

TIBH FOCUS

ON JOBS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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Rita Lewis: Setting High Standards

When walking into the Port Aransas Ferry Operations Headquarters building, one thing is evident—it's immaculate. This is not by chance, but by the diligent and steadfast work of their employees, specifically Rita Lewis.

"Anything that's dirty, I love to clean it," Lewis said. "I love everything to be fresh."

Lewis is employed at the EB Foundation, a *WorksWonders* community rehabilitation program (CRP) in Corpus Christi, where she has been working to develop her professional skills.

Lewis truly enjoys her job—not only at the Ferry Operations office, but also at two other Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) buildings in Refugio County and Robstown.

"I get to clean the offices and the restrooms, and I pick up all the trash," Lewis said. "Basically, I make sure every little thing is clean."

"I am happy to work with friends, and I like working here more than anywhere else."

—Rita Lewis,
EB Foundation

President and CEO, Cleo Smith, founded the EB Foundation in 2009. Smith, who has a keen eye with remarkable attention to detail, wanted to show individuals with

disabilities that they are capable of doing anything they set their minds to.

"I founded the EB Foundation because I saw a need and felt like I could do something for people with disabilities in the Corpus Christi area," Smith said. "I always told my kids, 'It's okay to fail, you just need to try,' and I realized I had to live by my own motto when I started the EB Foundation."

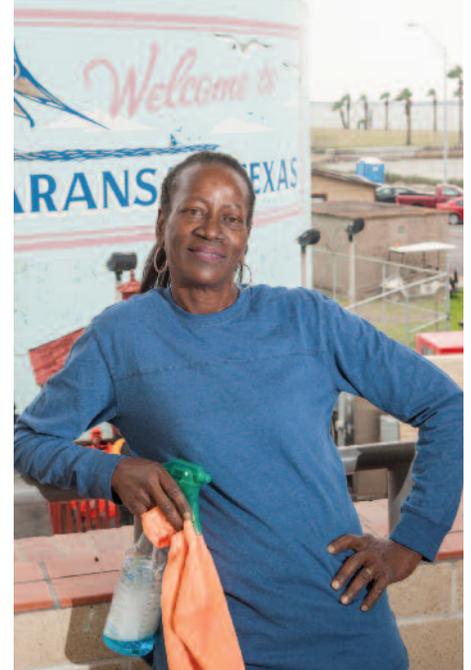
Smith attributes the EB Foundation's success to her employees' work ethic, and she says they are the driving force behind her desire to succeed.

"My employees are our greatest success," Smith said. "They are the best, and we wouldn't be anything without them. What always amazes me is that the employees never have a bad day, attitude wise, and that lifts my spirits to see how much they love to come to work."

As a result of Smith's perseverance, the EB Foundation now has more than 30 employees and has been awarded janitorial, landscaping, litter pickup and mowing contracts with the state.

"We have multiple contracts from mowing for the Texas Department of Transportation to litter pickup," Smith explained. "I hope to set a good example so that if they leave, which is our goal, they will know how to fully complete a job."

Smith takes a genuine interest in her employees and in making sure they are happy while also providing quality services, which does not go unnoticed.



Rita Lewis is an employee at the EB Foundation, where she is responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of the facilities at the Port Aransas Ferry Operations Headquarters.

"I love having Ms. Cleo as my boss because she will work right next to you," Lewis said. "She makes me want to work. She isn't like most bosses who sit in an office. She shows you the right way to do it and will help you the whole time."

Lewis emphasizes that being around her EB Foundation family and honing her cleaning skills is what she loves most about her job.

"I love my co-workers because we all want to learn and everyone is always up for trying new jobs," Lewis said. "I am happy to work with friends, and I like working here more than anywhere else."

Sandra Kaderka, Contract Specialist at the Texas Department of Transportation, Finds Success in Utilizing the Texas State Use *WorksWonders* Program



Sandra Kaderka is proud to support the Texas State Use WorksWonders Program in her position as a contract specialist with the Texas Department of Transportation.

For nearly five years, Sandra Kaderka, contract specialist with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), has prepared and negotiated contracts for services from TIBH Industries, Inc. through the State Use *WorksWonders* Program.

Prior to her position at TxDOT, Kaderka has had many years of experience working for the state, despite not working directly with the *WorksWonders* Program.

“My past experience included working with the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, Texas Department of Economic Development and Texas Department of Agriculture as a contract specialist—working to acquire services from other companies,” Kaderka said. “I have always been aware of the *WorksWonders* Program, but I truly began utilizing its capabilities through my current position at TxDOT.”

In her current role, Kaderka manages contracts for the total maintenance, operations and repairs of Safety Rest Areas within the maintenance division—which includes 78 locations statewide. She and her fellow employees purchase a number of services offered by the *WorksWonders* Program, including janitorial, mowing, litter pickup and landscaping, among others.

“One of the many benefits of purchasing through the *WorksWonders* Program is enabling the employment of individuals with disabilities,” Kaderka said. “Even though we are mandated to purchase through the program, we receive quality services, and in the back of our minds, it feels great knowing that we are able to help individuals find work.”

TxDOT’s procedures include requesting price quotes through the *WorksWonders* Program. TxDOT’s janitorial, mowing, litter pickup and landscaping requirements are offered to TIBH first, and if TIBH is able to accommodate the request, TxDOT will assign the service to them.

“TIBH continues to provide great services, and they are extremely knowledgeable, dedicated to their jobs and constant in their performance,” Kaderka said. “It has always been a pleasure working with anyone associated with TIBH. The process is easy to use and their pricing is competitive with other businesses and supply companies. We are very fortunate to be able to work with TIBH.”

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—Sandra Kaderka,
TxDOT

TIBH IN THE COMMUNITY

TIBH Industries, Inc. Donates Start-Up Supplies to Local Organization, United Partners – Pflugerville

United Partners – Pflugerville (UP-Pf) is an Austin-area organization that aims to create meaningful opportunities for adults living with disabilities by embracing the power of purpose and building a vocational community where those adults can continue to learn, work and live.

UP-Pf was launched on Feb. 1, 2017 and, as a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit, it relies on donations from its partners to help ensure the program can continue to benefit the adults who utilize its services. As such, TIBH contributed a donation of administrative supplies, including pens, pencils, paper and more, as a way to support the organization's mission to provide an environment where adults living with disabilities can continue to grow.



Pictured above: Members of United Partners – Pflugerville assembled outside the program's location of operation, the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Pflugerville.

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

In early January 2017, the Texas Legislature began its 86th legislative session. As always, TIBH has been closely monitoring all legislation that could potentially impact the State Use *WorksWonders* Program in an effort to keep you up to date on any and all news surrounding its administrative and operational functions. TIBH will continue to monitor the legislative proceedings until the session's completion.



TIBH will be offering its yearly compliance and safety seminars to community rehabilitation programs (CRPs) later this spring. These seminars are designed and administered in an effort to provide the necessary information that is required for CRPs to operate safely and efficiently within the *WorksWonders* Program. Please keep an eye on the TIBH website, TIBH.org, to see when and where we will be offering a seminar near you.

This September, TIBH will celebrate its 10th Annual Artie Lee Hinds Award Dinner and the 29th Annual Products and Services Expo. The dinner will take place the evening of Wednesday, Sept. 27, and it will mark the 10th anniversary of celebrating the accomplishments of the many committed CRP employees across the state. We honor these individuals because it is their enduring support that enables TIBH and the *WorksWonders* Program to be as successful as they are today. The expo, which functions as a way to promote the products and services provided by individuals with disabilities through the *WorksWonders* Program, will take place the following morning (Thursday, Sept. 28). Please visit our website or call our office for more information about both of these events.

Thank you, again, for your support of the State Use *WorksWonders* Program. TIBH appreciates your continued dedication and partnership, and we look forward to another successful year.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to be 'F. M. Weber, Jr.'.

Fred M. Weber, Jr.



Jobs for People with Disabilities

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Address Service Requested



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Austin, Texas
Permit No. 703

Upcoming Events

CRP New Product and Price Revision Submission Deadlines

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Tuesday, July 11, 2017

10th Annual Artie Lee Hinds Award Dinner Wednesday, September 27, 2017

29th Annual TIBH Products & Services Expo Thursday, September 28, 2017

**VIEW THE TIBH ONLINE
CATALOG AT WWW.TIBH.ORG**