



The Chicago
Lighthouse

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

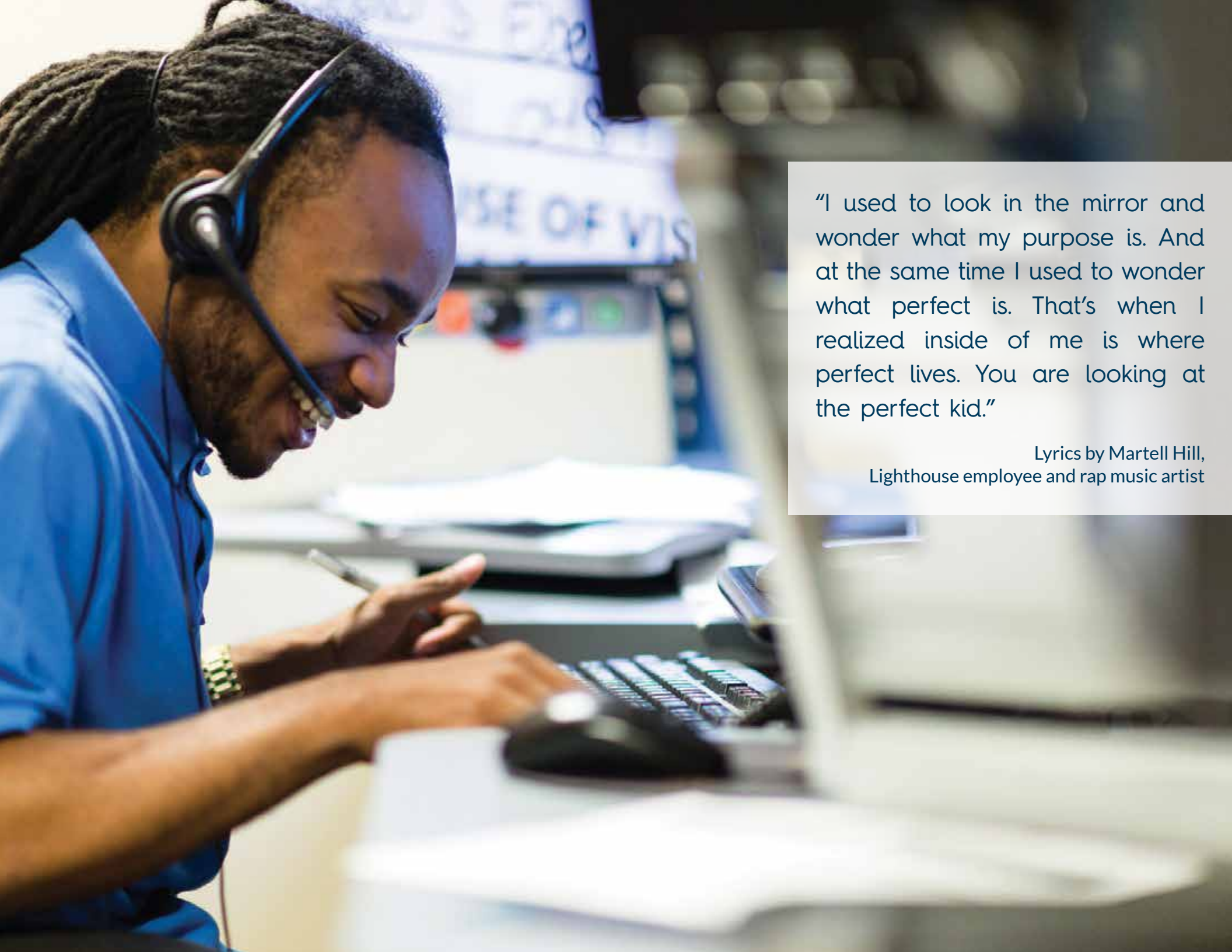


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"I used to look in the mirror and wonder what my purpose is. And at the same time I used to wonder what perfect is. That's when I realized inside of me is where perfect lives. You are looking at the perfect kid."

Lyrics by Martell Hill,
Lighthouse employee and rap music artist



WHAT WE DO

The Chicago Lighthouse is a world-renowned social service organization serving the blind, visually impaired, disabled and Veteran communities. Recognized as a pioneer in innovation since 1906, The Chicago Lighthouse provides vision rehabilitation services, education, employment opportunities and assistive technology for people of all ages.



DEAR FRIENDS,

Reflecting on the celebration of our 110th anniversary in 2016, we are struck by the countless number of individuals whose lives have been profoundly changed by The Chicago Lighthouse. Examples abound of people who either found their niche here or developed the skills to land important positions elsewhere. We have been both a trendsetter in providing innovative employment opportunities and an incubator helping people who are blind, visually impaired or disabled realize their talents.

That proud tradition continues to the present day and is reflected on the cover of this year's annual report: "Leading Edge." We showcase 14 exceptional young people who through their extraordinary accomplishments have left an indelible mark on our organization or have gone on to pursue promising academic or professional careers thanks to what they learned here.

Among them are Sandy Murillo who is realizing her dream of becoming a journalist thanks to being able to write her own Lighthouse blog that has gained a global audience. Another is Brett Shishkoff who is getting hands-on experience as a broadcaster through his work in our CRIS Radio program. There are also Daniela Estrada who is pursuing a law degree from Cornell University thanks in part to a Lighthouse scholarship, and Richard Schultz who is being groomed to open his own vending business thanks to invaluable training he received in our customer service centers.

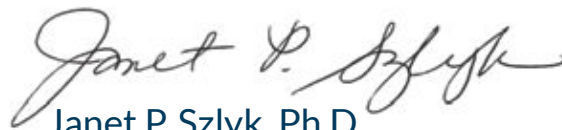
You can read more about them and the ten other young leaders we profile in these pages. We guarantee that you will be inspired by their stories of courage and determination!

As we move forward and begin the next chapter in our rich history, we look forward to reporting on other exciting developments in our community of comprehensive care.

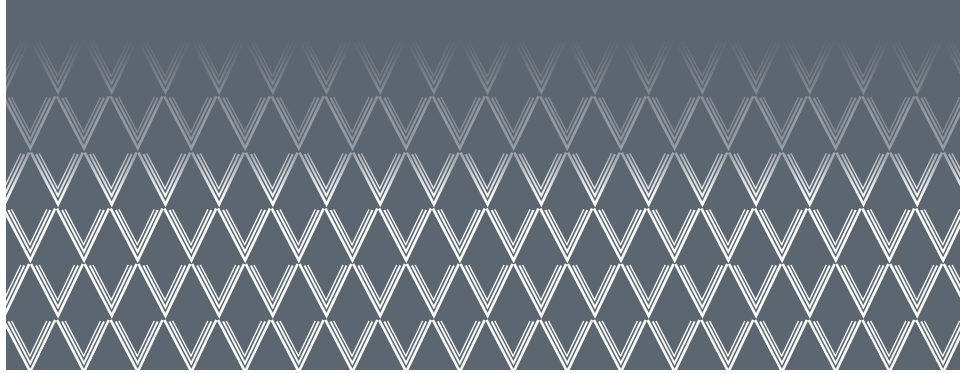
On behalf of all the people whose lives you've touched through your generous support, we thank you!



Richard H. Schnadig
Chair, Board of Directors



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



LEADING edge

The new look of leadership

Underlying everything we do at The Chicago Lighthouse is our commitment to advancing opportunities for the people we serve. That is **WHY WE INVEST** in the education of aspiring students through our Scholarship Program, ensuring their ability to thrive in a challenging economy. It is **WHY WE OFFER** meaningful jobs in our Social Enterprises that help launch careers, mold passions and empower independence. It is **WHY WE ADVOCATE** for Early Intervention, so that infants with vision loss grow up to be leaders, changing the course for those who follow in their footsteps.

Our continued focus on expanding opportunity is what keeps us, and our audience, on the leading edge. This year's annual report features many of our young leaders whose lives have been forever changed by The Lighthouse. They represent not only the impact of the important work we do here every day, but the legacy of our work for years to come.

These young leaders are the future and we are proud to play a critical role in their achievements.



THE Self-Starter



Tyler Bachelder was so eager to take advantage of Lighthouse services that he literally pulled up stakes in Indiana and relocated to Chicago even though he didn't know anyone here.

"As someone who is visually impaired, I want to thank The Lighthouse for fostering a sense of community in a city that is new to me and giving me a chance to begin my career journey."

Tyler, who settled in nearby Pilsen, landed a position as an agent in our UI Health Customer Care Center.

"I wanted to utilize all the attractions and resources that the city has to offer."

THE Advocate



Through various Lighthouse roles ranging from customer service representative to legal assistant, **Megan Craig** has learned how to interact with all kinds of people and assist them with their problems.

"I get so much satisfaction from helping patients through difficult medical situations by providing them with information they need," she says.

Megan claims that the chance to hone her people skills at The Lighthouse has better prepared her for pursuing a career as an attorney specializing in disability law.

For others living with vision loss, she advises: "Don't allow your lack of sight to hinder you from reaching your goals!"

THE Legal Eagle



A past recipient of a Lighthouse scholarship, **Daniela Estrada** graduated with honors from the University of Chicago. Though blind, she has never let her disability stop her from achieving her goals.

Hoping to save money for law school, she worked in our UI Health Customer Care Center, winning praise for her outstanding service.

With her exemplary academic record, familiarity with the concerns of immigrants and love for the law, it is no surprise that Daniela wants to pursue a legal career.

Daniela now studies at Cornell University Law School where she plans to use her training to assist immigrants.

THE Caregiver



As someone who has a disability herself, **Megan Frankenbach** is grateful to work for such a caring organization that provides a supportive environment for people who are visually impaired.

Megan, who first joined the agency in 2011, now works as an assistant in our Seniors Program where she helps develop curriculum, schedule classes and supports program participants.

She also works as an administrative assistant, greeting visitors and offering referral information.

Megan's experience at The Lighthouse has motivated her to continue her education and enroll in graduate school in the near future.

Dawn Hale, who began as an intern, worked her way into a full-time position as a contract close-out specialist in our CMS program.

Dawn, who is also a busy mom, found peace of mind when she enrolled her daughter, Madison, in The Lighthouse Preschool. Besides having her daughter nearby and in the hands of people she trusted, Madison learned empathy for her mother's vision loss as she played with other preschoolers who were visually impaired.

Dawn's achievements at The Lighthouse led to a 2015 nomination for the prestigious Milton J. Samuelson Career Achievement Award from National Industries for the Blind.

THE Nurturer



THE Artist



Not only has **Martell Hill** received care for his vision loss at The Lighthouse but his goal of becoming a rap artist has been nurtured by the organization as well!

"The people here have taught me that you can't let your vision loss stop you from going out there and pursuing your dreams!"

In fact, he mentions the Lighthouse doctors who have helped him in his latest rap song, "Walk by Faith."

"I wanted to thank them in a unique and special way," Martell laughs.

He credits his job as a customer service center representative at The Lighthouse for providing him with the financial means to pursue his rap career.

When **Sandy Murillo** was just a baby, she lost her vision. Her parents learned from Sandy's doctor about our Birth-to-Three Early Intervention program. They enrolled her in the program and became active participants as well.

Sandy, who attributes her "can do" attitude to this beginning, also credits The Lighthouse for enabling her to pursue a journalism career.

A graduate of the University of Illinois, she authors her own Lighthouse blog, "Sandy's View," focusing on disability issues and is an associate producer on "The Beacon" radio show.

In addition, she writes grants so the programs that helped her will be able to help others.



"I'm so glad The Lighthouse was here for me when I was ready to face my vision loss and get on with my life."

Frank Musso was pursuing an accounting degree at Marquette University when his vision loss halted his education. It took him five years before he came to terms with it and to seek Lighthouse support.

When he was hired at the UI Health Customer Care Center last year, Frank was happy to be in front of a computer again.

With our support, he has regained confidence and is back in school part-time to complete his bachelor's degree.

He likes to march to his own drummer. That explains why **Jim Neitzel** left the Florida sunshine where he spent most of his life to return to his native Chicago where he found world class vision care and a promising career at The Lighthouse.

Today, Jim Neitzel is senior manager of planning and analytics for all our social enterprise operations. His nimble mind and deep analytical skill set earned him a position that was created especially for him.

"I love working here," he smiles. "In addition to all its innovative programs, people like me who are visually impaired, are treated with dignity and respect!"





Marina Salman is grateful to The Lighthouse not only for awarding her a scholarship in 2013, but for inspiring her to become an advocate on behalf of others with disabilities.

As Marina said, quoting the character Rocky, "It ain't about how hard you can hit, it's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward!"

A second year graduate student, she eventually hopes to become a licensed clinical sports psychologist for a professional team.

Marina, who has excelled as a volunteer, also wants to become a social activist for the disabled community.

Richard Schultz credits The Lighthouse for giving him experiences that he can "put under my belt for future endeavors."

He has worn many hats at the agency: customer service representative, computer trainer and appointment scheduler.

In addition, Richard, who has a BA in human services, attended night school and earned a massage therapy degree.

He is now in the State of Illinois Vending Program, getting ready to own his own business. Richard also plays on the Chicago Comets beep ball team.

His advice is to network like crazy, get an education and interact with others who are blind.



For as long as he can remember, **Brett Shishkoff**, who is visually impaired, wanted to pursue a broadcasting career. Thanks to The Lighthouse, he is well on his way!

Brett went on to earn an associate's degree in audio production. While a patient of our Pangere Center for Inherited Retinal Diseases, he accepted an internship with The Lighthouse's CRIS Radio Program.

The internship gave him invaluable experience, including co-hosting a sports talk program.

"I'll always be grateful to The Lighthouse for giving me this amazing opportunity," he smiles.

When **Samantha Smolka** urges others who are visually impaired to not let their disability keep them down, she means it!

“I was the first visually impaired track athlete at my college, and it was an amazing experience,” she smiles.

Samantha, who is a past Birth to Three participant at The Lighthouse, thanks the agency for boosting her self-confidence, introducing her to new technology and nurturing her interest in becoming a teacher of students who are visually impaired.

Having excelled in high school, she hopes to graduate at the head of her class at NIU and land a spot on the 2020 Paralympic Goalball team.



THE Technologist



In his time with The Lighthouse, **Peter Tucic**, who has been blind since childhood, gained a reputation as a “renaissance man!”

Peter won praise for counseling customers in our Tools for Living Store about utilizing devices that were most suitable for their level of vision loss. He also assisted callers around the world, who are visually impaired, with their computer problems while staffing our national Help Desk.

His outstanding Lighthouse record propelled him into a lead position with HumanWare, a global leader in assistive technologies for people with low vision.

Peter also wows audiences when performing as a drummer!

ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHS: Our featured models are pictured in the iconic Macy’s State Street showroom in downtown Chicago. The building, designed by famous Chicago architect Daniel H. Burnham in the early 1900s, was originally constructed and owned by Marshall Field’s.

The setting provided a perfect backdrop for this year’s annual report, which celebrates the 110-year legacy of The Chicago Lighthouse as one of our city’s oldest and most comprehensive social service organizations.

Macy’s has been a generous partner to The Chicago Lighthouse. Special thanks to Shayna Simms with Macy’s 111 Events for arranging the photo shoot location; Julie Maus with myStylist @ Macy’s; and Jose Rangel with Pure Beauty Salon & Spa for styling our young leaders.

Photographs by Michael Carr.

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PUREBEAUTY
SALON & SPA
everything beauty under one roof

LIGHTHOUSE CELEBRATES 110TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2016

When Winona Hood brought her friends together on Chicago's West Side in 1906 to provide food and clothing for Chicagoans who were blind or visually impaired, little did she know that the group was laying the foundation for what would become one of the nation's most comprehensive social service organizations.

Throughout its history, the people who influenced the path of The Chicago Lighthouse were focused on staying relevant to the people that they served. Whether it was Edith Swift and her colleagues who developed our Industries Programs that provided employment to hundreds of people who were blind during her 29 years as Executive Director, or Milton Samuelson who founded our Children's Development Center in order to offer an education to children with disabilities too severe for them to be mainstreamed in other schools.

In 2014, The Chicago Lighthouse expanded its role by also meeting the employment needs of people with other disabilities and military Veterans. We're very

proud to say that over 50 percent of our employees in our customer service centers are blind, visually impaired, disabled or Veterans. In addition, 10 percent of our overall staff are Veterans.



To continue building on our proud legacy and to prepare for the needs of our community in the next 110 years, The Lighthouse also announced plans to develop a new wing housing the Seniors Program that is set to open later this year. This program supports nearly 100 senior participants through activities that enhance independence, develop critical skills and foster a sense of community for seniors who are blind or visually impaired.

Funded through the generosity of our Board Member and gracious benefactor Beatrice C. Mayer, the expanded area will offer greater accommodations and state-of-the-art facilities for both our Seniors Program and Vision Quest, a rhythm and blues band housed at The Chicago Lighthouse and comprised of adults with significant visual impairments and other disabilities.

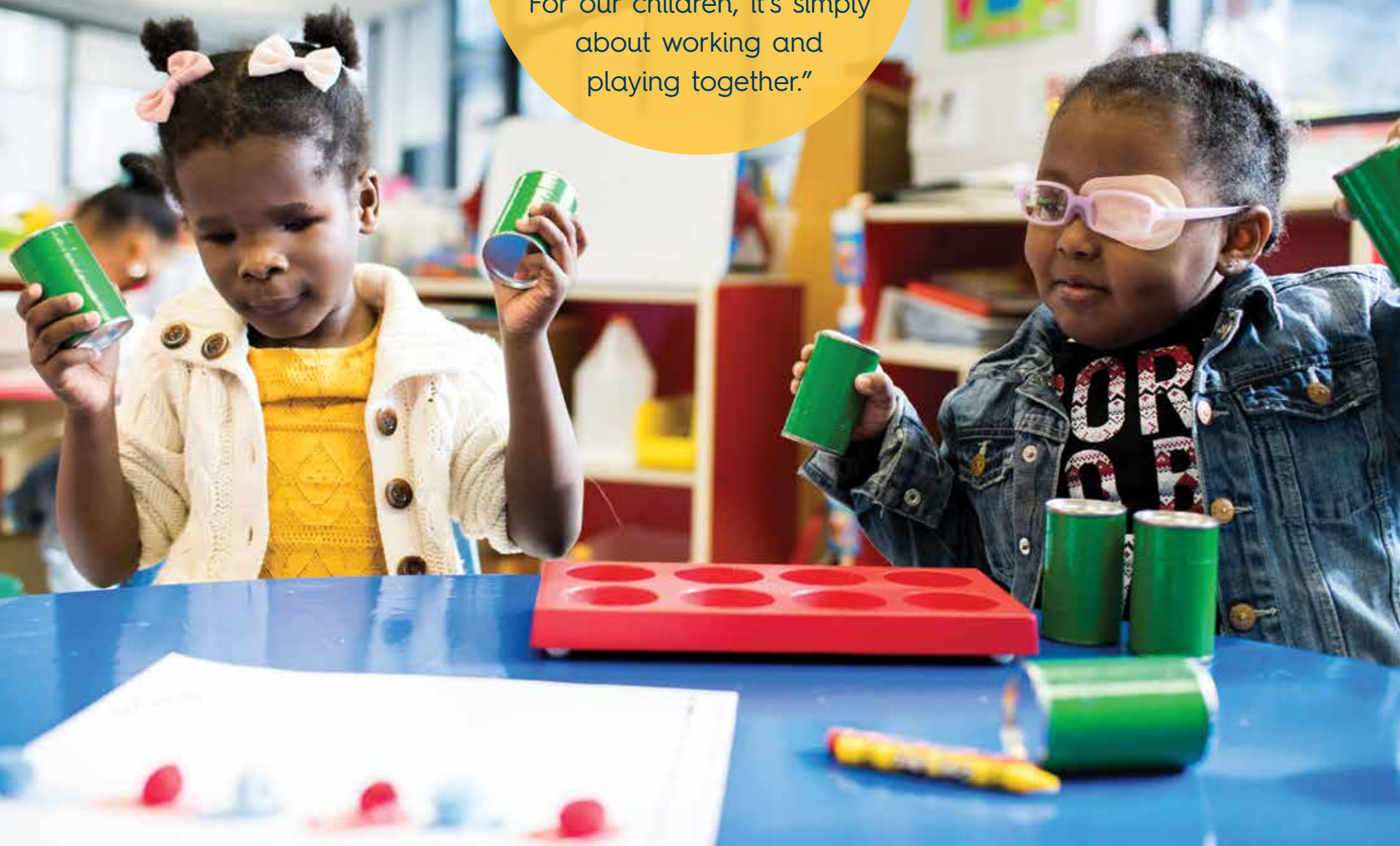
In addition, it will include a gallery space to showcase historical highlights in the dynamic partnership between The Lighthouse and our good friends, the Lions, who are celebrating their centennial anniversary in 2017. The Lions gallery is being made possible through a generous Legacy Grant from the Lions Clubs International Foundation. The renovation plan also includes a community room, Hamill Hall, made possible by the Hamill Family Foundation; an outdoor patio space donated by the Barker Welfare Foundation in honor of Catherine Barker Hickox; and the Roberta R. Kaplan Rose Garden supported by her wonderful sons, Doug, Bob and Matt.

The Chicago Lighthouse, along with our generous donors and partners, continues to be on the leading edge of social services. By broadening our community reach through relevant and supportive programs, we continue to be the “*beacon of hope*” that we’ve always been.

From the early days until now, creating employment opportunities for individuals who are blind or visually impaired through industries has been at the forefront of what we do. At right, a woman assembles telephone parts for Western Electric. Circa mid-century.



“When you see
all the children playing
together, there’s no separation
between those who have
vision and those who don’t.
For our children, it’s simply
about working and
playing together.”



PRESCHOOL WELCOMES TWO TOTALLY BLIND STUDENTS

The Judy and Ray McCaskey Preschool Program has been charting new territory since it was established in 2014, becoming the first blended preschool in the Midwest for students with and without visual impairments and other disabilities. Since opening its doors, the program has helped cultivate empathy and foster a diverse learning environment for our community's youngest students.

In 2016, the program marked a new first, welcoming two totally blind students into its cohort. "Rachelle and Carlos are our first participants with no sight at all and they are a wonderful addition to our program," says Principal Lee Burklund. "When you see all the children playing together, there's no separation between those who have vision and those who don't. For our children, it's simply about working and playing together." In addition to Rachelle and Carlos, this year's class includes four students who are visually impaired and 14 who are sighted, for a total of 20 participants.

Rachelle and Carlos receive supplemental support from Lighthouse staff to help them develop early mobility skills, like navigating with a white cane. Orientation and Mobility Specialist Jaret Bozigian meets with the students weekly on various mobility techniques. "It is rewarding to work with students at this age because they really want to explore their environment. The white cane and the skills involved give them the

tools to do so," says Bozigian.

In addition, preschool staff members provide specialized pre-Braille instruction to Rachelle and Carlos, helping them to develop early literacy skills. All students enrolled in the program are exposed to Braille as part of the curriculum's learning objectives. For Rachelle and Carlos, the importance of learning Braille from a young age is more critical, as literacy success among those who are blind depends upon their ability to read and write Braille.

"We set out to create an environment where all children thrive, whether they have disabilities or not," says Principal Burklund. "Now, we have positive evidence that we are achieving that for all children who walk through our doors."

At right: Jaret guides Carlos with white cane. Opposite: Rachelle (left) and Morgan enjoy audible toys.



TRANSITIONING TO A BRIGHT FUTURE

When Elbra Jajou graduated from high school in 2015, he didn't have a plan in place for what would come next. He was not ready to pursue higher education, nor did he feel equipped to apply for a job, having no prior work experience. Being visually impaired, he feared employers would consider him a liability and disregard his application. He fell into a comfortable routine of sleeping in and playing video games at his parents' home, though he ultimately wanted more from life.

Elbra's story represents a challenge facing many teens with visual impairments as they transition into adulthood. Recognizing the need for a service that targets this critical phase of development, The Chicago Lighthouse launched the Youth Transition Program in 2016, led by Shelle Hamer, who has fostered the education of youth who are visually impaired for 35 years. The Youth Transition Program offers engaging opportunities for teens to cultivate new skills, develop profes-

sional goals and establish a network of colleagues and mentors.

"This program is a dream come true for me," says Hamer. "I see the gap between the classroom and the real world. The support needed to make the transition

is often missing from the curriculum for students with severe vision impairments." With that wisdom, Shelle designed a unique set of workshops and immersion programs that address personal, vocational, social and educational aspects of the transition process.

Thanks to The Chicago Lighthouse, Elbra's story ends on a positive note. The Youth Transition Program gave Elbra the tools to launch his career and realize a bright

future for himself. He was interviewed and offered an eight-week internship at Mariano's. After just one week as an intern, he received his first real job offer, which he proudly accepted. "It's pretty cool what I get to do for work every day," says Elbra, with a big smile and his head held high.



Participants of The Lighthouse's Youth Transition Program eagerly awaiting their internship interviews.



Through his participation in the Youth Transition Program at Chicago Lighthouse North, Elbra was hired as an employee in the meat and demo departments at Mariano's Fresh Market in Glenview, Illinois.



Since 2004,
nearly
500
scholarships

and over

\$850K

has been awarded to help those who are blind or visually impaired pursue their college dreams.

LIGHTHOUSE SCHOLARSHIPS CHANGE LIVES

An immigration lawyer, mechanical engineer, linguist and even a bluegrass musician!

These rewarding careers and many other exciting opportunities are now in reach to outstanding students who are blind, visually impaired, disabled and Veterans, thanks to The Chicago Lighthouse's innovative Scholarship Program.

Co-chaired by Lighthouse Board Members Dr. Joel Kaplan and Marv Lader, the program awarded scholarships to 48 deserving students in 2016. The total amount raised for the program last year was \$113,000.

"This is one of the most fulfilling and personally rewarding projects I have undertaken as a Board member," Dr. Kaplan observed.

He noted that since the program was launched in 2004, Lighthouse scholarships have helped nearly 500 students, who are blind or visually impaired, realize their dream of a college education.

"Whenever I speak with these talented young men and women, I can't help feeling that the future of our country is in very good hands," noted Mr. Lader.

Among past recipients is Daniela Estrada, one of the "Leading Edge" candidates profiled in this year's annual report.

Ms. Estrada, who applied her scholarship award to studying at the University of Chicago, is currently pursuing a law degree at Cornell University. For her achievements, she was chosen to address last year's recipients.

"Always believe in yourself and don't let anyone tell you that you can't succeed, because you can!" she told the recipients and their families, who responded with rousing applause.



Daniela Estrada delivers an inspiring speech at the 2016 Scholarship Awards Luncheon.

MEGAN GOLDISH—PUTTING THE FUN IN PHILANTHROPY



Megan Goldish, Chicago Lighthouse
Junior Board Co-Chair

A funny thing happened to Megan Goldish on her way to co-chairing The Chicago Lighthouse Junior Board. Over a decade ago, Megan volunteered with a group of classmates from Second City to read on CRIS Radio. Wanting to learn more, Megan returned to take a tour of the Agency.

Her tour guide's story of receiving vision saving services at The Lighthouse as a toddler spoke to her heart and sparked her passion for the Birth-to-Three Early Childhood Intervention Program. However, what's funny is that being in service to people who are blind or visually impaired may have been in her DNA all along.

Growing up, Megan recalls her parents' deep involvement with charitable causes and their lesson to do all that she could to help others. When she mentioned her engagement with The Chicago Lighthouse, she hadn't remembered her parents' affinity for helping

those who are blind or visually impaired. After telling them, they relayed that they were well-acquainted with The Lighthouse's mission and couldn't have been more proud of her choice to get involved.

Today, Megan co-chairs The Chicago Lighthouse's Junior Board, a group of young professionals dedicated to raising funds and awareness for our Childrens' Programs, including the Birth-to-Three Program. Megan's fun-loving spirit and contagious enthusiasm has helped to grow the Junior Board from a group of 10 to over 40. What makes Megan proud? When Junior Board events outgrow their original spaces, which means even more people have learned about The Lighthouse and the Childrens' Programs, especially the Birth-to-Three Program.



Megan rallies the crowd at the Annual Sweets for Sight fundraiser with Board Members, Holly Brown and Adam Zebelian.

For more information about getting involved in the Junior Board, please call Lindsay Inglis, Senior Manager of Special Events, at (312) 447-3448 or email her at lindsay.inglis@chicagolighthouse.org.

LIFETIME DONORS

\$1,000,000+

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*Deceased

PLANNED GIVING



MILTON J. SAMUELSON SOCIETY MEMBERS

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

Anonymous (56)
Steven and Pamela Adelman
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Franklin and Doralu Chanen
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Jeffrey Jackson
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PLANNED GIFTS RECEIVED JULY 2015-JUNE 2016

William Anderson Trust
Ruth Dietz Estate
Betty Drew Trust
Noel Dunderdale Trust
Estate of Kathy Karson
Shirley Langridge Estate
Robert Matusak Irrevocable Trust
Bernice Sexauer Charitable
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George Martin Sus Trust

VOLUNTEERS

The Chicago Lighthouse is grateful for the generous commitment of time from all of our volunteers. During FY16, we had over 250 ongoing and special event volunteers donate their time. The Lighthouse would like to recognize the following companies and organizations that volunteered in FY16.

Columbia College Chicago
ComEd
Delta Gamma Chicago
Alumnae Chapter
Delta Gamma Chicago North Shore
Alumnae Chapter
DePaul Delta Gammas
Dow Chemical
Exelon
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Gammas

For information about making a Planned Gift to The Chicago Lighthouse, please contact Jen Miller, Chief Development Officer, 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 can properly honor you!

THE CORWITH HAMILL SOCIETY

The Corwith Hamill Society honors and recognizes our long-term donors. Gold is twenty or more years of continuous giver; silver is fifteen, and bronze is ten.

GOLD LEVEL (20+ YEARS OF CONTINUOUS GIVING)

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*We apologize in advance for any errors,
 misspellings or omissions. Please contact
 David DeBoer at (312) 997-3668 or
 david.deboer@chicagolighthouse.org
 to notify us.*

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION *as of June 30*

ASSETS			
		2015	2016
Cash	\$	466,656	\$ 585,018
Receivables, Net		5,717,940	7,286,725
Inventories		870,921	691,783
Investments		15,278,687	13,041,186
Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trusts		549,057	519,036
Prepaid Expenses		208,796	363,828
Land, Building and Equipment, Net		10,305,791	10,224,169
Total Assets	\$	33,397,848	\$ 32,711,745
LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS			
Liabilities	\$	7,345,333	\$ 8,401,901
Net Assets			
Unrestricted		8,322,932	9,566,992
Unrestricted, Board Designated		10,500,170	8,060,874
Temporarily Restricted		5,237,225	4,719,621
Permanently Restricted		1,992,188	1,962,357
Subtotal Net Assets	\$	26,052,515	\$ 24,309,844
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$	33,397,848	\$ 32,711,745

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES *Period ended June 30*

REVENUES			
		2015	2016
Contributions & Bequests	\$	4,877,755	\$ 3,564,792
Lighthouse Industries Sales		4,174,245	4,179,948
Customer Service Centers/Service Contracts		18,284,894	22,460,842
Program Revenues		6,523,507	5,879,733
Investment Income		344,967	369,789
Miscellaneous		149,459	277,854
Change in Value of Split-Interest Agreements		(44,954)	(42,467)
Net Realized Gain/(Loss) on Investments		924,502	79,724
Net Change in Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation) of Long Term Investments		(751,475)	(584,333)
Total Revenues	\$	34,482,900	\$ 36,185,882
EXPENSES			
Program Services	\$	30,440,990	\$ 32,405,735
Management & General		3,941,840	4,307,446
Fundraising		984,911	888,294
Public Relations		259,176	327,078
Total Expenses	\$	35,626,917	\$ 37,928,553
CHANGE in NET ASSETS	\$	(1,144,017)	\$ (1,742,671)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$	27,196,532	\$ 26,052,515
Net Assets at End of Year	\$	26,052,515	\$ 24,309,844

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MODERNIZATION OF CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE INDUSTRIES

After becoming its own non-profit entity in 2016, Chicago Lighthouse Industries entered the year with an ambitious agenda to modernize its 19,000 square-foot facility. The operation, which employs 22 full-time employees, annually produces 350,000 units of products ranging from wall clocks to calendars.

“The modernization initiative has led to better use of our facility, and a more efficient work environment for our staff,” says Heidi Ashwell, director of operations for Industries, who joined the team in early 2016. By implementing lean manufacturing principles, Ashwell’s plan to reconfigure the facility resulted in a 15 percent space reduction, making way for new projects to prosper.

Capital improvements to the facility include new clock testing boards and a modern tape machine for higher quality taping. This project was supported by a productivity improvement grant through National Industries for the Blind (NIB), of which Chicago Lighthouse Industries is a member. By emphasizing efficiency-enhancing improvements to the facility, Chicago Lighthouse Industries aims to remain a competitive manufacturer and employer of people who are blind or visually impaired for years to come.

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Director

Deaf/Blind Services

HIGHLIGHTS



L to R: Justice Anne Burke, Lighthouse Board Vice Chairman Gary Rich, Alderman Edward Burke and Gala Chairman, Cookie Cohen.

2016 Lighthouse Gala Celebrates 110th Anniversary; Honors Dr. Joel Kaplan, Anne and Edward Burke

The Chicago Lighthouse celebrated its 110th anniversary on June 3 with a gala that honored former Board Chair Dr. Joel Kaplan and Anne and Edward Burke for their outstanding support of The Light-

house and people with disabilities.

The festive event, which took place at the Four Seasons Hotel, attracted nearly 400 guests and raised more than \$375,000 for Lighthouse programs assisting people who are blind, visually impaired, disabled or Veterans.

Emceed by ABC 7 news anchor and disability reporter Hosea Sanders, the gala also showcased videos featuring a tribute from broadcast legend Bill Kurtis and highlights from different periods in The



Dr. Joel Kaplan receives the Beacon of Light award from President and CEO Dr. Janet Szlyk.

Lighthouse's history.

Lighthouse President and CEO Dr. Janet Szlyk congratulated the award recipients and extended her appreciation to all the organization's generous supporters for attending the dinner. In addition, she singled out for praise Lighthouse board member and noted Chicagoan Anida Johnson "Cookie" Cohen who served as honorary dinner chair.

Annual FLAIR Event Honors Local Businesswoman and Humanitarian Kristina McGrath

In recognition of her generous support of The Chicago Lighthouse plus her impeccable sense of style, Kristina McGrath received The Lighthouse's Third Annual Hood/Swift Women with FLAIR Award on October 17.

Held at the Ritz Carlton Hotel and emceed by ABC 7 personality Tanja Babich, FLAIR attracted more



Flair honoree, Kristina McGrath graces the runway accompanied by her fashionable pets, Harley and Coco.

than 160 guests and raised over \$65,000.

Highlights include a colorful show featuring exclusive fall fashions provided by Chicago's finest boutiques and designers along with headliner My Stylist at Macy's!

Making a special appearance were three noted designers from Seattle: Emma Finney, Lillagren and

Jamie Rawding Designs showcasing beautiful purses, scarves and jewelry.

In addition, several children with disabilities who are enrolled in The Lighthouse's preschool modeled clothing, courtesy of Runway for Dreams.

30th Annual House and Garden Walk Showcases Elegant Homes while Benefiting Lighthouse Programs

Nearly 400 visitors toured some of the North Shore's most elegant homes on June 23 while supporting Lighthouse programs assisting people who are blind, visually impaired, disabled or Veterans during the 30th Annual House and Garden Walk.

Sponsored by the agency's Associate Board, this very special event, which raised nearly \$85,000, featured detailed tours of four homes in Glencoe, Kenilworth and Highland Park.

The Associate Board is a group of dedicated women from Chicago and the North Shore who have joined together to raise awareness about the services offered at The Chicago Lighthouse. Since 1986, the Associate Board has raised over \$1.4 million for children, seniors and family support services.



Gayle Harris and Gail Boorstein, key organizers of the Associate Board's House and Garden Walk, pictured in one of the beautiful homes on this year's walk.

Fourth Annual Golf Outing Raises Nearly \$70,000



Board member David Huber (second to left) along with friends enjoyed a sunny day of golf to support The Chicago Lighthouse North.

Approximately 80 golfers came out to support Chicago Lighthouse North at the agency's popular 4th Annual Charity Golf Tournament on August 29.

The event, which raised nearly \$70,000 for programs at Chicago Lighthouse North in Glenview, took place at the North Shore Country Club.

Special appreciation to our Ace Sponsor BMO Harris Bank and all our other sponsors.

Lighthouse Celebrates 110th Anniversary with "LighthousePalooza"

Dancing in the streets, tasty treats, music from Vision Quest, fun and games, all topped off by an inspiring rap performance from our very own Martell Hill.

These were highlights of "LighthousePalooza," an event honoring 110 years of outstanding work by Lighthouse staff. The celebration took place last September 8th on the grounds of our facility at 1850 Roosevelt Road.

Lighthouse President and CEO Dr. Janet Szlyk said that this was the organization's way of thanking its employees.



Chief Operating Officer Pam Tully (center) along with other employees enjoyed the food truck fare between dancing and playing games at LighthousePalooza!

\$1M+

worth of charitable low vision services
provided at our Low Vision Clinic
in Chicago, Glenview
and our four satellite locations



509

employees hired in our customer service
centers—over 50% are blind, visually
impaired, or otherwise disabled
and 10% are Veterans



202

clients who are blind or visually impaired
were provided pro bono legal services by
our Kane Legal Clinic attorneys and staff





UPCOMING EVENTS



Jazz Night with
Lisa Hilton
APRIL 11, 2017



Flair: Fun. Fashion.
Philanthropy.
FALL 2017



Seeing What's Possible
Annual Gala:
A Red Carpet Premiere
JUNE 9, 2017



5th Annual Charity
Golf Tournament
OCTOBER 2, 2017



Associate Board
House & Garden Walk
JUNE 22, 2017



Junior Board
Sips for Sight
OCTOBER 2017

LEADING EDGE

EDITORIAL CONCEPT Janet P. Szlyk, Ph.D.

WRITERS Dominic Calabrese; Kathy Gregg; Rana Marks

EDITORIAL BOARD Dominic Calabrese; Kathy Gregg; Rana Marks;
Jennifer Miller, J.D., LL.M.; Alison Kaplan; Melissa Wittenberg

DESIGN/ILLUSTRATION Lisa Birmingham

PHOTOGRAPHY Michael Carr; Matt Kosterman; Robert Sit;
Lisa Birmingham; Dominic Calabrese; Kevin Sherman

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