

June 2022



Lighthouse Guild

Lighthouse Guild In Brief

From Dr. Cal Roberts, President and CEO



Dear Friends,

June is **Cataract Awareness Month**, and we remind you that early diagnosis and treatment can help preserve vision. By age 80, most people either have cataracts or have had cataract surgery. It is important to recognize cataract symptoms and not delay, as modern surgical treatment of cataracts is safe and can effectively restore vision.

Know the Symptoms and Treatments

A cataract is a clouding of a lens in your eye. Leading causes are age, smoking, and diabetes, with increased risk from prolonged exposure to ultraviolet sunlight and a family history of cataracts. Cataracts may also develop after other eye surgery or an eye injury.

Symptoms of cataracts include:

- Cloudy or blurry vision
- Seeing faded colors
- Glare, with headlights, lamps, or sunlight appearing too bright
- Worse vision at night
- Double vision/seeing multiple images

The early symptoms of cataracts may improve with new glasses, antiglare sunglasses, magnifying lenses, or brighter lighting. If there is not enough improvement in your vision with those options, you may benefit from surgery to remove the cloudy lens and replace it with an artificial lens.

For more information on Cataracts, visit our [website](#). Since early intervention is key, schedule an appointment with one of our experts for an [eye exam](#).

Helping Outstanding Students Achieve Their Goals

We are excited to announce that 15 students who are visually impaired from across the country have been awarded scholarships to help them attain their academic goals.

Lighthouse Guild Scholarships are based on strong academic accomplishment and merit to help students who are legally blind make a successful transition to college and graduate school. The 2022 recipients will attend some of the nation's most competitive universities.

Since 2005, Lighthouse Guild's scholarship program has awarded over \$2.7 million in scholarships to outstanding students from 39 states. Former recipients have gone on to careers as nurses, attorneys, teachers, engineers, chemists, composers, musicians, neuroscientists, social workers, business owners, investors, epidemiologists, physician assistants, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, journalists, and computer scientists.

I am privileged to introduce you to two future innovators and role models.

"I am humbled and honored to be receiving this scholarship."

—Iliana



Photo: A quote, "I am humbled and honored to be receiving this scholarship," next to a portrait of Iliana.

Iliana, a writer and musician from Woodhaven, New York, will attend Marymount Manhattan College. “Being able to use art to create a safe space for myself has made me realize that one day I want to be able to do the same for others,” says Iliana. “There are many other people who also feel as if their stories have gone unheard. I want to create a space where people feel valued, respected, and heard because everyone has a story that makes them unique. Sometimes, they just need a safe place to tell it.” She continues, “I am humbled and honored to be receiving this scholarship.”

“Lighthouse Guild has given me hope for a brighter future.”
—Brandon



Photo: A quote, “Lighthouse Guild has given me hope for a brighter future,” next to a portrait of Brandon.

Brandon of Rockingham, North Carolina, will attend the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. “A big load has been lifted from my shoulders. I will be able to go to college now knowing that I won’t be digging myself a huge financial hole. Lighthouse Guild has given me hope for a brighter future.” With a passion for coding, Brandon will major in computer science and is hoping to work in the government or at a non-profit to help those with disabilities.

On behalf of everyone at the Lighthouse Guild, I wish Iliana, Brandon, and the 2022 recipients continued success in college, graduate school, and their chosen careers.

For the complete list of 2022 recipients, and to learn more about the program, visit the **Scholarships section** of our website. Maybe you or someone you know could become one of the 2023 Lighthouse Guild Scholarship awardees!

How You Can Help Future Scholars

Every year Lighthouse Guild Scholarship recipients inspire us. And every year, I wish we could award even more scholarships, as we had so many deserving applicants that outnumbered the available funds. If you or someone you know wants to endow a scholarship or contribute to the scholarship fund, please contact our Chief Development Officer Brian Dever at bdever@lighthouseguild.org or 212-769-6307. What an incredible legacy for a donor to know that their gift opens learning opportunities for young people who are blind or visually impaired.

Dr. Mark Joy Joins Lighthouse Guild as Medical Director

We are pleased to announce that **Mark Joy, MD, JD**, has joined the Lighthouse Guild team of experts as Medical Director of our Health Center. Dr. Joy is a primary care physician with over 40 years of experience and is Board Certified in Internal Medicine. Visit our **website** to learn more about Dr. Joy or schedule an **appointment** with our Health Center.

Dr. Mark Joy
Medical Director

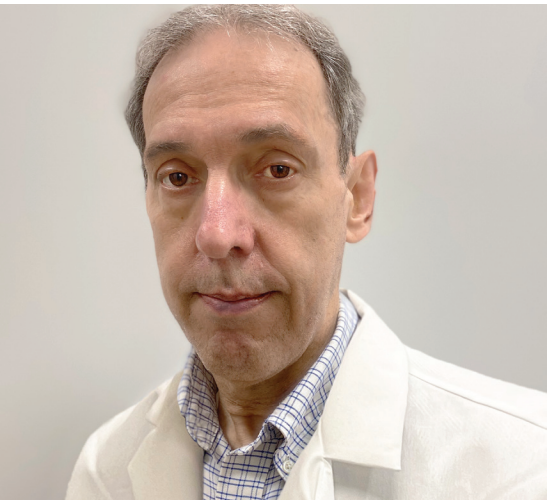


Photo: “Dr. Mark Joy Medical Director,” next to a portrait of Dr. Joy.



Graphic image: Illustration of a hand putting a puzzle piece into place.

Latest On Tech and Vision Podcast

Check out the latest podcast episode of On Tech and Vision with Dr. Cal Roberts: **Tools for Success: Tech Convergence and Co-Designed Products Close Gaps for Children Who Are Blind.** I talk with Greg Stilson, head of Global Innovation at American Printing House for the Blind. Greg and his team are on the verge of delivering a dynamic device that instantly provides both Braille and tactile graphics — poised to fill a much-needed gap in the Braille textbook market. I also talk with Dr. Cecily Morrison, principal researcher at Microsoft Research in Cambridge, UK. Dr. Morrison and her team have developed PeopleLens, smart glasses worn on the forehead that can identify a person the user is facing, giving the user a spatial map in their mind of where people are around them. PeopleLens helps children who are blind overcome social inhibitions and engage with classmates and peers. These are crucial skills for their development and their lives.

Juan’s Second Home

Juan has been coming to our **GuildCare Adult Day Health Care** program for twenty years. He is 73 years old and has Glaucoma. Juan’s vision slowly got worse, and he became blind. He shares that when he started coming to our program, his life changed — it made him feel better because he could socialize with others, listen to music, participate in recreational therapy, and he has made many friends. Juan says, “I tell other people that this place for me is my second home.”

“Lighthouse Guild helps a lot. Twenty years ago, when I started coming to GuildCare, my life changed.”

—Juan



Photo: A quote, “Lighthouse Guild helps a lot. Twenty years ago, when I started coming to GuildCare, my life changed,” next to a portrait of Juan.

For people like Juan, the **GuildCare Adult Day Health Care** program offers comprehensive healthcare and a full day of activities. With centers in New York City, Albany, Buffalo, and Niagara Falls, we provide a safe, comfortable, and attentive environment. Our expert team provides nursing care, diabetes care, physical, occupational and speech therapy, medication management, vision rehabilitation therapy, social work services, and structured therapeutic activities. Services and activities are specially designed and adapted for individuals with all levels of disability — physical, cognitive, and visual.

Our **GuildCare** team is ready to provide your patient or loved one with the daily care that meets their medical and social needs. For more information, to make a referral, or schedule a tour, visit the **GuildCare** section of our [website](#).

Making a Difference Through Collaborations

Lighthouse Guild is honored to be one of two grantees of a new joint initiative between **The New York Community Trust** and the **Lavelle Fund for the Blind**. The “Vision Services Integration and Collaboration Initiative” fosters innovative partnerships, and Lighthouse Guild is embarking on an exploration of how to best serve more people who are visually impaired in collaboration with major hospital networks and larger provider groups. The grant will help make this pilot project possible and will develop the foundation for increasing access to low vision services.

When you collaborate with Lighthouse Guild, you help us provide services that inspire people who are visually impaired to attain their goals. Please consider **donating, volunteering,** or **referring** people who can benefit from our services, and spreading the word on **Twitter** and **Facebook**!

Be well and stay safe,



Calvin W. Roberts, MD
President and CEO, Lighthouse Guild
Twitter: @EyeDrCal

Donate: lighthouseguild.org/donate/
Volunteer: lighthouseguild.org/volunteer/
Share: Twitter @lighthousegl | Facebook @lighthouseguild



**Lighthouse
Guild**

Dedicated to providing exceptional services that inspire people who are visually impaired to attain their goals.
800-284-4422 | lighthouseguild.org