

# Transition Program



**H**igh school students with vision loss often need help to “transition” into adulthood. Whether getting a job or living independently for the first time, specialists at the Lighthouse of the Big Bend work with students age 14 and older teaching skills in daily living, assistive technology, career exploration, and social interaction needed to succeed. The Lighthouse offers a year round program to participants of the Transition Program in addition to a seven week intensive program in the summer. Activities provided include:

- Instruction in planning meals, shopping, cooking, and cleaning within a group setting.
- Experience budgeting, balancing their funds, and using a debit card for purchases.
- Teaching students to use computers with software that enlarges text on the screen or software that reads the screen with artificial speech...a voice similar to HAL. Other electronic devices include large print and talking calculators, book readers, notetakers, and CCTVs.

- Vocational training by exploring different careers and ways of searching for jobs, learning interviewing skills, and writing resumes.
- On the job training through a summer work experience to prepare them for future jobs — ice cream shop, radio station, janitorial service, and day care center.
- Orientation and mobility training to travel safely at home, school, and in local communities using special transit or city bus services.
- Social activities such as canoeing, playing musical instruments, bowling, swimming with dolphins, etc.
- Developing teamwork and appropriate social skills while working on group projects, such as meal preparation, fundraisers, and painting the Lighthouse bridge.
- Peer support from other students with visual impairments who have similar challenges and concerns that they can discuss freely and openly.

Like all other services provided through the Lighthouse, the Transition Program is free to qualified Vocational Rehabilitation clients of the Division of Blind Services.

**Questions?** For more information, please contact the Lighthouse Transition Specialists at (850) 942-3658 or toll-free: (888) 827-6033; email: [info@lighthousebigbend.org](mailto:info@lighthousebigbend.org), or 3071 Highland Oaks Terrace, Tallahassee, FL 32301