



The Chicago  
Lighthouse

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



**IMAGINE...**

**IMAGINE...** a world without barriers for people with disabilities.



Imagine a world where the challenges we face are just part of what makes us all different—and obstacles are stepping stones on the way to living our dreams.

Throughout our history, The Lighthouse has changed countless lives by creating opportunities for employment, empowerment and independence among those we serve. And we never stop dreaming up new paths going forward.

In this spirit, we created a public awareness campaign last summer to celebrate access and inclusion. We encouraged everyone to imagine and strive for a world of boundless opportunity for all.

What do you think is possible?

...anything you can **IMAGINE**





*ON THE COVER: Artist Dan Capuli captures the infectious energy of Lighthouse client Daniel Semro. We think of him as our resident “rock star.” Daniel loves to perform and inspire others through his YouTube channel, where he shares his everyday experiences as a young adult living with visual and developmental disabilities.*

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**REELED IN:** A young child is fascinated when she sees a goldfish wearing glasses just like hers on a lighthouse sculpture located outside The Chicago Lighthouse's Glenview location.



## DEAR FRIENDS,

The year 2018 marked an unprecedented moment of outreach for our organization, as The Lighthouse's message of access and inclusion for people with disabilities reached millions through a landmark public art display.

Artists from all walks of life answered our call to create *Lighthouses on the Mag Mile™*. The exhibition featured more than 50 six-foot-tall lighthouse sculptures, each uniquely embellished with powerful expressions of persistence, empowerment and joy. Visionary businesses and organizations also demonstrated their commitment to access and inclusion by sponsoring the exhibition.

Throughout the summer, countless Chicagoans, tourists, and social media followers engaged with the exhibition and with our community. Soon, our message of inclusivity resonated around the globe, sparked by national and international media coverage of the exhibition.

Here at The Lighthouse, we felt more love than we could have ever imagined.

It's in this spirit that we write this love letter back—an appreciation and a cele-

bration of those who dare to imagine new possibilities.

In the following pages, we're proud to showcase the accomplishments of those we serve, as well as of those who sustain us. We hope you'll share the joy we feel as we convey their stories.

In 2018, we also felt profound sadness as we said goodbye to two longtime board members and donors who generously supported our mission for many years: Beatrice Cummings Mayer, who helped build



the bustling Senior Center that bears her name, and Walter Nathan, whose many efforts included helping us by using his business and merchandising insights to advance our Industries' products.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Mayer and Mr. Nathan for their friendship and their unwavering support.

They not only imagined a better life for people who are blind, visually impaired, disabled and Veterans. They made it a reality.

In their honor, we ask that as you read about how The Lighthouse changes lives, imagine how you, too, can be a beacon of change. Then consider the many ways you can take action, whether it's as a donor, a volunteer or a friend who helps fulfill our mission.

On behalf of our team and our entire community, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



Gary Rich  
Chair, Board of Directors



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



## A Visionary Decade

This year marked Dr. Janet Szlyk's 10-year anniversary as President and CEO of The Chicago Lighthouse. She is only the second woman to lead our organization in its 113-year history.

Under her leadership, we have dramatically expanded our clinical care and research as well as our social enterprise operations.

A career rehabilitation scientist in the field of low vision, Dr. Szlyk's first step was to establish the Low Vision Research Program. Guided by her expertise, our lab has emerged as an innovation leader in the field.

Dr. Szlyk also established our customer care centers, a game-changing way to advance our mission. Today, we employ more than 600 individuals, many of whom are blind, visually impaired, disabled or Veterans, as service agents for partners like UI Health and the Illinois Tollway.

*Congratulations, Dr. Szlyk!*

# BY THE NUMBERS | 2018

## EMPLOYMENT

# 35%

Of our 1,000 employees, 250 are blind or visually impaired. 100 have another disability or are Veterans. In total, 35% of our workforce represents a community we serve through our mission.

## CRIS RADIO

# 2,200

At the CRIS Radio station, volunteers spent more than 2,200 hours annually reading newspapers and magazines over the air to people who are print impaired.

## ADULT LIVING SKILLS

# 42

Through our Adult Living Skills Program, 42 individuals who are blind or visually impaired with developmental disabilities learned vital skills for independence.



## EDUCATION

190 children and their families in the Chicago area got a bright start with home-based support provided by the Birth-to-Three Early Intervention Program.

Our Scholarship Program awarded over \$60,000 to 30 college and graduate students who are blind or visually impaired.

## KANE LEGAL CLINIC

# 96%

The first and only legal clinic of its kind, the Kane Legal Clinic served 253 clients who are blind or visually impaired and successfully resolved 96% of its cases.

## DEAF-BLIND PROGRAM

# 478

478 individuals with combined vision and hearing loss accessed support services, crisis intervention, tech training and advocacy through our Deaf-Blind Program.

## CUSTOMER CARE CENTERS

# 653

653 agents, including 170 who are blind, visually impaired, disabled or Veterans, were employed by our Customer Care Centers.

We've begun construction on a 100-seat expansion to our Customer Care Centers.

## SENIORS PROGRAM

# 360

We offered over 360 programming events to older adults ages 55 and up who face vision loss.



## CHARITY NAVIGATOR

Donors can be 100% confident that they are supporting an organization given a four star rating by Charity Navigator, the highest rating a nonprofit can earn.



## VISION CARE

Our Vision Care Services provided 4,312 patients with personalized care.

A total of 2,940 people discovered the best tech for their individual needs between both locations of the Sandy Forsythe Assistive Technology Center.

## ILLINOIS INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS CENTER

# 4,804

We provided Braille textbooks and other assistive materials to 4,804 students with visual disabilities.



The Huertas family have two children who are students in our preschool.

## IMAGINE...BEING FEARLESS

### Preschool Siblings Blossom at The Lighthouse

“This child is ready for a talk show,” says Birth-to-Three Early Intervention Specialist Susie Kuranishi of Wilson Huertas, who she met when he was just a baby.

Today, five-year-old Wilson attends The Judy and Ray McCaskey Preschool at The Lighthouse along with his little sister Nazli, age three. Though both siblings have visual impairments, they’re bright, confident and thriving as they learn and grow alongside children with and without disabilities.

The kids’ mom Jerilyn and dad Ralph are both legally blind. “They’re excellent parents,” says Susie. “They know from experience that Wilson and Nazli need plenty of opportunities to explore their independence.”

The Huertas’ are a busy, close-knit family with two older daughters, ages 10 and eight, who have normal eyesight and pitch in to help with everyday tasks.

“The whole family is always laughing,” says Lee Burklund, principal of the preschool. “They’re so full of joy.”

Parents of children who are visually impaired, understandably, tend to worry—but sometimes too much. **Finding everyday joy while encouraging freedom and discovery is critical at home as well as in the classroom, say Lee and Susie.**

“Our students learn to celebrate their achievements and those of their peers,” says Lee. “Developing friendships, compassion and joy is critical to a child’s well-being.”



Early Intervention Specialist Susie Kuranishi visits the family on a frequent basis to prepare their children for preschool and beyond.



## IMAGINE...CONFIDENCE

### A Low Vision Success Story

**“Many women my age would have conceded to this eye disease, but I love my independence,”** says Dolores Climack, a longtime patient of the Low Vision Clinic within the Forsythe Center for Comprehensive Vision Care who has macular degeneration.

Prior to her first visit 12 years ago, everyday tasks like reading, paying bills and cooking were a challenge. With individualized care from the clinic and its network of services, she’s been able to adapt to life with low vision and keep doing the things she loves.

“The tools and training the Low Vision Clinic provided have been instrumental to me,” Dolores says. “I can watch TV, listen to books, continue to cook for myself and take care of all the daily tasks that arise.”

Her toolbox includes a Lookie, a device that helps her with “quick reads” like recipes and news clippings. She uses a telescopic device to watch her grandchild’s sporting events and a magnifier that assists her with other reading. An occupational therapist set up her kitchen, bathroom and bedroom “with great little tricks to help me adjust,” she says. **“The Low Vision Clinic gives me the encouragement and confidence to live alone and know that I can function on my own.”**



TOP: Dolores Climack is examined by Dr. Grant Miller. INSET: Dolores with her great-grandchildren. “My first visit to The Lighthouse was 12 years ago, and I have not missed an annual appointment since!”

## BROADENING OUR SCOPE

The Low Vision Clinic improves the lives of people of all ages who have visual impairments, from babies to seniors. Now, we are able to treat more patients than ever, thanks to five new staff optometrists who allow us to offer clinical care five days a week at both the Chicago and Glenview locations.

“It’s a direct response to a growing need,” says Dr. Kara Crumbliss, vice president, Low Vision Services. **“The aging population and a growing need for vision rehabilitation is something Dr. Szlyk and I have been preparing for ever since she came on board ten years ago.**

In 2018, the main focus was to grow our clinic staff and expand our service offerings so we’re better able to meet our patients’ needs.”

More doctors mean wait times have plummeted from 10-12 weeks to just one or two.

“We didn’t think that a patient

should have to wait three months to be able to read again,” Dr. Crumbliss says. “And since our low vision clinics are primarily referral-based, this gives us the opportunity to grow alongside patient demand.”



More doctors mean wait times have plummeted from 10-12 weeks to just one or two.

“We provide holistic, comprehensive care, focused on how low vision affects our patients’ quality of life,” says Dr. Kara Crumbliss (left) with a patient.



The intracortical visual prosthesis (ICVP) is a micro-device, which is designed to bypass a damaged eye by stimulating the visual centers within the brain.

## HILTON FOUNDATION FUNDS PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

In 2018, we received a generous grant from the Hilton Foundation to fund a new research center, **The Hilton Center for Prosthetic Vision Rehabilitation**. This will be the first of its kind in the nation for investigating emerging technologies geared toward patients with Ultra Low Vision. **Our lab will be the testing site for groundbreaking new tech, such as an intracortical visual prosthesis (ICVP) that will aim to restore visual perception for those who are blind.** The ICVP project, developed in collaboration with IIT, Johns Hopkins University, The University of Chicago and The University of Texas at Dallas, is sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and BRAIN Initiative.



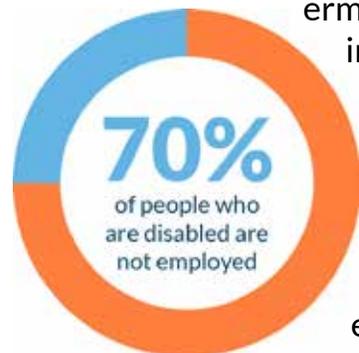
Hiring employees who are disabled or Veterans creates a more inclusive and vibrant environment and helps boost the bottom line.

## SEE CHANGE: ADVOCATING FOR EMPLOYMENT

**“We want to sound a clarion call and urge more Chicago-area businesses to hire more members of the disabled and Veteran communities,”** our President and CEO Dr. Szlyk wrote in a *Daily Herald* op-ed this past January. “It creates a more inclusive and vibrant environment and helps boost the bottom line. Statistics have shown higher retention rates for people with disabilities ... It’s also the right thing to do.”

The statistics are stunning: more than 70% of working-age people who are blind or visually impaired are unemployed. But there are plenty of jobs they can do with minimal accommodations. Equipment like magnifying devices or screen reading software costs less than you might think. We help employers make that happen.

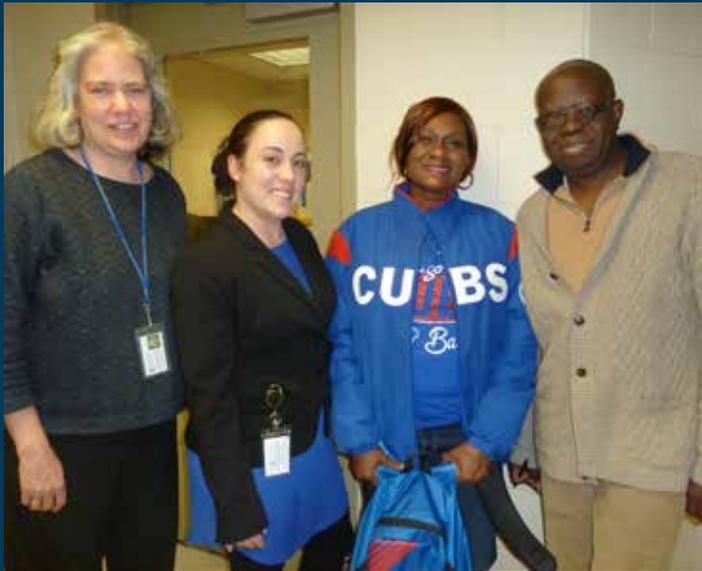
In 2018, we continued our commitment to Veterans through the Veterans’ Employment Empowerment Project, which focuses on comprehensive career development and training for Veterans with and without disabilities.



We also partner with a growing number of companies, including Walgreens (see p.13), Mariano’s and Blue Cross Blue Shield, to place qualified individuals in competitive positions.

“If given the chance, they’re going to knock it out of the ballpark for you every time,” says former Mariano’s HR Director James Haugen about the employees we’ve helped them hire. “It’s been an amazing success.”

# IMAGINE...TWO LIVES CHANGED



Elizabeth Coleman poses with members of The Lighthouse's Employment Services team. Included left to right are Martha Younger-White, senior vice president; Sarah Bennett, assistant director; Ms. Coleman and Kayode Adodo, job readiness and placement counselor.

## FROM ONE WINNING TEAM TO ANOTHER

**When Elizabeth Coleman came to The Lighthouse for employment placement services in 2017, she was "frustrated and confounded," she says. "Now, I'm positioned to be independent."**

As a job seeker who's legally blind, she faced a common problem: rejection from employers who didn't understand what she could offer. She had been out of work for five years.

With counseling and job skills training from our team, Elizabeth learned how to put her best foot forward. We helped place her with the Chicago Cubs last year.

It couldn't have happened, she says, without the support of The Lighthouse. **"My job is a dream come true that's customized to meet my accessibility needs,"** she says.



Illinois Tollway Customer Care Agent Patrice Jackson proudly served as a petroleum specialist in the U.S. Army.

## COMING HOME

"It's amazing how much my life has changed since I started working here," says Patrice Jackson, who works as an agent at the Illinois Tollway Call Center.

Patrice served four years in the U.S. Army before being honorably discharged due to medical reasons. **"After my service, I was homeless for two years, moving from shelter to shelter until I was hired by The Chicago Lighthouse,"** she says.

Today, Patrice is a homeowner with her own condo in downtown Chicago. "I worked really hard to get where I am today," she says. **"I can support myself and my seven-year-old son, who is autistic.** I'm also autistic, so it's great to work for an organization that does so much for both the disabled and Veteran communities."

## New Friends, New Adventures

Olivia never imagined that an eye exam could lead to a ski trip.



The Youth Transition Program hosts fun experiences for teens and young adults (ages 15 - 24) that build their ability to live independently.

She's a bright, hardworking high-school senior bound for college this fall. When she and her mom came to the Low Vision Clinic at The Chicago Lighthouse North last December, a technician suggested they talk to Youth Transition Program (YTP) Manager Shelle Hamer.

**Olivia has low vision due to glaucoma, but prior to visiting us, "she had never even met another person who is visually impaired,"** Shelle says. "Now, she's making new friends in our program." Like Olivia, they're also navigating young adulthood while living with visual impairments.

"Energetic Olivia quickly signed up for every youth transition event we've scheduled this year," Shelle notes. "She recently hit the slopes with us on a trip to Alpine Valley Ski Resort, sponsored by the American Blind Skiing Foundation."

## Funding Helps to Expand Program

The YTP always makes room for new friends—and there are more every year.

There were 66 youth that signed up in 2016, 88 in 2017 and 95 last year. **That's a 44% increase!**

In November, our youth programs were the focus of The Lighthouse's annual Giving Tuesday campaign, which raised \$31,960 for YTP, thanks in part to a \$10,000 challenge gift from Lighthouse Board Member Marv Lader and his wife Carol.

"Those funds allowed us to continue to have excellent programming," Shelle says. **"We added another week of Summer in the City and expanded our First Jobs program. Both created more opportunity for more kids."**



*"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart."*

*-Helen Keller*




JUST BECAUSE A MAN LACKS THE USE OF HIS EYES DOESN'T MEAN HE LACKS VISION



#MACMILELIGHTHOUSES



## IMAGINE...COMMUNITY

Learn the latest ways to support our mission. Discover cutting-edge assistive tech. Mark your calendar for our next event. Get a daily dose of inspiration. Share our mission with a friend.

FOLLOW US @ [chicagolighthouse](#) and be a beacon





## IMAGINE...BEACONS OF HOPE

### *Lighthouses on the Mag Mile™* Shines Light on Our Mission

“Consider the dandelion as a metaphor,” says Kaitlin Stober. “A solitary bloom found a crack in the sidewalk and resiliently decided it would grow, perhaps where it wasn’t wanted, or wasn’t welcomed.”

Kaitlin’s artwork “Weeds” was inspired by her brother, who has Down Syndrome. She’s just one of the 100-plus visionary artists who took part in the *Lighthouses on the Mag Mile™* public art exhibition last summer.

For Kaitlin, dandelions can help us understand the experience of people with disabilities. Just as they’re stigmatized as mere “weeds,” the stigma of disability “clouds our appreciation for what this substantial community of people has to offer the world.”

**“Inclusion must be addressed at the root,”** she says.

The display included 51 vibrant, hand-decorated

lighthouse sculptures, each standing six feet tall, installed along North Michigan Avenue and adjacent areas.

On the street, audiences could listen to artists’ commentary through the OTOCAST mobile app. Individuals who are blind could experience the exhibit through the AWARE app.

Each lighthouse had a unique aesthetic and backstory, but together they express an overall message: recognize, celebrate and advocate for access and inclusion for people with disabilities.

This ambitious public art display took place



Kaitlin Stober paints “Weeds,” which asks us to imagine the experiences of people with disabilities.

during the busiest season of a year in which Chicago hosted a record number of visitors. The response was extraordinary.

Media coverage of the exhibition, including a segment on CBS Sunday Morning in July, reached more than 160 million Americans. Its message reached overseas, too, when KBS, South Korea's top news channel, reported on the event.

*Lighthouses on the Mag Mile* reached an audience of over eight million through social media, including a video series that highlighted a new lighthouse each day. A Plus, a positive journalism online site, founded by celebrity Ashton Kutcher also shared our story.

The best part? The project inspired other organizations to express interest in launching similar exhibitions in their own communities. Our marketing team developed a tool kit to support their efforts.

We can't wait to see what happens next.

Referencing Mark Twain, **"Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see,"** said our President and CEO Dr. Janet Szlyk at the exhibition's opening.

**The Lighthouse is proud to have started the conversation. Let's keep it going!**



Dr. Szlyk is interviewed on "CBS News Sunday Morning," sharing our mission with an audience of 161 million.

*Lighthouses on the Mag Mile™ was presented in partnership with Huber Financial Advisors, LLC and many other generous businesses and individuals, including The Magnificent Mile® Association.*



Mario Rodriguez at work on his lighthouse entitled, "Endangered Animals on Earth That We Still Love."

## Industrious Spirit: Mag Mile Artist Lands Job at Lighthouse Industries

As an artist with autism, Mario Rodriguez uses painting to communicate with others. He and his father Bernardino created one of the "wildest" lighthouses in the Mag Mile display.

Everyone loved Mario's menagerie of endangered animals from around the world, including The Lighthouse staff.

"We heard Mario was looking for a new job and immediately wanted to add him to our team," says Heidi Ashwell, director of operations, Lighthouse Industries.

In the clock shop, Mario is a material handling assistant. "Because 85% of our staff is legally blind, they can't see things that land on the floor," Heidi explains. "Mario keeps our environment clean and safe."

He also has a talent for quality control, she says, and is training to take on new challenges.

Mario always has a warm greeting for everyone, says Heidi, recalling the individualized holiday cards he gave in appreciation for feeling comfortable and valued at work.

"It's mutual," she says. "The appreciation goes both ways!"

# BEACONS FAR AND WIDE

*Lighthouses on the Mag Mile™ keep shining across Chicagoland and the nation*

Last summer, they lined Chicago's busiest thoroughfare. Today, the lighthouses from our one-of-a-kind public art exhibition brighten homes, offices and organizations around the country.

**Many of these extraordinary artworks sold at a charity auction with proceeds supporting our programs. Bidders included lighthouse aficionados, private collectors with a personal interest in disability advocacy and businesses seeking to create an inspiring workplace.**

You'll find "The Pet Impressionist" outside Scooter's Frozen Custard in Lakeview, "Eye Wonder" in a River Forest public park and "We Bloom" on a private pier in Marco Island, Florida.

Several generous supporters donated lighthouses to local organizations: "Our Woven Lighthouse" to Friedman Place, "Lovely Helen" to the American Foundation for the Blind, "Special Olympics" to the Special Olympics office in Lombard and "Touch and See" to the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired.

We were also fortunate to receive the donations of two very special lighthouses: "Chicago Treasure," which now inspires the children at our preschool, and "Hooked on Reading," which has a new home at The Lighthouse North.

If you spot a Mag Mile lighthouse in your community, share it online!

**SHARE** #MagMileLighthouses, @chicagolighthouse





## New homes for Lighthouses

- Am Shalom Congregation—Glencoe, IL
- American Foundation for the Blind—Arlington, VA
- Banner Wholesale Grocers—Chicago, IL
- Chicago Lighthouse Children’s Development Center—Chicago, IL
- Chicago Lighthouse North—Glenview, IL
- Cooperative Association for Special Education—Glen Ellyn, IL
- Freedom Chevrolet, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram Dealership—Virden, IL
- Friedman Place—Chicago, IL
- Grandview Apartments by Albion—Columbus, OH
- Home—Carmel, IN
- Home—Chicago, IL (2)
- Home—Elk Grove, IL
- Home—Glencoe, IL
- Home—Highland Park, IL (3)
- Home—Holland, MI
- Home—Northfield, IL
- Home—Springfield, IL
- Huber Financial Advisors, LLC—Chicago, IL
- Huber Financial Advisors, LLC—Lincolnshire, IL
- Illinois Tollway Customer Care Center—Chicago, IL
- Lake House—Danville, IL (4)
- Lake House—Lake Geneva, WI
- Lawrence Fisheries—Chicago, IL
- Lurie Children’s Hospital—Chicago, IL
- Pier - Marco Island, FL
- River Forest Bocce Court—River Forest, IL
- Scooter’s Ice Cream—Chicago, IL
- Special Olympics Illinois Northern Regional Office—Lombard, IL
- True Value Headquarters—Chicago, IL
- UI Health Craniofacial Center—Chicago, IL



# IMAGINE... THE JOY OF A FIRST JOB

“This was our first job right out of school, so we were super excited to get the opportunity to earn some money and gain new experience!”

That comment summed up the feelings of two local high school seniors, Rupa and Me’lia, both of whom are visually impaired. They both gained employment this past summer through a partnership between The Chicago Lighthouse and Walgreens.

Rupa and Me’lia were hired to work in customer service by a Walgreens store in downtown Chicago.

**To compensate for their lack of vision, they relied on touch to perform such tasks as sorting and stocking products.**

“I memorized the layout of the entire store so I could locate items independently,” said Rupa who is blind and uses a white cane. She did such a good job that the store manager, Jennifer Giordano, observed that Rupa seemed to possess an encyclopedic knowledge on where things were.

**“Just because people with disabilities like ours may go about our tasks differently, doesn’t**



The First Jobs program prepares young people like Me’lia (left) and Rupa (center) for the world of work and places them in best-fit jobs. Shown at right is Job Coach Sara Main of The Lighthouse.

**“Just because people with disabilities like us may go about our tasks differently, doesn’t mean that we can’t get the job done.”**

**mean that we can’t get the job done,”** Me’lia pointed out.

“We couldn’t be prouder of Rupa and Me’lia, who, through their hard work, became valuable members of our team,” said Ms. Giordano.

She encourages other companies to take advantage of what people with disabilities can offer.

# IMAGINE...A LEGACY



The late Beatrice Cummings Mayer

## Beatrice Cummings Mayer | 1921 - 2018

When Beatrice Cummings Mayer passed away last September at 97, she left an indelible mark on organizations large and small, including our own.

**Mrs. Mayer often said, 'with privilege comes responsibility,' her Sun-Times obituary notes. As an heiress and a lifelong activist, she lived by those words.**

In mid-century Chicago, she and her husband Robert were prolific art collectors instrumental in founding the Museum of Contemporary Art. At the same time, she upheld a deep commitment to social justice as a member of the '60s civil rights group, "Wednesdays in Mississippi."

To us, Mrs. Mayer was an active Board Member and passionate advocate for our community of care. She imagined a dedicated gathering place for the seniors we serve. Then she kicked off the campaign that built it with a \$2 million gift.

"Mrs. Mayer was a longtime friend of The Lighthouse who is missed by so many," says Jennifer Miller, chief development officer. "Her passion was the Seniors, whether it was purchasing them iPads so they could learn how to communicate with loved ones or providing seed money for our Seniors Center."

## Walter Nathan | 1928 - 2018

Born in Germany, Walter Nathan emigrated to Chicago as a child in 1938. He went on to earn a degree in engineering before serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II and marrying Ann, his wife of 68 years.

Shortly after the war, he co-founded RTC Industries, which evolved from manufacturing paper tubes and cores to creating retail displays for the world's biggest brands. Today, Rolling Meadows-based RTC operates in 13 countries.

Mr. Nathan's entrepreneurial spirit was matched only by his generosity and commitment to the causes he championed, including the American Jewish Committee and his alma mater, IIT.

As a Board Member of The Chicago Lighthouse since 2013, Mr. Nathan was a hands-on partner. He used his retail display expertise to develop kiosks for Industries' clocks and was instrumental in getting them into Target stores.

After he passed away in November at 95, we were honored to be among four designated charities receiving contributions in his memory.

**"Walter was an incredible man who put his heart and soul into helping us,"** says President and CEO Dr. Janet Szlyk. **"We were fortunate to have had such a brilliant and caring friend."**



The late Walter Nathan

# LIFETIME DONORS

## **\$1,000,000+**

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Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Barancik  
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Mr. Corwith Hamill\*  
Mrs. Beatrice C. Mayer\*  
Mazza Foundation  
North Suburban Healthcare  
Foundation  
Robert R. McCormick Foundation  
United Way of Metropolitan  
Chicago

## **\$500,000-\$999,999**

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## **\$100,000-\$249,999**

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Northern Trust Charitable Trust  
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*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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*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](mailto: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!*

# VOLUNTEERS



The Delta Gamma chapter of the University of Chicago volunteers at the Seniors Program Holiday Party. The sorority's philanthropy, "Service for Sight," supports organizations that promote sight preservation and conservation. This commitment has been at the heart of the Delta Gamma mission since 1936.

*The Chicago Lighthouse is grateful for the generous commitment of time from all of our volunteers. We would like to recognize some of the companies and organizations that volunteered in FY18. Due to space limitations we could not list all of our volunteers.*

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## THE CORWITH HAMILL SOCIETY

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

◀ **Corwith Hamill** was The Lighthouse's longest continuous donor. When he passed away in 2013 at the age of 99, he had donated to The Lighthouse for the majority of his life. In recognition of Mr. Hamill and his generosity to us, we created a society named in his memory.

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The Lighthouse Keepers are a group of special friends of The Lighthouse who annually give \$1,000 or more. We regret we cannot list every donor but thank you so much to each and every one! (Cumulative gifts over \$1,000 July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018)

## \$1,000,000 OR MORE

Sandy and Rick Forsythe

## \$250,000 OR MORE

Mr. Arthur\* and Mrs. Esther Kane\*

## \$100,000 - \$249,999

Ruth M. Levine Trust  
Robert R. McCormick Foundation  
Audrey Spiegel Trust  
Wohlers Family Foundation

## \$50,000 - \$99,999

Anonymous (3)  
The Boeing Company  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry J. Broutman  
Crown Family Philanthropies  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Flosi  
The Healthcare Foundation of Highland Park  
Legacy Foundation  
Irene Mandock Trust  
Richard C. Maslo Estate  
Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust  
Northern Trust Charitable Trust  
Polk Bros. Foundation  
The Reader's Digest Partners for Sight Foundation  
Chrystal Schmitt Trust

## \$25,000 - \$49,999

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BMO Harris Bank  
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Lloyd A. Fry Foundation  
The Leo S. Guthman Fund  
Huber Financial Advisors, LLC  
Icon Poly  
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Cecile H. Mack Trust  
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond McCaskey  
Colonel Stanley R. McNeil Foundation  
Edmond and Alice Opler Foundation  
Richard A. Perritt Charitable Foundation  
PERT Foundation  
Special Kids Foundation  
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

## \$10,000 - \$24,999

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AMC Cares Charitable Fund  
John W. Anderson Foundation  
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Helen Brach Foundation  
Bridgeview Bank Group  
Fred J. Brunner Foundation  
CIBC Bank  
ComEd  
Abe and Ida Cooper Foundation  
The Patrick and Anna M. Cudahy Fund  
The Nathan Cummings Foundation  
Estate of Charles K. DeFreece  
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Exelon Corporation  
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The Robert J. Gunterberg Charitable Foundation  
Carrye & Abraham S. Hart Fund  
Carl R. Hendrickson Family Foundation  
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Mazza Foundation  
Helen W. Moats Trust  
The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust

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Dollie Swarts Memorial Trust  
Mr. Ray Van Dyke  
Mr. Ted Wecker  
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Estate of Josephine Wojtyla

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Mrs. Rosanne Cohen  
CSX Corporation  
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Deutsch  
Enaz, Inc.  
Mr. H. Dennis Giertz  
Glenview Lions Club  
Max Goldenberg Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce R. Hague  
Health Care Service Corporation  
Ms. Sally R. S. Higginson  
Immanuel-Bethel United Church of Christ  
Mr. and Mrs. Val R. Jensen  
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Locke Lord LLP  
The Mart  
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Mr. and Mrs. Andy Mills  
Morningstar  
Ms. Doris Newton  
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick O'Connor  
One Magnificent Mile  
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Singola Consulting  
Snapdragon Book Foundation  
The Edward S. Sprague Foundation  
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Assurance Agency, Ltd.  
Best Western River North Hotel  
Mr. and Mrs. David Brint  
Ms. Jorie Butler Kent  
Mrs. Melissa Small-Cefalu and Mr. Peter Cefalu  
Harry F. & Elaine M. Chaddick Foundation Inc.

Chicago Blackhawk Alumni Association  
Chicago Tribune Company  
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Comcast  
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Conrad  
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Dr. Paul F. Frymark\*  
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Grant Thornton LLP  
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Mr. Steven and Ms. Lisa Hilton  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Hochberg  
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Illinois Bar Foundation  
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Mr. Edward C. Jepson and Dr. Susan Sicotte  
Dr. and Mrs. Colman R. Kraff  
Dr. Cheryl Kraff-Cooper and Mr. Carey Cooper  
Mr. and Mrs. James Lasky  
Mr. Steven Laughman  
Lefkowitz Foundation  
Lions Club of Grayslake Foundation  
Midtown Athletic Club  
Ms. Sally Jo Morris  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Morrison  
Nesko Electric Company  
Northfield Township  
Novak Construction Company  
PACE Suburban Bus  
Paul Frymark Trust  
Perkins Coie LLP  
PPF/MB North Michigan Avenue  
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Retina Consultants, LTD  
Mr. Charles Rizzo  
The Alan and Roslyn Schwartz Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Schwartz  
Scorto 1 NFP  
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Sensible Innovations  
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United Service Companies  
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Samuel Weinstein Family Foundation  
Woodward, Inc.  
Harold D. and Hazel C. Wright Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Young  
George H. Zendt Charitable Trust  
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Athletico  
Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Bank  
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Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood Bollier  
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Bonzani  
Ms. Eleni Bousis  
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Bramsen  
Mr. Tom Brean  
The Brink's Company  
Brinshore Development, LLC  
Ms. Holly Brown  
Mr. and Mrs. Joel Bruckman  
Mr. and Mrs. William Buecking  
Mr. Joseph Bunta  
Ms. Reute Butler  
Mr. Gregory Calhoun  
Mr. Ray Capitanani  
Mr. and Mrs. Franklin A. Chanen  
Mr. John D. Chaney  
Chicago Mexica Lions Club  
Chicago Stereo Camera Club  
Clarendon Hills Lions Club  
Lion Chris Coleman  
Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley  
Mrs. Kathleen Cook  
Cooper Management Co., LLC  
Ms. Joan Craig  
Mr. Ed Cruikshank  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Curley  
Darien Lions Club

Delta Controls Chicago, INC.  
Alex Demond Fund  
District 1-A Lions Clubs  
Mr. and Mrs. Dante Domenella  
Mr. and Mrs. Vernon R. Duncan  
George M. Eisenberg Foundation for Charities  
Ellie Jay LLC  
Ms. Alison Faith  
Mr. and Mrs. Jon W. Fisher  
Mr. Bruce W. Foudree and Ms. Suzanne Reade  
Ms. Gen Furla  
Mrs. Kris A. Glicken  
Gold Standard Enterprises, Inc. D/B/A Binny's Beverage Depot  
Ms. Sandra Gorney  
Dr. Janet Grip  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Grzelakowski  
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Hardwick  
Mr. and Mrs. Dale E. Heinz  
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Dr. and Mrs. Bruce Hochstadt  
Mrs. Sherry Lea Holson  
Images Alive Ltd.  
Jocarno Fund  
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Dr. and Mrs. Douglas S. Kaplan  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Kaplan  
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Mr. and Mrs. Mark Kaufman  
Mr. Tim Kenrick  
Gerald A. & Karen A. Kolschowsky Foundation  
Mr. Jason Kowalczyk  
Ms. Cynthia E. Krch  
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Mrs. Debra F. Lewin  
LineageCRE / Abart Properties Corporation  
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Mattingly Low Vision, Inc.  
MAXIMUS Foundation  
McLean Foundation  
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Mr. Atul V. Mehta  
Mr. A.J. Melaragno  
Ms. Irene Michaels  
Mr. and Mrs. Morton R. Mollner  
Mrs. Sheila M. Moss

Mr. Jeff Mote  
Mr. and Mrs. Kurt A. Muller  
Mr. Richard Musson  
Naperville Noon Lions Club  
Mr. and Mrs. William North  
Oakton Community College  
Mr. Gus Olympidis  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Oriente  
Mr. Thomas Osborne  
Mrs. China I. Oughton  
Palos Lions Club  
Ms. Bobbi Panter  
Mr. William G. Paullin  
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Peard  
Mr. Mark Peskor  
Pinnacle Development  
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Porzel  
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Riverside Township Lions Club  
Roberts Family Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Rogatz  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary M. Ross  
Mr. and Mrs. Steven B. Ross  
Adam Rosuck Golf Shop  
Mr. and Mrs. Constantino Salios  
Mrs. Sherri Schorsch  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Schroeder  
Mrs. Claudia P. Schwartz  
Ms. Kathy Share  
Dr. and Mrs. Steve Sholl  
Mrs. Roni Siegel  
Mr. Shawn Soltani  
Sommers and Fahrenbach Inc.  
Mr. Mark Sorbi  
Rabbi Steven Lowenstein and Mrs. Julie Stark-Lowenstein  
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Mr. Peter Sutton  
Ms. Nancy Timmers  
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United Way Of Central Maryland  
United Way of Central Ohio  
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Mr. Joseph M. Weil  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wellek  
Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Weller  
Mr. Robert Wernet  
Whole Beauty Institute  
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Wiersbe  
Mr. Harvey W. Wittenberg  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert K. Zentner

\*deceased

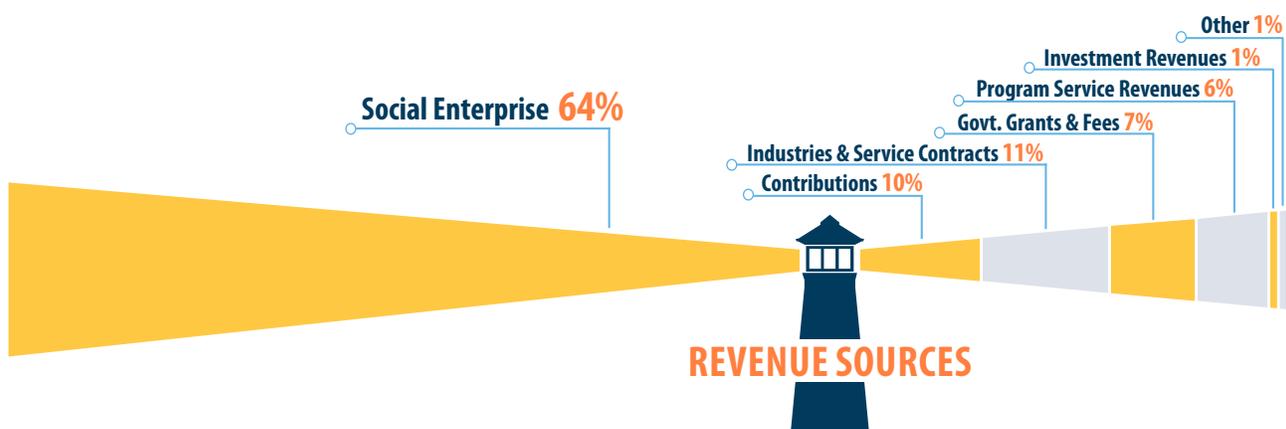
# 2017 - 2018 Consolidated Financial Summary and Comparison

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as of June 30

ASSETS			
		2017	2018
Cash	\$	2,047,013	\$ 613,513
Receivables, Net		6,159,461	6,263,978
Inventories		569,471	646,424
Investments		11,699,343	13,412,649
Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trusts		550,232	574,935
Prepaid Expenses		371,936	189,422
Land, Building and Equipment, Net		11,513,055	10,731,050
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>32,910,511</b>	<b>\$ 32,431,971</b>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Liabilities	\$	7,452,444	\$ 7,413,404
Net Assets			
Unrestricted		11,142,145	9,469,420
Unrestricted, Board Designated		8,842,261	10,070,604
Temporarily Restricted		3,478,761	3,457,541
Permanently Restricted		1,994,900	2,021,002
<b>Subtotal Net Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>25,458,067</b>	<b>\$ 25,018,567</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>32,910,511</b>	<b>\$ 32,431,971</b>



# STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

Period ended June 30

REVENUES				
	2017		2018	
Contributions & Bequests	\$	5,675,808	\$	4,884,734
Lighthouse Industries Sales		3,748,068		3,692,326
Call Centers/Service Contracts		26,504,742		31,031,982
Program Revenues		5,652,176		5,777,101
Investment Income		284,064		309,677
Miscellaneous		284,708		284,681
Change in Value of Split-Interest Agreements		34,249		15,970
Net Realized Gain/(Loss) on Investments		478,747		430,508
Net Change in Unrealized Appreciation of Long Term Investments		351,900		(202,651)
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>43,014,462</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>46,224,328</b>
EXPENSES				
Program Services	\$	35,841,541	\$	39,674,480
Management & General		4,711,978		5,468,127
Fundraising		873,792		1,065,475
Public Relations		438,928		455,746
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>41,866,239</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>46,663,828</b>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS				
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$	24,309,844	\$	25,458,067
Net Assets at End of Year	\$	25,458,067	\$	25,018,567



## A CLOSER LOOK

*There's always something happening at The Lighthouse. Even some of our best friends are still surprised at how many programs we offer. What's new to you?*



The **Music Therapy** program at The Lighthouse North promotes children's language and social development through singing songs and playing musical instruments.



Our **Assistive Technology** team travels frequently throughout the year across the Chicago area to demonstrate innovative products that aid independent living.



The **Illinois Instructional Materials Center** relocated to The Lighthouse from Springfield in 2003. We provide alternative-format educational materials, such as Braille and large-print textbooks, to schools across the state.



The Lighthouse is committed to **community service**. Staff members volunteer at an annual holiday food drive in partnership with the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church. In addition, we purchase new winter items for individuals in need, thanks to the generosity of The Associate Board.



The **Lions of Illinois** host the annual District 1-A Helen Keller 5K Walk/Run, with proceeds benefiting The Chicago Lighthouse.



Launched in 2004, our **Scholarship Program** has grown to become one of the largest of its kind in the country. We've awarded nearly \$1 million in funds to more than 700 college and grad students who are visually impaired.



The participants in our **Seniors Program** love our classes! They are active, engaged and never stop learning. We keep up with them by hosting group exercise, technology training, book clubs and more.



Our **Adult Living Skills** participants are endlessly inspiring. They sell candy and snacks to fund their own field trips: museums, boat tours and more.



Our "house band," **VisionQuest**, has been at it since 1985. They've recorded two albums, performed with local musical theater casts and been profiled by multiple media outlets.

# THE CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This list is reflective for the time of publication.

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Volunteer

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Senior Counsel &  
Assistant Secretary  
AAR CORP

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# CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE INDUSTRIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Founder and President  
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Tom Powers  
Medline Industries, Inc.  
(Retired)

Gary Rich

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*Chicago Lighthouse Industries is a social enterprise with a mission to provide meaningful employment for people who are blind or visually impaired.*

## AROUND THE CLOCK

### Chicago Lighthouse Industries Launches Online Retail Shop

Two years ago and 40 years young, Lighthouse Industries made itself over, rolling out a new line of fashion-forward clocks for the retail home-decor market, available at select Target locations, Target.com, Overstock.com and Amazon.com.

Just a year later, we were proud to launch our very own e-commerce site, where customers can browse and buy more than 150 clock models. And we discovered a new niche. “Locally-themed clock faces resonate passionately with retail consumers,” says Product Manager Richard Sullivan, noting that the Chicago flag and CTA map designs were best-sellers.

To capitalize on the trend, Industries introduced the first phase of its new Favorite Cities Series, featuring iconic symbols of New York, Minneapolis, Seattle, Washington, D.C., Boston, San Francisco and Los Angeles. It also added new clocks to its line for children, who often struggle with learning to tell time, Sullivan says. “We developed clocks with hands that are different shapes and colors, so kids can clearly see which one is which.”

And for those of us who could never quite tell, take heart: our once analog-only shop added digital clocks to its product mix in 2017. Last year, sales in this category grew 334%.

**SHOP** [chicagolighthouseclocks.com](http://chicagolighthouseclocks.com)

# LEADERS IN ACTION

This list is reflective for the time of publication.

We're led by a dedicated team of doctors, researchers, administrators, creative professionals and community members with expertise in health care, public policy, business and advocacy.

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Lindsey Dexl

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Terri Gordon

Gayle Harris

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Pamela Leslie

Carly Linton

Nina Mann

Penny Meyers

Sheila Moss

Joani Oslan

Fran Pine

Ilene Shaw

Heather Sher

Julie Smith

Alison Stolberg

Kim Strauss

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Megan Goldish, *Co-Chair*

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PDG Lion John Coleman

*Members*

Past Int'l Director Lion &

PDG Lion Dan O'Reilly

PDG Lion Ernie Lapid

PDG Lion Austin D'Souza

PDG Lion Wes Salsbury

PDG Lion Steve Anton

PDG Lion Ray Jachim

PDG Lion John Chisum

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*Call Center Enterprises*

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*Information Technology*

Martha Younger-White

*Senior Vice President,*

*Employment & Rehabilitation Services*

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*Vice President of Clinical Services, Low*

*Vision*

Lee Burklund

*Principal,*

*Children's Development Center*

Robert Mantsh

*Sr. Director, Adult Day Programs*

Melissa Wittenberg

*Sr. Director,*

*Chicago Lighthouse North*

Joseph Adelman

*Director Building & Grounds;*

*Shipping & Receiving*

Heidi Ashwell

*Director of Operations,*

*Chicago Lighthouse Industries*

Charlene Bailey

*Director, Contract Management Services*

Elliott Boston

*Director, Contract Management Services*

Angela D'Antonio

*Director, Marketing*

*Financial Development*

Gerald Fishman, M.D.

*Director, Pangere Center for Inherited*

*Retinal Diseases*

Marla Garstka, M.A.

*Director, Children's Programs,*

*Chicago Lighthouse North*

Laurine T. O'Donnell

*Director, Seniors Program*

Joann Rushing

*Director, Deaf/Blind Services*



ABOVE: Several members of the Lighthouse Associate Board are shown with one of the lighthouses in front of the First Bank of Highland Park's Ruth Fell Wander Wall. The exhibit celebrated the contributions made by the Board to The Chicago Lighthouse.



ABOVE: The Junior Board of The Chicago Lighthouse gathers at its annual February Sweets for Sight evening, benefiting programs for children who are blind or visually impaired.



ABOVE: Lion Chris Coleman created 2018's "coolest" fundraiser—the opportunity to skate at the Blackhawks' practice rink before cheering them on at a game. Left: the winner of a Lighthouse Industries Blackhawks clock signed by Patrick Kane. Center: Lighthouse employee Brett Shishkoff (right) and his father, Paul. Right: Attendees enjoy a pre-game skate.

# THE CHICAGO **SO**CIALIGHT

See and be seen at one of The Chicago Lighthouse's unique and fun events. Whether it's a casino and poker night, a fashion show, or an evening of decadent desserts, there's an event for you to support The Lighthouse mission.



1



2



3



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5

1. 2018 **FLAIR** fashion show Honoree Candace Jordan with Co-Chairs Sherrill Bodine & Sheree Valukas and 2017 recipient, Cheri Lawrence.
2. Junior Board Member Jason Stanford and his guests enjoy the Board's **Sips for Sight** event.
3. Lighthouse Industries employee Leon Taylor and President & CEO Janet Szlyk presenting the Light of

the Night Award to Alexandra Johnston at the **Seeing What's Possible Gala**.

4. Over 200 ladies from Chicago's North Shore enjoying an afternoon of Canasta, Mahjongg and Bridge at the Associate Board's **Games Galore**.
5. **Gala** Honorees Steve & Georgiann Pangere enjoying cocktails with a few friends.



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- 6. Accomplished Jazz Pianist Lisa Hilton at the 8th Annual **Jazz Night**.
- 7. Associate Board Executive Committee members Haley Baer, Sheila Moss, Fran Pine and Joani Oslan enjoying another successful **House & Garden Walk**.

- 8. Junior Board Co-Chair Holly Brown taking in **Sweets for Sight** with fellow Junior Board Member Sean Tehrani and friends.
- 9. Enjoying the Roulette table at our 2nd annual **Raising the Stakes for Vision: Poker & Casino Night**.
- 10. Jane Zappala modeling a gown from Mira Couture at our **FLAIR** fashion show.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



Seeing What's Possible Annual Gala  
**Friday, June 14, 2019**



House &  
Garden Walk

Associate Board House & Garden Walk  
**Wednesday, June 26, 2019**



Scholarship Awards Celebration  
**Saturday, July 13, 2019**



FLAIR: Fun. Fashion. Philanthropy.  
**Friday, September 13, 2019**



Junior Board Sips for Sight  
**Fall 2019**



Associate Board Style for Sight  
**December, 2019**



Samuelson/Hamill Breakfast  
**December, 2019**





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