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is where you feel safe. It is a place of joy, love, comfort, and support. It is welcoming and accepting, without judgment. Home is where you grow, mature and return to periodically throughout your life. It is always there for you when you need it—and even when you don't. Home prepares you to face the world, helps establish your values and is a place that welcomes you when you need to recenter and reconnect to those values.



Bear friends,

As we approach the next exciting phase for The Chicago Lighthouse—providing safe, affordable, accessible housing for people with disabilities and Veterans—we are naturally reflecting on what our organization means to the thousands of people we help every year.

We strive to be a place that enables individuals to overcome challenges with confidence and prepares them to live both independently and inclusively within our broader community. Whether we are helping young children and families adapt to a world created for the sighted, helping a Veteran transition to civilian life with meaningful employment, or providing comfort and support to aging adults as they navigate vision loss, The Chicago Lighthouse is a place that empowers people to thrive on their own terms.

"House" may be a part of our name, but we prefer to consider ourselves as a "home"—a place where people can find solace and warmth, a place that celebrates our community's triumphs, supports it through challenges, and enables its members to flourish on their own. Houses are constructed; homes are a reflection of the people who inhabit them.

Whether you are a client, donor, community or business partner, or some other member of our community, we are a reflection of you. Thank you for making our Lighthouse a home filled with light.

Thomas A. Deutsch, M.D. Chair, Board of Directors

Janet P. Szlyk, Ph.D.

President and Chief Executive Officer

FINDING A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Two years after our groundbreaking ceremony, The Foglia Residences at The Chicago Lighthouse is on track to welcome its first residents in the second half of 2024.

The affordable housing development will provide 76 studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments for individuals and families—particularly those with disabilities and Veterans.

Bearing the name of longtime and generous Lighthouse contributors Vince and Pat Foglia, The Foglia Residences is the realization of a long-held dream of both Lighthouse President and CEO Janet P. Szlyk and David Brint, founder of housing developer Brinshore Development (and a former Lighthouse Board Member).

Safe, affordable, accessible housing has also been a dream for a number of Lighthouse employees and clients, like Lynette Harris, a Team Lead in The Lighthouse's UI Health call center.

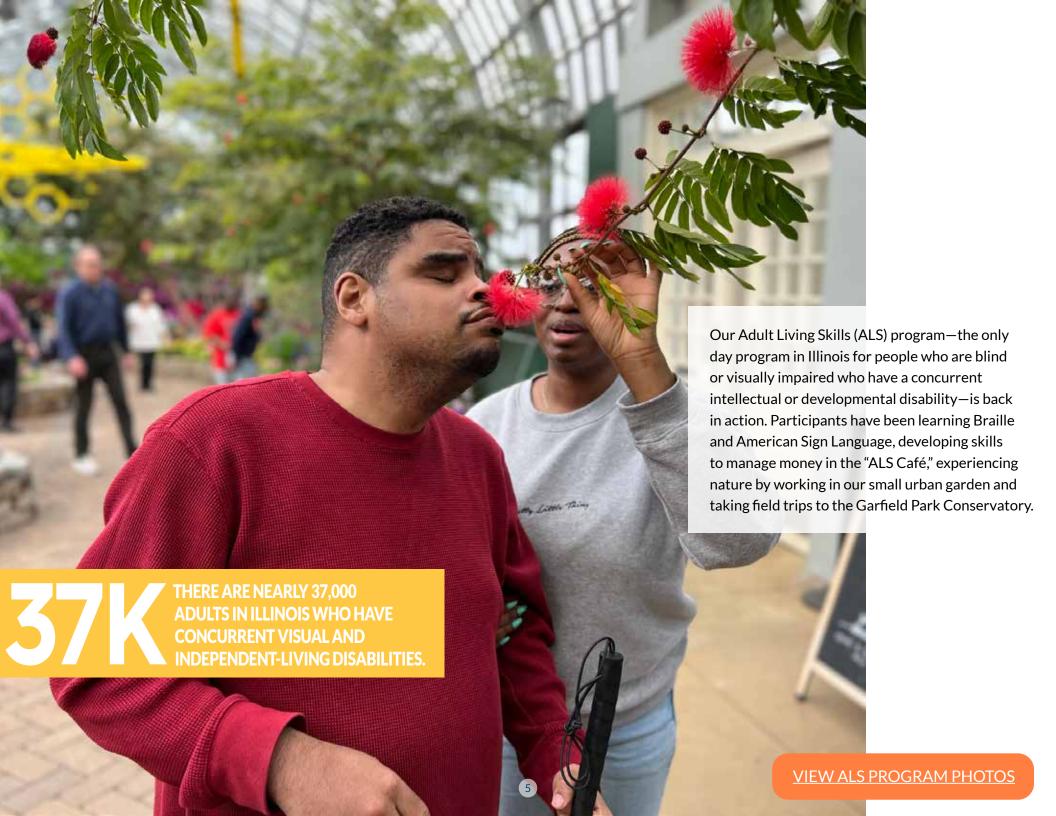
Having worked for The Lighthouse for 12 years, Lynette knows the neighborhood and intends to apply for residency so she can live in a community she is already familiar with and can call her own.

THE FOGLIA RESIDENCES AT THE CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE

Learn more about The Foglia Residences at The Chicago Lighthouse.

"I have struggled over the years to find a place that was affordable for my family and I to live that was also safe and accessible. Plus, how could I ever be late for work?"—Lynette Harris







FAMILIES FIND CONNECTIONS TO LAST A LIFETIME

After years of in-person restrictions, families in our Birth-to-Three Program were finally able to connect with each other at our first in-person event since 2019. More than 15 families came out to a park in Glenview for our first beeping egg hunt in nearly four years. Young children with visual impairments used their hearing and sense of touch to hunt for eggs, while parents and siblings connected with each other and shared experiences and some play time. Many of these families gathered again at our holiday party in December that featured crafts, gifts and holiday songs performed by Greater Chicago Music Therapy.

These in-person enrichment activities are a critical part of our Birth-to-Three Program. Many of the families in our program are experiencing disability for the first time and often feel isolated and alone. Meeting others who have a shared experience is invaluable to helping families build social and resource networks that will serve them long after their children have aged out of our program.



When Shay was born with Coloboma, a visual impairment caused by missing parts of both retinas, his parents, Matt and Adwiti, were uncertain about what the future held for their son. Enrolling in The Lighthouse's Birth-to-Three Program helped alleviate those worries, but it was at the Rise to Shine Run & Walk that they felt truly at home.

Accompanied by Shay's grandparents, including Matt's mother who flew in from Connecticut for the event (and, perhaps more significantly, Shay's first birthday), the family had their first opportunity to experience the overwhelming support of The Chicago Lighthouse's community in person. They were amazed by the caring professionals, knowledgeable community, and shared dedication to mission, and felt a comfortable sense of belonging.

"Home is where family is," says Adwiti. "Surrounded by all of those people who were so passionate about The Lighthouse's work, it really felt like we had become part of a large, loving family."

That family connection has been reinforced with Adwiti's decision to join The Lighthouse's Junior Board, which is comprised of young professionals in the Chicagoland area. "It has only been a little while, but The Lighthouse community has become our new family," Adwiti says. As Shay continues his journey, that family will be there to offer support, understanding and a lifelong connection.



A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW

Participants in our Photography for All program got a new perspective of the Windy City on a sunny summer afternoon cruise on the Chicago River. The youth, all of whom have visual impairments, used the trip to take photos of the city's riverfront architecture. They then used the adaptive features of an iPad to edit their photos into stunning works of art. The Photography for All program provides youth with valuable experience to develop marketable skills for careers in visual media and helps build their confidence at a critical time of adolescent development. (Thanks to the Chicago Yacht Club for facilitating the event and One Summer Chicago and Apple for their long-time partnership with the program.)

WATCH: LANCE FINDS HIS CONFIDENCE



PREPARING FOR THE COMING INCREASE OF LOW VISION NEEDS

Humans are visual creatures. Our vision is our primary gateway for many aspects of life, including learning, picking up on social cues, cooking and travel.

When given a choice, most sighted people would prefer to lose their hearing, a limb, or even some cognitive function rather than lose their sight. **Meanwhile**, the prevalence of vision loss increases with age, and as our population gets older, the need for our low vision services will only increase.

Fortunately, The Chicago Lighthouse is ready. Among the initiatives we have undertaken in the past year:

- Launching a new My Tools for Living e-commerce site, enabling people from anywhere to find assistive technology that addresses their individual needs.
- Expanding our <u>Orientation & Mobility</u> services with the addition of a new instructor to teach people how to navigate independently using a white cane.
- Exploring the expansion of the <u>Bergman Institute for</u> <u>Psychological Support</u> to teach mental health professionals how to treat the specific emotional challenges of vision loss.

"We know there is going to be a great need for people coping with vision loss in the coming years, not just in terms of examinations, but also to remain independent and engaged with their communities," says Dr. Kara Crumbliss, The Lighthouse's Chief of Clinical Services. "We want to be sure The Lighthouse is ready for them."

A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO CLINICAL RESEARCH LEADS TO BREAKTHROUGHS

After more than two decades of development and two years after the first person was implanted with the device, the Intracortical Visual Prosthesis (ICVP)—a wireless implant placed directly on the brain's visual cortex—is demonstrating promising, tangible outcomes. These include allowing the participant to identify objects and locate people within an environment. In addition to being a technological triumph, the study's patient-centric model has been essential to its success.

From arranging pre-trial focus groups to ensuring that an individual who is blind served as a patient advocate throughout the process, The Chicago Lighthouse's expertise was vital in prioritizing patient and community needs. As a result, the trial team and the participant developed a level of trust that led to its groundbreaking results.

READ MORE



TWILLA MAKES A FRESH START

When Twilla Green came to The Chicago Lighthouse's Employment Services Program, she didn't know what to expect. Having lived with Retinitis Pigmentosa her entire life, her vision reached a point where she could no longer continue her job as an administrative assistant at a local union office, and she wasn't sure what the future would hold.

Working with Employment and Rehabilitation Services Senior Vice President Martha Younger-White and Transitional Employment Specialist Brittany Davis, Twilla learned to use adaptive equipment like ZoomText and began brushing up on her keyboarding skills. She found support and camaraderie with others in the program's Job Club and other support sessions.

"I was encouraged, and I was encouraging others," Twilla says. "I pushed them, and I shared my experiences."

When Twilla heard about an opportunity to get a certification as a Certified Medical Administrative Assistant via The Lighthouse's partnership with Moraine Valley Community College, she jumped at the chance. Through the 16-week self-guided program, Twilla learned about medical billing and coding, skills she puts to use as a dermatology and neurology medical scheduler in The Lighthouse's UI Health contact center.

"I wanted to learn everything I could," Twilla says. "I didn't know I was going to be in this field, and now that I am, I want to be as successful as I can be in it."







EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

The Chicago Lighthouse continues to receive recognition for our work helping people with disabilities and Veterans find and maintain meaningful employment. The Illinois Workforce Partnership named The Chicago Lighthouse its "Employer of the Year" for our work implementing an on-the-job training program for people with disabilities. (The award is across both corporate and nonprofit members of the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership.)

In addition, the Illinois Department of Employment Security and The American Legion of Illinois recognized Lighthouse Director of Recruitment and Community Engagement Angela Kearney for her work in Veteran hiring at The Chicago Lighthouse.

ABOVE: Employment & Rehabilitation Services Senior Vice President Martha Younger-White accepts the Illinois Workforce Partnership's "Employer of the Year" Award.





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PICTURED RIGHT: Lighthouse President/ CEO Dr. Janet Szlyk (second from left) is joined by Board Members Julie Stark, Sandy Forsythe and Board Chairman, Dr. Thomas Deutsch for the Forsythe Pavillion ribbon cutting.

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A FAMILY WITH A VISION

In June 2023, The Chicago Lighthouse rechristened its headquarters as "The Forsythe Pavilion," in honor of Sandy and Richard Forsythe and their contributions to low vision research and rehabilitation in Chicago and around the country. "I don't think any family has done more to further low vision research in this country than the Forsythes," said Lighthouse President and CEO Janet P. Szlyk, Ph.D., in her remarks at the Pavilion's ribbon cutting.

The Forsythe family has been deeply involved with The Chicago Lighthouse for more than 20 years. Rick Forsythe was a patient of The Lighthouse's low vision clinic, and the care he received inspired Sandy to join the Board in 2003, where she has helped expand assistive technology and employment services. "We will be forever grateful to The Forsythes for their tireless support to making the world better for people with vision impairments," said Dr. Szlyk.

You can read more about the Forsythes' commitment to The Lighthouse and other low vision organizations in Sheridan Road Magazine.



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For information about making a <u>planned gift to The Chicago Lighthouse</u>, please contact Lora Nickels, Senior Director of Individual Giving, at (312) 997-3643 or email lora.nickels@chicagolighthouse.org. 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.



"I don't know how to explain to you the feeling when you're at the bottom of a 1,000-foot well and someone throws you a rope. There's nothing else I can tell you to describe it. I wasn't afraid anymore." —Ruth Ross, speaking to our Board in 2022, recalling the hope The Lighthouse brought to her after her daughter Lauren was diagnosed with aniridia at birth in 1982.

Ruth Ross passed away unexpectedly in July 2023, following the deaths of her daughter, Lauren, in 2021, and her husband, Steve, in 2022. The family's legacy will continue on at The Chicago Lighthouse as benefactors of the Lauren M. Ross Chair in Low Vision Research, which is currently held by Dr. Patricia Grant.

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.

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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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SHAH FAMILY INSPIRES OTHERS WITH MATCHING GIFT



Saumil Shah, M.D., and Sujata Shah, M.A., are passionate about their choice to provide philanthropic support to The Chicago Lighthouse. "We are fortunate, and with two young kids we have become introspective about life. For us, giving is emotional," says Saumil.

Though they had been giving annually to The Lighthouse for several years, a visit to our building in the Illinois Medical District in 2023 opened their eyes to the broad array of life-changing work happening under our roof. On

a Lighthouse tour, Sujata marveled at the innovative clinical work being led by Vice President of Research Dr. Patricia Grant and was impressed by the dedicated staff in every department. Walking through the Illinois Tollway Call Center provided another special moment for Sujata. "I had recently made a call to the Tollway because of a problem with my IPass," she says. "It was great to put some faces to my excellent customer service experience."

The Shahs were so impressed with everything they saw, that they decided to deepen their investment in The Lighthouse's mission with a \$10,000 matching challenge as part of our year-end giving campaign. They were extremely pleased to see The Lighthouse's community respond, as the challenge was met. "We were thrilled that the goal was reached so quickly," Sujata says. "It feels good to know that we could help encourage others to support the great work being accomplished at The Lighthouse."

If you would like to visit The Lighthouse for a tour or learn how you can inspire the generosity of others through a matching challenge, please contact Senior Director of Individual Giving Lora Nickels at lora.nickels@chicagolighthouse.org or (312) 997-3643.

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*Deceased; ^Board Member; ~Staff

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.

Ms. Hanna L. Bratman Mr. Philip M. Burno Mrs. Fern Callistein Lion John R. Coleman Mr. Vernon R. Duncan Ms. Robyn Edwards Ms. Helen Fett Mr. H. Dennis Giertz Mrs. Irene I. Goodman Mr. Ivan Kushen

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FINANCIALS

REVENUE SOURCES

Social Enterprise 52%

Contributions/Events 19%

Program Service Revenues 11%

Service Contracts 9%

The Chicago Lighthouse draws from diversified streams of revenues for its operations. More than half of those revenues are generated by our social business enterprise contact centers for clients including the Illinois Tollway, the Illinois Secretary of State's office and UI Health. In addition to generating revenues for our organization, these contact centers provide employment opportunities for our clients. In fact, 27% of our contact center staff are mission related. Events and private contributions account for about one-fifth of our revenue, while program service revenues are 11%. Government grants and fees are only 5% of The Lighthouse's total revenues.

Govt. Grants & Fees 5%

Investment Revenues 3%

Other 1%

REVENUE DISTRIBUTION

Programming 78%

Management & General 18%

More than three quarters of every dollar generated or donated to The Chicago Lighthouse is dedicated to programming designed to help people who are blind, visually impaired, disabled and Veterans build confidence and live independently. Overhead and administrative expenses account for 18 cents/dollar, while fundraising is only 4 cents/dollar.

Fundraising 4% -

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION as of June 30

ASSETS		
	2022	2023
Cash	\$ 2,328,066	\$ 2,293,782
Receivables, Net	13,270,122	12,114,818
Inventories	799,672	872,669
Investments	16,368,684	20,557,599
Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trusts	566,814	597,372
Prepaid Expenses	157,653	435,526
Land, Building and Equipment, Net	9,216,060	8,331,911
Total Assets	\$ 42,707,071	\$ 45,203,677
LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS		
Liabilities	\$ 7,044,042	\$ 8,276,894
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	7,246,588	7,859,438
Unrestricted, Board Designated	12,990,111	16,381,312
Temporarily Restricted	13,311,312	10,681,939
Permanently Restricted	2,115,018	2,004,094
Subtotal Net Assets	\$ 35,663,029	\$ 36,926,783
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 42,707,071	\$ 45,203,677

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES Period ended June 30

		2022		2023
Contributions & Bequests	\$	18,031,466	\$	9,203,399
Lighthouse Industries Sales		3,805,923		4,314,507
Customer Service Centers/Service Contracts		24,436,521		24,374,135
Program Revenues		8,291,973		7,437,390
Investment Income		-		559,093
Miscellaneous		126,166		524,242
Change in Value of Split-Interest Agreements		(154,916)		29,796
Net Realized Gain/(Loss) on Investments		(1,977,796)		1,052,077
Net Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments of Long Term Investments		329,536		(192,313)
Total Revenues	\$	52,888,873*	\$	47,302,326
EXPENSES				
EXPENSES Program Services	\$	\$36,209,553	\$	\$37,376,329
	\$	\$36,209,553 6,369,563	\$	\$37,376,329 6,839,043
Program Services	\$		\$	
Program Services Management & General	\$	6,369,563	\$	6,839,043
Program Services Management & General Fundraising	\$ \$	6,369,563 981,880	\$ \$	6,839,043 1,390,328
Program Services Management & General Fundraising Public Relations		6,369,563 981,880 589,419		6,839,043 1,390,328 432,872
Program Services Management & General Fundraising Public Relations Total Expenses	\$	6,369,563 981,880 589,419 44,150,415	\$	6,839,043 1,390,328 432,872 46,038,572

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All lists are reflective of the time of publication.

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"The Chicago Lighthouse does such great work. I see it as our responsibility as

Board members to provide the resources and perspective to push that work forward."

ANDRE FAIR

"I saw the amazing work
The Chicago
Lighthouse did for my brother
Doug, and I knew it was a place I needed to be involved."



DON DUNCAN

"I'm constantly amazed by how vast the organization is.
The breadth of services provided

under one roof is astounding!"

TERRI ENGLEMAN RHOADS

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THE CHICAGO SOCIALIGHT

By attending a Lighthouse signature event, you support our 40 programs that help to empower people who are blind, visually impaired, disabled and Veterans through employment, education and rehabilitation. 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.





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, hosted at the lively Carnivale restaurant.

Our **2nd Annual Rise to Shine Race** brought nearly 400 runners, walkers and rollers and their families to celebrate health, access and inclusion.





Our **Games Galore** event, hosted by our Associate Board brought together over 200 women to spend the afternoon playing Mahjong and Canasta.

Guests waiting to see if they rolled the lucky number while playing craps at our Raising the Stakes for Vision: Poker & Casino Night.



THE CHICAGO **SOCIAL**IGHT (CONTINUED)







The Lighthouse's Associate Board Executive Committee was honored at our 2023 Gala with the **Beacon of Light Award** for their dedication to The Lighthouse over the last 37 years.

Gala Chairman Cookie Cohen reunited with her former eye surgeon, Dr. Manus Kraff as she honored him with the **Light of the Night Award.**

Sherry Lea Holson named The Chicago Lighthouse the beneficiary of her annual **Christmas Extravaganza Party & Luncheon** where we received more than 150 toys for kids in our Children's and Youth Programs!

Our **FLAIR** 2023 Committee celebrated a successful event. **L to R:** Sheree Schimmer, Tracey Tarantino DiBuono, Candace Jordan, Sherry Lea Holson and Sherrill Bodine.

Our Lader Family Scholarship Program awarded scholarships to students who are blind, visually impaired or disabled. Through these scholarships, The Lighthouse is helping them achieve their dreams.





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.



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www.chicagolighthouse.org



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