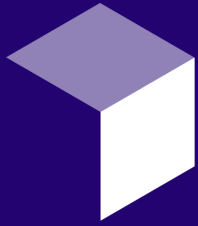


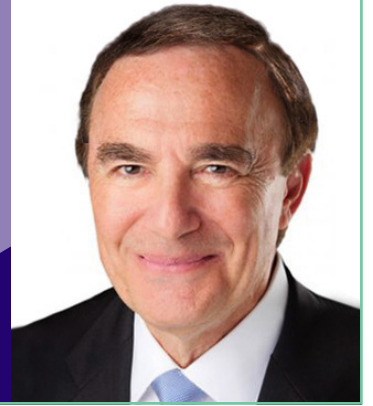
June 2023



# Lighthouse Guild

## Lighthouse Guild In Brief

From Dr. Cal Roberts, President and CEO



### Audio version of Lighthouse Guild In Brief

Dear Friends,

### Protecting Your Eyes in Style

Styles of sunglasses may change each year, but one thing remains constant: sunglasses are key to protecting your eyes from the damaging rays of the sun. Ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun can harm the eyes and affect vision. According to Dr. Susan Weinstein, low vision optometrist at Lighthouse Guild, "Exposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun can damage the eyes and cause vision loss later in life."



Photo: A mother, young son and father wearing sunglasses and brimmed hats. The mother and son are pointing at the viewer.

Eye diseases such as cataracts, one of the primary causes of vision loss in older adults, are linked to long-term exposure to the sun's harmful rays. June is Cataract Awareness Month! Check out our website to learn about the symptoms and treatments for [cataracts](#).

Here are some tips from the vision experts at Lighthouse Guild to help you protect your eyes from sun damage.

- **Choose sunglasses carefully:** Select only sunglasses that block both UVA and UVB rays and are clearly labeled 100% UV protection or UV400.
- **Have your sunglasses tested:** Not sure whether your sunglasses provide enough protection? Have an eye care professional test them.
- **Sunglasses are not just for the summer:** Sun damage to the eyes can occur anytime during the year. Remember to wear your UV protective sunglasses whenever you spend time outdoors, all-year-round, and even on cloudy days.
- **Wear a hat:** In addition to sunglasses, wear a broad-brimmed hat or a cap to protect your eyes.

"Wearing well-fitted sunglasses that block UVA and UVB radiation is essential for protecting your eyes," says Dr. Weinstein. For pointers on selecting sunglasses visit our [website](#).

### A Visionary Leader Moves On

On May 31, 2023, Dr. Bruce P. Rosenthal retired from his role as **Lighthouse Guild Chief of Low Vision Services**. We are grateful for his years of service and commitment to Lighthouse Guild, its patients, clients, and students.

I had the opportunity to talk with Dr. Rosenthal about his exceptional career. As a testament to his character, Dr. Rosenthal opted to share more about the history of low vision and our organization's

milestones over the years. Visit our [website](#) to hear my insightful conversation with Dr. Rosenthal, whose legacy will undoubtedly continue to inspire the next generation of low vision ophthalmologists, optometrists, and researchers.



Photo: “Dr. Bruce P. Rosenthal” next to a portrait of Dr. Rosenthal.

Lighthouse Guild will be hosting a reception in the fall in honor of Dr. Rosenthal. We look forward to celebrating his countless contributions to the field of low vision, his mentorship and training of numerous optometrists, and the impact he has made on the lives of so many who are visually impaired. For more information on that, please contact **Brian Dever**, Chief Development Officer.

Empowering Excellence

It is that time of the year when we have the privilege to announce this year’s **Lighthouse Guild Scholarship** recipients.

Based on strong academic accomplishment and merit, our scholarship program helps students who are legally blind make a successful transition to college and graduate school. The 2023 recipients will attend some of the nation’s most competitive universities. We are also thrilled to announce that we have added another scholarship to our program this year. **The Dr. Neil S. Patel Memorial Scholarship** helps students who are visually impaired fulfill their aspirations in college or graduate school with a long-term goal of supporting under-served populations.

Since 2005, Lighthouse Guild’s scholarship program has awarded over \$2.7 million in scholarships to outstanding students from around the country. Former scholarship 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 honored to introduce you to three future innovators, advocates, and role models.

“This scholarship would allow me to learn as much as possible without worrying about costs and limitations.”

—Kenneth



Photo: A quote, “This scholarship would allow me to learn as much as possible without worrying about costs and limitations,” next to a portrait of scholarship recipient, Kenneth.

**Kenneth** from Aldie, Virginia, will attend William & Mary. After attending a weeklong summer academy at NASA’s Langley Research Center, Kenneth decided to pursue a career in physics at NASA. “This scholarship would allow me to learn as much as possible without worrying about costs and limitations,” Kenneth says. “However, what is most important to me is answering the question: How can I give back

to all the communities that served and helped me grow? Exploration and further understanding of the world will enhance current and future societies. I want to participate in that movement and contribute as much as possible.”

“I think I can make a difference working as an advocate to ensure equality in society.”

—Maryam


A portrait of Maryam, a woman wearing a black hijab and a grey blazer, smiling slightly.

Photo: A quote, “I think I can make a difference working as an advocate to ensure equality in society,” next to a portrait of scholarship recipient, Maryam.

After obtaining an associate’s degree from Cuyamaca College in 2019 and a bachelor’s degree from San Diego State University in 2021, **Maryam**, from San Diego, California, is pursuing a master’s degree in social work from San Diego State. “After receiving my degree, my plan is to apply to law school and study immigration law,” Maryam says. “As an Asian refugee and as someone with a disability, I have been a victim of discrimination and bullying myself. Therefore, I think I can make a difference working as an advocate to ensure equality in society.”

“I hope to cultivate clinical skills to effectively support young people experiencing mental health difficulties ...”

—Jack


A portrait of Jack, a young man with dark hair, smiling.

Photo: A quote, “I hope to cultivate clinical skills to effectively support young people experiencing mental health difficulties ...” next to a portrait of scholarship recipient, Jack.

Graduate student **Jack** is the first Patel Scholarship recipient. He is pursuing a doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Spalding University. “Both personally and professionally, I am dedicated to supporting people from systemically marginalized populations who lack access to evidence-based, culturally responsive mental health services,” Jack says. “I hope to cultivate clinical skills to effectively support young people experiencing mental health difficulties as I carry my passion for this work to my graduate education.”

Everyone at the Lighthouse Guild wishes Kenneth, Maryam, Jack, and the 2023 recipients continued success in college, graduate school, and their chosen careers.

For the 2023 list of 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 2024 Lighthouse Guild Scholarship awardees!

**Smart Cities and Autonomous Driving**

Navigating the world can be difficult for anyone, whether or not they have vision loss. Tasks like driving safely through a city, navigating a busy airport, or finding the right bus stop provide unique challenges. In our latest **On Tech and Vision** podcast episode, **Smart Cities and Autonomous Driving: How Technology is Providing Greater Freedom of Movement for People with Vision Loss**, we talk about a holistic approach that considers safety, efficiency, equity, and accessibility. I speak to Greg McGuire about how he and his team at **MCity**, a company based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, are working




on developing Smart Cities, which focus on using data to improve the everyday lives of citizens — enhancing traffic intersection safety, greater accessibility options, and more. We hear from Dan Parker, a professional race car driver and machinist who lost his vision due to a racing car accident. He has developed sophisticated guidance systems for his racing vehicles, and a semi-autonomous bicycle that could give people with vision loss a new way to navigate the world safely and independently. And John Dolan, the Principal Systems Scientist at **Carnegie Mellon Autonomous Driving Vehicle Research Center**, discusses how sophisticated sensors and advanced robot-human interfaces are being developed to make self-driving cars possible.



Photo: A city skyline at night with a white, grid-like, overlay that glows where the lines intersect to represent digital connections.

When you support Lighthouse Guild, you can help someone who is visually impaired receive services from a renowned low vision expert or a scholarship that will enable them to further their education — the possibilities are endless. Please **donate, volunteer, refer** people who can benefit from our services, or spread the word on **Twitter** and **Facebook**.

Be well and stay safe,

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

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Guild**

Dedicated to providing exceptional services that inspire people who are visually impaired to attain their goals.  
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