

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the **Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind**, originally named Hillsborough County Association for the Blind, was established on May 3, 1940 by Daisy Waterman and the Council of Jewish Women, and it was located at 507 West Platt Street in Tampa, Florida until 1955, when the organization moved a few blocks away to its present home at 1106 West Platt Street; and

WHEREAS, the first accredited private non-profit agency serving the blind in Florida, the mission of Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind is to maximize independence and provide employment opportunities for persons who are blind or visually impaired, and it provides on-site comprehensive rehabilitation programs in Hillsborough, Polk, and Hardee counties; and

WHEREAS, Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind is committed to providing necessary and well maintained facilities, up-to-date equipment, dedicated and well-trained staff, accurate information systems, and programs that assist individuals who recently lost part or all of their vision to gain the skills needed to perform daily living tasks independently and maintain employment; and

WHEREAS, beginning over seven decades ago with the purpose of providing employment opportunities through a traditional workshop that included re-caning chairs and making household products such as mops and dishtowels, the organization has grown substantially over the years to include intensive training, job placement programs, training in the use of modified computers and electronic devices, daily living skills, social services, recreation programs, and other training and programs that assist blind and visually impaired people to reach their potential in gaining life skills and independence, and become fully functioning, integrated members of society; and

WHEREAS, for its **75th Anniversary Celebration**, Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind is hosting an Open House at its location at 1106 West Platt Street, and the event features exhibits that share how technology has developed and benefited blind and visually impaired persons from the early years to the present, and provides the opportunity for reflecting on the organization's 75 year history, service, and accomplishments.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida do hereby proclaim Friday, May 1, 2015 as

"TAMPA LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all residents to join me in thanking Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind, the staff and volunteers for their dedication and commitment to improving the quality of life for blind and visually impaired individuals, and in congratulating them on this 75th Anniversary milestone.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1st day of April, 2015.



City of
Tampa
Florida

Bob Buckhorn

Mayor