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## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 7, 2017

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### **Lighthouse Sponsors Shopping Trip for Christmas Outing**

Over 50 East Texas students with visually impairments will come together in the spirit of giving for the Annual Christmas Outing and Shopping Event, donating toys to the U.S. Marine Toys for Tots. The event takes place from 10:00am-2:00pm on Friday December 8th, 2016 with shopping taking place from 10:00am-11:00am at Big Lots in the French Quarter Shopping Center. The shopping portion of the trip is sponsored by The Lighthouse, allowing the students to pick out a toy of their choice and donate it to Toys for Tots. They will then distribute to kids in East Texas who would not otherwise have gifts this holiday season.

“The event utilizes recreation and leisure skills, one of the nine areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum. The Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) is the body of knowledge and skills that are needed by students with visual impairments due to their unique disability-specific needs. said Ann Phillips, Children’s Program Administrator at The Lighthouse.

Children pre-k through high school participate in the event allowing them to work on life skills alongside other blind and visually impaired peers. Teachers, families and students finish off their day wrapping gifts, playing games, and enjoying lunch at the Broadway Square Mall.