

A Chicago Lighthouse
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CELEBRATING GROWTH
LIGHTHOUSE BUILDING EXPANSION COMPLETE



From President/Executive Director, Dr. Janet Szlyk

Center for Inherited Retinal Diseases. Together, all three offer a system of rehabilitative care that is unsurpassed anywhere!

As a result, The Chicago Lighthouse will be better positioned to serve people who are blind or visually impaired, as well as offer hope to members of the massive baby boom generation experiencing vision loss in the years ahead.

I'm pleased to report that The Chicago Lighthouse's Dedication Ceremony on September 29th was a smashing success! Nearly 200 guests joined us for a lively and festive celebration in which we formally dedicated our newly expanded building that will be home to many innovative and cutting edge programs in vision care. The event marked the successful completion of a \$5 million expansion and renovation project that enabled us to both grow current services and add new ones. For this, we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our many generous donors. Without their foresight, devotion and headstrong support, the project would not have been completed.

Of all the inspirational and courageous remarks that day, I'd like to reference comments from our keynote speaker, Steve Pangere, an Indiana businessman who operates his own construction firm. Mr. Pangere, who is visually impaired, and his wife, Georgiann, were so impressed by the work done by the Lighthouse that they are funding the agency's new Pangere Center for Inherited Retinal Diseases. The new center is headed by world renowned ophthalmologist Dr. Gerald Fishman who recently relocated his practice here.

Highlights of the new wing include our state-of-the-art Tools for Living Store and Rehabilitation Center that works in conjunction with our vision rehabilitation service. The core of the rehabilitation program is The Sandy and Rick Forsythe Center for Comprehensive Vision Care, that includes low vision services, instruction in adaptive technology options, occupational therapy, and a research laboratory pioneering new therapeutic techniques. In addition, we offer psychological counseling through The Bergman Institute for Psychological Support. We are also proud to be the home of the new Pangere

Mr. Pangere noted that with the new addition, The Chicago Lighthouse will not only be able to provide endless opportunities, resources and training but is now offering a new dimension of hope!

I invite you to visit our newly expanded building and am confident that you'll agree that The Chicago Lighthouse is well positioned as an agency to deliver optimal programs in education, rehabilitation and employment – in fulfillment of our long standing mission. Moreover, our world class programs and staff will guarantee a growing presence on the international stage.

Lighthouse Retail Programs

Creating Jobs and Setting New Standards in the Retail and Convenience Store Industries

In an effort to expand job opportunities as well as offer a wide array of innovative products for people who are blind or visually impaired, The Chicago Lighthouse has launched two new retail ventures; a Tools for Living Store and a convenience store. Both state-of-the-art facilities, which have received national media coverage, were especially designed to accommodate the needs of individuals with visual impairments. The Tools for Living Store is located near the front entrance in the Lighthouse's headquarters on Roosevelt Road, while the convenience outlet is on the corner of Harrison and Ashland Avenues on the Rush Medical Campus.

The convenience store, developed through a partnership with Midwest Orthopaedics, provides three permanent staff positions to people who are visually impaired. In addition, it serves as a training facility for retail/customer service internships. The store offers customers a variety of products, including fresh sandwiches/salads, fresh baked goods, candy, snacks, drinks, greeting cards, magazines and gift items. ATM services are also available.

"At a time when our economy is struggling and we're coping with a record high unemployment rate, The Chicago Lighthouse and Midwest Orthopaedics are so very pleased to have been able to create new jobs, especially for people who are blind," said Dr. Janet Szlyk, the Lighthouse's president and executive director. She noted that the store is overseen by Rob Cancilla, program director, who is also visually impaired. "Rob has done an exceptional job in developing the store and the program from the ground up," she maintained.



Patricia Maloney, a cashier at The Chicago Lighthouse Convenience Store with Store Manager Elbert Ford.

While serving a largely sighted customer base, Cancilla pointed out that the store is visually stunning while specially designed to accommodate the needs of blind workers. "Our hope is to provide opportunities for on-the-job and customer service training for people who are visually impaired," he stated. "With the blind and visually impaired community grappling with an unemployment rate of nearly 70%, finding employment for those with visually impairments is our number one job!"

Elbert Ford, store manager, started with the Lighthouse's school for children with multiple disabilities then moved into the agency's job placement department and Midway Airport Kiosk operations. Ford was promoted to store manager where he oversees both the Midway Airport Kiosk as well as the new convenience store.

The New Pangere Center for Inherited Retinal Diseases

A world-renowned Ophthalmologist and Researcher brings his practice to the Lighthouse

The Chicago Lighthouse took another big step forward in vision care by recently unveiling the new Pangere Center for Inherited Retinal Diseases. Serving as director of the new facility is Dr. Gerald Fishman, a world renowned physician, researcher and academic who relocated his practice to the Lighthouse this past September.

“He is a superb addition,” said Dr. Janet Szlyk, the Lighthouse’s president and executive director. “Routinely cited as one of Chicago’s top physicians, Dr. Fishman brings his expertise in hereditary retinal diseases and knowledge of electrophysiological and psychophysical testing procedures to our agency where he’ll continue to care for patients as well as pursue his clinical research on various inherited retinal diseases.”

The center, housed in extensively remodeled space formerly occupied by the Lighthouse’s low vision clinic, is named in honor of Steve and Georgiann Pangere. Steve is an Indiana businessman who operates his family’s construction company. Pangere, who is visually impaired, is a longtime friend and patient of Dr. Fishman. See accompanying profile below.

The Pangere Center is among new additions at the Lighthouse formally dedicated on September 29th. These also include The Sandy and Rick Forsythe Center for Comprehensive Vision Care and The Bergman Institute for Psychological Support.

“Taken together, all three offer a system of rehabilitative care that is unmatched anywhere,” Dr. Szlyk said, adding that the Lighthouse is well-situated as an agency to deliver optimal programs in education, rehabilitation and employment – in fulfillment of its historic mission.



Dr. Gerald Fishman in his practice’s new location at The Chicago Lighthouse.



Steve and Georgiann Pangere.



Steve with his guide dog “Hope.”

Meet the Pangeres

He is a third generation Greek American who has been involved with the family business for nearly 40 years.

He also has been visually impaired since the age of 21, but did not let his disability prevent him from excelling in business, becoming president of The Pangere Corporation in 1987.

She is an accomplished jazz singer whose music garnered rave reviews in both Europe and the U.S.

Meet Steve and Georgiann Pangere of Crown Point, Indiana. They are also benefactors of The Chicago Lighthouse. They have been extremely generous to the agency’s new Pangere Center for Inherited Retinal Diseases.

We are so grateful to both Steve and Georgiann. Their courage and “can do” spirit inspires all of us and will be reflected every day in the work conducted by The Pangere Center. - Dr. Janet Szlyk

Visit www.chicagolighthouse.org to get up-to-date information on Lighthouse news and events.

Lighthouse NEWS and EVENTS

LIGHTHOUSE HOSTS FIRST "FLAIR- FASHIONABLE PHILANTHROPY" EVENT

The Chicago Lighthouse hosted the "Flair-Fashionable Philanthropy Acquisition Event" at Glenview's North Shore Country Club on Tuesday, October 19th. Guests enjoyed an evening of fashion, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres while contributing couture, designer and vintage clothing and accessories as donations to next year's "grand finale" sale event.

This was the first of a series of acquisition events leading up to next year's Flair two-day fashion sale at The Peninsula Chicago September 24th and 25th, 2011. The sale event will be preceded by a fashion show at Saks Fifth Avenue on Michigan Ave. To learn more about "Flair," go to www.chicagolighthouse.org/Flair or call Special Events at 312.997.3679.

RENOWNED CHICAGO ATTORNEY PAUL W. RINK JOINS THE KANE LEGAL CLINIC

The Chicago Lighthouse Kane Legal Clinic has added prominent Chicago attorney and Lighthouse board member Paul W. Rink to assist Judge Nicholas Pomaro in providing *pro bono* legal services to people who are blind or visually impaired. Mr. Rink has many years of legal expertise with a distinguished career in law and state government. Totally blind since birth, he recently retired as a commissioner from the Illinois Worker's Compensation Commission. It is believed that he was the first blind commissioner of that agency in Illinois history. Mr. Rink has attained many notable personal and professional achievements, including being the first blind member of his class at Loyola University Chicago to graduate with honors.

SENATOR DURBIN, PANEL DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHT LIGHTHOUSE ADA TRIBUTE

The Lighthouse marked the 20th anniversary of the signing into law of the Americans with Disabilities Act on July 26th with special remarks from U.S. Senator Richard Durbin, one of the Act's original supporters, and a panel discussion. The event, which attracted over 100 representatives from Chicago's disability community, received coverage from ABC 7, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, Illinois Radio Network and others.

Following the Senator's comments, the panel discussion was moderated by Judge Nicholas Pomaro; and included Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke, Rene Luna, disability advocate with Access Living in Chicago; Paul Scher, a Lighthouse board member; Ray Campbell, who operates the Lighthouse's Adaptive Technology Help Desk; Mary Abramson, instructor in the Lighthouse's Office Skills program; and Emily Norris, a third year law student at the University of Illinois College of Law.

PRESIDENT OBAMA APPOINTS FORMER CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE PRESIDENT JAMES KESTELOOT

In August, President Obama appointed former Chicago Lighthouse President and Executive Director James M. Kesteloot as Member, Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, the independent federal agency that administers the AbilityOne Program. The Program's mission is to provide employment opportunities for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities in the manufacture and delivery of products and services to the federal government.

2010 LIGHTHOUSE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDS

The Lighthouse hosted an ice cream social for our 2010 Scholarship winners on Saturday, July 24th. This year, the Scholarship Program gave \$59,000 in awards to 28 individuals from across the country. In addition to saluting the recipients, Dr. Joel Kaplan, chair of the Lighthouse's scholarship committee, also thanked all the donors for their

generosity. He pointed out that their contributions have enabled the program to grow by "leaps and bounds." *Learn more about how you can help the Scholarship Program, by calling Jen Miller at 312.997.3643.*

SEEING WHAT'S POSSIBLE DINNER A GREAT SUCCESS

Citing their innumerable contributions to the city's civic and charitable life, The Chicago Lighthouse saluted philanthropists Judy and Ray McCaskey with the agency's prestigious "Beacon of Life Award" during its annual "Seeing What's Possible" dinner on May 20th.

The event, which took place at The Four Seasons Hotel, attracted 520 supporters while raising \$225,000 for Lighthouse programs to assist people who are blind or visually impaired. Emceed by WGN sportscaster Rich King, the program featured special comments from broadcast legend Bill Kurtis. The dinner was later highlighted in both *Sheridan Road* and the *Skyline* publications.

The event unveiled a new award named in honor of Dr. Jacob Bolotin, the world's first totally blind physician who overcame considerable discrimination on the way to earning national and international accolades. The first recipient of the Spirit of Dr. Jacob Bolotin Award was Paul W. Rink, who has been totally blind his whole life and led a distinguished career in law and state government.

Photo below from left to right: Guest Speaker, Bill Kurtis and his wife Donna La Pietra, who were both Honorary Chairs, pictured with Honored Guests, Judy and Ray McCaskey.



To receive our most up-to-date Lighthouse happenings, sign up for our **E-News** at: www.chicagolighthouse.org

Upcoming Events

For information on upcoming events go to:
www.chicagolighthouse.org/events or call
312.997.3679.

FLAIR-Fashionable Philanthropy Party-Acquisition Event

Friday, January 14, 2011 - 6:00 - 9:00pm

Ellie Thompson + Co. Studio - 8 South Michigan Avenue #2203, Chicago, IL

This is the second in a number of clothing acquisition events. These events will lead up to next year's Flair two-day fashion sale at The Peninsula Chicago, September 24th and 25th, 2011. Bring your donation of used designer clothing and accessories. **For more information or to RSVP, call Special Events at 312.997.3679.**

Save these Dates!

Seeing What's Possible Dinner

Thursday, May 12, 2011 - 6:00 - 9:00pm

Four Seasons Hotel Chicago

120 E. Delaware Place

Honoring Mrs. Lindy Bergman and other special friends.

Sweets for Sight

Thursday, February 10, 2011 - 5:30 - 8:30pm

The Redhead Piano Bar, Chicago

16 W. Ontario St, Chicago IL

Low Vision Products Shows

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with macular degeneration, glaucoma, cataracts or diabetic retinopathy and are learning to cope with changing vision, there is help available. The Chicago Lighthouse Low Vision Products Road Show welcomes the public to experience state-of-the-art technology such as video magnifiers, portable reading devices, GPS and many more independent living aids. Visitors can test each product and receive training from our expert staff who can provide advice on the right tools to improve daily life. Call 1-800-919-3375 for more info.

Thursday, December 2, 2010

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Friendship Village

350 W. Schaumburg Road

Schaumburg, IL

Thursday, February 17, 2011

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Palos Hills Community Center

8455 W. 103rd Street

Palos Hills, IL 60465

Thursday, March 10, 2011

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Provena McAuley Manor

400 Sullivan Road, Aurora, IL



THE CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE
for People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired
1850 West Roosevelt Road
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On the Cover: Nearly 200 guests attended the Lighthouse Dedication ceremony which featured remarks from a number of distinguished speakers, including Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White and Alderman Robert Fioretti.