





*Lisa and Pete Birmingham, "Love Is Blind," 2020.  
Acrylic and hardware on wood panels.  
Artwork spells LOVE in Braille and is on permanent  
display at The Chicago Lighthouse.*



The Chicago  
Lighthouse

# WE ARE HERE

... for you, our community.



You are what keeps us strong. Your resilience gives us hope. Your generosity sustains us.

For over a century, we have grown together through joy and adversity.

We are still here through it all, and we are only getting stronger.

The Lighthouse will always be a beacon for those we serve. As we look forward to what's next, we're finding new ways to connect, to serve and to make an impact in Chicagoland and beyond.

What does The Lighthouse mean to you? Share your stories: @ChicagoLighthouse



ON THE COVER:  
*WE ARE HERE*, embossed in Braille.

*Conveyed in the tactile writing system used for generations by people who are blind or visually impaired, this message celebrates our community while challenging people who are sighted to discover their meaning.*

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## DEAR FRIENDS,

Throughout its history, The Lighthouse has embraced every challenge as a new opportunity. Resilience, empathy and hope have guided us through more than a century—in which the only constant was profound change.

Still, 2020 was a year like no other.

We adapted to new ways of working. We learned to live with new realities and press on through uncertainty. Our city, and our nation, took to the streets to stand against injustice and systemic racism.

Through it all, we were buoyed by our connections with others, the bravery of our

healthcare professionals and other front-line workers, and the compassion of neighbors helping neighbors.

To protect the health and safety of our community during the COVID-19 crisis, we transitioned much of our staff to remote work while continuing to provide critical services on virtual platforms.

In doing so, we strengthened our bonds with those we serve and those who support us. We realized our potential to make a greater impact by expanding our reach beyond our physical locations through new partnerships across the region and around the country.



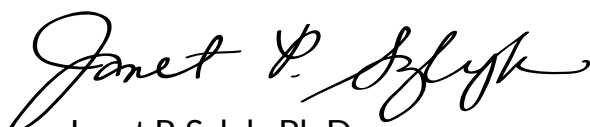
The year 2020 also marked the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which has enabled so many to live with greater access and inclusion. However, there's so much work left to do. We must acknowledge that barriers to equal opportunity still remain and advocate for lasting change.

As you read through these pages, we hope you enjoy the stories of lives changed, and that you share in our renewed focus on the future. We look forward to your continued support as we build an even stronger Lighthouse, ready to meet the challenges of the next 115 years and beyond.

With appreciation and gratitude on behalf of our team and all those we serve,



Robert W. Clarke  
Chair, Board of Directors



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

## SPOTLIGHT New Board Chair **Robert Clarke**

For The Lighthouse's new Board Chair Robert (Bob) Clarke, 2020's challenges underscored the vital role our organization plays in the community. From employment to eye care to legal services, our programs help ensure our at-risk community receives the assistance they need.

"We cannot let people fall through the cracks," Bob says. "Our work is more important than ever now."

As a member of our Board for more than a decade, Bob is also following in his father's footsteps. Bob's dad, Norman Clarke, served on our Board for 26 years from 1955 to 1981. Norman also served two terms as Board President. In fact, The Lighthouse has become a Clarke family affair: Bob's mother, Jane, previously served on the Board (at the same time as Norman). Now, Bob's wife, Jan, is also a Board member.

Bob hopes his family's ongoing commitment to The Lighthouse will inspire others. As a Senior Vice President at Northern Trust, Norman encouraged clients to include us in their estate plans. As Bob enters his three-year term, he hopes to generate similar support for our *Envision the Future* Endowment Campaign.

**"We want to continue providing our services for generations to come,"** Bob says. "That is why the Endowment Campaign is so essential to The Lighthouse, and why it is a top priority during my tenure."



Norman and Jane Clarke  
pictured during their time  
as Board Members.

# ACCESS AND INCLUSION **IN ACTION**

*Careers launched at The Lighthouse demonstrate how inclusion in the workplace benefits everyone.*

## THE SUCCESS STORY OF CAROLYN GAULDEN

Carolyn Gaulden's path to becoming a doctor has not been a smooth one. As a medical student in Michigan, Carolyn was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy and required a wheelchair. **Though her classroom learning was unaffected by her diagnosis, once Carolyn moved into clinical rotations, professors told her she looked weak, was too slow, and couldn't keep up with the program.** Some went as far as to liken her disability to the patients she was treating ...and not in a positive way.

Rather than get discouraged, Carolyn moved on, finding a program in Chicago where she could complete her work and get her medical degree. As she awaited her resident assignment, Carolyn decided she needed a job for living expenses and to begin paying off student loans. Once again, Carolyn had trouble convincing hiring managers that she could do the job.

Working with a rehabilitation center's employment counseling service, Carolyn came to The Lighthouse. Recognizing her talents and intelligence, we hired her to work as a Registration Agent in our UI Health Call



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**NOW IN HER THIRD YEAR OF RESIDENCY, CAROLYN WAS ELECTED CHIEF RESIDENT BY HER PEERS.**

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Center in 2017.

A year later, while at work in the Call Center, Carolyn was notified of her placement in a psychiatric program in Detroit. Carolyn was overjoyed at The Lighthouse's support. "We couldn't have been happier that day. It was so great to see her dreams becoming a reality," says Jeanette Bonzani, Senior Vice President of Human Resources at The Lighthouse.

In fact, Carolyn's work at The Lighthouse prepared her for the challenges of psychiatric residency during the COVID-19 pandemic. Working with patients

over the phone in the Call Center acquainted Carolyn to the nuances that come with remote counseling. "Working at The Lighthouse helped me become more comfortable working with patients over the phone," she says.

Now in her third year of residency, Carolyn was recently elected Chief Resident by her peers, a position in which she advocates for her team to ensure everyone is treated equally. She knows first-hand, just how important that is.



“

IT'S A HUGE BLESSING  
TO WORK IN THIS  
FIELD...**BEST OF ALL,  
I'M HELPING PEOPLE  
WHO FACE THE SAME  
CHALLENGES I DO.**

—GEOVANNI BAHENA

”

## GEOVANNI BAHENA'S JOURNEY...IN HIS OWN WORDS

Four years ago, if you told me where I'd be now, I would've thought you were crazy because I was struggling to find a job.

I've always had a passion for technology. As a child, I was given a computer with JAWS (screen reading software) installed. **I thought, wow, this is so cool—a person who is blind can actually use a computer.**

When I graduated from high school, I was told a totally blind person couldn't work in IT. It was stressful and discouraging.

I came to The Lighthouse as a client of their Employment Services Program. Their job counselors helped me with my resume and told me about an open position as a Call Center Agent.

I was in awe of how quickly it happened. One day, I didn't have a job. The next, I came in for an interview. Then I was called back for a background check—and hired!

As a Call Center Agent, I learned and grew a lot and built relationships that led to a new opportunity: a position with The Lighthouse's DAX program, which stands for Digital Accessible Experience. That's

where I work now. **We assist businesses in making their apps and websites accessible for people with disabilities.**

In partnership with American Foundation for the Blind, DAX expanded in 2020 to a team of four analysts who provide usability testing, focus groups and audits to help clients meet global accessibility standards.

It's a huge blessing to work in this field. I love the camaraderie with my coworkers. It makes the job even more fun. Best of all, I'm helping people who face the same challenges I do.

The Lighthouse sees everyone's unique talents and what they can offer to the world. They put people in positions to be successful and thrive. **Dr. Szlyk has said that one of the greatest joys of her life is to help launch careers and see people realize their dreams.** She certainly did that for me!

The career I launched at The Lighthouse has opened up a world of possibilities in my life.



Ben, his wife Martha, and their dogs, Louie and Sammie, are settling into their new home.



## LIVING “IN PARALLEL” WITH BLINDNESS

For **BEN CHARGOT**, Team Lead in our UI Health Call Center, being blind isn't a hardship or a source of inspiration. It's just a part of his life. "I've had hurdles to overcome. But in the end, everyone's got their burdens to bear."

As he reflects upon his life, **Ben doesn't believe any of his accomplishments happened "in spite" of his blindness. Rather, he says they occurred "in parallel."**

Ben was born with Leber Congenital Amaurosis, a rare genetic eye disorder that affects the retina. Growing up in a small town in Michigan, he rarely encountered others

who were blind. Now, at The Lighthouse, not only does he meet people who are blind every day, he also leads a team of 14 people who all have some degree of vision impairment. "I'm able to help them with anything from technical problems to finding navigation routes within the building. I'm in a unique position to help other people who are blind because I understand their experiences," Ben says.

First hired as an agent in The Chicago Lighthouse's UI Health Call Center in 2019, Ben's work ethic and strong communication skills caught the attention of his supervisors.



They quickly promoted him to Team Lead within the Call Center.

“I hope I’m paving the way for more people who are blind to ‘climb the company ladder.’ I’m focused on my career here and how I can move forward,” Ben says.

In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ben developed a newfound appreciation for both his job and The Chicago Lighthouse. As the spring lockdown began, Ben and his wife were in the process of buying a home. Thanks to the efforts of The Lighthouse’s IT team, **Ben was able to transition to working from home, maintaining a steady income to support the purchase.** “We wouldn’t have been able to buy our home if I hadn’t been able to keep my position,” he says. Now, Ben, his wife Martha, and their dogs, Sammie and Louie, are keeping busy with home improvements and pursuing one of their favorite hobbies, cooking.

Prior to coming to Chicago, Ben attended college in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he studied percussion performance and music business. In contrast to his small-town upbringing, city life opened up a world of independence. He could venture throughout the city on his



Ben has risen through the ranks at The Lighthouse and was recently promoted to UI Health Team Lead. His supervisor notes how he tackles every challenge that comes his way with a positive outlook.

own using public transportation. That experience gave him the motivation to move to Chicago, where he reunited with his high school bandmates. They continue to write music and perform together.

“

**I’VE HAD HURDLES TO OVERCOME. BUT IN THE END, EVERYONE’S GOT THEIR BURDENS TO BEAR.**

—BEN CHARGOT

”

**will become a voice of empowerment for the blind community.**

“It’s important to have an outlet for these issues. I’m hoping the podcast brings the blind and sighted worlds together more while providing entertainment along the way,” he says.

Ben is a team player always willing to help out, as shown here when he volunteered to model for our FLAIR fashion show fundraiser benefiting our Children’s Programs. He is shown here, with his guide dog Sammie, escorting Service Club of Chicago Member Jamie Thorsen down the runway.

# THOUGHT LEADING IN 2020

1. "Increased access to assistive technology can make workplaces more accessible. In the 30 years since the Americans with Disabilities Act's passage, technology has fueled monumental change all over the world," writes **Chicago Lighthouse President and CEO Dr. Janet Szlyk in an op-ed published by the Chicago Tribune** near the 30th anniversary of the ADA. In the piece, she speaks to the vital role of assistive technology in breaking barriers to employment for people with disabilities.
2. **Through our Employment Services Program, Robert was employed by ComEd's Energy Force Ambassador Program, which provides valuable training and employment for adults with developmental disabilities.** "I like my job. It's very informative and I like to go into the community and give people educational tips to help them save energy," he says. He is pictured as he prepares to give a video presentation on energy conservation.
3. **The Chicago Lighthouse's advocacy for people with disabilities reached a national audience when a letter to the editor by our President and CEO Dr. Janet Szlyk was published by The New York Times.** The letter responded to a story about a former Lighthouse client who failed his U.S. citizenship exam because he was not provided with a Braille option.
4. "I am proud to represent the United States and The Chicago Lighthouse on Leo Messi's Dream Team. Together, we are all winners," says Chicago Lighthouse Superstar Kalari. **Leo Messi, OrCam, and The Chicago Lighthouse are leading the charge to raise awareness of how the OrCam MyEye Pro levels the playing field for people who are blind or visually impaired.**
5. The doctors in our Low Vision Clinic received national exposure for their professional expertise throughout the year with published research in a number of notable medical journals. **Dr. Kara Crumbliss is pictured with her article.** The article, published in *Optometry Times*, shared recommendations for accommodating patients with vision loss during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure health, safety and comfort.
6. **The Lighthouse received recognition from 1871, a prominent Chicago-based tech incubator, for our groundbreaking use of assistive technology in the workplace.** We were honored to be named as a finalist for the Industry Disrupter Award, which is presented to an organization that has developed an ingenious and innovative product or service that has significantly disrupted its industry.
7. Chicago Lighthouse President and CEO **Dr. Janet Szlyk receives the National Federation of the Blind of Illinois' Eileen O'Brien Memorial Award for her professional dedication and service helping people who are blind live independent lives.** Dr. Szlyk is only the fourth person to receive this award since it was created in 1993.

*Pictures reflect time periods before and during the pandemic.*



1



2



3







# ZOOMING IN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

*Throughout the pandemic, we've used Zoom in innovative ways to provide critical resources, services and a sense of community for clients of all ages.*



## TEACHERS FOSTER COMMUNITY THROUGH REMOTE LEARNING

Since April 2020, students in the Judy and Ray McCaskey Preschool, as well as the Birth-to-Three Program and the Children's Development Center, have engaged in remote learning.

Our teachers, some of whom are blind or visually impaired themselves, adapted their lessons to meet each child's unique needs while fostering a sense of togetherness online. Their tireless efforts made us even stronger.

They even offer evening sessions, which allow busy parents to witness firsthand how educators work with their children, communicate directly with teachers and socially engage with other families. They all say it's crucial to maintain continuous learning opportunities for their kids.

But remote learning can be difficult for students who are blind or visually impaired, who learn through both sound and touch.

"We miss in-person learning and can't wait for it to resume," says preschool parent Charmell.

Until then, our Preschool staff is doing its best to adjust to new challenges, says paraprofessional Gail Jordan. "We're working together to make it a positive, fun and interactive experience for our children."

## HELPING YOUTH SUCCEED IN THE REAL WORLD, VIRTUALLY

With the generous support of the Reader's Digest Partners for Sight Foundation, the Youth Transition Program went virtual, too.

In our annual weeklong *Summer in the City* Program, youth ages 15-24 explored ways to increase their independence and confidence via group video chats and hands-on solo activities. We mailed students a variety of materials to enhance their experience, including 3D printed tactile maps that en-



Thanks to a generous, anonymous donor, students of our Preschool received tablets to participate in remote learning.



Our virtual Youth Transition's *Summer in the City* and *First Jobs* Programs helped youth stay connected, entertained and inspired safely from home.

abled them to take virtual tours of Chicago neighborhoods. They even received a free delivered Chinese meal to complement their tour of Chinatown.

Our *First Jobs* Program transitioned to an online format as well. Participants engaged with Apple software engineers specializing in accessibility and participated in mock interviews with companies like Synchrony. They even talked with Chicago's First Lady,

Amy Eshleman, about their creative photos produced as part of an initiative called *Photography for All*.

One teen, who struggles with anxiety, was initially hesitant to take part in the *Photography for All* Program. Through a capstone project that focused on expressing feelings about the pandemic, he built the confidence to confront his fears and become more independent. He even got a job working on a podcast for the Westside Health Authority.

Our online programs "went off without a hitch," said another participant, who also attended *Summer in the City* in 2019. "It was as immersive as virtual can get."

## TELEHEALTH BREAKS BARRIERS TO LOW VISION CARE

In response to Stay-at-Home orders in March 2020, our Low Vision Clinic quickly developed a telehealth model in order to continue to serve our patients. While we have safely resumed in-person services, we are continuing to offer telehealth appointments for low vision exams, occupational therapy, and psychological services.

"Telehealth has opened the door to low vision rehabilitation for a population that has multiple barriers to care, including mobility, transportation and simply a limitation of services nationwide," says Dr. Kelly Scherer, Optometrist and Director of Clinical Services at The Chicago Lighthouse. "We now can meet with patients from anywhere, greatly improving access to low vision care."

For Lois, a Senior with vision loss, these services have been vital. Thanks to telehealth,

Lois has been able to maintain regular optometry appointments with Dr. Scherer from home. As a longtime participant of our Seniors Program, she has also continued to participate in support group sessions, book club and health talks all through the phone, as the Seniors Program is also functioning remotely. This remote model has made the Program accessible to more Seniors than ever.

"Despite the pandemic, The Lighthouse is still here for me," says Lois.



Lois participates in a telehealth session with Dr. Scherer. Pre-pandemic, Lois received iPad training through The Lighthouse's Seniors Program.

# SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK

## THE CHALLENGES OF 2020 OPENED UP A NEW WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

Hindsight, as the saying goes, is 2020. As we reflect on the year that was, we have come to realize how significant our impact can be. Just as The Chicago Lighthouse helps clients find strength by overcoming obstacles, the challenges of 2020 have helped us rediscover our own potential to create more avenues for access and inclusion in our state, our nation and the world.

**Remote platforms are helping us reach more people than ever before.** Thanks to Zoom, eight teens and 20 teachers from the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired in Jacksonville, Illinois (a four-hour drive from The Lighthouse) attended their first Youth Transition Program Career Fair. Work-from-home capabilities have enabled us to create jobs for people with disabilities who live outside of our geographic area or have mobility issues.

Our rapid transition to remote services is a testament to our ability to adapt to any challenge we encounter. Such agility has been the key to our organization's longevity, and it will continue to serve us well into the future.

The Lighthouse has pioneered independence and employment for people who were blind or visually impaired since the 1920s. By the '50s, we opened the area's

first Low Vision Clinic. In the '70s, we launched an Early Intervention Program for infants and toddlers with low vision. Today, The Lighthouse continues to innovate in a variety of ways:

- Partnering with non-profits around the country to **bring our social enterprise model to more areas**, creating even more job opportunities for people with disabilities and Veterans.
- Continuing to work **with pioneering Assistive Technology companies such as OrCam and IrisVision** to bring the most advanced devices to our clients, which are sold through our Tools for Living® stores.
- Participating in groundbreaking research projects, including a **clinical trial of an Intracortical Visual Prosthesis**, which will provide critical information about the vision produced by stimulation of an electrode array implanted in the brain.
- Our planned **accessible housing project**, an apartment building for people who are blind or visually impaired and one of the first to be financed through Low Income Housing Tax Credits in the United States, will become a model for similar ventures throughout the country.



Those initiatives are just the beginning. The adjustments we made during the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that when we work together, the possibilities are limitless. Our work advocating for access and inclusion—in our classrooms, in our workplaces and in our society—is more important than ever.

Throughout the past year, The Chicago Lighthouse remained a beacon of hope for some of the most vulnerable in our community. With 2020 behind us, we look forward to all the opportunities ahead, and the chance to create a brighter future.



**ABOVE:** In 1954, our Low Vision Clinic was the first facility in the Midwest to provide diagnosis and treatment for people who were visually impaired. **TOP RIGHT:** Partnerships with companies like OrCam have taken our message of access and inclusion for all to a global stage. Here, Chicago Lighthouse superstar Kalari (bottom row, second from left) joins Leo Messi's #OrCam\_DreamTeam. **MIDDLE RIGHT:** Our planned accessible housing project will provide 76 safe, accessible apartments for people who are blind or visually impaired. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Participating in clinical trials for technologies like the Intracortical Visual Prosthesis will advance knowledge in the field of vision restoration.

*Pictures reflect time periods before and during the pandemic.*



In addition to leading our CRIS Radio station, Sandy Murillo also publishes the highly popular blog *Sandy's View*, which is consistently one of the most popular pages of our website.

Community has always been at the heart of The Chicago Lighthouse, and this year was no different. Our outstanding volunteers continued to support our organization in crucial ways, even when they could not join us in person.

## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers at our CRIS Radio station were vital to keeping our community connected with the latest news and entertainment during the pandemic. With the help of Associate Producer Sandy Murillo, who is blind, 35 of our talented volunteers transitioned to recording content remotely to ensure our reading services would not be disrupted.

Corporate partners of our Employment Services Program also stepped up to assist in our continued support of job seekers who are blind, visually impaired, disabled or Veterans by conducting virtual mock interviews from their homes. These interviews build our clients' confidence and help them develop effective communication strategies.

We are so grateful for all who helped our light shine as brightly as ever in 2020.

## PLANNED GIVING



### MILTON J. SAMUELSON SOCIETY MEMBERS

*Friends who have remembered The Chicago Lighthouse in their wills or estate plans or who have made another type of planned gift.*

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*For information about making a planned gift to The Chicago Lighthouse, please contact Jennifer Miller, Chief Development Officer, at (312) 997-3643 or [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 we can properly honor you.*

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State Farm Insurance  
Synchrony Foundation  
Drs. Janet P. Szlyk and  
Jeffrey M. Jackson  
Union Pacific Foundation  
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago  
Walgreen Co.  
Mrs. Mamie Walton  
Ms. Catherine J. Wytzka  
George H. Zendt Charitable Trust

## **\$2,500 - \$4,999**

Anonymous (3)  
Appelbaum Family Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald A. Belgrad  
Bolingbrook Lions Club  
Mrs. Paula Borg  
Mr. and Mrs. David Brint  
Harry F. & Elaine M. Chaddick  
Foundation Inc.  
Mr. Vernon R. Duncan  
Enaz, Inc.  
Ms. Alison Faith  
Glenview Lions Club  
Mrs. Susan G. Gohl  
Grant Thornton LLP  
Dr. William W. Hauswirth  
Mr. Steven and Ms. Lisa Hilton  
Mr. and Mrs. David Huber  
Mr. Tim Jahnke  
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Januszewski  
Jewel-Osco  
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Jones  
Beena and Martin Joseph  
Mr. Tim D. Kenrick  
Lake Carroll Association  
Mr. Steven Laughman  
Mr. and Mrs. Todd Martin  
Nesko Electric Company  
Mr. William G. Paullin  
Pave Works

Perkins Coie LLP  
 Pinnacle Development  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Randolph  
 Mr. and Mrs. John A. Raske  
 Retina Consultants, LTD  
 Mr. and Mrs. Steven B. Ross  
 Rotary Club of Schaumburg-  
 Hoffman Estates  
 RSM US LLP  
 Rush University Medical Center  
 Thompson Family Foundation  
 Mr. Edward J. Thompson  
 Abbie E. Tyrrell Fund  
 United Way Of Central Maryland  
 Samuel Weinstein Family Foundation  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Windler  
 Woodward, Inc.  
 Harold D. and Hazel C. Wright  
 Foundation

**\$1,000 - \$2,499**

Anonymous (3)  
 Mr. and Mrs. Steven H. Adelman  
 Allgreens Dispensary LLC  
 Mr. and Mrs. Peter M. Ascoli  
 Robert W. Baird & Company Inc.  
 Mrs. Michelle Baker  
 Mr. and Mrs. Sanford A. Bank  
 Ms. Luanne A. Beck  
 Mr. and Mrs. Tom Berg  
 Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood Bollier  
 Ms. Eleni Bousis  
 Mr. and Mrs. James E. Bramsen  
 Mr. Adam Bruns  
 Mr. and Mrs. William R. Buecking  
 Mr. Joseph Bunta  
 Mr. Edward Caveney  
 Mr. and Mrs. Franklin A. Chanen  
 Mr. John D. Chaney  
 Mr. Joseph Claps  
 Clarendon Hills Lions Club  
 Ms. Anida Johnson "Cookie" Cohen  
 Community Foundation of the  
 Fox River Valley  
 Dr. and Mrs. Michael Conrad  
 Mr. and Mrs. Dino Damato  
 Davis Imperial Cleaners, Inc.  
 Alex Demond Fund  
 District 1-A Lions Clubs  
 Mr. and Mrs. Dante Domenella  
 Amelia Dregosh Trust  
 Mrs. Bubbly Duggal  
 Ms. Melody Dworin  
 Edelman  
 Mr. John D. Edelman and  
 Ms. Suzanne Krohn



Matilda, a graduate of our Preschool, continues to receive care from The Lighthouse through our Low Vision Clinic.

George M. Eisenberg Foundation  
 for Charities  
 Ms. Laura Scoville Ekstrom  
 The Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 of the Good Shepherd  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jon W. Fisher  
 Mr. John S. Gates, Jr.  
 Mr. H. Dennis Giertz  
 Ms. Katherine M. Glenney  
 Mrs. Kris A. Glicker  
 Mr. and Mrs. George M. Gogola  
 Google LLC  
 Mrs. Pamela R. Hamilton  
 Ms. Mary P. Hines  
 Hochberg Family Foundation  
 Ms. Charlotte Jackson  
 Jocarno Fund  
 Ms. Dorothy A. Kapchinski  
 Dr. and Mrs. Douglas S. Kaplan  
 Mr. and Mrs. Brian Kearney  
 Mr. and Mrs. James M. Kesteloot  
 Lion and Mrs. Brian S. Kotas  
 Mr. Jason Kowalczyk  
 Ms. Deborah M. Lader  
 Mr. Henry L. Latkin  
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Livingston  
 Mattingly Low Vision, Inc.  
 McLean Foundation  
 Mr. and Mrs. William McNally  
 MIS Computer  
 Mobilisation, LLC  
 Mrs. Ann Nathan  
 Ms. Doris Newton

Ms. Karin Norington - Reaves  
 Mr. and Mrs. William North  
 Northfield Township  
 Mr. and Mrs. Brian Oriente  
 Mr. Thomas Osborne  
 Palos Lions Club  
 Mr. and Mrs. John Pendergast  
 Mr. Mark Peskor  
 Mrs. Sally Jo Pfaff  
 Mr. and Mrs. James Pillars  
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Reid  
 Roberts Family Foundation  
 Messrs. Frank J. Rus\* and Don Toy  
 Mr. Mena Shehata  
 Mr. and Mrs. Adam Sheppard  
 Mrs. Junia Shlaustas  
 Dr. and Mrs. Steve Sholl  
 Sirius  
 Mrs. Melissa Small-Cefalu and  
 Mr. Peter Cefalu  
 Mr. Steven B. Towbin  
 Ms. Brenda Tran-Keating  
 Turano Baking Company  
 Urbut Family Donor Fund  
 Mr. Theodore M. Utchen  
 Mr. and Mrs. James L. Valukas  
 Mr. Narendra Vempati  
 Mr. Charles Whalen  
 Mr. and Mrs. Steve Wine  
 Ms. Karen Wolfe  
 Susan Young



# IN MEMORIAM



Beverley Kroll

## BEVERLEY KROLL: A TRAILBLAZER AND ROLE MODEL

Beverley (“Bev”) Kroll was originally brought onto The Lighthouse Board, where she served for five years, by her dear friend, Harry Tankus. Bev was a behavioral scientist co-founded Peryam & Kroll, a highly successful national marketing research company.

Perhaps Bev’s greatest legacy to The Lighthouse occurred after she left the Board. With her full support, in 2011, the North Suburban Healthcare Foundation, where she served as president, granted us monies to purchase our Glenview facility, Chicago Lighthouse North.

“Bev was a pioneering woman who served as a mentor for female leaders. She was highly intelligent, strong and always seeking to support those who were vulnerable,” says Dr. Janet Szlyk, Lighthouse President and CEO.



Harry Tankus celebrating his 99th birthday with his daughter, Ilyse Benton, this past August.

## HARRY TANKUS: A LIGHTHOUSE FRIEND AND LEADER

Lighthouse Board Member of eighteen years. CEO, engineer, and patent-holder. World War II Purple Heart recipient. Father. Husband of over 70 years to Lila, his beloved wife. Harry was all these and more.

“My dad immigrated from Poland at age seven and was the first in his family to attend college,” says his daughter, Ilyse Benton. “He rose through the ranks to become CEO at John Crain Company. He would wake up at 4:00 a.m. to say goodbye to the night staff and greet the morning employees.”

“Harry was amazing,” adds Jim Kesteloot, immediate past Executive Director and current Lighthouse Board member. “He helped us raise a lot of money for our 1990s Capital Campaign (when the school wing and second floor were added). He touched countless lives.”



Paul Scher

## PAUL SCHER: ADVOCATE FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

Long-time Board Member Paul Scher devoted his life to breaking barriers—both those faced by himself and others. In 1957, he became the first person who was blind to graduate from Harvard University. He went on to earn two master’s degrees from The University of Chicago and the University of Illinois.

Mr. Scher joined The Lighthouse’s Board in 1974 and served for more than 45 years. He helped The Lighthouse maintain its status as a national model for employing individuals with disabilities. In addition, he worked for Sears, Roebuck and Company for over twenty years in the

National Human Resources Department resolving issues related to people with disabilities.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## HONORING OUR RETIRED FRIENDS

who changed The Lighthouse for the better



### Dr. Gerald Fishman

Dr. Gerald Fishman retired after 10 years as Director of The Lighthouse's Pangere Center for Inherited Retinal Diseases. Throughout his 50-year career in comprehensive vision care, he helped change the lives of countless people of all ages in our community.

"I learned so much from him, not only about inherited eye diseases, but also about how to be a professional and care for other people," says Lighthouse President and CEO Dr. Janet Szlyk.



### Mary Lynne Januszewski

After a 39-year career at The Lighthouse, Mary Lynne Januszewski retired from her role as Chief Financial Officer. Throughout her exemplary career, she was instrumental in making vital financial recommendations that helped The Lighthouse expand its role in changing lives. "Through

all of these years, most of all, it's been about the people," she says. Mary Lynne has left an indelible mark on our organization. In her retirement, she is continuing to give her time to The Lighthouse as a Senior Financial Advisor.

## TWO WORLD-CLASS SERVICES SEPARATED BY A CITY BLOCK



As we look to 2021 and beyond, we're optimistic about the future.

Dr. Gerald Fishman's retirement last August led us to reimagine The Lighthouse's partnership with the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. The new Pangere Partnership for Inherited Retinal Diseases brings together The Lighthouse's renowned comprehensive low vision care services with UIC's leading treatment of specialized inherited retinal diseases.

Led by our own Dr. Kara Crumbliss and UIC's Dr. Robert Hyde, the new Pangere Partnership will provide seamless, coordinated vision care to our community.

"By working together," says our President and CEO Dr. Janet Szlyk, "we can empower the individuals we serve to enhance their lives and live more independently."

# THE CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This list is reflective of the time of publication.

## CHAIR

Robert W. Clarke  
The RJ Clarke Group LLC

## VICE CHAIR

Edward C. Jepson  
Attorney,  
Employment Law  
Vedder Price (Retired)

## PRESIDENT

Janet P. Szlyk, Ph.D.  
President and CEO  
The Chicago Lighthouse

## TREASURER

Bruce Hague  
President, National  
Commercial Banking  
CIBC

## ASSISTANT TREASURER

John A. Raske  
Managing Director  
Diversified Industries  
Commercial Mid-Market  
BMO Harris Bank

## SECRETARY

Jaclyn McNally  
Partner  
Perkins Coie LLP

## ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Arturo Saenz  
CEO  
Specialty Consulting, Inc.

## IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

Gary Rich

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

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Co-President  
Grossinger Auto Group

Ellen Martin  
The Boeing Company  
(Retired)

Richard H. Schnadig  
Attorney,  
Employment Law  
Vedder Price (Retired)

## MEMBERS

Richard R. Boykin  
Attorney at Law

Joel Bruckman  
Attorney  
Freeborn & Peters LLP

Janice Clarke  
The RJ Clarke Group LLC

Anida Johnson  
"Cookie" Cohen

Thomas Deutsch, M.D.  
Senior Advisor to  
the CEO  
Rush University System  
for Health

Sandra C. Forsythe

Megan Goldish

David J. Huber, CFP  
Financial Advisor/  
Managing Director  
Savant Wealth  
Management

Beena Joseph

Joel A. Kaplan, M.D.  
Retina Services Ltd.  
(Retired)

James M. Kesteloot, CRC  
President Emeritus  
The Chicago Lighthouse

Manus C. Kraff, M.D.  
Founder and President  
Kraff Eye Institute

Marvin Lader  
Datavantage  
Corporation (Retired)

Thomas Livingston  
Regional Vice President  
Midwest  
CSX Transportation

Judy McCaskey  
Educator and Civic  
Volunteer

Michael F. Meehan  
Sales, Marketing and  
Cost Containment  
Consultant

Karin Norington-Reaves  
CEO  
Chicago Cook  
Workforce Partnership

Laurie S. Randolph  
Partner  
Hinshaw & Culbertson  
LLP

Paul W. Rink  
Attorney (Retired)  
Pro Bono, Kane Legal  
Clinic

Robert Rourke  
Vice President  
LEK Consulting

Julie A. Stark  
Owner  
The Stark Solution

Sheree Schimmer  
Valukas

## THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

Richard R. Fabbrini

Carl Konrath

Dale Morrison

Vonita Reescer





# YOU NEED IT, WE GOT IT!

As hand sanitizers were in high demand at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, our Industries Team saw an opportunity. They found a way to not only help keep our community safe, but to support employment as well.

We expanded our partnership with SKM Industries, a woman-and-minority-owned manufacturing enterprise that helped us develop our lens and screen cleaner product line. SKM Industries manufactures hand sanitizers which are now packaged and distributed by members of our Industries Team who are blind or visually impaired. This has become an important new revenue stream for our organization and increased our capacity to provide employment for the disabled community. Our ability to adapt amidst the challenges presented by the pandemic, and find new ways to support our community, has only made us stronger.

Unlike many stores, there's no limit to how many hand sanitizers you can purchase from The Lighthouse. So there's no limit to how many jobs you can support! Sanitizers are available in a wide selection, including gels, sprays, unscented, aloe vera and aromatherapy. We offer many sizes from pens to gallon bottles for business and personal use.

**To shop, go to: [chicagolighthouseanitizer.com](http://chicagolighthouseanitizer.com).**

## CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE INDUSTRIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### CHAIR

Michael F. Meehan  
Sales, Marketing and Cost  
Containment Consultant

### VICE CHAIR

Ted Wecker  
President  
Skyline Furniture Mfg.

### PRESIDENT

Janet P. Szlyk, Ph.D.  
President and CEO  
The Chicago Lighthouse

### SECRETARY/TREASURER

Ted Mazola  
President  
New West Realty Group

### ASSISTANT TREASURER

Robert W. Clarke  
The RJ Clarke Group LLC

### DIRECTORS

Donald A. Belgrad  
Schnadig Corporation  
(Retired)

Peter Miller  
Founder and President  
Security Systems, Inc.

Robert Pascal  
President  
ForceRL

Tom Powers  
Medline Industries, Inc.  
(Retired)

Gary Rich  
Immediate Past Chair,  
The Chicago Lighthouse Board

# 2019 - 2020 Consolidated Financial Summary and Comparison

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

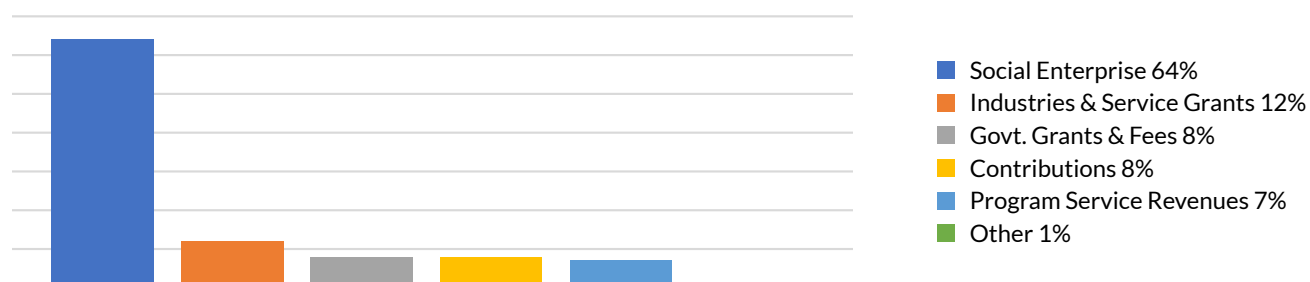
as of June 30

ASSETS			
		2019	2020
Cash	\$	681,729	\$ 1,518,436
Receivables, Net		7,828,693	3,827,188
Inventories		966,048	1,195,950
Investments		12,985,833	11,660,162
Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trusts		570,891	567,200
Prepaid Expenses		191,368	323,019
Land, Building and Equipment, Net		10,618,473	9,994,259
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>33,843,035</b>	<b>\$ 29,086,214</b>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Liabilities	\$	9,715,096	\$ 8,321,563
Net Assets			
Unrestricted		8,094,888	7,149,224
Unrestricted, Board Designated		9,683,739	8,241,055
Temporarily Restricted		4,331,270	3,400,449
Permanently Restricted		2,018,042	1,973,923
<b>Subtotal Net Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>24,127,939</b>	<b>\$ 20,764,651</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>33,843,035</b>	<b>\$ 29,086,214</b>

### REVENUE SOURCES



# STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

Period ended June 30

REVENUES			
	2019		2020
Contributions & Bequests	\$	4,968,552	\$ 3,157,143
Lighthouse Industries Sales		3,729,964	3,551,569
Call Centers/Service Contracts		32,389,339	28,667,195
Program Revenues		6,561,193	6,105,492
Investment Income		334,458	326,025
Miscellaneous		161,307	117,803
Change in Value of Split-Interest Agreements		(12,798)	(12,481)
Net Realized Gain/(Loss) on Investments		368,675	183,225
Net Change in Unrealized Appreciation of Long Term Investments		(65,373)	(370,491)
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>48,435,317</b>	<b>\$ 41,725,480</b>
EXPENSES			
Program Services	\$	42,126,934	\$ 38,252,992
Management & General		5,666,159	5,470,782
Fundraising		1,039,006	1,028,739
Public Relations		493,846	336,254
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>49,325,945</b>	<b>\$ 45,088,767</b>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS			
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$	25,018,567	\$ 24,127,939
Net Assets at End of Year	\$	24,127,939	\$ 20,764,652



# THE CHICAGO **SOCIAL**LIGHT

At the start of the pandemic, we agreed that the show must go on for the communities we serve. While we were fortunate to enjoy a number of in-person celebrations early in the year, we quickly adapted our events to virtual and hybrid formats. Along the way, we found new and exciting ways to connect with our supporters and create excitement for our mission.



1. Our **Virtual Scholarship Awards Ceremony** celebrates the accomplishments of 24 students who are blind, visually impaired or disabled. Through The Lighthouse's support, their dream schools are within reach.
2. Our **House & Garden Walk** goes virtual, featuring homes from around the country, including Arizona and California.
3. Casino guests cheer for a blackjack at our **Raising the Stakes for Vision: Poker & Casino Night** (pre-

pandemic) supporting programs and services at our Glenview location.

4. This year's **FLAIR** co-hosts, Tracey DiBuono and Candace Jordan, along with Lighthouse President and CEO Dr. Janet Szlyk, prepare for our fashion show broadcast live from our Preschool.
5. Guests enjoy singing and dancing at **Dueling Pianos** (pre-pandemic), which supported our Veterans Programs.



It's easier than ever to connect with our mission by attending our virtual and hybrid events!  
Learn more at: [chicagolighthouse.org/events](https://chicagolighthouse.org/events)



6. FLAIR models wear beautiful fashions in support of our Children's Programs.
7. Masks were a must-have accessory at The Lighthouse's **Seeing What's Possible Virtual Gala**.
8. Junior Board Member Charlotte Jackson (right) and Lighthouse Volunteer Haley Hoffman enjoy one of the many treats at our **Sweets for Sight** event (pre-pandemic), which benefits our Children's Programs.
9. Supporters from around the country come together for The Chicago Lighthouse at our **Seeing What's Possible Virtual Gala**.
10. Members of our Associate Board and other supporters of The Lighthouse enjoy playing Canasta, bridge, and Mahjong at **Games Galore** (pre-pandemic).

# LEADERS IN ACTION

This list is reflective of 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.

## ASSOCIATE BOARD

*President*

Sally Schwartz

*Executive Committee*

Haley Baer

Gail Boorstein

Nancy Burstyn

Allie Davidson

Lindsey Dextl

Jo Ann Galston

Terri Gordon

Gayle Harris

Amy Hausman

Jaclyn Joseph

Julie Kraff

Cheryl Kraff-Cooper, M.D.

Debi Learner

Pamela Leslie

Carly Linton

Nina Mann

Penny Meyers

Sheila Moss

Jenny Muslin

Joani Oslan

Fran Pine

Ilene Shaw

Julie Smith

Alison Stolberg

Kim Strauss

Dana Weiss

## JUNIOR BOARD

Holly Brown, Co-Chair

Joel Bruckman, Co-Chair

Megan Goldish, Co-Chair

## LIONS STRICKFADEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Chairman*

Past District Governor

Lion John Coleman

*Members*

Past Int'l Director Lion &

PDG Lion Dan O'Reilly

DG Lion Marilyn McLean

PDG Lion Howard Swacker

PDG Lion Austin D'Souza

PDG Lion Wes Salsbury

PDG Lion Steve Anton

## CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Janet P. Szlyk, Ph.D.

*President and CEO*

Pamela Tully, MBA

*Executive Vice President/COO*

Alisa Brill, CPA

*Chief Financial Officer*

Jennifer Miller, J.D.

*Chief Development Officer*

Lisa Birmingham, MAMS

*Chief Creative Director*

Jeanette Bonzani, P.H.R.

*Senior Vice President,*

*Human Resources*

Greg Polman

*Senior Vice President,*

*Public Policy*

Kathy Stoeberl

*Senior Vice President,*

*Call Center Enterprises*

Ricardo Vilchez

*Senior Vice President,*

*Information Technology*

Martha Younger-White

*Senior Vice President,*

*Employment & Rehabilitation Services*

Mary Lynne Januszewski, CPA

*Senior Financial Advisor*

Kara Crumbliss, F.A.A.O., O.D.

*Vice President of Clinical Services,*

*Low Vision*

Joseph Adelman

*Senior Director, Building & Grounds;*

*Shipping & Receiving*

Angela D'Antonio

*Senior Director, Marketing*

Marla Garstka

*Senior Director, Early Intervention*

Patricia Grant, Ph.D.

*Senior Director, Low Vision Research*

Robert Mantsh

*Senior Director, Adult Day Programs*

Melissa Wittenberg

*Senior Director, Chicago Lighthouse North;*

*Seniors Program*

## CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Lee Burklund


*Principal*



## ANSWERING THE CALL

Our dedicated Human Resources team, led by Jeanette Bonzani, worked tirelessly to transition hundreds of employees in our Call Centers to remote work and managed and educated our staff on continually changing COVID-19 protocols so we could continue to provide valuable job opportunities for our community.





It's easier than ever to connect with our mission from anywhere by attending our virtual and hybrid events!

Learn more at: [chicagolighthouse.org/events](https://chicagolighthouse.org/events)

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## 2021 EVENTS

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### **Virtual Sips & Sweets for Sight**

February 11, 2021

Raising the Stakes for Vision:

### **Virtual Poker Night**

February 26, 2021

Associate Board

### **Virtual Games Galore**

April 14, 2021

Seeing What's Possible **Annual Gala**

June 10, 2021

**Scholarship Awards** Celebration

July 31, 2021

Associate Board

### **Virtual House & Garden Walk**

November 5-7, 2021

**FLAIR:** Fun. Fashion. Philanthropy.™

Fall 2021

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## WE ARE HERE

**EDITORIAL CONCEPT** Janet P. Szlyk, Ph.D.

**WRITERS** Aaron Baar; Geovanni Bahena; Jessica Grant; Audrey Mast

### **EDITORIAL BOARD**

Aaron Baar; Angela D'Antonio; Jessica Grant; Jennifer Miller, J.D.; Melissa Wittenberg

**DESIGN** Lisa Birmingham

**PHOTOGRAPHY** Maria Baker; Lisa Birmingham; Michael Carr; Jessica Grant; Matt Kosterman; Vincent Johnson; Reflecting Walls Photography & Media; Mila Samokhina; Anna Schaff; Melissa Wittenberg

For large print or Braille versions of the Annual Report, call: (312) 666-1331 ext. 3358, or email: [publications@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:publications@chicagolighthouse.org)

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Unprecedented challenges—and new opportunities—emerge every day.  
**A gift to The Lighthouse's Endowment Campaign is an investment in our continued legacy.** With your support, we can keep opening doors to help people live more independent, fulfilling lives—long into the future.



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 donate, please contact:  
Janet P. Szlyk, Ph.D., President/CEO (312) 997-3644.**



The Chicago  
Lighthouse

1850 West Roosevelt Road, Chicago, IL 60608 | Tel (312) 666-1331  
222 Waukegan Road, Glenview, IL 60025 | Tel (847) 510-6200

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

