

the Beam

Fall 2014 ■ Volume 14 Number 1

A Chicago Lighthouse
Publication



SEEING WHAT'S POSSIBLE



From the President and Chief Executive Officer Janet P. Szlyk, PhD

Welcome to the Year of the Child!

With the start of a new school year, this will be a recurring theme here at The Chicago Lighthouse as we highlight the amazing work being done by all of our child-focused programs.

We are already off to a great start with the construction and dedication this past July of a state-of-the-art playground especially designed for children with disabilities. This exciting venture came about through a partnership between The Lighthouse, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, and KaBOOM!.

I want to extend special appreciation to our distinguished board member Judy McCaskey and her husband, Ray, a longtime executive with Blue Cross, for their outstanding support of this initiative. We look forward to seeing the new playground enjoyed for years to come.

We are proud that our programs have touched the lives of so many children over the years. And, we're not done yet! The Lighthouse is also laying the groundwork for developing a new solarium next spring that will adjoin the playground and provide indoor recreational opportunities.

LIGHTHOUSE BOARD MEMBER BOOSTS SUPPORT FOR AGENCY

Lighthouse board member Marv Lader relishes his role as a “goodwill ambassador” for the agency. So much so, that he is boosting his level of support.

“I admit to being in awe of The Lighthouse ever since I first visited and saw first-hand, the game changing work that goes on here,” he smiles.

Visually impaired himself, Mr. Lader claims a personal connection to the agency.



He learned about The Lighthouse while involved with the Sight Center in his native Cleveland. Upon moving to Chicago, he was formally introduced to the organization by his friend and former board chair, Dr. Joel Kaplan.

Marv, along with members of his family, assisted in building the playground for the children of The Chicago Lighthouse.

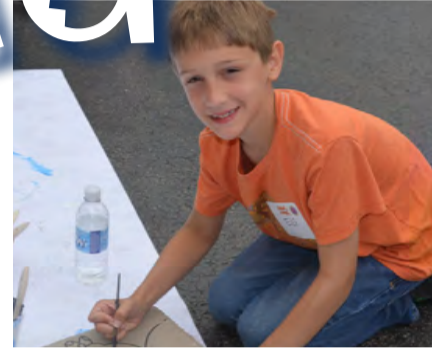
Mr. Lader subsequently became a board member and joined Dr. Kaplan as co-chair of The Lighthouse’s Scholarship Committee. He also co-chairs the agency’s Endowment committee and serves on the Development and PR committee.

“The Lighthouse has evolved into a global resource that provides hope for anyone coping with vision loss and as such, it deserves our strong support!”



Lighthouse dedicates new

Playground



The Chicago Lighthouse marked another milestone on Saturday, July 26th, by building and dedicating a new state-of-the-art playground in one day.

The innovative facility, especially designed for youngsters with disabilities, was developed in partnership with KaBOOM!, a national non-profit dedicated to bringing balanced and active play into the lives of all children, and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, who helped fund the project.

Helping to make this exciting venture a reality were more than 200 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 Lighthouse in the City Council.

A key ingredient of the new handicapped-accessible playground is that children enrolled in The Lighthouse’s educational programs had input on the shape and design of swings, slides and other features.

The agency staged a “Design Day” last June in which the youngsters drew items they wanted to include in their “dream playground.”

Lighthouse President Dr. Janet Szlyk thanked KaBOOM!, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, 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!”

inBraille™

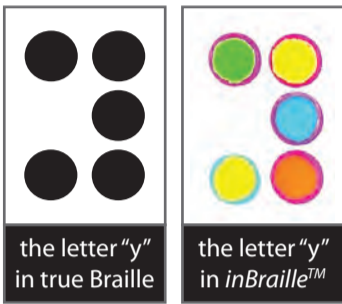
Braille-inspired designs | See. Read. Support.



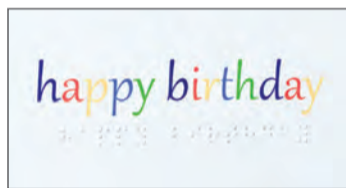
inBraille™ Greeting Cards Uniting Art With Cause

THE ART: A celebration of the beauty of Braille—for those who can see, and those who cannot. Each cover features a unique, contemporary design reflecting the pattern of dots in the card's Braille message.

THE CAUSE: Supporting access, independence and inclusion for people who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise disabled.



balloons spell
"happy birthday"



inside of card with
Brailled message

To learn more or purchase inBraille™ greeting cards, visit:

www.chicagolighthouse.org/inBraille

CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE'S IN BRAILLE CARDS OFFER NEW DESIGNS, MESSAGES

Just in time for the upcoming holidays, The Chicago Lighthouse's inBraille™ Greeting Cards have been expanded with new designs and messages.

First unveiled this past winter to celebrate Valentine's Day, the cards were specially designed for the 108-year-old agency by local artist Alisa Singer. The greeting card line now extends to an all-occasion pack, a Tikkun Olam series as well as holiday cards.

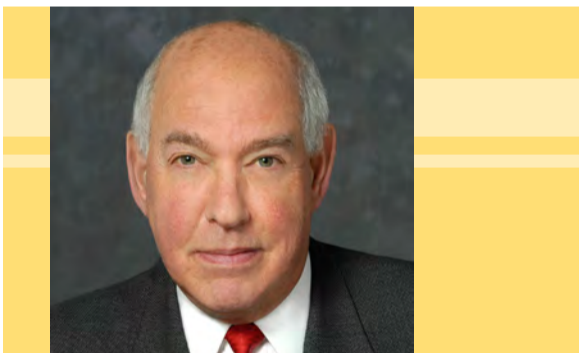
Packaged by participants in The Lighthouse's Adult programs, they celebrate the unique beauty and compelling nature of Braille as both a language and art form.

The pattern of the contemporary art design on the cover of each card corresponds to the embossed Braille message included inside the card.

"While 100% of the card sales will support The Lighthouse's services to people who are blind or visually impaired, they are intended to be read and enjoyed by everyone," Ms. Singer noted.

She added that what sets these cards apart from those issued by other blind service organizations is that they showcase Braille and its aesthetic appeal, making them both unique and more closely aligned with The Lighthouse's mission of providing hope and support for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

The Chicago Lighthouse WELCOMES...



Richard H. Schnadig, a well-known labor attorney, is our new board chair.

Mr. Schnadig succeeds banker Bruce Hague as board chair and will serve for the next three years.

He is a special assistant corporate counsel for the City of Chicago's Law Department/Labor Division serving on a pro bono basis.

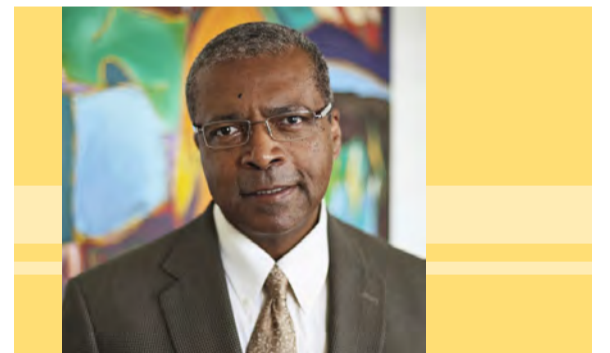
Mr. Schnadig says that he was drawn to Board service because of personal empathy with The Lighthouse's mission as a result of his own and his wife's eye problems.



Pamela Tully, a former executive with both ITW and the United Way, is our new chief operating officer.

An Oklahoma native who grew up in Birmingham, Michigan, Ms. Tully succeeds Terry Longo who recently retired.

"I am thrilled to be here," she smiled, noting that she has been a long-time admirer of the "groundbreaking initiatives" that The Lighthouse has developed on behalf of people who are blind or visually impaired.



Dr. Warren Chapman, who also previously served on our board and held senior positions with Columbia College and the University of Illinois at Chicago, is The Lighthouse's new chief advancement officer.

Among his many accomplishments at both institutions, Dr. Chapman spearheaded an effort to totally redesign and revamp their respective websites. He will undertake a similar mission here along with overseeing the agency's fundraising and marketing efforts.

PLANNED GIVING—With a planned gift (like a gift in your will or trust) to The Lighthouse, you can help thousands of people The Lighthouse serves each year AND obtain significant financial benefits. In making a planned gift, you will also have the satisfaction of knowing people with visual impairments in the future will benefit from your generosity today.

For more information, please call Jen Miller, VP of Development, Planned Giving, at (312) 997-3643 or jennifer.miller@chicagolighthouse.org.



The Chicago Lighthouse

for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

1850 West Roosevelt Road

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SAVE THE DATE

Seeing
WHAT'S
Possible
Annual Dinner 2015

Thursday, May 14, 2015

The Drake Hotel, Chicago