lighthouse Goes Wild for the Holidays* to our elegant *EnVision 20/20 Luncheon* in 2026. Let's celebrate progress, community, and inclusion together.

Happening at the Lighthouse:

Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches is a finalist for 2025 Innovation Award!



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Here is why we became a finalist and are asking for you to vote between July 15 and August 15.

Technology is a central part of modern lives. At the Lighthouse we have been growing our services and programs as the technologies grow and are developed. One of our staff is highlighted here for her dedication to our programs and services.

Diane Salina is a Certified Vision Rehabilitation Teacher (CVRT) and an Assistive Technology Training Specialist (CATIS) who lives in Tequesta with her husband, son and dog. She grew up in Palm Beach County and graduated from Lake Worth High School. She went to Palm Beach State College then FAU. Her bachelors degree is in Social Work, and her first job was as a social worker at the Lighthouse. There has been a shortage of teachers in the field of blindness, so she had the opportunity to get her Masters degree from FSU so she could teach daily living skills to our low vision and blind participants. Later, as technology grew and evolved, Diane went back to get a certification to teach assistive technology. She teaches many skills remotely and a few classes at the Lighthouse. One class that is in high demand is our MetaAI class, providing information and assistance to use Ray Ban Meta glasses. Another popular class is teaching participants to use voiceover on their iPhones, iPads and Mac

computers. Last fall, Diane re-implemented a system for indoor navigation. Previously beacons were used but when the agency relocated, the beacons were not updated and installed. Diane contacted the company RightHear and learned of the newer system using QR- like codes and an app MarkersAi. Now our visitors can open the app on their smartphone and the camera will locate a marker that is loaded with information about where they are in the agency. This is another example of ways to enhance independence and smart ways to use technology.

As technology advances and evolves- the Lighthouse is eager to expand the opportunities to our participants.

[Vote for the Lighthouse!](#)

We've Been Nominated! Help Lighthouse Shine in the 2025 Readers' Choice Awards



We're thrilled to announce that Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches has been nominated for The Boca Raton Observer's 2025 Readers' Choice Awards in the Charity – Education and Health categories!

This nomination is a testament to the incredible work we do every day to

empower individuals with visual impairments to live independent, fulfilling lives. From early childhood programs to job readiness services and low vision support, our mission is to ensure that vision loss is never a barrier to opportunity.

But we can't do it without you!

Why Your Vote Matters

- This nomination is more than just recognition—it's a chance to raise awareness about the needs of the blind and visually impaired in our community. Every vote helps us shine a brighter light on the resources and programs that make a real difference, including: Hands-on training for individuals adjusting to vision loss
- Support and education for families and caregivers
- Advocacy for greater inclusion and accessibility

By voting, you're helping us continue to provide these life-changing services and ensuring no one has to face vision loss alone.

Mark Your Calendar: Voting Opened July 15

Voting runs from July 15 to August 31, and we need your help to win!

- Here's how you can support us: Vote starting July 15 at bocaratonobserver.com/2025-readers-choice-awards
- **Share the link with friends, family, and colleagues**
- **Post on social media using the hashtag #VoteLighthouse**
- **Tag us so we can celebrate your support!**

Winners will be announced in The Boca Raton Observer's October issue, and we're counting on our amazing community to help us cross the finish line.

[Vote Here!](#)

Events you don't want to miss!

Mark your calendars for these exciting events hosted by Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches!

- ☐ **Art in the Dark Cocktail Reception**
 - ☐ October 2025
 - ☐ Treasure Coast Location
 - ☐ Details coming soon! Stay tuned for updates on this unique and inspiring evening.
- ☐ **Lighthouse Goes Wild for the Holiday!**
 - ☐ Saturday, November 15, 2025
 - ☐ Busch Wildlife Sanctuary
 - ☐ Celebrate the holiday season with us in a fun and festive setting surrounded by nature and wildlife!
- ☐ **5th Annual EnVision 20/20 Luncheon**
 - ☐ Wednesday, March 25, 2026
 - ☐ The Beach Club on Palm Beach

□ Join us for an elegant luncheon featuring a tea cup auction, exquisite dining, and a keynote address—all in support of the only local Lighthouse for the Blind.

Ongoing: First Wednesday of Every Month “Let’s Chat” on Zoom

The Transition students enjoy an interactive monthly virtual meetup specifically designed for enrolled students.

Stories Making News

AI Smart Glasses Are Making a Real Impact

In a powerful episode of The Vergecast, host Victoria Song interviews Jason Valley, a visually impaired tech user who shares how the new Ray-Ban Meta smart glasses have transformed his day-to-day life. These AI-powered glasses help him identify objects, navigate unfamiliar areas, and live more independently.

The episode challenges the idea that AI in wearables is just a tech gimmick. Instead, it presents a strong case for accessible design as a path to greater freedom and inclusion.

Also featured is Mike Buckley, CEO of Be My Eyes, who discusses how AI is pushing assistive technology even further, opening up new possibilities for the blind and low-vision community.

At Lighthouse, we believe that technology should empower everyone. We’re excited to see tools like these making a difference—and we’ll continue to champion innovation that supports independence for individuals with vision loss.

You can listen to the full episode on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or wherever you get your podcasts.



MLB's First Tactile Broadcast Brings the Game to Life for Blind Fans

The Arizona Diamondbacks just made history—and a big impact on the blind and visually impaired community. They're now the first Major League Baseball team to offer tactile broadcasts at their games.

In partnership with startup OneCourt, the D-backs introduced a tablet that converts live MLB tracking data into vibrations fans can feel. The tablet includes a baseball field and strike zone layout, giving blind and low-vision fans the chance to follow the game through touch and audio cues.

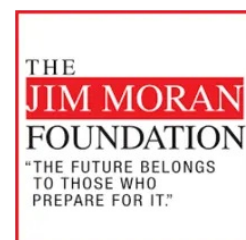
Devices are available for free at every home game in Section 128 on a first-come, first-served basis. Last month, the team invited a group from the Foundation for Blind Children to try the device—proving that accessibility and excitement can go hand in hand.

The D-backs join the Phoenix Suns and Mercury in offering this new level of access for fans. It's another example of how inclusive design can create unforgettable experiences.

At Lighthouse, we're inspired to see technology being used to build a more inclusive world. This is the kind of innovation we champion every day.



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Learn more about the Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches and support our efforts to assist the blind and visually impaired below:

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With gratitude and best wishes for a wonderful 2025,
Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches

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