

The Lighthouse
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News Release

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The Lighthouse hosting event at Bergfeld Park

TYLER, Texas –The Lighthouse for the Blind is hosting the Lighthouse Educational Fair and White Cane Walk at Bergfeld Park on Friday, October 15 from 10-2 p.m.

The Educational Fair will have over 30 nonprofit agencies and organizations including United Way and their partners who will provide information about their programs and services to the community. The City of Tyler Transit Department will answer questions about transportation needs and Trinity Mother Frances will give glaucoma screenings.

The Lighthouse has teamed up with East Texas Food Bank to accept food donations during the event. The first 500 people to donate nonperishable food items will receive a free reusable shopping bag.

“This food drive comes at a time when the East Texas Food Bank’s supply is down as we are meeting historic demand. Please donate any nonperishable food items such as canned meats, vegetables, fruit or any other items. We are grateful to Lighthouse for the Blind hosting this event and helping us feed our hungry neighbors in need,” said Dennis Cullinane, executive director of the East Texas Food Bank.

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The White Cane Walk will begin at 12 noon and is a half mile walk routed through the neighborhood surrounding Bergfeld Park. The walk honors White Cane Day, nationally recognized on Oct. 15, to celebrate the achievements of people who are blind and visually impaired and highlights the freedom and mobility that the white cane provides. In 1988 Congress designated the month of October as National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month to increase the public's awareness of the contributions and skills of American workers with disabilities.

The Lighthouse Rehabilitative Services division will give demonstrations on how to use and properly choose a white cane. Their certified Orientation and Mobility instructor will be available to answer any questions.

“The cane is a crucial tool used to safely navigate your home, neighborhood or favorite store,” said Ann Bush, rehabilitative director. “The cane prevents a person with low or no vision from falling, which can be a serious issue as we age.”

The Lighthouse has three operating divisions: Horizon Industries, Lighthouse Graphics and East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind Rehabilitative Services which collectively employs blind and visually impaired people. To learn more about the programs and services at The Lighthouse visit www.tylerlighthouse.org or call 903.595.3444.

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