



## Growth | 2022 Annual Report

Growth is the progression of becoming more complete, of expanding and becoming more relevant. Growth is essential to survival, and it requires adaptability and perseverance. Yet it also requires careful nurturing and mindful guidance.

By all definitions, 2022 was a year of growth for The Chicago Lighthouse. It came in the form of new programs and services, expanded operations, and through mindful care that secured our future and ensured The Lighthouse would thrive for generations to come. As a word, "growth" takes its meaning from the Old English term for "flourish," which is precisely what The Chicago Lighthouse continues to do.

### Dear Friends



In September 2022, The Chicago Lighthouse held a ribbon cutting for a small learning garden. In partnership with Urban Transformation Network, a small space on our building's southwest side is now a place where students in our school, participants in our Adult Living Skills program and Veteran clients can grow food and flowers and connect with the earth.

Admittedly, the learning garden was not our largest project of the year, but it is emblematic of our year and our theme for our 2022 Annual Report: Growth. Like our learning garden, The Chicago Lighthouse creates opportunities to take small ideas, guide their development and help them flourish.

To us, however, growth does not just mean "getting bigger." It refers to extending our roots by building a 76-unit residential building that will establish The Lighthouse as a haven for people with disabilities, Veterans and those with low incomes. It means extending branches of support to other organizations to meet evolving community needs and providing new, knowledge-based job opportunities for our clients. It includes completing a successful endowment campaign, ensuring we will thrive for generations to come.

Yes, by every measure, 2022 was a year of tremendous growth for The Chicago Lighthouse. We are extremely proud of our accomplishments this year, and we are even more excited about how this year's work will help us continue to grow.

Thank you for your support,

**Robert W. Clarke**Chair, Board of Directors

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President and Chief Executive Officer



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## Rick Forsythe: A Legacy that Will Live Forever



Rick and Sandy have probably done more to advance the diagnosis and treatment of low vision than any other single person or family in the country.

-Janet Szlyk, Ph.D. | President & CEO

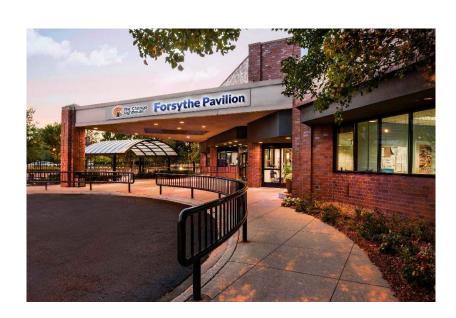
In December 2022, Rick Forsythe—a tireless supporter of low vision research and treatment at The Chicago Lighthouse and for many other organizations around the country—passed away, making all of our lights just a little dimmer.

Rick and his beloved wife Sandy (who is a member of our Board) have been a part of The Lighthouse family for over 20 years. They have supported and nurtured our work, and always encouraged us to do better and do more. Equally important, they also made the financial investments necessary to fulfill our potential and secure our future success. "We will always be forever grateful to them for their tireless support and commitment to making the world better for those with vision impairments," says Lighthouse President and CEO Janet Szlyk, Ph.D.

Rick was a successful and compassionate businessman and philanthropist, and we are proud to have his name attached to several of our programs, including the Forsythe Center for Comprehensive Vision Care and the Forsythe Entrepreneurial Center in Chicago, as well as the Sandy Forsythe Center for Assistive Technology in our Glenview location.



We are honored to continue Rick Forsythe's legacy through these programs, as well as through our building at 1850 Roosevelt Road, which has been named The Forsythe Pavilion in recognition of his and Sandy's ongoing commitment to our programs and services. Thanks to Rick, the Forsythe name will always serve as a reminder of how we can—and should—push ourselves to do more and do better for everyone in our community. He is forever in our hearts.



## Deepening Our Roots for "A New Area of Accessibility"



In 1955, The Chicago Lighthouse put down roots in the Illinois Medical District, establishing a permanent location where Chicagoans who are blind or visually impaired receive vision care, employment training, and learn skills that are vital for independent living.

Over the ensuing 38 years, that building has expanded into a 100,000-square-foot space that houses those original programs (including the country's oldest continually operating Low Vision Clinic), as well as our clock factory, twelve social enterprise contact centers and a school.

In the biggest undertaking in our history, The Chicago Lighthouse strengthened its ties to our location, breaking ground on "The Foglia Residences at The Chicago Lighthouse." When it opens in Spring 2024, the building will offer 76 income-qualifying residential units, outfitted with accessible features for people who are blind or visually impaired. Leasing emphasis will be given to people with disabilities and Veterans.



**Nearly 25% of those who are homeless are disabled.**<sup>1</sup> Like so many of The Lighthouse's programs, The Foglia Residences will fill an urgent need in our community. Nearly one-quarter of individuals who experience homelessness are people with disabilities and just over 9% are Veterans.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> \*Source: National Association of County and City Health Officials, 2019



The Foglia Residences were developed in partnership with David Brint, a former Lighthouse board member and Founder and Principal at Brinshore Development. For David, the project is personal. His son Alan is blind, making David acutely aware of the need for safe, affordable, accessible housing for the visually impaired population. As with any project representing growth, David hopes The Foglia Residences plant the seeds for similar developments in other areas.

Before starting his own healthcare products company, Vincent Foglia (pictured here with his wife, Patricia) began his career selling medical products in the Illinois Medical District. In remarks at the summer

groundbreaking event, Mr. Foglia expressed his pride in helping to bring safe, affordable, accessible housing to the area.





In May 2022, The Chicago
Lighthouse renamed our northsuburban Glenview location in
honor of Board member, business
leader and donor David Huber
and his wife, Nancy. What was
once Chicago Lighthouse North is
now "The Chicago Lighthouse
Huber Vision Rehabilitation
Center."

The Hubers are longtime supporters of The Chicago

Lighthouse and our Lighthouse North location. David has been a member of our board since 2008. His business, Huber Financial Advisors, LLC, was the presenting sponsor of our "Lighthouses on the Mag Mile" public art display in 2018.

"David and Nancy's commitment to our organization will help countless individuals in the north and northwest suburbs in need of our low vision expertise," said Lighthouse President and CEO Janet Szlyk, Ph.D., as she unveiled the new name.

Though the name has changed, the services remain. In fact, the site has expanded its programs, including increased comprehensive optometric care, additional psychological counseling availability and increased assistive technology assistance.

## New Branches of Partnership



#### **Celebrating Inclusion**

In October 2022, The Chicago Lighthouse, in partnership with **The Chicago Central Lions Club** and **The Illinois Medical District**, kicked off the inaugural "Rise to Shine Run and Walk." The event, which included 10K, 5K and 1-mile course options, celebrated health, wellness and community throughout the Illinois Medical District and was fully accessible for people with all types of disabilities. More than 200 individuals participated in the event, which we hope to turn into an annual happening to showcase the vibrancy of our local community and the power of inclusion.



## Branching into New Fields

Shaina, who is visually impaired, was one of the first participants to complete the Certified Medical Administrative Assistant training program, presented in partnership with Moraine Valley Community College. The self-directed program helps people with disabilities prepare for the National Certification Exam to become medical administrative assistants. This program is part of The Lighthouse's commitment to developing more knowledge-based job opportunities.



#### Nurturing Independence

Gardening encourages physical activity, reduces stress, helps develop social and motor skills, and nurtures independence. In September 2022, The Lighthouse, in partnership with Urban Transformation Network's Metropolitan Farms, unveiled a new learning garden where students from the Children's Development Center, participants in our Adult

Living Skills Program and Veteran clients tend to fresh vegetables and flowers. "I am excited about this partnership and how far we can expand into the future," said Urban Transformation Network CEO Donald Peterson.

## Finding Support and Growth as a Family



Just as gardens need nourishment and support to grow strong, The Chicago Lighthouse provides its community with opportunities that will help everyone blossom. For the Hernandez family, Juan and Elizabeth, who are both legally blind, and their daughter Karen, The Lighthouse has been the trellis that has supported their family's growth and strength.

The Hernandez Family has been part of The Lighthouse community since 2014, when Elizabeth began work in our University of Illinois Health System contact center. The job provided Elizabeth an opportunity to reap all the benefits of employment (including a steady paycheck, benefits and social

connections). It also offered a preschool where her daughter, Karen (then a 4-year-old) could learn kindergarten-readiness skills. Elizabeth and Karen came to The Lighthouse together, where both found a place to help them flourish.

Meanwhile, Juan was searching for opportunities of his own. College-educated, Juan faced the same barriers to employment that are all too familiar for those who are blind or visually impaired. He might get a first interview, but he rarely got a second and never got the job. An accomplished musician, Juan took to busking in the streets and subway stations to help his family. The gig had its challenges—his guitar was stolen more than once—but it offered freedom to be an attentive parent for his daughter.

When the COVID-19 outbreak shut down the subways, Juan once again found himself looking for opportunities. With Elizabeth working remotely, Juan saw his chance and began working for The Chicago Lighthouse as a contact center agent.

As a result of the care and guidance they have received from The Lighthouse, the Hernandez family has thrived. Karen is blossoming as a sixth-grader, and the steady support Juan and Elizabeth are getting from their jobs helped them put down permanent roots.

They've also grown their family. In 2022, the Hernandez's adopted a poodle named Valentina. Karen is very excited.

## From Small Things, Big Things Will Grow



In February 2022, neurosurgeons from Rush University Medical Center implanted the world's first Intracortical Visual Prosthesis (ICVP) into a participant who has been completely blind since 2016. Only 5 millimeters in diameter, these devices—which are placed directly on the visual cortex, bypassing the retina and optic nerve—are almost literally the seeds from which the prospect of artificial vision may grow.

Since April 2022, The Chicago Lighthouse has served as the testing center for the trial of the world's first wireless ICVP, and the results, according to Dr. Patricia Grant, The Lighthouse's Lauren M. Ross Chair of Low Vision Research and Vice President of Research, are promising. In the following Q&A, Dr. Grant provides an update.

#### What happened during the surgery last February?

Neurologists from Rush University Medical Center implanted 25 individual wireless floating microelectrode arrays (WFMAs) directly onto the participant's visual cortex of the brain. Each WFMA is small (about the size of a pencil eraser), and each has 16 tiny independently addressable electrodes that provide stimulation to regions of the visual cortex. That's a total of 400 individual stimulation channels.

#### What are these implants designed to do?

Electrical stimulation from the electrodes create visual percepts called phosphenes. Our goal is that when the electrodes are stimulated, the phosphenes' appearance and location, reported by the participant, remain consistent.

#### Is there anything you can say about the preliminary results?

So far, the data we have collected has been invaluable to the clinical trial. The participant has experienced phosphenes that are described as bright or dark dots or rings that are blueish-white, orange, red or iridescent. Using information from the participant, we have been able to create a map of where each phosphene is located. When we connect the ICVP system to a camera-based headset, the participant can identify their finger and hand moving in front of the camera, the location of a person in the test room, objects on a table, and simple geometric shapes. We expect these abilities to improve as we fill in more detail on the phosphene map.

#### What do these findings mean?

First, these preliminary results have provided important information about the safety of the surgery and the implants. We are also learning which WFMAs provide the most useful information. These findings will guide WFMA placement for future participants. As we enroll more participants in the study, we will continue to gain more knowledge about the potential of the system.

#### What are the next steps for this clinical trial?

For the current participant, we will continue to focus on spatial mapping to further understand where in the participant's visual space electrodes are producing visual percepts. This information will be useful for future work with the camera. In addition, we are actively recruiting additional participants for the study, so we can attempt to replicate these results.

#### **ICVP Study Group**

The Chicago Lighthouse

Janet Szlyk, Ph.D.—Site Principal Investigator Patricia Grant, Ph.D. Meesa Royster

IIT

Phil Troyk, Ph.D.—Principal Investigator

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Stuart Cogan, Ph.D.



The Intracortical Visual Prosthesis is a set of wireless electrodes—each about the size of a pencil eraser—placed directly on the brain's visual cortex, bypassing the retina and optic nerve. When the electrodes are stimulated, they create visual percepts called phosphenes. During the clinical trial, a participant without light perception has described the phosphenes as bluish-white, orange, red or iridescent dots or rings.

## Extending Community Connections Through Social Enterprise



Founded in 1974, Howard Brown Health is more than a healthcare provider. It is a social service entity that provides clinical health services and works to empower marginalized communities through social programs. The organization serves more than 40,000 individuals every year.

For just over a year, The Chicago Lighthouse has been providing overflow Contact Center Services for Howard Brown Health. According to Jimm E. Cobb, Director of Patient Services, The Lighthouse has proven itself to be an outstanding business and community partner.

#### Why did you choose The Chicago Lighthouse to handle your business?

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 the business seamlessly.

#### What else appealed to you?

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 local to us. We also have very similar missions, and it seemed like we would be a great fit.

#### How has it worked out?

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, is picked up by The Lighthouse. As a result, we can help everyone who needs us during busy times.

In March 2023, Mr. Cobb joined The Chicago Lighthouse as Vice President of New Business Development for our Social Enterprise Contact Centers. Welcome to The Lighthouse, Jimm.

Find out more about our Social Business Enterprises at <u>lighthouseenterprises.org</u>.



# Creativity in Bloom in Photography for All Program

Our Photography for All Program teaches youth with visual impairments how to use an iPad's accessibility features to create visual art. This photograph, taken by program participant Adamaris Ayala, was recognized by Apple CEO Tim Cook on Twitter.

Tim Cook said: "Beautiful work from blind and low vision creators in Chicago's Photography for all summer program. They Described how taking photos on iPhone or iPad is about more than creativity – it's a way to access visual information and explore new places."

## Celebrating Envision The Future Campaign Success



In July 2020, The Chicago Lighthouse launched a campaign to build our endowment and ensure the organization's long-term financial health. In the three years since, over 700 Lighthouse friends committed more than \$19 million to the Envision the Future Endowment Campaign, which will sustain our life-changing work for generations to come.

Caroline Grossinger, Board Member and Chair of the Envision the Future Endowment Campaign, credits the extraordinary success of this effort both to the cause and the donors. "When we began this campaign with a goal of \$7 million, we couldn't have imagined the enthusiastic response from Lighthouse supporters," said Grossinger. "Those who made a gift have invested in the future of our mission. They are deeply committed to our work providing essential services to individuals most in-need."

We are grateful to everyone who contributed to the Envision the Future Endowment Campaign. The Chicago Lighthouse is a stronger, more impactful organization thanks to your generosity.

## Planned Giving



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Ed Jepson

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 Lora Nickels, Senior Director of Individual Giving, at (312) 997-3643 or email <a href="mailto:lora.nickels@chicagolighthouse.org">lora.nickels@chicagolighthouse.org</a>. If you have remembered us in your will or estate plan, please let us know, so that we can effectively honor your wishes and properly acknowledge your gift

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~Staff

## The Corwith Hamill Society



The Corwith Hamill Society honors and recognizes our generous long-term donors. Gold is for 20 or more years of continuous giving; silver is for 15 and bronze is for 10.

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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Mario's Place Barber Shop Salon Elan

Merz Apothecary Sanders Fine Portraits

Mira Couture Scooter's Custard

## The Chicago Lighthouse Board of Directors

CHA	ID	NЛ	Λ	NI
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#### Robert W. Clarke

Principal

The RJ Clarke Group, LLC

#### **VICE CHAIRMAN**

#### Edward C. Jepson, Jr.

Attorney, Employment Law Vedder Price (Retired)

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CIBC Bank USA

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#### **ASSISTANT SECRETARY**

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(Retired)

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Smith Gambrell & Russell,
LLP

#### David J. Huber, CFP

Financial Advisor/Managing Director

Savant Wealth Management

#### Julie A. Stark

Owner / Managing
Director
The Stark Solution

## CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE INDUSTRIES

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#### Michael F. Meehan

Sales, Marketing and Cost Containment Consultant

#### **DIRECTORS**

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Attorney at Law Bridge Builders Consulting & Legal Services

#### Thomas A. Deutsch, M.D.

Senior Advisor to the CEO Rush University System for Health

#### **Terri Engelman Rhoads**

President Midwest Management Group

#### **Andre Fair**

President Omar Medical Supplies, Inc.

#### Sandra C. Forsythe

#### **Megan Goldish**

#### Beena Joseph

#### **Marvin Lader**

DataVantage Corporation (Retired)

#### **Thomas Livingston**

Vice President, Government Affairs CSX

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Educator and Civic

Volunteer

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Partner
Perkins Coie LLP

Paul W. Rink
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**Sheree Schimmer** 

**Nick Smith** 

Correspondent/Host NewsNation/WGN-T

## Chicago Lighthouse Industries Board of Directors

CHAIRMAN	PRESIDENT	DIRECTORS
Michael F. Meehan	Janet P. Szlyk, Ph.D.	Robert W. Clarke
Sales, Marketing and	President and CEO	Principal
Cost Containment Consultant	The Chicago Lighthouse	The RJ Clarke Group, LLC
	SECRETARY/TREASURER	Peter Miller
VICE CHAIRMAN		Founder and President
	Ted Mazola	Security Systems, Inc.
Don Belgrad	New West Realty Group	Gary Rich
Schnadig Corporation (Retired)		(Retired)
		Ted Wecker
		CEO
		Skyline Furniture

## **Auxiliary Boards**

#### **ASSOCIATE BOARD**

**President**Sally Schwartz

**Executive Committee** 

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Gail Boorstein
Allie Davidson
Lindsey Dexl
Jo Ann Galston
Courtney Golding

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 Joani Oslan Fran Pine Ilene Shaw Alison Stolberg

Kim Strauss Dana Weiss Jamie Zaransky

#### JUNIOR BOARD

**Co-Chairs** Joel Bruckman Megan Goldish Vice Chair of Membership Adam Sheppard **Event Co-Chairs**Jamie Dickler
Kim Pressling

## LIONS STRICKFADEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Past District Governor

Lion John Coleman

Members
Past Int'l Director Lion &
PDG Lion Dan O'Reilly
PDG PCC Lion Steve Anton
PDG Lion Howard Swacker

**Governor** Lion Tony Zartler

#### PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

Steve Adelman, Chair Judge Keith Brown Dr. Paul Chan Allyson Hansen Candace Jordan Julie Pesch Laurie Randolph
Dr. Thasarat Vajaranant

## Board of Directors Members Emeriti

President Emeritus/Director Emeritus

James M. Kesteloot

**Directors Emeritus** 

Frank Chanen

Anida Johnson "Cookie"

Cohen

John Coleman

**Bruce Foudree** 

H. Dennis Giertz

Joel A. Kaplan, M.D.

Manus Kraff, M.D.

Daniel G. Lee

Linda Manning

Judge Nicholas T. Pomaro

**Edward Schwartz** 

## In Memoriam

The Chicago Lighthouse was saddened by the recent passing of these friends and supporters. We are grateful for their commitment to our important mission during their lifetimes. Their kindness will be remembered through our good works today and for years to come.

Mr. Sanford A. Bank	Dr. Stephen M. Harrison	Mr. Steven B. Ross
Mr. Daniel Benninghoven	Mrs. Diane Heller	Ms. Christine Samaan
Ms. Davita Bloom	Mr. Howard J. Huber	Mr. Nolan Schloemer
Ms. Emily J. Brockman	Mr. Ron Katz	Dr. Susan Sicotte
Ms. Mary Buxton	Mr. Carl Konrath	Mr. Lowell I. Stahl
Ms. Terry J. Caldrone	Mr. Sigmund Lefkovitz	Ms. Phyllis R. Statham
Mr. John Cardiello	Mr. Craig Lynch	Mrs. JoAnne Steinback
Dr. Roy W. Carlson	Mrs. Peg Maher	Mr. Roger W. Stone
Ms. Nancy Cavey	Mr. Frank Mareska	Mr. Kevin Sullivan
Ms. Margaret Cooney	Ms. Letizia Moriarty	Mr. Neal Thayer
Ms. Sally G. Crooker	Mrs. Diana Nawrocki	Ms. Virginia Townsend
Mrs. Jeanne I. Dohnalek	Mr. Robert Pascal	Ms. Carol M. Welc
Ms. Annette Feldman	Mr. William G. Paullin	Ms. Lillian Yannell
Ms. Loraine Field	Mr. William Perlman	Mrs. Margaret V. Zelisko
Mr. Richard A. Forsythe	Mrs. Vonita Reescer	
Mr. David F. Haile	Ms. Lauren Ross	

All lists are reflective of the time of publication.

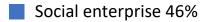
# 2021 - 2022 Consolidated Financial Summary and Comparison

#### Statements of Financial Position

#### as of June 30

ASSETS		
	2021	2022
Cash	\$6,274,970	\$2,328,066
Receivables, Net	7,070,009	13,270,122
Inventories	610,565	799,672
Investments	14,578,750	16,368,684
Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trusts	708,293	566,814
Prepaid Expenses	369,258	157,653
Land, Building and Equipment, Net	9,644,798	9,216,060
Total Assets	\$39,256,643	\$42,707,071

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
	2021	2022
Liabilities	\$12,332,072	\$7,044,042
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	8,916,220	7,246,588
Unrestricted, Board Designated	12,510,922	12,990,111
Temporarily Restricted	3,382,410	13,311,312
Permanently Restricted	2,115,018	2,115,018
Subtotal Net Assets	\$26,924,571	\$35,663,029
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$39,256,643	\$42,707,071



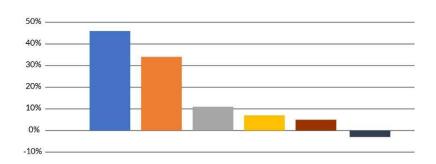
Contributions/Events 34%

Program Service Revenues 11%

Industries & Service Grants 7%

■ Govt. Grants & Fees 5%

Investment Revenues -3%



## Statements of Activities

### Period ended June 30

REVENUES		
	2021	2022
Contributions & Bequests	\$5,777,340	\$18,031,466
Lighthouse Industries Sales	3,802,526	3,805,923
Call Centers/Service Contracts	31,264,860	24,436,521
Program Revenues	6,204,301	8,291,973
Investment Income	280,868	-
Miscellaneous	-	126,166
Change in Value of Split-Interest Agreements	132,256	(154,916)
Net Realized Gain/(Loss) on Investments	367,022	(1,977,796)
Net Change in Unrealized Appreciation	1,272,552	329,536
of Long Term Investments		
Total Revenues	\$49,101,725	\$52,888,873

EXPENSES		
Program Services	\$35,173,943	\$36,209,553
Management & General	6,176,690	6,369,563
Fundraising	1,290,835	981,880
Public Relations	300,337	589,419
Total Expenses	\$42,941,805	\$44,150,415

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$6,159,920	\$8,738,458
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$20,764,652	\$26,924,572
Net Assets at End of Year	\$26,924,572	\$35,663,030

## The Chicago Socialight

See and be seen at one of The Chicago Lighthouse's unique and engaging events. Whether it's a poker and casino night, a fashion show, or an evening of decadent desserts, there's always something happening in support of our mission.

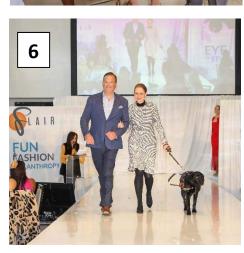
Be part of the fun! See our upcoming events at: <a href="mailto:chicagolighthouse.org/events">chicagolighthouse.org/events</a>



















- 1. The Sweetest Night of the Year! Our Junior Board celebrated a great Sweets for Sight event, in support of Lighthouse Children's and Youth Programs, which they hosted at the lively Carnivale restaurant.
- 2. Champions for the blind and visually impaired community. Sandy and, the late, Rick Forsythe were honored as our Beacon of Light Awardees at a special dinner last Spring.
- 3. Our Lader Family Scholarship awards celebration honored 18 students who are blind, visually impaired or disabled. With The Lighthouse's support, they are realizing their educational dreams.
- 4. Our Associate Board's 36th Annual House & Garden Walk featured gorgeous homes from across the country.
- 5. As part of our First Jobs Program, blind and visually impaired youth showcased their work at the Photography for All exhibit held at The Chicago Center for Arts and Technology.
- 6. Vice President of Entrepreneurial Programs, Colleen Wunderlich, escorted by Paul Iacono, walked the FLAIR runway with her guide dog, Nora.
- 7. Highlight from FLAIR 2022 featuring (L to R) co-host, Candace Jordan, Honoree Sherry Lea Holson, and co-chairs, Sherrill Bodine and Sheree Schimmer.
- 8. Guests celebrate a great craps roll at our Raising the Stakes for Vision: Poker & Casino Night.
- 9. Light of the Night Honorees, Carol & Marv Lader pose with Board Member Caroline Grossinger (L) and President & CEO Janet Szlyk, Ph.D. (R) at the Seeing What's Possible Gala.



# Providing Pathways to Independence

#### **OUR MISSION**

The Chicago Lighthouse is a not-for-profit agency committed to providing the highest quality educational, clinical, vocational and rehabilitation services for children, youth and adults who are blind or visually impaired, including deaf-blind and multi-disabled. The Chicago Lighthouse opens

doors to opportunities, choice, jobs and independence for people of all ages who are blind or visually impaired, and in furtherance of this objective, assists and employs people who are otherwise disabled and Veterans.

For 40 years, our Mission Statement has served as The Chicago Lighthouse's North Star, providing direction for our programs and services as we have grown.

Long-term relevance was the goal, recalls Rick Berlet, who led a group of employees and supporters in developing the Mission Statement in the 1980s. "That's what a Mission Statement is supposed to be," he says. "If you're changing it often, you probably haven't done a good job of creating it in the first place."

As they crafted the Mission Statement over several drafts, the team kept coming back to The Lighthouse's commitment to providing pathways to independence for its clients. "That spirit has shaped The Lighthouse ever since," says Berlet, who is now retired in North Carolina. "Every time I come back, I'm pumped up to see how it has been applied to the times."



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