

Saluting **THIRTY YEARS** of  
The Chicago Lighthouse Associate Board



# the Beam

Fall 2016 ■ Volume 16 Number 2

A Chicago Lighthouse Publication



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

Dear Friends,

The fall season is always a busy time at The Lighthouse and this autumn is proving to be no exception!

We were delighted to welcome new Lions International President Robert Corlew and many other Lions Club members from throughout the Chicago area on September 19th.

For the past several decades, the Lions have been true champions of The Lighthouse, generously supporting our initiatives in vision care, assistive technology, employment, education and other vital areas.

At a special dinner held in his honor, I presented a Lighthouse clock to President Corlew as a token of our appreciation. I also noted that to celebrate the Lions 100th anniversary next year, we are opening an exhibit in our new seniors' wing, which will showcase milestones in the rich history of The Lighthouse/Lions partnership.

We wish all our Lion friends a very Happy Centennial Anniversary and look forward to welcoming them back

next summer when they hold their international convention in Chicago the weekend of July 1-4, 2017.

Speaking of major milestones, I want to congratulate the Associate Board on their 30th anniversary this fall. This group of dedicated women deserves much praise for working so hard to raise money for our critical services, especially those benefitting children.

At our 2016 FLAIR Fashion Fun Philanthropy event on October 17th, we had the pleasure of honoring Kristina McGrath, one of Chicago's top businesswomen with a flair for fashion that is matched by her unwavering commitment to help those less fortunate. For her outstanding record of humanitarianism and superb sense of fashion, we presented Kristina with our Third Annual Hood/Swift Women with FLAIR Award named after two female giants in Lighthouse history, Winona Hood, one of our founders, and Edith Swift, our first and longest serving executive director. Thank you also to our Seattle designers who traveled all of the way from Washington to attend our event, as well as all of the other stores and companies who supported us so generously.

With the holidays fast approaching, we look forward to participating in Giving Tuesday on November 29th. More details to come. We want to thank you in advance for keeping The Lighthouse and the people we serve in mind as you consider making your holiday gifts!







## YOUTH TRANSITIONS PROGRAMMING LAUNCHES IN GLENVIEW

The Chicago Lighthouse North started two exciting new Youth Transitions Programs in June of 2016 – The First Jobs Program and Summer in the City – with the goal of helping youth who are blind or visually impaired successfully develop into independent, confident and capable young adults.

The **FIRST JOBS PROGRAM** is a nine-week intensive training and internship course that combines classroom learning, on-site orientation and paid work experience for students who are blind or visually impaired ages 15-24. Students attend classes on resume writing, career planning, disability disclosure, nonverbal communication skills, self-advocacy, conflict resolution and mock

interviewing. They also learn how to navigate independently within the worksite and travel to and from job sites. Following a week of training and for the next eight weeks, students work at their designated sites as paid interns. They tested these skills by filling out their first job applications and participating in their first real job interviews. The Glenview Mariano's grocery store partnered with us to make this a reality. In fact, they hired four of the students permanently!



Noel, who is legally blind, working his first job at Mariano's in the bakery section—how SWEET!



Fifteen-year-old Nathan, learns how to navigate a grocery store as part of the Summer in the City Program.

**SUMMER IN THE CITY** is a five-day residential program designed to help blind and visually impaired young adults learn life skills. The students spent the week at ICRE-Wood (Illinois Center for Rehabilitation and Education) in Chicago. Students attended classes in technology, mobility, communication and daily living skills. They spent the evenings exploring all the excitement that Chicago has to offer, like experiencing a Lake Michigan boat cruise, a White Sox game, Navy Pier and downtown restaurants. These experiences allowed the students to enjoy trying out their new skills and independence for the first time.

In both programs, nearly every student showed improvement in all areas. One participant, Justin, was a quiet youth who was previously afraid to leave the house alone. To him, the program was about “learning how the world works.” Now, he is not only working part time at Mariano's, he is attending classes at Northeastern Illinois University!

# CELEBRATE GENEROSITY

AROUND THE WORLD AND  
RIGHT HERE AT HOME  
THIS #GIVING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

The Chicago Lighthouse joins more than 45,000 organizations across 71 countries participating in #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Observed on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, #GivingTuesday promotes generosity and benevolence in response to the commercialism of Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

#GivingTuesday has emerged as the single largest day of giving. In 2015 alone, the event resulted in \$116 million dollars raised, 1.3 million social media mentions and 114 million impressions on Twitter. That widespread success is thanks to the generosity of people like you, who understand how communities are strengthened by supporting vital programs and services, like those found at The Chicago Lighthouse.



Leading up to our #GivingTuesday celebration, we will highlight stories about our life changing work in mailings and emails, as well as on social media. We hope you'll be inspired, as much as we are, by seeing the wonderful work your generous gifts help to support.

We encourage you to join this global movement. Visit us online to learn

more about our campaign and make a contribution at [www.chicagolighthouse.org/givingtuesday](http://www.chicagolighthouse.org/givingtuesday).

EVEN  
BETTER

This year, four generous donors have made a \$16,000 Challenge Gift to help us meet our goal of raising \$32,000. Your gift will be matched dollar for dollar, up to a total of \$16,000, when given in honor of #GivingTuesday.

**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 contact Jen Miller, Chief Development Officer, at (312) 997-3643 or [jennifer.miller@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:jennifer.miller@chicagolighthouse.org).



## FOURTH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING RAISES FUNDS FOR LIGHTHOUSE NORTH

The Lighthouse's fourth annual Golf Outing held on August 29th helped raise nearly \$70,000 for critically important programs in education, employ-



ment and other areas at Lighthouse North.

The event, which attracted 80 golfers, including several former Chicago Black Hawk players, took place at the prestigious North Shore Country Club in Glenview.

The Lighthouse extends its appreciation to its Ace Sponsor BMO Harris Bank as well as to its other generous sponsors.

## LIGHTHOUSE CELEBRATES 110TH ANNIVERSARY WITH ROLICKING PALOOZA



Movin' and Groovin' at Lighthousepalooza!

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

These were highlights of "Lighthousepalooza," a gala extravaganza for staff members which took place September 8th to celebrate the organization's 110th anniversary.

Special thanks to Lighthouse President & CEO Dr. Janet Szlyk for making this memorable event possible. And a big thank you as well to Ricardo Vilchez IT Vice President, for originally suggesting the idea.

## NEW LIONS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT VISITS LIGHTHOUSE

Celebrating the special bond that exists between The Lighthouse and the Lions, New Lions International President Robert Corlew paid a special visit to the agency on September 19th.

To honor the new president and to thank the Lions for their generosity, The Lighthouse held a dinner and reception on their behalf.

For more coverage of the Lions' visit, see Dr. Janet's Szlyk's letter.



Lions Jean-Claude Kappler, Terry Longo, Jim Kesteloot, Janet Szlyk, Dan O'Reilly, Robert Corlew and Maryann O'Reilly.

## BOARD MEMBER DEDICATES NEW BOOK PROCEEDS TO LIGHTHOUSE

Multi-talented photographer and author Larry Broutman, a Lighthouse Board member, formally unveiled his newest book, "Chicago Monumental," at a gala reception at the Chicago Architecture Foundation on September 18th

Mr. Broutman is generously donating a portion of the proceeds from the book, which showcases a number of the city's most striking and historic monuments and statues, to The Lighthouse.

Offering remarks were Russell Lewis, chief historian at the Chicago History Museum, and Congressman Danny Davis, whose district includes The Lighthouse. Both joined Mr. Broutman in praising the work being done by the agency.

Adding to the fun were entertainment from our own Vision Quest and guest appearances by impersonators portraying President Abraham Lincoln; his wife, First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln; legendary Chicago retailer Potter Palmer and his wife, socialite Bertha Palmer.



Larry Broutman autographs his latest book: Chicago Monumental. Profits from the book's sale will benefit programs at The Lighthouse.

## CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE'S 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 17th.

Held at the Ritz Carlton Hotel and emceed by ABC 7 personality Tanja Babich, FLAIR attracted more than 160 guests and raised over \$65,000.

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

In addition, several children with disabilities who are enrolled in The Lighthouse's preschool modeled clothing, courtesy of Runway for Dreams, an adaptive apparel line especially for people with disabilities who has partnered with Tommy Hilfiger.

Stay tuned, as we are already planning for next year's Flair event!



Kristina McGrath takes the runway wearing an Adrianna Papel sleeveless mermaid gown along with her four-legged companions sporting apparel from "Woof in the Wool."

To receive our most up-to-date Lighthouse happenings, sign up for our electronic newsletter and events at:

[www.chicagolighthouse.org/newsletter-signup](http://www.chicagolighthouse.org/newsletter-signup)



# The Chicago Lighthouse

1850 W. Roosevelt Rd. • Chicago, IL 60608-1288

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 9119  
Chicago, IL

## Sweets for Sight

**TBD--February**

[www.chicagolighthouse.org/event/sweets4sight](http://www.chicagolighthouse.org/event/sweets4sight)

## Raising the Stakes for Vision

**Thursday, March 2nd** | Gibsons Steakhouse/Hugo's Frog Bar

[www.chicagolighthouse.org/event/casino](http://www.chicagolighthouse.org/event/casino)

## Jazz Night with Lisa Hilton

**Tuesday, April 11th** | The Green Mill

[www.chicagolighthouse.org/event/jazznight](http://www.chicagolighthouse.org/event/jazznight)