Inspector General July 2018 Visit

LIGHTHOUSE
for the BLIND
ST. LOUIS, MO

St. Louis Lighthouse for the Blind CEO John W. Thompson hosted the U.S. AbilityOne Commission Inspector General at the Lighthouse's facilities in St. Louis and Berkeley, Mo., in July 2018. St. Louis Lighthouse is a nonprofit agency with National Industries for the Blind and the AbilityOne Program, and employs 108 people, including 65 who are blind or visually impaired.

St. Louis Lighthouse has furthered its mission to assist the blind and visually impaired through its See the Future programs that include topics such as developing daily living skills, training students to use adaptive technology, operating a mobile low vision clinic, teaching older adults to use low vision aids, assisting professionals in the vision field with career development and providing scholarships for educational and recreational camps.

The visit of the Inspector General also included meeting with students in the Summer Orientation & Mobility and Adapted Living Resource program (S.O.A.R. – St. Louis). S.O.A.R. is an intensive, structured three-week residential training program that provides specialized instruction to youth ages 15-21 who are blind and legally blind and who intend to attend college.

Over 200 products are manufactured at St. Louis Lighthouse, with 90% of direct labor coming from those who are legally blind. On the unique product side, St. Louis Lighthouse has chemists and chemical engineers who set up production lines to ensure that the organization can employ visually impaired and blind workers. The products include first aid kits, aerosol paints, pressurized air dusters, dog repellent (for postal carriers), Quake Kare and Tear Mender.