



**COLUMBIA
LIGHTHOUSE
for the BLIND**

SOC
ENTERPRISES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wounded Warriors will benefit from Collaboration between Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind and SOC Enterprises

October 12, 2010, Washington, DC –Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind (CLB) and SOC Enterprises (SOC) have joined together and created a partnership to train and employ wounded warriors. Through this collaboration, SOC Enterprises Vets Ready2Work program will refer veterans who are blind or visually impaired to CLB’s Bridge to Work, job training program. Bridge to Work trains job-ready veterans who are blind or visually impaired on the skill of digital data scanning. Upon completion of the program, the goal is for the veterans to be placed into job assignments at various contracting sites that receive the service.

Additional support from SOC to CLB will include serving as needed as a training site at SOC’s Arlington, VA facility, shredding documents, and providing documents to be scanned by Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind’s digital data scan service which is housed in CLB’s Riverdale, MD office. According to Tony Cancelosi, K.M., President and CEO, Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind, “This partnership clearly commits CLB and SOC to support veterans and service disabled veterans with opportunities to be employed and learn new skills for future careers.”

“We are very pleased to be working with CLB to help our service disabled veterans find and sustain steady living wage employment,” said Linda Chandler, CEO, SOC Enterprise.

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About Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind

CLB serves blind and visually impaired people of all ages in the Washington area with vision-health screenings, adaptive devices, support groups, retraining, and job counseling and placement.

17% of veterans are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with visual impairment. CLB partners with government and private agencies to retrain and employ these wounded warriors.

For more information, please visit www.clb.org.

About SOC Enterprises

SOC provides jobs and job placement programs for people with disabilities throughout the Washington metropolitan area. SOC's Vets Ready2Work program provides supported job placement for wounded warrior veterans with service related disabilities, by partnering with government agencies and other nonprofit organizations. Please visit www.socatwork.org for more information.