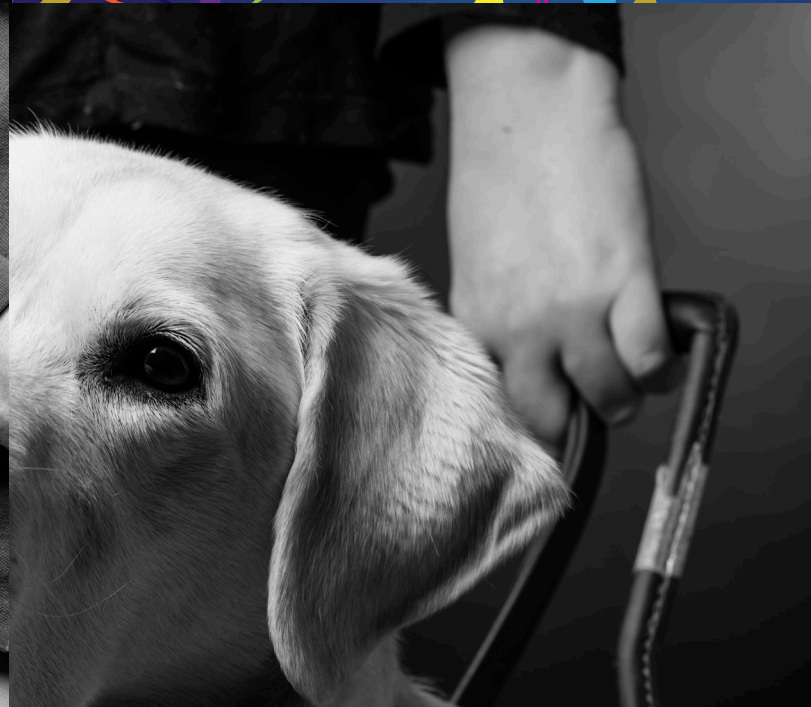


MANY HANDS LIGHT THE WAY



The Chicago Lighthouse

| 2014 Annual Report



MANY HANDS LIGHT THE WAY

has been a recurring theme at The Chicago Lighthouse in 2014.

It not only reflects the superior care that our dedicated staff offers in the form of education, customer service, job training and many other areas.

It is also found in the generosity of our donors, both individual and corporate, as well as our legion of enthusiastic volunteers.

In addition, it is illustrated through creative partnerships that we've forged with both the public and private sectors. These partnerships with organizations like the Illinois Tollway, UI Health, Chicago Public Schools, Advocate Health Care and many others have led to the creation of hundreds of jobs for talented individuals who are blind or visually impaired. It also makes possible the establishment of new programs like our Preschool for All.

The Chicago Lighthouse's sterling reputation for the past 109 years and our ongoing commitment to excellence we believe makes us a most desirable partner.

We look forward to building on that foundation in the years ahead and to continue developing new alliances to better serve the blind and visually impaired community.



“These innovative call centers represent social enterprises by being successful businesses that feed a charitable mission. It is a modern day equivalent to... ‘give a man a fish and he’ll eat for a day, teach a man to fish and he’ll eat for a lifetime.’”

Richard H. Schnadig
Chair, Board of Directors

Janet P. Szlyk, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer

DEAR FRIENDS,

It takes many hands for The Lighthouse to provide the level of exemplary services it offers. It takes the hands of volunteers to help build a new playground. It takes the hands of call center agents to assist motorists with questions about their Illinois Tollway I-Pass accounts. And, it takes the hands of a team of assistive technology specialists to show seniors the latest devices to help them cope with vision loss.

They all help illustrate The Lighthouse’s major accomplishments in 2014 and embody the theme of this year’s annual report: “Many Hands Light the Way.”

It is through their tireless efforts and those of many others that allows The Lighthouse to continue to fulfill its critical mission of providing the highest quality services for people who are blind, visually impaired, multi-disabled and Veterans.

A key component of our mission is to open doors to job opportunities for these individuals. Generating most of those jobs in the past year were The Lighthouse’s call centers.

For example, the Customer Service Call Center, which we manage for the Illinois Tollway, now employs over 300 people, more than half of whom are blind, visually impaired, otherwise disabled or Veterans. When the center opened in November, 2013, fewer than 5 percent of these employees were disabled or were Veterans. This is a singular accomplishment for an organization dedicated, in part, to finding employment opportunities for these individuals.

Word about our success led to the establishment of another major job-creating operation, the UI Health Customer CARE Center. Begun at The Lighthouse this past fall, the facility to date employs nearly 60 staff members who answer calls to UI Health’s main customer service number. This is another example where “Many Hands Light the Way!”

These innovative call centers represent a social enterprise by being a successful business that incorporates a charitable mission. The centers not only provide life fulfilling work for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. They also bring in additional revenue to support The Lighthouse.

The value of these synergistic relationships was also showcased in the creation of our new playground. This exciting venture came about through partnerships with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois and KaBOOM!, a national non-profit. On a warm summer day, many hands came together from the Lions Clubs and other groups who volunteered to build the playground and make it a reality for hundreds of children.

These are just some of the major developments that occurred at The Lighthouse in 2014. You can read more about our efforts and the generous people that made them happen in this report.

We thank you for lending a hand to make these accomplishments possible.



“Thanks to The Lighthouse, I can receive the training I need, while my daughter attends school, all in the same building!”

LIGHTHOUSE IS A REAL FAMILY AFFAIR FOR MOM AND DAUGHTER

One family member is learning to master the latest in assistive technology in The Lighthouse’s Office Skills program.

The other is learning the alphabet, singing songs and drawing as a student in the agency’s Preschool program.

Meet Elizabeth and Karen Hernandez, a mom and daughter who call The Chicago Lighthouse a second home. For them, it is a true family affair!

Elizabeth, a native of Mexico who is legally blind, enrolled in the Office Skills program this past September. She hopes to hone her computer skills and eventually secure a position with the U.S. Embassy.

She credits The Lighthouse for being a miracle in providing Preschool opportunities for her three-year-old daughter, Karen, who is also visually impaired, while she gains additional training through the Office Skills program.

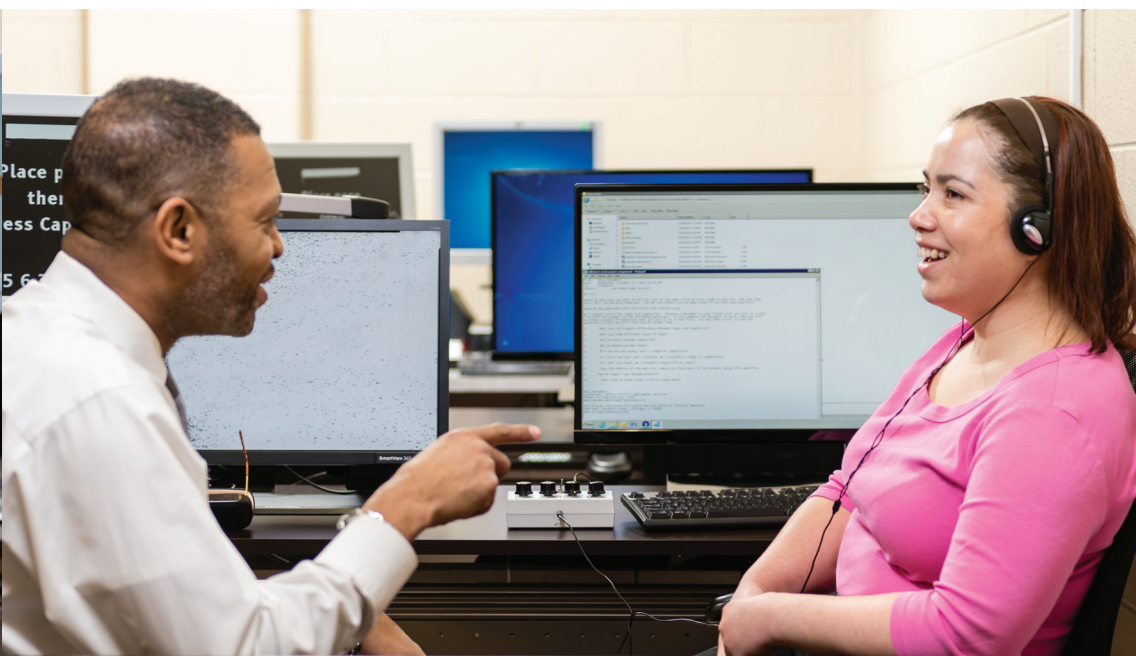
“This is great and I absolutely love it,” Elizabeth smiles. “Thanks to The Lighthouse, I can receive the training I need, while my daughter attends school, all in the same building!”

Elizabeth mentioned that she starts her program around 9 am each day and concludes it by 3 pm. Those times roughly parallel Karen’s school day. “Then we pack it up and head home via Paratransit,” she says.

Asked how she likes to unwind from her work and parental duties, she laughs that being a mom is “a full-time job, but a labor of love!”

She stated that the arts are important to her and her husband, Juan, a guitarist who is also visually impaired.

“We are delighted to have both Elizabeth and Karen with us,” said Dr. Szlyk. “They very nicely illustrate the comprehensive nature of and synergy amongst our programs,” noting that under one roof, a parent can gain critical job skills while her child is learning in the Preschool. “Every parent knows that it is much easier to focus on your own goals when your child is safe and happy.”





The low-vision research team—
L to R: Dr. William Seiple, Patricia Grant,
Dr. Paul Kilbride, Melissa Bangle,
Dr. Janet Szlyk and Meesa Maeng



SPOTLIGHT ON THE LIGHTHOUSE'S LOW VISION RESEARCH LABORATORY

It is well-known that The Lighthouse is a haven of critical programs for people with visual impairments. However, what most people do not know is that it is also an innovative research facility.

The Low Vision Laboratory is home to leading-edge low vision rehabilitation research. Dr. Szlyk, a well-known vision rehabilitation scientist, brought her lab to The Lighthouse, when she joined the agency in 2008.

Meesa Maeng, program director, summarizes the current research: “We developed a therapeutic training program for vision rehabilitation, especially for people with macular disease, like macular degeneration. When people come here, they are concerned about not reading like they once could. Often, they lose their independence. Dr. Szlyk had these concerns in mind when designing it. This program and research is being done in collaboration with Dr. William Seiple, director of the Arlene R. Gordon Research Institute at the Lighthouse Guild (NY), and Dr. Paul Kilbride, a computer programming expert.”

“We built and created a program that contains physical eye exercises to increase reading speeds. Half of the patients will be seen in the lab, while the other half will use it at home. By the end of the eight week period, the patients should have learned how to read effectively by using their remaining vision.”

Dr. Szlyk adds, “Thanks to The Cless Family Foundation, we were able to buy a microperimeter (MAIA). The MAIA measures, with great accuracy, the sensitivity of localized areas of the retina. Simple to use, the patients are evaluated in under three minutes. Vision rehabilitation is then targeted in those areas of remaining vision. The MAIA has a biofeedback component that will allow us to train patients to strategically use those islands of vision to see and read, which reinforces the techniques learned in the behavioral training program.”

Dr. Szlyk summarizes, “We are grateful to our patients participating in the research, with the goal that we are enabling more people to become independent in the future.”



NEW UI HEALTH CUSTOMER CARE CENTER DEDICATED AT THE LIGHTHOUSE

The Chicago Lighthouse marked a new milestone in making jobs available to people who are blind, visually impaired or multi-disabled by formally dedicating the new UI Health Customer CARE Center in a ceremony on November 19th, 2014.

Housed at the 109-year-old agency, the new facility embodies the philosophy, "Many Hands Light the Way," as it employs to date nearly 60 Lighthouse staff members who answer calls to UI Health's main customer service number. They help patients register, schedule appointments, coordinate referrals and perform other tasks.

Dr. Szlyk saluted Dr. Airica Steed, Enterprise Chief Experience Officer at the University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System, and her team, for their vote of confidence in extending these critical employment opportunities to so many talented individuals with disabilities. In addition, Dr. Szlyk thanked Kathy Stoeberl, director of call center operations at the agency, for her tireless work on behalf of the facility as well as The Lighthouse Board for their support of the initiative, without which, she said, it would not have taken off.

Both Dr. Szlyk and Dr. Steed singled out for praise Sharla Roberts, director of procurement diversity, University of Illinois Administration, for her unflinching commitment to helping people with disabilities find jobs and for bringing the two organizations together.

Also recognized by Dr. Szlyk was Daniela Estrada, a Customer CARE Center agent who is totally blind. She graduated in 2013 from the University of Chicago and is working at the call center to save money for law school.

Lighthouse Board Chair Richard Schnadig, who attended the ceremony, noted that the new call center operation was a "win-win" for all sides. "This facility not only provides meaningful employment for individuals who are blind or visually impaired, but it also brings in additional revenue to help The Lighthouse carry out its critical programs."



Daniela Estrada (left) and Adnana Saric (right,) along with their guide dogs, Beatrice and Yani, working in the UI Health Customer CARE Center.

"This job means so much to me and I look forward to coming in every day," says Adnana Saric, a refugee from war-torn Bosnia who lost her sight at the age of four.

KANE LEGAL CLINIC'S ATTORNEY CAROL ANDERSON HELPS LIGHT THE WAY

Through her intellect, compassion and love for helping others, she is an ideal goodwill ambassador for The Lighthouse's Kane Legal Clinic. The clinic is the only program in the nation providing legal services exclusively to people who are blind or visually impaired at no charge.

After all, she studied French and earned her bachelor's degree from the prestigious Wellesley College in Massachusetts.

She then went on to receive advanced degrees from two other famed top-tier schools; a master's in French from Stanford University and an MBA from the University of Chicago, respectively.

Further earning a law degree from the U of C, her goal was to pursue a career as an international banker.

However, her life took many twists and turns. Today, Carol Anderson is a mainstay in the Kane Clinic, where she serves as the first point of contact for countless individuals from across the state who are seeking to address a wide range of legal problems.

"This is a special place to work because we provide a service that most people who

are blind or visually impaired can't find anywhere else," she says while flashing her trademark smile.

Anderson adds the fact that she and the clinic's director, Paul Rink, are totally blind enables them to bond more closely with their clients.

"Many of the people we serve are in need of lots of help," she observes. "So Paul and I, along with our colleague Cacia Sit, who serves as an administrative assistant, promote an environment that is warm and friendly yet professional."

In her role, Anderson screens every call, listens to the legal problems, provides preliminary advice and prepares case summaries for Rink. In addition, she assists with the preparation of legal documents.

When asked what issues tend to be most pressing among the clients, she responds, "social security disability, personal injury, employment and housing."

"I also answer basic questions such as how a blind person can arrange their paratransit or sign up for programs from the Illinois Department of Human

"...the fact that she and the clinic's director, Paul Rink, are totally blind enables them to bond more closely with their clients."



Carol Anderson and Paul Rink of the Kane Legal Clinic provide free legal counsel to people who are blind or visually impaired.

Services," she notes. "Another thing we do is provide referrals to law firms and other legal clinics."

"Carol does an amazing job for us," Rink says. "She has great people skills, has a sound understanding of the law, is extremely conscientious and is a most pleasant person to be with!"

Anderson maintains that organizations like The Lighthouse are a critical resource for the blind community and a major reason why people who are visually impaired should never give up.

"I am grateful that it is there as a literal beacon of hope!"



HIGHLIGHTS

Diverse Workforce at Illinois Tollway Call Center Celebrated



The Chicago Lighthouse joined the Illinois Tollway and The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) for a special celebration on October 30th in marking the first anniversary of the opening of the Tollway's Customer Service Call Center with the announcement that more than half of the facility's workforce are now disabled or Veterans.

Both the Tollway and The Lighthouse committed to reaching that 50 percent staffing level within a year of opening the nearly 22,000-square-foot center, which began operating in 2013 at 750 S. Halsted on the campus of the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). The Lighthouse manages call center operations under a five-year, multi-million dollar contract with the Tollway.

One hundred and fifty-six employees, or 52 percent of all customer service representatives, are qualified as disabled persons or as Veterans. When the center

opened, fewer than five percent of these employees were disabled or were Veterans.

In her remarks, Dr. Szlyk thanked Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, Tollway Board Chair Paula Wolfe and Tollway Executive Director Kristi Lafleur for their strong vote of confidence in The Lighthouse and for opening doors to new opportunities for people who are blind, visually impaired, multi-disabled and Veterans. She also thanked The Lighthouse Board for its critical support as well as the agency's HR, Employment Services and IT departments in assuring that the operation runs smoothly and efficiently.

"Of course, this wouldn't be possible without the amazing men and women who staff the facility every day and provide the very best in customer service to Tollway users," Dr. Szlyk noted.

Four of the agents, Kimberly Duhart, Kenneth Calbert, William Bryant and Alex Westphal, were acknowledged with a round of applause.

Assistive Technology Center Expands Services

In all, 2014 was a busy year for The Lighthouse's Assistive Technology Center (ATC).

The popular Low Vision Product Road Shows, conducted by Tom Perski, senior vice president of rehabilitation services, and his team added several new markets.

Among them were Kankakee, Deerfield, Worth, Hoffman Estates, Wilmette, Barrington and Frankfort. The Lighthouse extends its deepest appreciation to the Lions of Illinois for their support.

To better assist individuals needing technical support in the suburbs, Chicago Lighthouse North staff member Matt Gear's status was changed to full-time. Gear works with clients from our Glenview location.

In addition, a new coordinator, Peter Tucic, was named to staff the Assistive Technology Help Desk, which has helped hundreds of callers, who are blind, with their computer problems. In the past year, Tucic has assisted callers from across the U.S. as well as Europe and Canada.

A new breakthrough technology, the Prodigy, was launched by HumanWare Corporation in 2014. In recognition of its commitment to excellence, The Lighthouse's ATC was named the first "Prodigi Channel Partner of the Year."



Lighthouse Raises Nearly \$300K at 2014 "Seeing What's Possible" Annual Dinner



At one of its most acclaimed events in recent years, The Chicago Lighthouse's Annual "Seeing What's Possible" Dinner held on May 22nd, raised nearly \$300,000 to benefit agency programs.

Held at the elegant Four Seasons Hotel, the dinner attracted a crowd of more than 300 friends and supporters.

Highlights included a compelling keynote address from noted Chicago writer and poet Rachel DeWoskin, whose latest novel "Blind," talks about the challenges faced by a teenager who suddenly loses her vision. Ms. DeWoskin credited The Lighthouse for giving her important new insight into blindness, which greatly assisted her in writing the book. She said that the experience has made her a big fan and advocate for the agency.

Distinguished attorney Frank Chanen, a longtime Lighthouse Board member and former chair, received The Lighthouse's

prestigious “Beacon of Light” Award for his extraordinary contributions on behalf of the blind and visually impaired community. Introducing Mr. Chanen in a special video presentation was Chicago broadcast icon Bill Kurtis.

In her remarks, Dr. Szlyk thanked everyone for their generous support, singling out for special praise, Dinner Chair Anida Johnson “Cookie” Cohen, for her “tireless efforts to make the event a huge success.”

She also saluted retiring Lighthouse Board Chair Bruce Hague and Chief Operating Officer Terry Longo for their service.

Making a return appearance was gifted artist Jeff Hanson, whose paintings have been purchased by such celebrities as Elton John. Jeff, who is visually impaired, donated some of his artwork at the Dinner’s Live Auction, with proceeds benefitting Lighthouse programs.

Guests were also feted to the magical sounds of Lighthouse Board member Paul Rink, who played the piano during the reception; the agency’s very own popular group, Vision Quest, who performed via videotape; and the Stanley Paul Quartet, who played a number of dance tunes following the dinner.

Annual FLAIR Event Features Tribute to Vonita Reescer

The Chicago Lighthouse honored local philanthropist and new Board member Vonita Reescer for her outstanding community service during the agency’s annual FLAIR: Fun Fashion Philanthropy event on Tuesday, September 9th.

Hosted by Sun-Times columnist Bill Zwecker, the luncheon took place at the Fairmont Hotel and attracted nearly 200 guests, including Commissioner Karen Tamley of the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities.

In addition to presenting Ms. Reescer with its first annual FLAIR Award, the program featured a fashion show with models showcasing looks from the popular Frances Heffernan Boutique in Winnetka. Models in the event included Former Vice-Chair of the Board Sandy Forsythe; Board Member Kati Hochstadt; Jamie Hague, the wife of Immediate Past Chair, Bruce Hague, V.P. of Financial Development Jennifer Miller, and staff member Sammi Grant. All proceeds benefited Chicago Lighthouse programs assisting children with vision loss and other special needs.



Another major highlight was a \$25,000 donation from Rochelle Trotter, widow of the famed chef, the late Charlie Trotter. A strong advocate for the agency, Mr. Trotter had previously hired a blind program participant, Laura Martinez, who he met at The Lighthouse, as a chef in his popular restaurant.

Second Annual Lighthouse/Mike Ditka Golf Outing Scores a Hole in One!



More than 65 golfers came out to support Chicago Lighthouse North at the agency’s Second Annual Mike Ditka Charity Golf Tournament.

The event took place July 14th at the North Shore Country Club in Glenview.

Immediately following play were a reception, silent auction and awards ceremony in which Dr. Szlyk extended her appreciation to all of the golfers; tournament namesake Mike Ditka, also a Board member; host North Shore Country Club and Lighthouse Board member Sandy Forsythe, who helped arrange for the club to host the golf outing and served as chair of the event.

Other event highlights included the participation of celebrity golfers and NHL legends Stan Mikita, Reggie Kerr, Cliff Koroll and “Miracle on Ice’s” Jack O’Callahan. The event received coverage from WGN, FOX News, The Glenview Lantern and The Glenview Journal & Topics newspapers.

All proceeds from the golf outing benefitted programs and services for

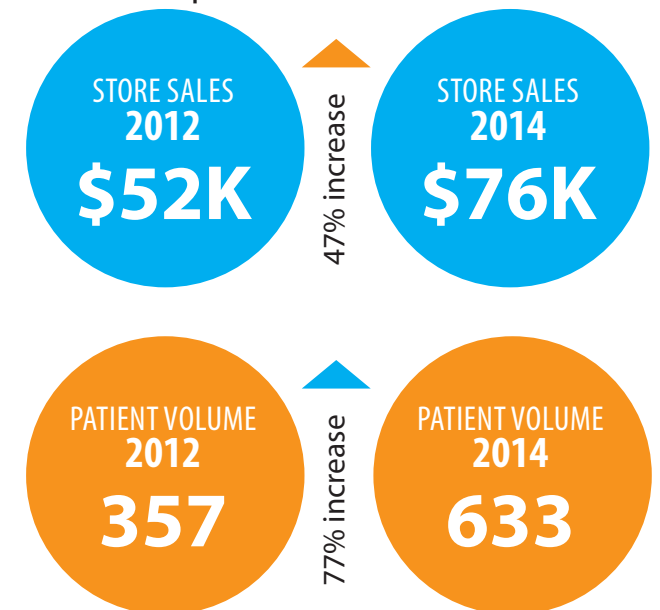
people who are blind or visually impaired at The Chicago Lighthouse North in Glenview.

Lighthouse North in Glenview Experiences Steady Growth

The Chicago Lighthouse North in Glenview continues to grow which can be seen in increased sales in its Tools for Living™ retail store and an abundance of new patients referred to its Low Vision Clinic.

Since opening its doors in January 2012, when looking at calendar year comparisons, both store sales and overall patient volume increased dramatically. See chart below for more details.

Melissa Wittenberg, Lighthouse North director, attributed the growth to a number of factors, including increased outreach to existing and new referring doctors, increased number of doctor days, and an increased outreach into the community to build awareness and relationships.



LIGHTHOUSE BUILDS AND DEDICATES NEW PLAYGROUND

Many hands were clearly on display last summer when more than 200 volunteers came together on Saturday, July 26th, to build and dedicate, all on the same day, a new playground at The Lighthouse.

The facility, which formally opened after Labor Day, was especially designed for children with disabilities.

It was generously funded primarily by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois in partnership with KaBOOM!, a national non-profit dedicated to bringing balanced and active play into the lives of all children.

Helping to make this exciting venture possible were volunteers from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, KaBOOM!, The Lighthouse, local Lions Clubs and many others.

Assisting in the ribbon cutting was Chicago Alderman Robert Fioretti, who represents the district The Lighthouse is within in the City Council. Among media covering the event was CBS 2 Chicago, which featured a segment on its 5pm news.

To get their input, children enrolled in The Lighthouse's educational programs were asked to offer suggestions on the shape and design of swings, slides and other features. Parents were also involved in the design of the playground.

The agency staged a "Design Day" last June 9th during which the youngsters drew items they wanted to include in their "dream playground."

"It is important for us to get direct feedback from the 'playground experts,' the kids of course, and to ensure the new space reflects their big ideas!" said Melissa Drouganis, KaBOOM! project manager. She added that youth involvement and participation are important parts of the KaBOOM! community-build model.

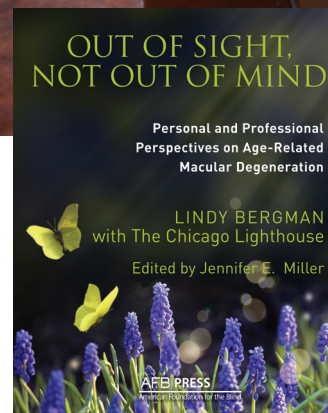
Dr. Szlyk thanked Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, KaBOOM!, the Lions and all the volunteers for their efforts in making the new facility a reality.

"With your help, we have added an amazing play area to The Lighthouse that will be enjoyed by our children and members of the community for years to come!"



BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois





THE LIGHTHOUSE LOSES A DEAR FRIEND LINDY BERGMAN

Philanthropist. Art Collector. Author. All of these words and more describe Lindy Bergman, who died at 96 in 2014.

Born Betty Jane Lindenberger, she and her husband helped found the Museum of Contemporary Art. They were lifelong art collectors, with a love for Joseph Cornell boxes and Surrealistic art.

Lindy had macular degeneration in her last two decades. She turned to The Lighthouse, which commenced the beginning of our partnership. We worked with Lindy on updating her book on living with macular degeneration, and *Out of Sight, Not Out of Mind: Personal and Professional Perspectives on Age-Related Macular Degeneration* was born.

Lindy also understood the need for counseling as a part of comprehensive low vision care. She helped establish The Bergman Institute for Psychological Support at The Lighthouse.

In addition, Lindy helped the agency meet the Kresge Challenge, providing the final gift which enabled us to receive \$500,000. The monies helped us build our 12,000 square foot addition, where the Bergman Institute is now housed.

In 2011, we honored Lindy for all of her contributions. Lindy gave a passionate speech about what The Lighthouse meant to her and received a standing ovation. This was her last public speech.

“Lindy, we miss you,” said Dr. Szlyk, “But, your spirit and the amazing things you accomplished will always live on here.”

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George H. Zendt Charitable Trust

MILTON J. SAMUELSON SOCIETY MEMBERS

Friends who have remembered The Chicago Lighthouse in their will, estate plan, or who have made another type of planned gift, such as a charitable gift annuity.

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Steven and Pamela Adelman
John Cardiello
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Drs. Janet P. Szlyk and Jeffrey Jackson
Harry and Lila Tankus
Theodore M. Utchen

For information about making a Planned Gift to The Chicago Lighthouse, please contact Jen Miller, Vice President of Development for Individual and Planned Giving, at (312) 997-3643 or email jennifer.miller@chicagolighthouse.org. If you have remembered us in your will or estate plan, please let us know, so that we may properly honor you!



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STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as of June 30

ASSETS		
	2013	2014
Cash	\$ 282,311	\$ 404,424
Receivables, Net	4,362,629	6,326,129
Inventories	936,709	989,919
Investments	13,927,302	15,973,737
Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trusts	530,241	582,422
Prepaid Expenses	336,349	195,778
Land, Building and Equipment, Net	10,449,597	9,829,492
Total Assets	\$ 30,825,138	\$ 34,301,901

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities	\$ 5,352,226	\$ 7,105,369
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	8,210,913	7,830,018
Unrestricted, Board Designated	11,695,840	13,454,389
Temporarily Restricted	3,596,479	3,888,566
Permanently Restricted	1,969,680	2,023,559
Subtotal Net Assets	\$ 25,472,912	\$ 27,196,532
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 30,825,138	\$ 34,301,901

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

Period ended June 30

REVENUES		
	2013	2014
Contributions & Bequests	\$ 4,075,730	\$ 5,021,146
Lighthouse Industries Sales	4,109,886	4,114,878
Call Centers/Service Contracts	2,779,151	14,633,471
Program Revenues	6,264,201	6,821,765
Investment Income	438,026	386,595
Miscellaneous	49,604	155,572
Change in Value of Split-Interest Agreements	(5,517)	41,062
Net Realized Gain/(Loss) on Investments	185,465	718,299
Net Change in Unrealized Appreciation of Long Term Investments	896,183	884,698

Total Revenues \$ **18,792,729** \$ **32,777,486**

EXPENSES		
Program Services	\$ 15,965,914	\$ 26,773,171
Management & General	2,965,168	3,209,622
Fundraising	743,545	849,251
Public Relations	189,991	221,822

Total Expenses \$ **19,864,618** \$ **31,053,866**

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		
	\$ (1,071,889)	\$ 1,723,620
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$ 26,544,801	\$ 25,472,912
Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 25,472,912	\$ 27,196,532

UPCOMING EVENTS

Seeing What's Possible

ANNUAL DINNER

MAY 14, 2015

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JUNE 24, 2015

3rd Annual Celebrity

GOLF TOURNAMENT

with Mike Ditka

AUGUST 31, 2015

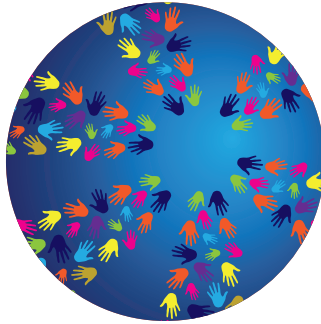
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Wine & Cheese Reception

OCTOBER 9, 2015





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