



**LOTTO WINNERS LEAVE \$4M GIFT  
to The Chicago Lighthouse**



The Chicago Lighthouse

1850 W. Roosevelt Road • Chicago, IL 60608-1228

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**CHANGING LIVES EVERYDAY**

## Join The Samuelson Society!

The Chicago Lighthouse celebrates planned gift donors with membership in The Samuelson Society. It is named after former Executive Director, Milton J. Samuelson, a Lighthouse employee for over 30 years and a lifelong advocate for the blind community. Samuelson received honors and recognition from the Illinois Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, as well as the Chicago Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities.

### Benefits of Membership

- Invitation to special events including tours and a meet-and-greet with the CEO.
- Recognition of your gift in our publications (if you choose).
- The knowledge that your gift will help The Lighthouse continue to change lives and provide critical programs and services for people who are blind, visually impaired, disabled or Veterans for decades to come.

If you have included The Lighthouse in your estate plans, please let us know and plan to join us on **Wednesday, September 14, 2023, at 11 a.m. at our Glenview location for a special brunch where we will honor our Samuelson Society members.** For more information and to RSVP, contact Senior Director of Individual Giving Lora Nickels at (312) 997-3643 or [lora.nickels@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:lora.nickels@chicagolighthouse.org).



## Easy Ways You Can Make a Difference

**Planned gifts do not need to be complicated or even involve an attorney. Below are a few quick and straightforward ways you can leave a lasting legacy at The Chicago Lighthouse.**

- Simply name The Chicago Lighthouse as a full or partial beneficiary of your life insurance policy or retirement account. You can leave the organization a specific percentage or dollar amount.
- Tell your loved ones you would like them to make gifts to The Lighthouse in your memory when they celebrate your life.
- Make a bequest to The Lighthouse through your will with gifts of cash, bonds, securities, and real estate. Our Senior Director of Individual Giving, Lora Nickels, can give you text that can be dropped into your estate plan documents. Contact her at (312) 997-3643 or [lora.nickels@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:lora.nickels@chicagolighthouse.org)
- During your lifetime, donate appreciated stock or securities, or make a distribution from your IRA to reduce your tax burden. Contact The Lighthouse or your financial planner to learn more.

Estate gifts are directed to The Chicago Lighthouse's endowment, which means these contributions are invested and their earnings provide annual support for The Lighthouse in perpetuity. For example, if you designate \$50,000 of your life insurance policy for The Chicago Lighthouse, it can result in yearly payouts of \$2500 (assuming 5% investment returns annually). That \$2500 will change lives in the generations to come by supporting access to essential services for individuals who are blind, visually impaired, disabled and Veterans.

# Love Renewed EVERY MONTH

Bart Freihaut, Ph.D., adoringly describes his late wife of 47 years, Leticia (who went by Letty), as “beautiful on the inside and the outside,” particularly when it came to the positive impact she had on the world around her. Like her husband, Letty was an educator dedicated to helping mold the next generation. She was also a celebrated civic leader of Chicago’s Filipino American community and the International Lions Clubs. As a former president of the Franklin Park Manila Lions Club and the Chicago Filipino American Lions Club, she won the distinguished Melvin Jones Award twice.

The Chicago Lighthouse was fortunate to receive a gift in her memory, in part because of our longstanding relationship with Lions Clubs International. That spurred Bart and his children to learn more about the organization. “We visited and saw all the nice work you do and decided to keep giving.”

Moved by The Lighthouse’s work—and wanting to make a lasting impact in Letty’s honor—Bart established a recurring donation, which is transferred directly from his bank account to The Lighthouse each month. As a retiree, he explains **“I have the money from my pension funds, and I decided it would be easier for both me and The Lighthouse to know that money is coming regularly.”**

Chicago Lighthouse President and CEO Janet



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—Bart Friehaut

Szlyk, Ph.D., agrees, saying “recurring gifts are extremely helpful to The Lighthouse. They provide a steady stream of revenue which allow us to better plan for the future.”

Now, Bart looks forward to receiving his bank statement every month, where he can see how Letty’s beautiful legacy lives on through his support of our essential services for individuals who are blind, visually impaired, disabled and Veterans. He hopes his gifts and Letty’s life of service will inspire others to join him in making monthly gifts to The Lighthouse.

**To set up your recurring gift or learn more, contact Senior Director of Individual Giving Lora Nickels, at [lora.nickels@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:lora.nickels@chicagolighthouse.org) or (312) 997-3643.**

# WE WISH WE COULD

## Lotto winners leave \$4M gift to The Lighthouse

Last December, the estate of Steven and Margaret Zelisko presented The Chicago Lighthouse with a generous—and surprising—gift of \$4 million. Having won the lottery in 2001, the Zeliskos named The Lighthouse as one of their estate's main beneficiaries.

Their bequest will fund our endowment and ensure we can continue to provide our essential services for our clients for generations to come. We would have liked to thank the Zeliskos for this gift and the immeasurable good it will do for the countless individuals whose lives will be changed through their generosity.

Are you considering including The Lighthouse in your estate plans? If so, please let us know so we

may thank you properly during your lifetime.

By letting us know of your wishes, you will help us better understand what The Lighthouse has meant to you and ensure we fulfill your philanthropic goals with your estate gift. We can discuss how you would like to be remembered through your gift and arrange for your friends and family to take a tour so they can understand why The Lighthouse held such value for you.

*If you have included or would like to include The Chicago Lighthouse in your estate plan, please contact The Lighthouse today.*

# THANK THEM

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY—please contact Lora Nickels at (312) 997-3643 or [lora.nickels@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:lora.nickels@chicagolighthouse.org)

# GIVING BACK with Gratitude



*Longtime donor Lowell Stahl*

Growing up during the Great Depression, Lowell Stahl knew how the generosity of others can change the trajectory of a life. The child of an immigrant single mother, Lowell's trajectory changed when he received a scholarship from

Christian Brothers to attend Saint Patrick High School in Chicago.

**Lowell never forgot how that one act of kindness was the cornerstone for all of his later success.** After serving in the Army, Lowell built several businesses, including family-run real estate and insurance practices, and became a leader in the banking industry. As Lowell built his wealth, he established a philanthropic tradition within his family that has spanned generations.

Late in his life, Lowell began to experience vision loss as a result of macular degeneration. Worried he would not be able to continue the activities he loved, Lowell contacted The Chicago Lighthouse's assistive technology professionals. They assessed Lowell's needs and provided personalized tools to continue those activities.

**"Dad read a lot as a businessman and he became depressed when he thought he wouldn't be able to read. These aids helped him a lot. He carried magnifiers with him everywhere he went,"** says his son, Jeffrey Stahl.

Lowell knew he was fortunate to have found The Lighthouse and, in keeping with his lifelong dedication to helping others, began supporting us with annual gifts, both personally and through the Stahl Family Charitable Foundation. **Through his contributions, Lowell helped ensure that others less fortunate than he could receive the same life-changing assistance he did.**

Lowell passed away in January 2023 at the age of 89. He named The Lighthouse in his estate plans, ensuring his support of those who need assistance will live on. ***You too can provide for The Lighthouse's important mission through your own will by allocating a percentage of your estate or a specific amount as a philanthropic bequest. Contact The Lighthouse to learn more.***



*Assistive Technology & Accessibility Manager Patrick Andrade demonstrates wearable technology devices to students in our Summer in the City program who have low vision.*



*Transitional Employment Specialist Brittany Davis teaches a client basic computer skills utilizing magnification software.*

## Letting his Light SHINE ON

Frank J. Rus was introduced to The Chicago Lighthouse by his good friend and lifelong Lighthouse supporter Corwith “Corky” Hamill. Touched by our work helping people who are blind, visually impaired, disabled and Veterans build confidence and independence, Frank immediately placed The Lighthouse on his annual-giving list. He remained a consistent annual donor for 15 years before his death in 2020. (Such consistency ensured Frank would be included in our Corwith Hamill Society, which honors loyal supporters and is named after his friend, who died in 2013.)

Before Frank’s own passing, he established the Frank J. Rus & Donald S. Toy Giving Fund to ensure the causes he supported throughout his life would continue to receive philanthropic

support even after he was gone. Because he made his intentions clear, now Don Toy is able to fulfill Frank’s wishes.

In December 2022, the Frank J. Rus & Donald S. Toy Giving Fund made an extra-special year-end gift to The Chicago Lighthouse to ensure the long-term viability of our essential services, as Frank wanted. “It is a joy to see Frank’s generosity live on at The Lighthouse. He was always pleased to see the many ways the organization helps people with employment and low vision care,” says Don.

***If you wish to support The Chicago Lighthouse through your own donor advised fund or discuss how you can provide for the organization through estate plans, please contact us today!***

**MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY**—please contact Lora Nickels at (312) 997-3643 or [lora.nickels@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:lora.nickels@chicagolighthouse.org)