



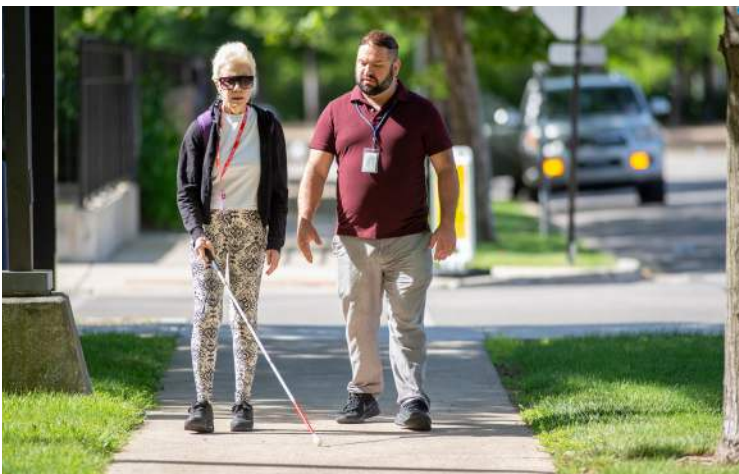
CELEBRATING LIFE'S MILESTONES WITH THE LIGHTHOUSE



The Chicago Lighthouse

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

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CHANGING LIVES EVERY DAY

DECADES OF GENEROSITY ADD UP

Katie Howe's first monthly gift to The Chicago Lighthouse was a \$20 contribution in December 2008 and in the 186 months since, she has generously given The Lighthouse more than \$9,000!

"I didn't realize it amounted to that much," says Katie, who retired from her position as a Lighthouse Braille instructor in March. "I'm glad it made a difference. It's very expensive to keep The Lighthouse programs going."

Katie knows first-hand the impact The Chicago Lighthouse's programs can have on a person's life. Blind since birth, Katie learned typing, stenography and other office skills through our employment training program in the 1970s. She returned in the 1990s to learn computer skills, and in 2006, she joined The Lighthouse as a Braille instructor. It was then that she began devoting a portion of her paycheck to a donation to The Chicago Lighthouse.

"Some people have circumstances that are challenging or unfortunate. It is always important to count your blessings and help when you can," Katie says.

Beyond making a difference in a person's life,



“ Donating even a little bit, whether it's your time or money, makes such a difference in someone's life.

—Katie Howe

recurring gifts like Katie's monthly donations are a great way to provide financial stability to an organization like The Lighthouse. **Recurring contributions, whether monthly or quarterly, level out the peaks and valleys of fundraising and sustain our ability to continue to offer essential services throughout the year.**

Additionally, recurring gifts are a simple way to incorporate charitable giving into your personal budget, the same way you may plan for Netflix, Spotify and other subscriptions.

Become a Lighthouse Keeper today by setting up your own recurring monthly or quarterly gift. Your ongoing generosity will ensure our impactful work continues throughout the year and it is as simple to start as a Netflix subscription. Contact Lora Nickels at (312) 997-3643 or lora.nickels@chicagolighthouse.org or scan this QR code to make your recurring gift today!



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 Thursday, October 24th at 11 AM for a private tour of the new Foglia Residences and a special brunch where our CEO, Dr. Janet Szlyk 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.



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
- 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 \$2,500 (assuming 5% investment returns annually). That \$2,500 will change lives in the generations to come by supporting access to essential services for individuals who are blind, visually impaired, disabled and Veterans.

THE MANY WAYS OF GIVING

As a retired neuropsychologist and accomplished academic, Andrew B. had seen his fair share of medical practices. That's why it was a special moment when he visited The Lighthouse's Dr. Kara Crumbliss for a routine vision exam for Retinitis Pigmentosa. He was immediately impressed with the personalized care he received from Dr. Crumbliss and wanted to know more about the organization.

Just a few weeks later, Andrew visited The Lighthouse for a tour. "I was really glad I did," he says. "It's a gigantic building with a lot going on inside. I spent time in the assistive technology store and saw the clock factory. I was blown away by the work, and I started making donations."

Since that visit in November 2023, Andrew has generously made several contributions and introduced the organization's mission to his friends. **He even celebrated his birthday by encouraging loved ones to make their own gifts to The Lighthouse.**

Though Andrew is a proud Lighthouse supporter today, the most impactful gift he has decided to make won't happen for many years. Andrew revised his estate plan, naming The Lighthouse as

a beneficiary of his retirement accounts. Making that designation is a way to ensure the cause most important to Andrew will be sustained after he passes and all it took was a few sentences added to his will. It was a simple step which didn't affect his current finances but will fuel The Lighthouse's low vision clinical care down the road.

By designating The Lighthouse as an account beneficiary, Andrew is directly bequeathing his assets as a charitable gift. As a result, there are

no capital gains taxes taken out, leaving more funding for The Lighthouse's vital programs

"I didn't know all of this until my lawyer explained it to me," Andrew says. "The idea is not to pay more taxes. It's to put more money toward something you care about."

If you would like to designate The Chicago Lighthouse as a beneficiary of your life insurance, retirement accounts, stock holdings or otherwise include

The Lighthouse in your estate plans, contact Lora Nickels, Senior Director of Individual Giving, at (312) 997-3643 or lora.nickels@chicagolighthouse.org.



I know a lot of people don't have the means or access to support networks like I do, so these contributions are a way to help others get access to the low-vision services that they need to be independent.

—Andrew B. (second from left above)

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



For the past two years, I have invited family and friends to make gifts to The Chicago Lighthouse for my birthday. At this point in my life, I don't really want more 'things' and I am happy to introduce my loved ones to an organization that changes lives every day.

— Ed Jepson, Chicago Lighthouse Board Member

You, too, can celebrate your life milestones like a birthday, b'nai mitzvah, wedding, retirement or even a memorial service by inviting friends and family to support The Lighthouse.

Please contact Lora Nickels at lora.nickels@chicagolighthouse.org or (312) 997-3643 to learn how.

HONORING A LIFETIME OF EXTRAORDINARY VISION



Ann and Walter Nathan

Ann Nathan was a woman who opened doors for others. First as the owner of a successful temp agency and then as a pioneering art gallerist, she spent her career providing opportunities for others. Ann passed away on May 5, 2024 at the age of 98. Even after her death, she continues to help others thrive through the important mission of The Chicago Lighthouse.

“Ann’s macular degeneration was particularly challenging considering her passion for art. While she struggled to see in her later years, she never lost her powerful vision. Ultimately, it was this extraordinary sense that defined her life. A true visionary, she supported and inspired by seeing what others couldn’t,” says her daughter, Betsy Nathan.

During her lifetime, Ann and her late husband, Walter, a Lighthouse board member, supported the organization through annual philanthropic contributions and gifts of artwork to beautify our facility. **When Ann considered how her friends and family would celebrate her life, she designated The Chicago Lighthouse as the recipient for gifts made in her memory.** By doing so, Ann ensured her legacy will live on and provide essential services to others facing diminished eyesight.

Her daughter recalls “Mom was so grateful for the opportunity to work with The Lighthouse. Over the last decade of her life, The Lighthouse met her where she was with her low vision needs. It’s a wonderful organization with an extremely talented and thoughtful team. We are very appreciative to all who have made contributions in Mom’s memory so The Lighthouse can continue to provide their invaluable resources and support to others.”

MEMORIAL GIVING

You can celebrate **your** life by asking loved ones to support The Chicago Lighthouse. Contact us to learn more about memorial gifts and planning for a legacy which helps those in need.

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