



Amir Ghahremani

Employee Certifications

Congratulations to Amir Ghahremani for completing JAWS, MAGic and ZoomText certifications. Terry Rairdon, COTA from the Tulsa office, also successfully completed his ZoomText certification.

JAWS (“Job Access With Speech”) is a computer screen reader program for Microsoft Windows that allows blind and visually impaired users to read the screen either with a text-to-speech output or by a refreshable Braille display.

MAGic is a screen magnification and screen reading solution for low vision computer users. MAGic can help you work more efficiently with business applications, documents, email, navigating the Internet, and engaging in social networking. MAGic delivers smooth, crisp letters, even at the highest magnification levels.

ZoomText is a screen magnification and screen reading solution for Microsoft Windows. The program allows you to see and hear everything on the computer screen as well as providing access to applications, documents, email and the Internet. ZoomText has dual monitor support and is capable of magnifying the screen up to 36 times; it also allows you to choose which part of the screen is magnified. Enhanced navigation capabilities help the user to launch programs and find documents on the desktop and find the hypertext links and controls on web pages, find words or phrases.

Job Openings

Full-time Openings for Hose, Vinyl and CNC Workers - Oklahoma City

Hose Department: Responsible for the inspection, assembly and testing of 187 and 1061 fire hoses. Duties include coupling, stenciling, banding and boxing of hoses.

CNC Department: Perform set up, programming and operation of CNC machines. (Computer Numeric Controls)

Vinyl Department: Responsible for the correct and timely production of vinyl products which includes cutting, assembling, sealing, boxing and product inspection.

Quality Control and Safety Manager - Oklahoma City

Responsible for all aspects of the Quality Management System (ISO) and Safety Program for NewView Oklahoma. Ensuring all internal and external standards and requirements are met including legal compliance and customer expectations.

Occupational Therapist - Tulsa Clinic

Performs low vision assessments, in-home evaluations and training. Conducts low vision assessments and training to use assistive devices, teaching daily living skills, and other relevant rehabilitation activities.

Computer Assistive Technology Specialist

Responsible for providing computer assisted technology training and services to consumers throughout the state of Oklahoma.

Mail Clerk II - 1 FT positions in Norfolk, Virginia; 1 FT position at Joint Base Anacostia in Bolling, Maryland; and 1 PT position in Meridian, Mississippi

Receive, sort, inspect, deliver and/or pick up mail, parcels and packages as required by site.

General Laborers - 1 FT position at Tinker Box Reclamation in Midwest City; and 1 FT position in Ogden, Utah

Moves, sorts and collects supplies, materials and other items throughout the warehouse. Loads and unloads pallets, trucks and other conveyances.

For more specific information regarding education and experience requirements, please contact Human Resources at 405-232-4644, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., or visit newviewoklahoma.org/jobs to download applications.

Tulsa World Hires First Visually Impaired Employees

NewView clients Sumpa Akhter, Justin Eagle and Trey Lewis began their employment at the Tulsa World on October 31, as part of a project with NewView Oklahoma and the Tulsa World to expand employment opportunities for individuals with visual impairment.

All three are recent college graduates working in the call center as direct employees of the Tulsa World – Sumpa from University of Tulsa, Justin from Tulsa Community College, and Trey from the University of Central Oklahoma.

“This is a great success story for three individuals who pursued their educational goals, excelled in school, and were then offered gainful employment in their community,” Cathy Holden, Senior VP of Rehabilitation and Clinical Operations at NewView, said.

NewView worked with the Tulsa World to make the call center accessible and provided training and installation of accessibility software. NewView also provided blindness sensitive training to hundreds of employees at the Tulsa World in the process.

“This is the first time that NewView has outsourced employment to a large organization in the community,” Holden said. “The goal is to continue this program with other organizations to open employment opportunities for those who are blind or vision impaired.”

Now that the software is on their system, any job is accessible, and the Tulsa World intends to add additional jobs within their call center for persons with visual impairment and possibly other areas of the organization.

While Sumpa and Justin are from the Tulsa area, Trey relocated for this job and is currently living in housing adjacent to the Tulsa World. Transportation can be one of the biggest barriers to employment for blind and visually



From Left to Right: Justin, Sumpa and Trey



impaired individuals, so these accommodations help in ease of commute.

“This job is the chance to show my potential – where I feel like I’m truly employable and have opportunities to move up in the company,” Trey said. “It has been challenging, but they have been so willing to work with us, going out of their way to make us feel like ‘regular’ employees.”

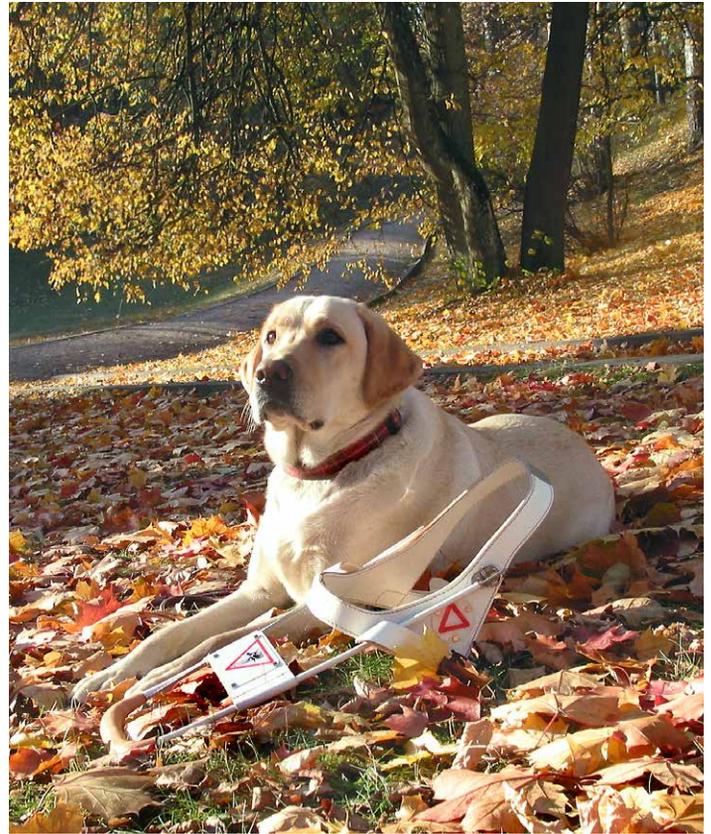
Fall is my favorite time of year!

Temperatures are cooling down, the trees take on vibrant hues of red, yellow, copper and gold and there is a sense in the atmosphere that it's time to pause and reflect on the year that is coming to a close and a new year that is just around the corner. For most, even though the fall ushers in a season of holidays and celebration, it can also be a time of year that may bring additional stresses such as extra expenses on the family budget, the challenges of blending families, or being single and alone. The baking, the shopping, the refereeing!!! Decisions, decisions, how can anyone fit it all in!!

This year, before it all begins, let's hit the pause button, reflect and let go! I know it's easier said than done. Sometimes you have to be deliberate and intentional when you know you need to stop for a moment. The truth is life can be demanding at times! When you have finally taken that pause, be sure you take ample time to reflect. Think about what is really important to you. Dig deep. Find two or three things that make you smile on the inside. Those things that make you excited when you just think about them. Yes, you may have to do some things that aren't especially fun, but make sure you schedule in some of those events or time with people that are important to you and that recharge your battery. It's essential they are just as much a part of your holiday schedule as those other priorities that demand your attention.

Now comes the best part...let go! Let go of the things that you have no control over. Forget being a perfectionist this year or the one who has to pick up the slack for others. Decide to let go of your cranky aunt that always complains. Well maybe not literally but definitely let go of the negative way it affects you. Choose instead to smile, or to laugh out loud. People may just wonder what you're so happy about and they may just want to join in with you!

I think it's interesting that this quarter's newsletter covers the months of November, December and January. Maybe the secret to a new holiday experience for each one of us is to remember what each of these months represent.



November is about Thanksgiving! Being thankful is a great stress buster! Be thankful for that crazy family, because some are alone this season. For those of you alone, be thankful you don't have to listen to a cranky aunt! You may not be where you want to be, but you can always be somewhere worse! December is about giving. Giving is another great stress buster! I'm not talking about buying gifts, I'm talking about giving you! Give a smile to a stranger, a hand to a mom. Buy a cup of coffee for the person behind you in line. Find some small way to do something spontaneous for someone else. It always makes a difference for the person receiving and for the person giving. Last but not least, January is all about a new year! Find a way to celebrate the new that is coming into your life this year. Maybe the one thing you've always hoped for will finally come your way or some negative experience will come to an end. It's a new year and anything is possible!

- Masumi Ward, Director of Human Resources



Enjoy A Safe Holiday Season

As you plan for family gatherings, holiday parties and increased travel, you might also take some basic precautions to ensure you and your family remain safe and injury-free during the holiday season.

Decorating

Putting up decorations is one of the best ways to get in the holiday spirit, but injuries involving holiday decorating are common in emergency rooms. Be aware of the potential dangers of decorations, and take precautions in lifting and climbing.

- For family and friends who are blind or visually impaired, make sure all usual home paths are clear of tripping hazards such as wrapping paper, decorations, toys, etc.
- Artificial snow can irritate lungs if inhaled – follow directions carefully.
- Decorate the tree with kids and pets in mind. Move ornaments that are breakable or have metal hooks toward the top of the tree.
- Always use a proper stepladder. Do not stand on chairs or other furniture.
- Make sure there are no exposed or frayed wires, loose connections or broken sockets on lights.
- Some holiday plants may be poisonous (including some Poinsettias). Keep them out of reach of children or pets. The national Poison Control Center can be reached at **(800) 222-1222**.

Fire Dangers with Candles and Fireplaces

Thousands of deaths are caused by fires, burns and other fire-related injuries every year. Increased use of candles and fireplaces, combined with an increase in the amount of combustible, seasonal decorations present in many homes means more risk for fire.

- Never leave burning candles unattended or sleep in a room with a lit candle.
- Keep candles out of reach of children.
- Make sure candles are on stable surfaces.
- Don't burn candles near trees, curtains or any other flammable items.
- Don't burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace.
- Check and clean the chimney and fireplace area at least once a year.

Other Safety Resources:

National Safety Council
Safe Kids Worldwide
Consumer Product Safety Commission

Employee Feature: Dale Shawn

When Dale Shawn came to work at NewView Oklahoma last summer, he started as a lineman in the hose manufacturing department, but was quickly recognized for his leadership potential. Dale was asked to train for the department lead of hoses, and as with all NewView employees, was encouraged to make an appointment at the Low Vision Clinic in Oklahoma City.

“I figured I’d get adaptive technology, stuff to help me do my job better,” Dale said. “But this turned into an opportunity I didn’t think was possible.”

Dale visited Dr. Roach at the Low Vision clinic who suggested he try lenses to aid his visual impairment caused by Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP). Dale stopped wearing glasses several years ago because the glasses were so thick they caused headaches and eventually didn’t improve his vision. But Dr. Roach conducted a thorough and extensive exam, and Dale came out of the appointment with new glasses – and a whole new perspective.

“I walked out to the car and I could actually see my wife for the first time. Then I looked in the backseat and saw my son smiling, and my daughter making faces at me – which she can’t do now that I can see better,” Dale said laughing. “It was like the world opened up again.”

Dale has lived his adult life with limited vision, seeing only light and color, and his cataracts will eventually progress to the point that he won’t benefit from glasses. So, he says that he’s “enjoying the view while he can.”



“The biggest plus has been being able to see my family. I never thought I’d be able to do that,” Dale said. “But I’m thankful for the time I didn’t have glasses because it made me much more aware of what’s around me and much more capable.”

While his glasses are helpful in his new role as department lead of hoses, Dale says that he is not dependent on wearing glasses.

“When you grow up blind, you think you have limitations,” said Dale. “But NewView Oklahoma teaches you that there aren’t any limits if you have the right methods and tools. They take away the excuse that, ‘I’m blind and can’t do it’ and teach that we can be successful and prosperous in what we do. We’re not just the blind and visually impaired. We are productive, and necessary individuals.”

NIB President Visits Tinker Box Reclamation Unit

Kevin Lynch, President and CEO National Industries for the Blind, and NewView Oklahoma CEO Lauren Branch met with the 72nd Air Base Wing leadership, Commander Colonel Kenyon Bell, at Tinker Air Force Base last month to discuss employment opportunities for people with visual impairments at the box reclamation unit at Tinker.

NewView employees spoke on our products and services for chocks and fire hoses, as well as services provided by the reclamation and recycle center on the Air Force base. Lynch talked about what Ability One brings to the table in terms of products and services such as Skillcraft and the Base Supply Centers.

The visit focused on NewView employees and how they feel their jobs are a way to serve and support our war fighters.



Birthdays

Happy Birthday to everyone celebrating a Birthday in November, December and January!

Aaron Higby

Ashley Delaney

Barbara Anderson

Beatrice Reid

Buntharos Porterfield

Candace Nance

Dale Shawn

Jerry Lee Barnes Jr

Joseph Valdez

Joshua Howard

Kathleen Plummer

Katy Ng

Kenneth Hagan

Martina Arreola

Michael Floyd

Molly Willis

Quentin Moore

Reshia Keyes

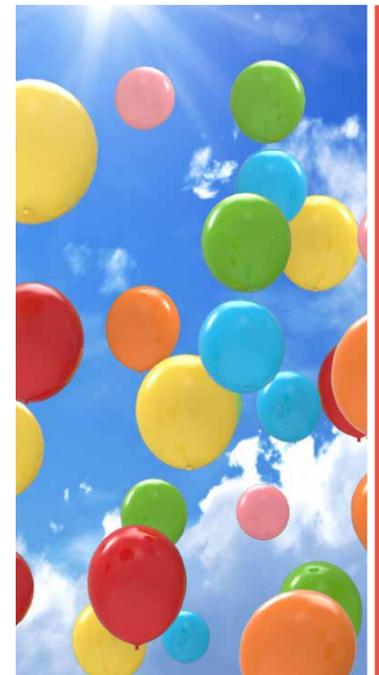
Terry Rairdon

Tonya Stewart

Trisha Chase

Vernon Warner

William Willis



Q & A

- What is your favorite past-time? **Time with my family and learning magic.**
- What is the most adventurous thing you’ve ever done? **Traveled to India.**
- What is one thing on your bucket list? **To see Penn & Teller Live.**
- What is your favorite restaurant? **Most of them, I like food.**
- What is your favorite thing about working at NewView? **The impact the work has on so many people.**

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