



Envision the Future Endowment Campaign
Winter 2020

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The Chicago Lighthouse



For Board Member Marv Lader, The Lighthouse is a Family Affair

When Marv Lader relocated to Chicago from Cleveland ten years ago, he began searching for a dynamic organization that could help him feel connected to—and make a difference in—his new community. His friend Dr. Joel Kaplan, a respected former retinologist, immediately suggested The Chicago Lighthouse. Dr. Kaplan had served on the Board for over 20 years and previously as a Board Chair. Impressed with the organization’s storied history, bright future and diverse array of programs and services, Marv knew he had found a service agency worthy of his time and energy and signed on to the Board. What Marv couldn’t have predicted at the time was how deeply important The Chicago Lighthouse would become to him and his entire family.

“I want The Lighthouse we all love to be here 100 years from now—helping families in the same way it has mine—
for generations to come.”
-Marv

When Marv’s 25-year-old grandson began having vision troubles, Marv helped the young man secure an appointment with Dr. Gerald Fishman at The Lighthouse’s Pangere Center for Inherited Retinal Diseases. After a thorough exam, Fishman diagnosed Marv’s grandson with Stargardt disease, an inherited form of macular degeneration.

“No one could determine what was wrong until Dr. Fishman came along,” Marv recalls gratefully.



Marv Lader (center) with two of the scholarship students he supports.

“In addition, through Dr. Fishman and The Lighthouse’s contacts, my grandson has met a lot of fellow patients who have helped him stay positive and upbeat.”

Another of Marv’s grandsons, Daniel, now works in The Lighthouse’s Adult Living Skills program, helping people with visual impairments and additional disabilities develop tools for independent living. “He loves what he’s doing and can’t wait to come to work every single day,” Marv boasts. “Everyone should be so lucky to find a job that they find so fulfilling.”

Beyond The Lighthouse’s programs and services, Marv’s daughter, artist Deborah Maris Lader, has found her own ways to support the organization. For our 2018 *Lighthouses on the Mag Mile™* public art display, Deborah depicted a school of fish transforming into birds as a metaphor for overcoming impairments. Deborah followed that

up by performing with her folk band at our *Center Stage for Access and Inclusion* event on Navy Pier in 2019.

The Lader family's cross-generational connection to The Lighthouse is one of the reasons Marv was one of the first to make a multi-year pledge to the organization's *Envision the Future* Endowment Campaign. Indeed, Marv is so dedicated to the organization's lasting future that he recently made another new pledge to the Endowment campaign.

“Helping people with disabilities has always been at the core of our family’s philanthropy. Contributing to the *Envision the Future* Endowment Campaign is like putting money down to secure the future of the organization,” Marv says. “I want The Lighthouse we all love to be here 100 years from now—helping families in the same way it has mine—for generations to come.”



Marv's daughter, Deborah (center) performing at Center Stage for Access and Inclusion at Navy Pier this past fall.

Recommended Language for a Bequest to The Chicago Lighthouse

The examples below can be helpful if you are considering a bequest to The Chicago Lighthouse. You may wish to provide this suggested language to your attorney when creating or updating your estate plan.

A Specific Bequest

I give (insert dollar amount or specific description of property or asset) to The Chicago Lighthouse, 1850 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago, IL 60608, or its lawful successor.

A Percentage Bequest

I give ___% of my estate to The Chicago Lighthouse, 1850 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago, IL 60608, or its lawful successor.

A Residuary Bequest

I give the residue of my estate to The Chicago Lighthouse, 1850 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago, IL 60608, or its lawful successor.

Please note that these examples are samples only and are not intended as legal advice. We recommend you consult with your attorney when reviewing or drafting your estate plans.

For more information, please contact:

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Seniors Program Helps Ernest Live Life to the Fullest

When Ernest lost his sight at 61 years young, he wasn't sure what life held for him. The late-in-life onset of a disability upended Ernest's life. Having become accustomed to making his own way in the world, Ernest was now heavily reliant on his brother for navigational and social support. **And though he appreciated the assistance, Ernest did not like being dependent on others.**

It's no surprise Ernest came to The Chicago Lighthouse's Seniors Program with unbridled gusto. He was excited to regain some independent living skills and meet others who shared his disability. **He soon became a fixture at every activity the Program offered. Kitchen 101. Group Therapy. Computer Skills. Ernest attended them all.** He approached every session with an easy smile and contagious enthusiasm that spread throughout the group. He was often the last to leave each class.

“

I'm not going to let my lack of sight keep me from living.

”

-Ernest, now age 73

Despite his eagerness to learn new skills, Ernest still required assistance getting around even familiar places like his apartment. When The Lighthouse's Orientation and Mobility (O&M) instructor, Jaret Bozigian, queried Ernest about learning to navigate independently, Ernest said he was content to wait until his name came up on an O&M waiting list.

It soon became clear there was another reason: Ernest didn't want to take time away from his Seniors Program classes and friends to learn how



to move around by himself.

Realizing Ernest could not be fully independent until he learned to navigate his surroundings, Jaret set up weekly O&M sessions with Ernest that didn't interfere with the Senior Program activities. As Ernest became more confident, he cherished his independence. "I can only do it because Jaret taught me," he says.

Ernest now moves freely around The Lighthouse as he goes from class to class in our Seniors Program. And, he's setting his sights on developing skills that will lead to even more autonomy. Currently, Ernest is taking every computer class The Lighthouse offers.

"I'm not going to let my lack of sight keep me from living," Ernest says. **"The Chicago Lighthouse is helping me learn things I had never considered before, like computers. I don't know where I'd be if I hadn't found this place—I call it my second home—with people like Jaret to help me."**

Test Your Planned Giving Knowledge:

- T F 1. A will is a great example of an irrevocable gift.
- T F 2. You cannot name a charity as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy.

Answers: 1. False; 2. False

Did you not do as well on this quiz as you had hoped? Do you have questions about planned giving to The Lighthouse? Then, please contact our Chief Development Officer, Jen Miller, at (312) 997-3643 or at jennifer.miller@chicagolighthouse.org



Jennifer Miller, Dr. Gerald Fishman, Donald Krumrey, and Dr. Janet Szlyk.

Donald Krumrey: A Lifelong Lighthouse Journey

As a high-schooler in the 1950s, a guidance counselor once told Donald Krumrey that he'd "never make it" in the world.

Born with congenital cataracts, Donald has been legally blind all his life. At a time before inclusion and accommodation were the norms, school was a struggle, and Donald heard similar sentiments about his future from many different people. It wasn't until he met Dr. Alfred A. Rosenbloom, who headed The Chicago Lighthouse's Low Vision Clinic for more than 50 years, that everything changed for him.

"Dr. Rosenbloom taught me how to take care of myself and how to participate in a world built for the sighted," Donald says. "He gave me the confidence and courage to be self-sufficient."

With Dr. Rosenbloom's encouragement and guidance, Donald continued his education beyond high school, graduating from the University of Illinois and continuing on to a successful career in systems design technology.

In 2011, Donald established the Low Vision Chair in the name of his beloved optometrist. "Dr. Rosenbloom had a tremendous impact on my life," Donald says. "I'm so glad I was able to honor him while he was still alive."

This past summer, Donald visited The Lighthouse to catch up with Dr. Gerald Fishman, Director and current Low Vision Chair at the Pangere Center for Inherited Retinal Diseases. The visit allowed Donald to reflect on how far his life has come since the 1950s. "It's a good thing I didn't listen to that counselor in high school," Donald says with a big grin.

Although Donald now lives in Omaha, Nebraska, The Chicago Lighthouse is never far from his thoughts. In addition to funding the Low Vision Clinic Chair, Donald has generously remembered The Chicago Lighthouse as a beneficiary in his estate plans.

“To say that the [Chicago Lighthouse] has been life-changing—not just for me, but for countless individuals—is an understatement.”

—Donald

“I would not be where I am today without the Chicago Lighthouse,” Donald says. “To say that the organization has been life-changing—not just for me, but for countless individuals—is an understatement. I have remembered The Lighthouse in my estate plans to ensure it can continue its essential work well into the future.”



Dwayne (top upper right) and other participants in The Lighthouse's Summer in the City program.

After Youth Transition Program, Dwayne Envisions a Bright Personal Future

When he first came to The Lighthouse in 2018, Dwayne, who is visually impaired, could manage basic life skills and make his way around a familiar environment like his home or school. However, outside of that comfort zone, the then-16-year-old lacked the confidence that seemed to come more easily to his sighted peers. As others were working part-time jobs and planning for their lives after high school, Dwayne rarely ventured beyond his familiar surroundings or outside his established routines.

Things began to change when Dwayne participated in *Summer in the City*, The Chicago Lighthouse's unique residential summer program for teens and young adults who are blind or visually impaired. The program expanded Dwayne's abilities, teaching him how to use public transportation to get from place-to-place and adjusting to a different living space. Beyond that, Dwayne experienced activities in the Program he never thought possible, such

as helping navigate a boat on Lake Michigan and indoor skydiving.

Over the course of the summer, Dwayne began to grow socially. He bonded with other students with visual impairments as well as the sighted program counselors in his peer group. As he got to know others around him, Dwayne started to see a life full of possibilities rather than limits.

“The Chicago Lighthouse has helped me so much already; I'm looking forward to it being a part of this next stage in my life.”

-Dwayne, age 18

Without a doubt, the *Summer in the City* experience changed the young man's entire perspective. Dwayne had never considered college—no one in his family had ever gone, after all. **But after hearing all the stories and plans others from the Youth Transition Program were making, Dwayne realized a broader world awaited him after high school.**

Now, Dwayne is actively working toward that future. This past summer, Dwayne returned to our Youth Transition Program, this time taking part in its *First Jobs* opportunity. Through the program, Dwayne secured an externship at a local Walgreens. He immediately took to the work, stocking store merchandise and assisting customers with their needs. Indeed, the young man so impressed store management, they encouraged him to apply for a permanent position, giving him a chance to save for college. Dwayne and his father recently attended a Youth Transition *Money Matters* session, where they learned about college financing opportunities as the young man readies his college applications.

“I was happy to learn The Chicago Lighthouse has a Scholarship Program,” Dwayne says excitedly. “The Chicago Lighthouse has helped me so much already; I’m looking forward to it being a part of this next stage in my life.”



Dwayne (second from right, above) with some of his Summer in the City friends explore Chicago together as part of the Program.

Ways to Give

A gift to the *Envision the Future* Endowment Campaign will help The Chicago Lighthouse continue its legacy of opening doors to help people live independent, fulfilling lives long into the future.

Help Us Raise \$1.1 Million for our Endowment prior to June 30, 2020 with a gift of:

- Cash
- Publicly traded stock
- Planned gifts from wills and trusts

Special naming opportunities are also available.

Your donation is an investment to ensure people who are blind, visually impaired, disabled and Veterans receive the services they need for generations to come. Your support is invaluable. Contributions can be made all at once or over a three-year period.

Please join Marv, Donald, and a community of generous donors who are investing in the future for Ernest, Dwayne, and generations to come!



A campaign to **ensure** The Chicago Lighthouse will continue to provide our essential **services** to people who are blind, visually impaired, disabled, and Veterans **for years to come.**

For more information or to make a gift to the Endowment Campaign, please call or write us at:

Janet P. Szlyk, Ph.D. | President and CEO

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