



The Chicago Lighthouse

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

chicagolighthouse.org/events

FLAIR. Fun. Fashion. Philanthropy.™

Friday, September 30, 2022

one.bidpal.net/flair

Rise to Shine 5K/10K/1 Mile

Sunday, October 23, 2022

Rise2shineRace.org

36th Annual House and Garden Walk-Virtual

November 4-6, 2022

chicagolighthouse.org/event/HouseAndGarden

Bets for Vets: Virtual Poker Night

November 10, 2022

one.bidpal.net/BetsForVets



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

Did you know we have been helping people who are blind or visually impaired find work for 100 years? In 1922, The Chicago Lighthouse launched its first employment program, providing jobs for clients in our

building. Among the opportunities was assembling telephone terminal plates and switchboards; in just four minutes, our employees could bring together 129 different pieces to create a finished product.

The Chicago Tribune called that work a “miracle,” but we have always known better. Over the past 100 years, we have helped countless individuals find purpose, meaning, and community through employment. We have never been surprised by our clients’ abilities. Rather, we have been surprised by the continued resistance to including people with disabilities in the workforce.

According to Accenture, increasing the employment of people with disabilities by a mere 1% would add \$25 billion to the U.S. GDP.¹ That figure is both shocking and

exciting. Shocking because it shows how far we have to go to increase access and inclusion in the workplace, and exciting because we know our efforts creating jobs for Veterans and people with disabilities can have a major effect on not just our community, but the entire country.

When organizations like UI Health, The Illinois Secretary of State’s Office and Howard Brown Health contract with The Chicago Lighthouse, they are demonstrating a commitment to inclusion in the workplace and encouraging others to follow suit. We are grateful to have them as partners as we move into our second century of helping our clients build confidence and independence through meaningful employment.

¹“Getting to Equal: The Disability Inclusion Advantage.” Accenture Research, in partnership with Disability:IN and The American Association of People with Disabilities. 2018.



ON THE COVER: Michael Hansen, a Customer Care Team Lead for our UI Health Contact Center, is now part of the Social Enterprise solution that helps support programming like our Birth-to-Three Program, where he received services in the early 90s.

Dear Friends,



Two Like-Minded Organizations Working Together

Founded in 1974, Howard Brown Health is more than a healthcare organization. It is a social service entity that provides clinical health services and works to empower marginalized communities through social programs. Through a multi-site operation (including a health and research center in Uptown and clinics in Lakeview, Rogers Park, Englewood, Hyde Park, Back of the Yards, and Humboldt Park), Howard Brown serves more than 40,000 individuals every year.

In August 2021, the organization contracted The Chicago Lighthouse to provide overflow contact center services. According to Jimm E. Cobb, Director of Patient Services, The Lighthouse has proven itself to be an outstanding business and community partner.

How did you hear about The Chicago Lighthouse?

Jimm Cobb: I actually applied for a job there in September 2020. I was really impressed with the work you were doing and the community you were building. Shortly after I applied, however, I got offered this position at Howard Brown Health, and so I stayed here. When it came time to find a partner for some of our patient contact business, I knew exactly where to go.

What was it that convinced you The Lighthouse could handle your business?

Jimm Cobb: The Lighthouse has a roster of great clients: UI Health, Advocate Health Systems and The Illinois Tollway to name a few. They all said great things about their business at The Lighthouse. Plus, you have experience working in the health care sector, which can be complicated and requires certain protocols around privacy. The Lighthouse has those pieces in place, so I knew you could take on our business seamlessly.

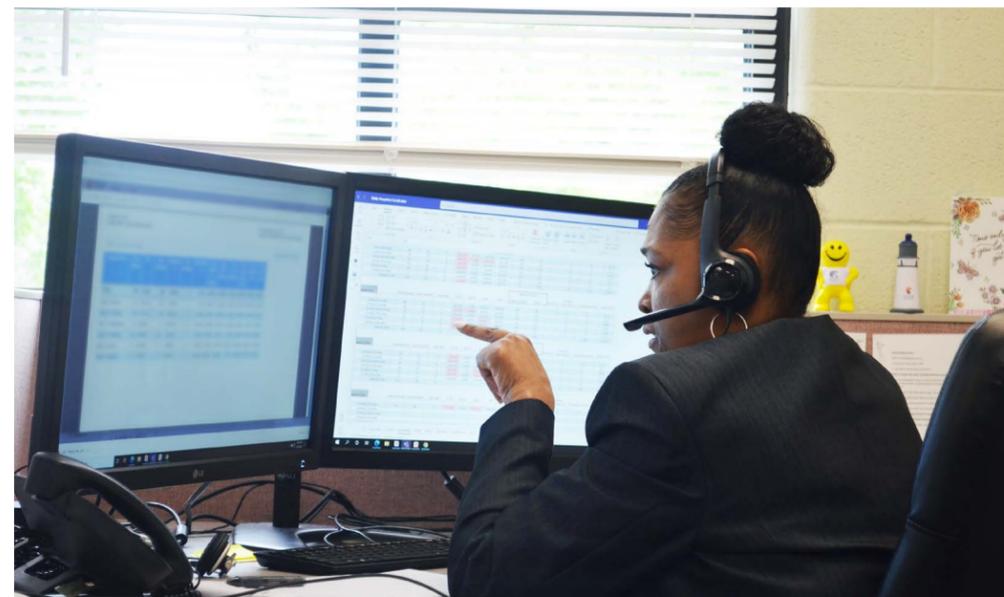
Was there anything else that appealed to you?

Jimm Cobb: As a community organization, we always want to work with another not-for-profit that is making a difference. We had been working with another organization providing these services, but they were in another state, and it wasn't really working out. The services you provide in Chicago and the Midwest are part of our community. We also have very similar missions, and it seemed like we would be a great fit.

How has it worked out for you?

Jimm Cobb: We are really enjoying what we're seeing. The Lighthouse is handling our overflow calls, which means any call that we can't answer within two minutes, as well as those that come in after hours, are picked up by The Lighthouse. As a result, we can help everyone who needs us, even during extremely busy times.

**THE CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE
IS PROVIDING CONTACT
CENTER SERVICES FOR
HOWARD BROWN HEALTH,
ONE OF THE LARGEST
LGBTQ+ SOCIAL SERVICE
AGENCIES IN THE COUNTRY.**



TOP: Lighthouse employees handle overflow calls for Howard Brown Health. ABOVE: "We are really enjoying what we're seeing," says Jimm E. Cobb of The Lighthouse's Contact Center Services.

GET READY TO RISE TO SHINE!



Start training now for our first-ever Rise to Shine Run & Walk through the Illinois Medical District on Sunday, October 23.

The chip-timed 10K/5K/1M course will wind through the Illinois Medical District and will be accessible, inclusive and welcome runners and walkers of all competitive

levels and ages. Register individually or create a team for a fun group outing!

Even if you don't participate in the race, please join us afterwards for a Family Dash Bash featuring a kid's race, entertainment and other fun activities. It's a great opportunity to support the community and see all the exciting things happening in the Illinois Medical District.



Proceeds from the Rise to Shine Run & Walk will benefit The Chicago Lighthouse and Chicago Central Lions Club, who are working together to promote healthy lifestyles and vision services in our community.



All registered participants will receive a cooling performance long-sleeved shirt, custom finisher medal and will be eligible for age awards in groups up to age 70+. Get your team together, and get ready to show support for our community. Subscribe to our email newsletter and follow us on social media to receive updates and registration information.

< ACCESSIBILITY CREATES POSSIBILITY />



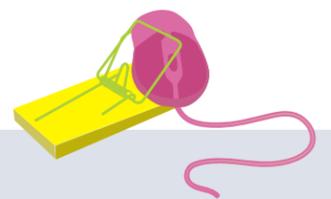
Including users with disabilities in the design process makes the digital world more inclusive.

Much of the digital world is still unreachable for people with disabilities. We helped raise awareness of this critical issue by celebrating Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) on May 19.

Members of our Digital Accessible Experience (DAX) Team were invited to participate in webinars with The University of Chicago, the Museum Store Association and the organization, Digita11y Accessible, to share their expertise on inclusive digital design as well as the importance of utilizing users with disabilities in the design and development process. Our team even had the chance to speak on a panel alongside GAAD Co-founder Jennison Asuncion.

You can learn simple ways to help make the web more accessible and inclusive by scanning the QR code and taking our **Digital Accessibility 101 Crash Course**.

< DID YOU KNOW THAT 98% OF WEBSITES HAVE AT LEAST ONE ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE ERROR? />



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THE IMPORTANCE of SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

—From our Board Members

The Chicago Lighthouse's Social Enterprises have been critical in ensuring our ability to provide services through the leanest of times. We are fortunate to have a wide range of business expertise on our Board, which has enabled us to expand these enterprises, which include our Contact Centers, Digital Accessible Experience (DAX) consultants, and the manufacturing, shipping and contract closeout components of Lighthouse Industries.

We asked a few of them about why these ventures are important for The Chicago Lighthouse's operations.



"The Lighthouse's social businesses are vital to our mission and are essential to the fiscal health of The Lighthouse as we deliver our clinical, research and other social service programs to the people who need them."

—**ROBERT CLARKE**
Board Chair and
Principal of The RJ Clarke Group, LLC



"Meaningful employment helps youth with disabilities develop into self-confident and independent adults."

—**TED WECKER**
CEO at Skyline Furniture



"Our Social Enterprises are important for two reasons, to support our mission and to generate dollars for our social service programs."

—**GARY RICH**
Retired



"Our Social Enterprises have been a solid initiative to expand The Chicago Lighthouse through commercial and business relationships and take control of our destiny."

—**MIKE MEEHAN**
Sales, Marketing and
Cost Containment Consultant

GOING ALL-IN FOR THE LIGHTHOUSE

On March 3rd, Gibsons Steakhouse/Hugo's Frog Bar played host to over 200 poker and casino enthusiasts who spent the evening Raising the Stakes for Vision. Co-Chaired by Jeffrey Jackson, Ph.D., and Chicago Lighthouse Board Member Gary Rich, **this signature fundraiser raised over \$100,000 to support the critical programs and services of The Chicago Lighthouse.** Laura Dorn took home the tournament grand prize of a \$10,000 seat at the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas, as well as the Last Woman Standing Prize presented by Poker Power.

During the evening, we also highlighted the incredible story of "three aces" from The Chicago Lighthouse: Marcus, Ty, and Ty's son DeAndre, whose lives were changed through opportunities at The Lighthouse. Scan the QR code to watch the video.



CENTER: Laura Dorn, winner of the \$10,000 Grand Prize seat at the World Series of Poker and the Last Woman Standing. ABOVE: More than 165 players turned out to try their hands at the tournament. LEFT: Dr. Janet Szlyk, Chicago Lighthouse President & CEO, participates in a round of blackjack.



PLEASE CONSIDER A PLANNED GIFT! You can help the thousands of people we serve each year AND have the satisfaction of knowing that in the future, people with disabilities will benefit from your generosity. An estate gift of \$50,000 to our *Envision the Future* Endowment Campaign, with a 4% annual investment return, will generate \$2,000 annually for The Lighthouse in perpetuity. Please contact the Development Team at (312) 997-3668 or giving@chicagolighthouse.org for more information.