

# TIBH FOCUS

ON JOBS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

TIBH INDUSTRIES NEWSLETTER XXXVIII • NOVEMBER 2016

## Craig Ellis of East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind Recognized as 2016 Artie Lee Hinds Award Winner

Craig Ellis, an employee of the East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind, was awarded the 2016 Artie Lee Hinds Award at TIBH's ninth annual banquet on Sept. 21, 2016. The award—named for lifelong humanitarian and TIBH founder/chairman emeritus, Artie Lee Hinds—honors an outstanding community rehabilitation program (CRP) employee for his or her leadership, dedicated service and commitment to excellence through the State Use WorksWonders Program.

"Receiving the Artie Lee Hinds Award at the dinner was a fantastic honor," Ellis said. "Through the State Use Program and TIBH, I have been able to regain the confidence and self-worth that I had lost along with my vision."

Ellis plays an integral role within the company—taking ownership of the

*"I knew I wanted to hire him in five minutes. He had the necessary skills, and I knew that Craig would be the guy for us."*

Lee Tillson, vice president of operations for the East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind

products and displaying exceptional interdepartmental communication. He has worked for the East Texas Lighthouse since 2011, where he took

over coordinating the purchase requests and shipping of steel-toe work boots sold through the State Use Program before he was promoted to his current position of employment services specialist.

"Craig's business knowledge and his practical experience in the business world is incredibly important," Megan Doss, employment specialist for the East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind, said. "I think one of the coolest, most unique things about this employment services program, and the fact that we are developing it, is that both of us are legally blind."

"I knew I wanted to hire him in five minutes," Lee Tillson, vice president of operations for the East Texas Lighthouse, said. "He had the necessary skills, and I knew—especially with trying to make the changes with the boot program, as well as reduce lead-time and lower delivery costs—that Craig would be the guy for us."

In that position, Ellis demonstrated leadership in the areas of product management and improving distribution services.

"Four and half years ago, when I got here, there was a need to have a stocking program for the boots to improve our turnaround on orders to TIBH and [the Texas Department of Transportation]," Ellis said. "We've gone from 45 days, down to less than two days' turn around on our boot orders to the state."

Ellis has become a valued team member and provides support to coworkers going through similar situations.

"My job here is to develop partnerships with employers in the local community—and also to work with our clients to find



*Craig Ellis of the East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind was given the 2016 Artie Lee Hinds Award at TIBH Industries, Inc's ninth annual banquet on Sept. 21, 2016.*

meaningful employment for those blind and vision impaired people," Ellis said. "I love the fact that in my position, working at the Lighthouse, I can be an example to other blind and visually impaired people who have their doubts and have their concerns about what they are capable of. You know, so I can tell them if I can do it, you can do it—let me show you how."

Ellis is also a very talented and passionate acapella singer—and is a member of the Double Take acapella group.

"I love to sing, and four part harmony is addictive," Ellis said. "In my spare time, when I'm not working at client services, music is my passion."

Congratulations to Craig Ellis and the other 2016 Artie Lee Hinds Award nominees for their exceptional talent, hard work and commitment to excellence.



Jobs for People with Disabilities



# Employees and Customers Recognized for Contributions at Ninth Annual Artie Lee Hinds Award Dinner



*Craig Ellis of the East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind was awarded the 2016 Artie Lee Hinds Award at TIBH Industries, Inc.'s ninth annual banquet on Sept. 21, 2016.*

On Sept. 21, 2016, TIBH hosted its ninth annual Artie Lee Hinds Award Dinner in Austin. Among its 400 attendees, there were 50 award nominees, their family and friends, community rehabilitation program (CRP) representatives, customers and TIBH board members, among others. Those in attendance recognized TIBH, its CRPs and their employees for their contributions to the Texas State Use *WorksWonders* Program.

This year, veteran TV journalist, Judy Maggio, emceed the program alongside TIBH President and chief executive officer, Fred Weber, Jr. Maggio spent three decades as the lead news anchor and managing editor at various TV stations in Austin, Texas.

Attendees were treated to a gripping and inspirational speech from keynote speaker Rocky Bleier. Bleier, a Vietnam veteran and subsequent four-time Super Bowl champion, spoke about his time on the football fields of America and on the battlefields of Vietnam. His story of hope and overcoming adversities—as well as how ordinary people can become extraordinary achievers—resonated with everyone in the audience, particularly the award nominees.

Following Bleier's speech, which included an impressive display of his four Super Bowl rings on one hand, TIBH recognized the Top 10 customers who purchase products, services and temporary employment services through the *WorksWonders* program. The Top 10 customers are comprised of multiple state, city, and county agencies and organizations. Without the support of these agencies, TIBH would not be able to provide jobs for thousands of people with disabilities statewide.

TIBH then recognized the individuals who have gone above and beyond to ensure the success of the State Use Program, as well as those it serves, before awarding the 2016 Spirit of State Use Award to Patricia Engleman, Glenn Hagler and state Representative Elliot Naishtat for having played a key role in making the State Use Program the success that it is today.

Beginning her career at the East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind in Tyler, Texas, Engleman worked her way through the Lighthouse and eventually joined TIBH. Recently retired, she was recognized for her positive and upbeat attitude, as well as her commitment to helping Texans with disabilities through her position.

Hagler, the director of the general services division with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), has been an instrumental supporter of the employment of individuals with disabilities and has played a tremendous role in the growth of the State Use Program—helping to make TxDOT TIBH's largest purchaser. He is always willing and available to lend a hand, and he is an endless supporter of the *WorksWonders* program.

As the vice chair of the Public Health Committee and a member of the Human Services Committee, state Rep. Naishtat worked to pass a number of bills that support people with disabilities and has been working with the State Use Program for the past 15 years. Recently, Rep. Naishtat announced his plans to retire, and TIBH will sorely miss his dedication and commitment to the pursuit of meaningful employment for all Texans with disabilities.

Attendees also had the opportunity to see three videos showcasing standout CRP employees—the winner of the “Most Inspirational Employee” award, Steven DeLeon (Behavioral Health Center of Nueces County); the “Most Motivational Employee,” Glenn Bryant (Goodwill Industries of East Texas); and the overall winner of the 2016 Artie Lee Hinds Award, Craig Ellis (East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind).

Ellis was recognized for his optimism and desire to overcome his disabilities after losing his sight eight years ago. Ellis began his career with the East Texas Lighthouse coordinating the purchase requests and shipping of steel-toe work boots sold through the State Use Program before being promoted to his current position of employment services specialist. Following the presentation of his award, Ellis was surprised and joined on stage by his acapella group, Double Take, for a performance of “Riding the Chariot to Reach the Sky,” after which they closed the night's festivities with their rendition of “The Star Spangled Banner.”

Thank you to all who attended this year's Artie Lee Hinds Award dinner and made it a success. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!



*Keynote speaker Rocky Bleier, a Vietnam veteran and four-time Super Bowl champion, addresses the audience.*

# Spirit of State Use Award Winners



*Glenn Hagler, director of the general services division with the Texas Department of Transportation, was presented with the 2016 Spirit of State Use Award for his contributions to the State Use Program.*



*Pat Engleman, project manager with TIBH Industries, Inc., received the 2016 Spirit of State Use Award for her commitment to helping Texans with disabilities via the WorksWonders program.*



*Rep. Elliott Naishtat, Texas state representative, earned the 2016 Spirit of State Use Award for his longstanding support for people with disabilities, including the passing of key legislation.*

# 2016 Artie Lee Hinds Award Nominees

Alfred Antonio, Endeavors Unlimited  
 Chris Baldwin, United Service Industries  
 Anthony Boatman, Corpus Christi State Supported Living Center (Woods Etc.)  
 John Bordovsky, Corpus Christi State Supported Living Center (Woods Etc.)  
 Melissa Brown, Center for Life Resources/Jamie Clements Industries  
 Glenn Bryant, Goodwill Industries of East Texas  
 Dominga Bueno, Rucon, Inc.  
 James Bryd, On Our Own Services, Inc.  
 Linda Clowdis, MHMR Concho Valley  
 Juan Colunga, E.Q.U.I.P. Enterprises, Inc.  
 Robby Cooley, Easter Seals Central Texas  
 Taylor Crow, Center for Life Resources/Jamie Clements Industries  
 Kurt Daniel, St. Dominic of Silos (dba Daniel Pest Control and Professional Services)  
 Steven DeLeon, Behavioral Health Center of Nueces County  
 Kelly Dugas, Woodcreek Outreach Rehabilitation Development  
 Ashley De Los Santos, Camino Real Community Services  
 Justin Dunn, Beacon Lighthouse, Inc.  
 Craig Ellis, East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind (Horizon Industries)  
 Bryan Ezell, Liberty Proclaimed Ministry  
 Mabelle Fitts, Central Plains Center  
 Larry Fitzgerald, Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind  
 Donald Foreman, Liberty Proclaimed Ministry  
 Rev. Ronald Gordon, ODJ, Inc.  
 Lawrence Gray, Liberty Proclaimed Ministry  
 Derrick Hall, Liberty Proclaimed Ministry  
 Frances Hannibal, The Lighthouse of Houston  
 Wendell Harris, Liberty Proclaimed Ministry  
 David Herrera, Goodwill Services – El Paso  
 Maurice Hill, Border TM Industries (dba Xceed Resources)  
 Franciso (Frankie) Jacobo, EXPANCO, Inc.  
 Bobbie Johnson, Relief Enterprise of Texas  
 Adrian Lopez, PCSI  
 Sam Lyod, David & Ivory Ministries, Inc.  
 James H. McCabe, Rising Star Resource Development Corporation  
 Colleen McClelland, The Arc of Harrison County  
 Roger McFarland, Goodwill Temporary Services – Austin  
 Ruben Mendez, South Texas Lighthouse for the Blind  
 Latosha Mitchell, ABG Fulfillment  
 Derrick Moore, Fresh Start Monroe, Inc.  
 Nancijo Moore, Permian Basin Community Center  
 Vicente Moreno, Behavioral Health Center of Nueces County  
 Kristi Morrow, Aldersgate Enrichment Center  
 Frank Ramirez, San Antonio State Supported Living Center  
 Ernest Ramos, San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind  
 Tim Ross, Marian Moss Enterprises  
 Jeannie Phillips, ODI  
 Stephanie Pirovano, Woodcreek Outreach Rehabilitation Development  
 Christian Salazar, Border TM Industries (dba Xceed Resources)  
 Derrick Sanders, Andrews Diversified Industries  
 Lee Edna Shepard, D&D Helping Others, Inc.  
 Johnny Strahan, Bootstraps Occupational Services, Inc.  
 Mark Swift, VRC Industries  
 Jonathan Teague, TIBH Industries, Inc. — Central Store  
 Elouise Terry, Community Healthcare  
 Joshua Thomas, Peak Performers  
 Miquel Torres, Border TM Industries (dba Xceed Resources)  
 Justin Unger, West Texas Lighthouse for the Blind  
 Laura Vela, Travis Association for the Blind  
 Michael Ventura, Work Services Corporation  
 Vanessa Villarreal, Relief Enterprise of Texas  
 Joe Wisdom, StarCare Specialty Health System

*Scenes from the Awards Dinner*





*Alfred Antonio, Endeavors Unlimited*



*Chris Baldwin, United Service Industries*



*Glenn Bryant, Goodwill Industries of East Texas*



*James Bryd, On Our Own Services, Inc.*



*Robby Cooley, Easter Seals Central Texas*



*Kurt Daniel, St. Dominic of Silos (dba Daniel Pest Control and Professional Services)*



*Steven DeLeon, Behavioral Health Center of Nueces County*



*Ashley De Los Santos, Camino Real Community Services*



*Kelly Dugas, Woodcreek Outreach Rehabilitation Development*



*Justin Dunn, Beacon Lighthouse, Inc.*



*Craig Ellis, East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind (Horizon Industries)*



*Bryan Ezell, Liberty Proclaimed Ministry*

*All 2016 Artie Lee Hinds Award nominees (holding awards) are pictured with Edward Serna, deputy executive director of the Texas Workforce Commission, and keynote speaker Rocky Bleier, a Vietnam veteran and four-time Super Bowl champion.*



*Machelle Fitts, Central Plains Center*



*Larry Fitzgerald, Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind*



*Donald Foreman, Liberty Proclaimed Ministry*



*Rev. Ronald Gordon, ODJ, Inc.*



*Lawrence Gray, Liberty Proclaimed Ministry*



*Derrick Hall, Liberty Proclaimed Ministry*



*Wendell Harris, Liberty Proclaimed Ministry*



*Maurice Hill, Border TM Industries (dba Xceed Resources)*



*Adrian Lopez, PCSI*



*Sam Lyod, David & Ivory Ministries, Inc.*



*James H. McCabe, Rising Star Resource Development Corporation*



*Roger McFarland, Goodwill Temporary Services – Austin*

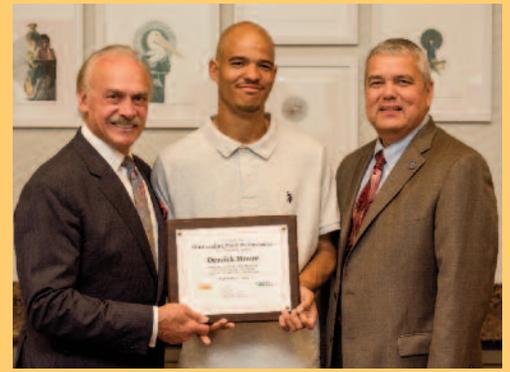
*All 2016 Artie Lee Hinds Award nominees (holding awards) are pictured with Edward Serna, deputy executive director of the Texas Workforce Commission, and keynote speaker Rocky Bleier, a Vietnam veteran and four-time Super Bowl champion.*



*Rueben Mendez, South Texas Lighthouse for the Blind*



*Latoshia Mitchell, ABG Fulfillment*



*Derrick Moore, Fresh Start Monroe, Inc.*



*Vicente Moreno, Behavioral Health Center of Nueces County*



*Kristi Morrow, Aldersgate Enrichment Center*



*Stephanie Pirovano, Woodcreek Outreach Rehabilitation Development*



*Frank Ramirez, San Antonio State Supported Living Center*



*Ernest Ramos, San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind*



*Tim Ross, Marian Moss Enterprises*



*Christian Salazar, Border TM Industries (dba Xceed Resources)*



*Lee Edna Shephard, D&D Helping Others, Inc.*



*Mark Swift, VRC Industries*

*All 2016 Artie Lee Hinds Award nominees (holding awards) are pictured with Edward Serna, deputy executive director of the Texas Workforce Commission, and keynote speaker Rocky Bleier, a Vietnam veteran and four-time Super Bowl champion.*



*Jonathan Teague, TIBH Industries, Inc. — Central Store*



*Joshua Thomas, Peak Performers*



*Miquel Torres, Border TM Industries (dba Xceed Resources)*



*Justin Unger, West Texas Lighthouse for the Blind*



*Laura Vela, Travis Association for the Blind*



*Michael Ventura, Work Services Corporation*



*Vanessa Villarreal, Relief Enterprise of Texas*



*Joe Wisdom, StarCare Specialty Health System*

*All 2016 Artie Lee Hinds Award nominees (holding awards) are pictured with Edward Serna, deputy executive director of the Texas Workforce Commission, and keynote speaker Rocky Bleier, a Vietnam veteran and four-time Super Bowl champion.*

**Congratulations to all the  
Artie Lee Hinds  
Award Nominees!**

# A Message from President and CEO Fred M. Weber, Jr.

**T**his September, TIBH held its ninth annual Artie Lee Hinds Award Dinner and 28th annual Products and Services Expo to celebrate the dedication and commitment of those community rehabilitation program (CRP) employees who have found meaningful employment through the Texas State Use *WorksWonders* program, as well as the success of the program throughout the year.



I'd like to say a special thank you to all the CRPs that made sure our nominees were able to join us in celebrating their hard work and accomplishments. Without the support of these nominees, and that of their peers and coworkers, the program would not be the success that it is today.

September also marked the completion of the first year of *WorksWonders* program oversight by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). Throughout its first year with TWC, the program has continued to grow, as evidenced by quarterly reports, and TIBH has been able to establish a positive partnership with TWC commissioners and executives. In order to effectively meet the recommendations that were put forth by the initial Sunset Advisory Commission report, TWC instituted a number of new initiatives within the program, most notably including: 1.) establishing a new, 13-member Advisory Committee, the primary function of which is to make recommendations to TWC about how the program can most effectively operate; and 2.) reviewing the reporting criteria and rules that CRPs are required to disclose in order to participate in the program. All of this has led to increased program accountability.

With 2016 coming to a close, I want to wish each of you a safe and happy holiday season. We have appreciated your continued support of the Texas State Use *WorksWonders* Program throughout this year, and we are looking forward to an even more successful 2017.

Best Regards,

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'F. Weber, Jr.'.

Fred M. Weber, Jr.

# TIBH 28th Annual Products and Services Expo

**T**IBH Industries, Inc. hosted its 28th Annual Products and Services Expo in Austin on Sept. 22, 2016, following the previous evening's ninth annual Artie Lee Hinds Award Dinner. The expo is held each year to raise awareness of the State Use *WorksWonders* program, a state initiative that provides employment opportunities for Texans with disabilities while also benefitting state taxpayers and agency customers.

Prior to the expo, approximately 100 individuals attended the State Use Program Overview and Training meeting. This meeting was provided as training for State Use Program customers to promote the benefits of utilizing the program—as well as the methods in which to access the program. Those in attendance gained a better understanding of the *WorksWonders* program and how to maximize their benefits through the program.



This year, more than 25 community rehabilitation programs (CRPs) showcased the products and services they offer, providing state employees a chance to ask questions, provide feedback and see product samples first-hand. The expo also allows attendees to stay current on the various products and services offered.

“At the expo, we are able to see all the new supplies,” Falan Ford, training administrator at the Texas Department of Public Safety, said. “We are able to speak with the vendors and ask questions about their products before putting in our orders.”

“Purchasers are able to get a better understanding of the services provided,” Lucy Tijerina, vocational coordinator for the Department of Aging and Disability Services, said. “It is a great way to meet people and to see and touch the products offered in the catalog. We bounce ideas around and hear what the purchasers’ needs are. This is our 24th year at the expo, and we look forward to it every year.”

The expo also serves as a great opportunity for CRPs and customers to network and develop relationships—as well as brainstorm new ideas. Additionally, customers enjoy being able to talk to their CRP representatives face-to-face at the expo.

“For us, it is an opportunity to listen to customers and brainstorm new product ideas,” Vikki Kezar, a general manager for Tex-Spice, said.

Robert Sale, workforce developer for the Behavioral Center of Nueces County and first-time CRP presenter at the expo, expressed a similar sentiment.

“This is our first expo, and we felt like it was beneficial for us to come and are amazed with the other products and services offered,” Sale said. “We appreciate the way in which TIBH advocates for individuals with disabilities—we believe in the program.”

## Exhibitors Included:

- ABC Fulfillment
- Beacon Lighthouse, Inc.
- Camino Real Community Center
- Corpus Christi State Supported Living Center/Woods, Etc.
- Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind
- East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind/Horizon Industries
- Enterprise Professional Services, Inc.
- EXPANCO, Inc.
- Goodwill Industries of Central Texas
- Goodwill Industries of East Texas
- Help the World Foundation
- Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth
- PCSI
- Peak Performers
- Rising Star Resource Development Corp.
- San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind
- South Texas Lighthouse for the Blind
- Southeast Vocational Alliance
- St. Dominic of Silos dba Daniel Pest Control and Professional Services
- Star Care Specialty Health Systems
- Texas Correctional Industries
- Tex-Spice
- TIBH Industries, Inc. (Central Store)
- Travis Association for the Blind
- VRC Industries
- West Texas Lighthouse for the Blind

## Products Included:

- Office and school supplies
- Furniture items
- Medical supplies
- Automotive supplies
- Bed and bath supplies
- Food supplies
- Storage supplies
- Janitorial supplies
- Safety supplies

## Services included:

- Landscape services
- Parks and grounds maintenance
- Litter pick-up
- Vehicle washing
- Window cleaning
- Receptionist services
- Pest control services
- Recycling services

## Temporary services included:

- Accounting and clerical support
- Engineering information
- Technology data entry



# Scenes from the Expo



*“Attending the expo allows us to see what is available and find new products.”*

**Melissa Wentreck, Administrative Assistant, Department of Public Safety Crime Lab**



*“We always receive high-quality products, and the customer service is always great.”*

**Jeff Kushaney, Purchaser II, Texas Department of Motor Vehicles**



*“We are a new company, and this was a great way for us to introduce ourselves to state agencies.”*

**Phillip Cabbage, Regional Director, Help the World Foundation**



*“The TIBH expo is very beneficial, and we are able to get feedback and gain new customers.”*

**Kevin Horrigan, Director of Sales and Product Development, Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind**



*“There are a lot of benefits to the State Use Program—it is a win/win program.”*

**Erica Minor, Deputy Director, Texas Department of Criminal Justice**



Jobs for People with Disabilities

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*TIBH wishes you a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year.*

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