

# New Life

## GRADUATE FINDS HER CALLING

### Once Reluctant to Learn, Now Yearns To Teach Others

**W**hen Dorieen Miguel first started her training at Lions World Services for the Blind, she wasn't exactly a "model" trainee.

Stubborn and indignant, Dorieen often faked being sick so she could skip classes. She wasn't interested in learning new techniques and skills that would help her become independent.

"I don't need to know that," she would constantly tell her instructors. "I have a caregiver."

She had only one goal in mind — to pass her GED test and get the heck out of dodge.

But her instructors didn't give up on her. And thanks to their encouragement, Dorieen decided to not give up on herself.



Dorieen Miguel listens to the applause from her fellow trainees at her graduation ceremony on March 20.

### Out of the Darkness

Dorieen arrived at LWSB in September of 2006 — lonely, angry and afraid. A year-and-a-half later on March 20, she graduated from LWSB — confident, content and independent.

Dorieen is totally blind as a result of diabetic retinopathy, which is the leading cause of blindness. She recalls the effect that diabetes had on her as a child.

"I was diagnosed as a diabetic when I was only 4 years old. It was hard," she said. "There weren't many sugar-free foods back then, but my mom did the best she could. Being a diabetic really took a toll on me."

Dorieen, 32, grew up on the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation, formerly known as the Papago Indian Reservation, in Pima

**“If you want it, you have to go get it. And there ain't nobody who is going to do it for you but yourself.”**

**— Dorieen Miguel**

County, Arizona, about 35 miles west of Tucson.

She was living on the reservation with her parents when she lost her vision. "I was only 23, and in a matter of six months, all of my vision was gone."

After she became blind, Dorieen shut herself off from the world.

"It was hard ... depressing. I was angry a lot of the time because I couldn't do the things I used to do.

"I developed a hatred for everything. And I kept myself isolated. I stayed like that for two years."

One day Dorieen realized that she had to get help. "I looked at myself and I was bored," she said. "I said to myself, 'I still have my legs and my hands, and I know I'm not dumb. I need to do something.'"

### A Call for Help

After spending almost a year trying to find a job on the reservation, Dorieen decided to move to Tucson in hopes of finding more opportunities. She took a caregiver with her.

In Tucson, she attended a rehabilitation center for the blind and visually impaired.

"They showed me how to cut thread, put butter on toast — things I already knew how to do. And the center served mostly older people in their 70s, so most of the time I would just sit by myself."

This is when she realized that in order for her to find a job, she would

*(continued on page 6)*

## Mark Your Calendar!

**April 23**

**The Essence of Vision:  
Luncheon and Style Show**  
(Formerly *Treat Your Treasure*)

**June 21**

**Arkansas Visiting Lions  
Day**

**August 22-23**

**Visiting Lions Day**

# New Life

a magazine of

## LIONS WORLD SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

Lions World Services for the Blind is an internationally recognized, comprehensive adult blindness rehabilitation center. Over the past 60 years, we have helped over 9,200 people with visual impairments regain their independence. We offer counseling, personal adjustment programs, and 14 vocational programs to help our clients achieve lifelong independence.

Our mission is "to enable people who are blind or visually impaired to function independently and to live full, productive lives with dignity and self-respect, and to promote a positive public awareness of blindness." That's what we've been doing since 1947, and will continue to do for many more years.

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PROJECTS WITH INDUSTRY

Lions World Services for the Blind receives a Projects With Industry grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSV) under the authority of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, for creating and expanding job opportunities for persons who are blind in the competitive labor market. The dollar amount of federal funds for the three-year period is \$691,224, which is 80% of the total cost of the project that will be financed with federal funds. Non-governmental funds from other sources will finance \$172,806 or 20% of the total project cost.

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Please visit our web site at [www.lwsb.org](http://www.lwsb.org), or send us an e-mail at [training@lwsb.org](mailto:training@lwsb.org) or [development@lwsb.org](mailto:development@lwsb.org).

## LWSB Appoints New Development Director



Amy Tyrrell

Amy Tyrrell has been hired as the new Director of Development for LWSB. She replaces Larry Morgan, who has been named Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

Tyrrell previously served as District Director for the Muscular Dystrophy Association's Arkansas chapter.

The Louisiana native lives in Benton with her husband, Patrick, and her 7-year-old daughter, Carinne. ♦

**If you would like to remember us in your will, our legal name is  
Lions World Services  
for the Blind.**

## LWSB Announces New “Hands On” Massage Therapy Course

LWSB is one of only a few adult blindness rehabilitation facilities in the world to offer massage therapy training for people who are blind or visually impaired.

In partnership with the American University of Healing Arts, LWSB will begin offering a Massage Therapy course in June.

The six-month training program covers all areas of massage techniques and business methods, and includes individualized classroom instruction and hands-on training.

“The field of massage therapy lends itself very well to individuals with vision impairments,” said Ramona Sangalli, President and CEO of LWSB. “Massage therapy uses the hands as the therapist’s eyes.”

Sangalli said at one time, massage therapy was a very common career for individuals who are blind or visually impaired, but over time it fell out of favor.

But now with the increased interest in therapeutic/spa services, employment opportunities in the massage therapy field are increasing.

Sangalli said the massage therapy



Ramona Sangalli, LWSB CEO and President, and Robert Stiles of the American University of Healing Arts, sign the contract establishing the partnership with LWSB and the American University of Healing Arts.

program will appeal to many trainees who are looking for a creative vocation. “So many times we have people who are interested in vocational training, but do not want to work in an office setting or with computers,” she said. “Massage therapy is creative, and many individuals with disabilities enjoy some sort of creative or artistic outlet and would like to make it a career.”

In the past, Sangalli said people who are blind or visually impaired have had to enroll directly with a massage therapy school. The school may or may not have had instructors who are experienced in working with

people with vision impairments.

Instructors for the LWSB program will be trained on how to work with visually impaired individuals.

The program curriculum meets licensure requirements for 35 states and totals more than 700 hours.

All individuals enrolled in this program will perform a clinical internship at the spa of the Arkansas Healing Arts Center in Little Rock before graduating. Individuals in the program will also obtain CPR and First Aid certification.

The curriculum will consist of Anatomy and Physiology; Swedish Technique; Hydrotherapy and Spa Services; Pain Management; Palpatory Anatomy, Physiology and Kinesiology; Reflexology; Medical Massage; Sports Massage; Asian Modalities; Aromatherapy; On-Site Chair Massage; Self-Care; Hygiene; Business and Law; Professionalism and Ethics; Clinical Preparation; and Charting.

For more information on the massage therapy program, contact Kristin Dow at [kdow@lwsb.org](mailto:kdow@lwsb.org). ♦

## The ESSENCE OF VISION: Luncheon & Style Show

*Formerly Known as Treat Your Treasure*

11:30 a.m. • April 23 • Pleasant Valley Country Club • Little Rock

Hosted by the  
Angels for the Blind Auxiliary



- Guest speaker: Steve Landers
- Fashion Show by B. Barnett
- Chances to Win Fabulous Prizes

**All proceeds benefit Lions World Services for the Blind.**

Cost: \$50. For reservations, call Amy Tyrrell at (501) 664-7100.



Steve Landers

# TRAINEES

January 1, 2008 - March 31, 2008

**ARKANSAS**

Dustin Brothers  
Mena  
Count Durante  
Scott  
Linda Edrington  
Jonesboro  
Tim Herold  
Mountain Home  
Heather Hoffman  
Maumelle  
Donald Lutz  
Hot Springs  
Karson Moorehead  
Little Rock  
Samuel Parker  
Magnolia  
James Rogers  
Bryant  
Melfred Teller  
Russellville  
**ARIZONA**  
Andre Davis  
Glendale  
Dorieen Miguel  
Tucson  
**CALIFORNIA**  
Liwayway Atienza  
Union City  
Janella Benoit  
Oakland  
Murphy Chu  
San Gabriel  
Rex Chung  
Los Angeles  
Carol Diego  
Daly City  
Kennedy Dodds  
Santa Rosa  
Susan Hennig  
Long Beach  
Jason Holloway  
Oakland  
James Mannion  
Eureka  
Geoffrey Meister  
Bakersfield  
Michael Mitchell  
Pacific Grove  
Allen Ramos

Colton  
Laureen Scardina  
Santa Rosa  
**CONNECTICUT**  
Kelsey Sparks  
Bantam  
Brian Tinsley  
Bloomfield  
**FLORIDA**  
Jeff Davis  
Tallahassee  
Everette Keeter  
Tallahassee  
Fred Longo  
Coconut Creek  
Donna Moore  
Orlando  
**GEORGIA**  
Demarta Homer  
Macon  
**ILLINOIS**  
Rebecca Raymer  
Champaign  
**INDIANA**  
Roosevelt Bradley  
Crown Point  
**KENTUCKY**  
Joe Starks  
Sparta  
**LOUISIANA**  
Dan Marshall  
Leesville  
**MASSACHUSETTS**  
Earl Williams  
Hewton Highlands  
**MICHIGAN**  
Jeff Kenyon  
Gross Point  
Matthew Popis  
Rochester  
**MISSOURI**  
London Bell  
St. Louis  
Deirdre Hayes  
St. Louis  
Corey McMahon  
St. Louis  
Cheryl Owens  
Columbia  
William "Buddy" Spires

Vandalia  
Shelia Stevens  
St. Louis  
**NEVADA**  
Fern Chappell  
Reno  
**OKLAHOMA**  
Ronald Bailey  
Pocola  
Melissa Hanna  
Luther  
**OREGON**  
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Flaubert Dumas  
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Kevin Gonzales  
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Anthony Leach  
Texarkana  
Daniel Miller  
Grand Prairie  
John David Moore  
Fort Worth  
Kyle Pleasant  
Chandler  
Elinda Sanders  
Texarkana  
Addie Spencer  
Dallas  
Jeff Van Winkle  
Arlington  
**VIRGINIA**  
Brian McCann  
Virginia Beach  
Anna Thornton  
Richmond

## Attention All Graduates: Visit Our Website to Join the Alumni Association!

The LWSB Alumni Association is steadily growing its membership, but we still want to hear from you. And thanks to today's technology, now it's easier than ever to join!

Alumni, former staff, and former volunteers of LWSB can join the association by visiting our website at [www.lwsb.org](http://www.lwsb.org). Interested individuals can join by simply filling out an online application form. The form can be found under the "Resources" link on the "Alumni Association" page.

The Alumni Association will help LWSB staff track the successes and accomplishments of graduates, and it will give alumni the chance to get back in touch with old friends, support LWSB, and stay informed on news about the organization.

In addition, the association will enable LWSB to expand its public education program by recruiting alumni to be LWSB ambassadors. Those interested in becoming ambassadors can give speaking presentations in their area about LWSB.

For more information on the Alumni Association, visit our site or contact Melissa Dickey at [mdickey@lwsb.org](mailto:mdickey@lwsb.org) or (501) 664-7100. ♦

# GLADS & GRADS

**A**s spring makes its long-awaited arrival in Arkansas, many trainees are leaving Lions World Services for the Blind to make their arrival into the work world.

Two trainees graduated from the Assistive Technology Instructor program. They are Paul Cotton of Berkeley, Calif., and Robert Gilman of Lebanon, Mo.

Completing their training in the Customer Service program were Dustin Brothers of Mena, Ark.; Daniel Miller of Grand Prairie, Texas; and Susan Hennig of Long Beach, Calif.

The Bicycle Assembly Repair program had two graduates: Steven Martin of Petaluma, Calif., and Brian

Tinsley of Bloomfield, Conn.

The IRS Service Center Collection Representative program graduated three individuals, who are now working at IRS call centers around the country. Geoffrey Meister of Bakersfield, Calif., is now working in Fresno, Calif. Earl Williams of Hewton Highlands, Mass., is working in Andover, Mass., and Deirdre Hayes of St. Louis, Mo., is working in Kansas City, Mo.

Heather Adams of Grand Prairie, Texas, graduated from the IRS Contact Collection Representative program. She is now working at the IRS call center in Austin, Texas.

Dorieen Miguel of Tucson, Ariz., earned her GED. ♦



Earl Williams



Dorieen Miguel



Geoffrey Meister



Robert Gilman



Heather Adams



Steven Martin



Paul Cotton



Dustin Brothers



Daniel Miller



Deirdre Hayes

**Graduate Finds Her Calling** (continued from page 1)

first have to obtain her GED.

“I didn’t finish high school,” she explained. “I was a rebel and got in trouble with the law. I spent too much time being social, and not enough time taking school seriously.”

Dorieen searched for a facility for blind adults that would prepare her to take the GED test. “I wanted a place that offered one-on-one instruction,” she said. “Then someone read me a brochure about this place in Arkansas called Lions World Services for the Blind. It had a cafeteria — that appealed to me because I wasn’t ready to cook for myself yet.”

### The Transformation

So Dorieen packed her bags and headed to Little Rock, Ark.

“But when I got there, the instructors wanted me to do things like learn how to sew a button on a shirt and learn how to clean a house. They especially wanted me to learn how to use a computer,” she said.

“But I kept saying to them, ‘What do I need that for? I have a caregiver. I don’t need to know these things.’”

Dorieen said this made her angry. “I just wanted to go to class and get my GED and that was it.

“And on top of the adult education class, they put me in Braille and keyboarding classes. I was so depressed ... I didn’t want to have anything to do with computers, and I really didn’t want to learn Braille.”

Dorieen rebelled by being late to class or leaving early. “There were times when I faked being ill so I could stay in bed,” she recalled. “Looking back at it now, I’m very embarrassed.”

The persistence of her instructors finally paid off. “After a few months of them not listening to me and making me go to class, I

actually started to enjoy it,” she said. “The independent living skills I learned helped me a lot, and instead of refusing to learn, I started working very hard at keyboarding and Braille.”

“The transformation Dorieen had here at LWSB was amazing,” said Jerry Leach, her counselor at LWSB.

“When she arrived, she wasn’t aware of the possibilities available



On her graduation day at LWSB, Dorieen takes a final stroll around campus before heading back to her home state of Arizona to attend college.

to someone with a visual impairment, nor did she have a sense of her ability and talents,” he said. “She transformed from a person who felt disconnected from human affairs to a person fully engaged in the world around her.”

### From Dependence to Independence

Ironically, the one subject that Dorieen tried to avoid is now the one she wants to teach. “My Braille instructor, Jeff Weiss, really inspired me,” she said. “I liked his method of teaching, and I thought to myself, ‘I would like to go to college and do what he is doing ... teach Braille to others.’”

Dorieen’s plans are to go to college and earn a master’s degree in rehabilitation teaching. She is enrolled in a local community college in Tucson and is now living independently in an apartment. “Without a caregiver,” she said, laughing.

“Teaching Braille is my main focus. I want to teach people the way they’ve taught me here, and help people the way they’ve helped me,” she said.

“I wasn’t pressured nor was I given a date that I must complete my GED. The instructors let me work at my own pace,” she said. “I liked that.”

Dorieen said she feels confident about her future now, thanks to her training at LWSB. “My goal is to focus on college, start a good life, retire, and go back to the reservation.”

In addition to gaining friends for life at LWSB, Dorieen is happy to have gained something else that she had lost: her faith.

“I have found my faith in God again,” she said with a big smile. “For a long time after I became blind, I refused to have faith. But being here has helped me find it again.”

Dorieen said she is both nervous and excited about living on her own. “But my motto now is: if you want it, you have to go get it. And there ain’t nobody who is going to do it for you but yourself.” ♦

## LWSB Creates Myspace Page to Spread Awareness, Gain Support

Because of limited resources, nonprofits, like LWSB, often face challenges when deciding how to get their message out to large numbers of people in a cost-effective manner.

Today, many nonprofits across the world are turning to online social networking sites such as Myspace, Facebook and YouTube to broadcast their message to thousands of people and attract supporters and possible donors.

LWSB has joined the Myspace bandwagon as well and now has a Myspace page.

If you are a Myspace user, we encourage you to add us as your friend. Our Myspace address is [www.myspace.com/lwsb](http://www.myspace.com/lwsb).

“Our Myspace page will allow us to reach people well beyond our

circle of supporters,” said Ramona Sangalli, LWSB CEO and President. “It doesn’t cost us any money, and we will be able to connect with people from around the world and educate a younger audience about what we do. It’s a win-win situation.”

As of March 2008, Myspace is the third most visited web site in the United States and the sixth most visited web site in the world.

The LWSB Myspace page will be frequently refreshed with blogs, pictures and information about LWSB news and events.

Myspace.com is an interactive, online networking site that allows people to come together from around the world who share similar interests. ♦

## LWSB Loses Two Longtime Supporters

The LWSB family mourns the loss of two special individuals who generously gave of their time and efforts to support the mission of LWSB.

Willie Oates died on March 5 at the age of 90. She founded the Angels for the Blind Auxiliary, which raises money for a scholarship program at LWSB, and was a longtime member of the LWSB Board of Directors. In addition, she was the first woman to serve as president of the Little Rock Founders Lions Club.



Willie Oates

Dr. Harry P. Ward died on March 11 at the age of 74. He was a founding member of the World Services for the Blind Foundation and was later named an honorary member of the Foundation’s board.

“We will greatly miss Ms. Oates and Dr. Ward,” said Ramona Sangalli, LWSB President and CEO. “Their contributions to

LWSB cannot be measured. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.”

Oates was fondly known in Arkansas as the “Hat Lady” because of her stylish hat collection, which became part of the Little Rock social scene for decades. She had approximately 1,000 hats. She was a member of the Arkansas House of Representatives and was an energetic volunteer and board member for many organizations.

Dr. Ward was the Chancellor Emeritus at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) in Little Rock. He spent 21 years at the helm of UAMS before retiring in 2000. Under his leadership, the Arkansas Cancer Research Center, Jones Eye Institute, Biomedical Research Building and the Reynolds Center on Aging prospered and the university’s teaching hospital, University Medical Center, flourished. ♦



Dr. Harry Ward

## Create Your Legacy Through Planned Giving

Would you like to support LWSB without sacrificing your current income? Then a Charitable Gift Annuity might be right for you.

The Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) is a gift method that has been used by charitable-minded people for more than a century to support their favored nonprofit.

Here is how it works. You make a contractual arrangement with the nonprofit whereby you agree to make a charitable contribution in exchange for an agreement that you will receive a specific amount of money each year for life.

Traditionally, a CGA is funded with cash or stock, but there are several alternative assets that may also work for you.

Another way that you can make a lasting commitment to our mission is by naming Lions World Services for the Blind in your will. We recommend that you work with your attorney to ensure that your wishes are carried out. For the purposes of a bequest, our legal name and address should be used: Lions World Services for the Blind, 2811 Fair Park, Little Rock, AR 72204.

There are many ways to create an estate plan that includes your vision to provide for the future of LWSB. Please contact us with your ideas and questions, and we’ll work with you to help make your vision a reality.

Contact Amy Tyrrell at (501) 664-7100 or [atyrrell@lwsb.org](mailto:atyrrell@lwsb.org). ♦



This publication is available in Braille or cassette tape upon request.

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**LIONS WORLD SERVICES FOR THE BLIND**

2811 Fair Park Boulevard  
Little Rock, AR 72204



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Lions World Services for the Blind is accredited by the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Lions World Services for the Blind received these memorial and special occasion gifts between January 1, 2008, and March 31, 2008. Gifts after March 31 will appear in the next issue.

**In Memory Of:**

**John G. Anderson** by John E. & Betty Anderson, Victor & Marian Buchanan, Ed & Neva Fry, Harriet Peterson, Charles & Beverly Schlott, William Turner, Mayo Clinic Family Medicine Department, James Farrell, M. Theresa Mahowald, Bob & Peggy Torczynski, Robert & Ida Walker, Carl & Marilyn Foreman, George & Connie Green  
**Thela Badger** by Milt & Jo Brummer  
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**Robert LaRose** by Mamie Davis  
**Sarah Faye Lewis** by J.L. & Mary Ann Marshall, Barbara Hoover, Bob & Ramona Sangalli, Judy Babcock, Johnnie & Larry Taylor, Melody Davis, Preston & Nancy Grace, Metropolitan National Bank, Mr. & Mrs. Dan Felton, III  
**Evelyn Lockhart** by Grady Lions Club  
**Bill McCarty** by Fort

Worth Riverside Lions Club, Billy & Mariam Graham, Jimmie & Betty White  
**Rose McCurdy** by Danny & Sandra Snyder  
**Duane Miller** by Danny & Sandra Snyder, Betty Shellstorm  
**Willie Oates** by Dave & Carol DeGraff, Billy & Mariam Graham, Albert & Amy Pais, Larry & Billie Morgan, Bob & Ramona Sangalli, Jess Woods & Bette Bright  
**Sylvia Parmentier** by Hot Springs Village Lioness Club  
**Ina Ray** by Bill & Earlene Hankins  
**Carrie Charlene Robinson** by Benthon Lions Club  
**Bernice Smith** by Don & Doris Lenox  
**Ruby Lee Wallace** by J.R. "Jules" Feinberg  
**Bob Wangenstein** by Joe & Ruth Boyd  
**Dr. Harry Ward** by

Brenda Fulkerson, Larry & Billie Morgan, Dr. & Mrs. James Pappas, Bob & Ramona Sangalli  
**Rev. Melton Ware** by Milt & Jo Brummer  
**Lloyd "Red" Wells** by Hot Springs Village Lioness Club, Hot Springs Village Evening Lions Club  
**Earl Whitwell** by Mrs. Earl Whitwell, Jr.  
**Dr. George W. Young** by Mrs. Mary Young

**In Honor Of:**

**Ashley & Greg Carper** by Mr. & Mrs. Frank Funk, Jr.  
**Berenice Kumpe** by Mr. Vernon Broussard  
**Ramona Sangalli** by Russell D. Rawn  
**Clyde Venable** by Grady Lions Club  
**Jimmy Woodyard** by Grady Lions Club