

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Workers who are blind provide essential services to government amidst COVID-19 crisis

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK (April 7, 2020) – Amidst increasing shutdowns and business closures, employees of NewView Oklahoma are hard at work making and assembling essential products for state and federal agencies, including the Department of Defense. These products include first-aid kits, hand soap and sanitizer, vinyl shower curtains, fire hoses, aircraft wheel chocks and more. **Almost all of these employees are blind or visually impaired.**

“I feel lucky to work for an organization that is an essential business,” said Trey Lewis, a NewView employee who is legally blind due to an optic tumor. “I feel like I have a purpose.”

For NewView employees, vision challenges do not stand in the way of doing meaningful, respected work. In the middle of a public health and economic crisis, this work is as important as ever.

“We’re getting the job done,” said Gerald Robertson, lead supervisor of the vinyl department. “We can still do a task, just as well as a sighted person. We need to get that word out.”

NewView has been the largest employer of people who are blind and vision impaired in the state of Oklahoma since 1949. Today, they provide job opportunities to more than 150 individuals through their manufacturing plant as well as in vision diagnostic and rehabilitation and service contract fulfillment positions across the country.

****MEDIA OPPORTUNITY: BLIND EMPLOYEES WORKING AT MANUFACTURING PLANT****

NewView’s manufacturing facility is open for media tours during work hours, Mon. – Fri. from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Address is 501 N. Douglas Ave., Oklahoma City, OK, 73106. Media is invited to attend to shoot interviews and footage of employees working.

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About NewView Oklahoma:

NewView Oklahoma is a private, not-for-profit organization founded in 1949 with a mission to empower people who are blind and vision impaired to achieve their maximum level of independence through employment, low vision rehabilitation, and community outreach. NewView is the leading employer of

blind and visually impaired individuals in Oklahoma and offers the only comprehensive Low Vision clinics in the state. Visit online at www.newviewoklahoma.org or follow on [Facebook](#) and on [Twitter](#).