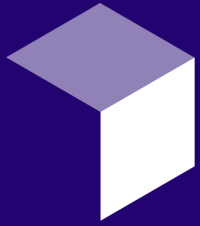
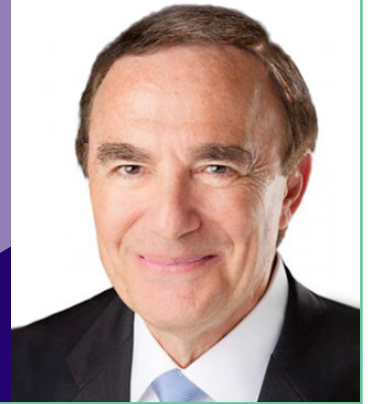


June 2024



Lighthouse Guild

Lighthouse Guild In Brief
From Dr. Cal Roberts, President and CEO



Listen to the Audio

Dear Friends,

Protecting Your Eyes from the Sun

Most of us remember to protect our skin from the sun, but it's essential to protect our eyes as well. "Exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun can damage the eyes and cause vision loss later in life," says Dr. Susan Weinstein, Low Vision Optometrist at Lighthouse Guild.



Photo: A family of four outdoors wearing sunglasses. The two young girls are on the shoulders of their father and mother.

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.

- **Select sunglasses that block both UVA and UVB rays** and are clearly labeled 100% UV protection or UV400.
- **Don't get caught up on the color of the lenses**, the price tag, or the brand. The ability to block harmful UV light is not dependent on the cost or the darkness of the lenses.
- **Replace sunglasses every few years**. Glasses that are scratched, damaged, or have faded tints may no longer be effective.
- **Wear your UV protective sunglasses year-round** whenever you spend time outdoors.
- **Children** should also wear sunglasses and hats or caps to protect against the harmful rays of the sun.

For pointers on selecting sunglasses visit our **website**. As always, one of the best ways to protect your vision is regular eye exams. You can request an **appointment** with one of our vision specialists for you and your family.

Fueling Excellence

As students toss their caps in the air, signaling their graduation and the next phase of their journeys, we are privileged to announce this year's **Lighthouse Guild Scholarship** recipients!

The Lighthouse Guild scholarship program supports academically accomplished students who are legally blind as they successfully transition to college and graduate school. The 2024 recipients will attend some of the nation's most competitive universities. Our scholarship program also includes the **Dr. Neil S. Patel Memorial Scholarship** which aims to help visually impaired students fulfill their aspirations in college or graduate school, with a long-term mission of supporting under-served populations.

Since 2005, Lighthouse Guild's scholarship program has awarded over \$2.8 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 four future innovators, advocates, and role models.

Lynn

"The Lighthouse Guild scholarship truly means the world to me because it allows me to pursue my passion and dreams in college of inventing software and devices to empower different disadvantaged communities around the world," said Lynn, who is entering Stanford University in California as an undergraduate student in September. She is also the recipient of this year's Dr. Neil S. Patel Memorial Scholarship.

"The [scholarship] allows me to pursue my passion and dreams in college of inventing software and devices to empower different disadvantaged communities around the world."

—Lynn



Photo: A quote, "The [scholarship] allows me to pursue my passion and dreams in college of inventing software and devices to empower different disadvantaged communities around the world," next to a portrait of Lynn.

Arthur

"I aspire to become a lawyer and I want to work in an area of law such as medical ethics or patent law. I'm fascinated by the interplay between history, law, and science," said Arthur, who will be attending Vassar College in New York. "It is my greatest hope to give back to the communities that have helped build my confidence in my abilities both in and out of school. Organizations like Lighthouse Guild have shown me how to break down barriers and that is what I hope to do as a lawyer. I want to help people get higher quality care, more easily, and more fairly."

"It is my greatest hope to give back to the communities that have helped build my confidence in my abilities both in and out of school"

—Arthur



Photo: A quote, "It is my greatest hope to give back to the communities that have helped build my confidence in my abilities both in and out of school," next to a portrait of Arthur.

Patrick

"This scholarship means more than just helping me get an education," said scholarship winner Patrick of Austin, Texas who will be attending The University of Texas at Austin, Cockrell School of Engineering. "It will help me massively, both in ease of mind of the expenses directly related to college, and the expenses related to the transition from high school to college."

“It is my greatest hope to give back to the communities that have helped build my confidence in my abilities both in and out of school.”

—Arthur



Photo: A quote, “This scholarship means more than just helping me get an education,” next to a portrait of Patrick.

Arie

“The Lighthouse Guild scholarship is enormous for me,” said Arie, a scholarship winner who will be enrolled in the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Creative Writing program at Eastern Oregon University in Oregon. “The scholarship will certainly help me to complete my education. The MFA is the highest degree in its field, which means with that degree I will be able to teach at the university level, as well as publish.” Arie is an author who is going back to school after 20 years.

“The MFA is the highest degree in its field, which means with that degree I will be able to teach at the university level, as well as publish.”

—Arie



Photo: A quote, “The MFA is the highest degree in its field, which means with that degree I will be able to teach at the university level, as well as publish,” next to a portrait of Arie.

All of us at Lighthouse Guild wish Lynn, Arthur, Patrick, Arie and each of the 2024 recipients continued success in college, graduate school, and their chosen careers.

For the 2024 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 2025 Lighthouse Guild Scholarship awardees!

New Buffalo GuildCare Director

We are pleased to announce that Jamie Ridout has joined Lighthouse Guild as Director of **GuildCare**, Buffalo. With her extensive experience in the field of Adult Day Health Care, Jamie will have responsibility for day-to-day operations and overall management of Buffalo GuildCare. She has recently served as Rehabilitation Manager at the SchofieldCare Adult Day Health Care Program in Buffalo.

“The MFA is the highest degree in its field, which means with that degree I will be able to teach at the university level, as well as publish.”



Photo: A quote, “I am thrilled to contribute my expertise to GuildCare and collaborate with its compassionate and committed team,” next to a smiling portrait of Jamie Ridout.

“I am thrilled to contribute my expertise to GuildCare and collaborate with its compassionate and committed team. I look forward to helping our registrants sustain a healthy lifestyle and improve their quality of life,” said Jamie. Welcome, Jamie! Visit our [website](#) to learn more about Jamie.

Immediate Spots Open in Our GuildCare Programs!

Do you care for adult patients, clients, or loved ones who have chronic health conditions? Need assistance with activities of daily living? Have functional vision problems?

Our **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 will 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 your 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](#).

In Celebration of Tech Pals Mentors

Lighthouse Guild hosted a recognition ceremony honoring this year's **Tech Pals** Mentors to celebrate their achievements and their impact on the people they helped. Our innovative program pairs tech-savvy young adults (aged 18-24) who are blind or visually impaired with older adults (aged 55+) who are visually impaired and want to become proficient in using mobile phones and tablets. Tech Pals not only imparts skills and support but also fosters meaningful connections between two generations of people with vision loss.



Photo: Tech Pal Mentors posing with Director of Rehabilitation Judy Katzen (second from the right) and Tech Pals Program Manager Eddy Perez (fourth from the left). From left to right, Alex Herrera, Michael Malcolm, Laisha Gonzalez De Pena, Jared Ye, James Peralta, Brian Flores, Alexis Baez, and Fabrizio Cuadros.

Every Volunteer Matters

Lighthouse Guild hosted its annual **Stephen T. Pearlman Volunteer Center** Recognition Celebration. With the theme, “Every Moment Matters: Every Volunteer. Every Contribution. Every Gift of Time,” the event was dedicated to the volunteers and interns who generously give their time and talent to help our organization fulfill its mission. Lighthouse Guild and the Board of Directors honored these dedicated supporters with Excellence in Service Awards to Shanell Matos, Norma Birnbaum, Leonard Dimeglio, Marianna Marwell, and The Thomas Family Foundation.

A special President’s Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of AmeriCorps and the Office of the President of the United States was presented to Chairman of the Board James M. Dubin and Board Members Lawrence E. Goldschmidt, Thomas Kahn, and Pauline Raiff for their exceptional leadership and dedication of time and expertise. Additionally, we acknowledged volunteers who were celebrating milestone years of service.

We owe much of our organization’s success to Lighthouse Guild volunteers and are grateful for all they do to help people with vision impairment live the lives they aspire to. Please consider joining our team of volunteers as there are a wide range of opportunities such as serving on leadership committees, donating professional expertise, reading services, and assisting with community field trips for teens in our youth programs. Check out our [website](#) to learn more.



Photo: Volunteer Recognition awardees posing with President and CEO Dr. Calvin Roberts (fourth from the right). From left to right, Marianna Marwell, Shanell Matos, Leonard Dimeglio, President's Lifetime Achievement Awardee and board member Thomas Khan, and trustees of The Thomas Family Foundation, Minal Thomas, Jamie Natalio, and Nihal Thomas.

Support to Increase Essential Tech Training

We are pleased to announce that Lighthouse Guild has received a \$25,000 grant from the **CTA Foundation** to expand its essential assistive technology training. The CTA Foundation, an affiliate of the Consumer Technology Association, is dedicated to linking seniors and people with disabilities with technology that can enhance their lives.



Photo: A client wearing a head-worn magnification device receiving training by Lighthouse Guild Occupational Therapist Inna Babaeva.

The grant will deepen our capacity to provide assistive technology training to individuals who are blind or visually impaired, empowering them to attain their personal and professional goals. The training, both in-person and virtual, will focus on smartphone accessibility features, assistive tech applications and devices, and more.

“We are thrilled to support the Lighthouse Guild’s assistive technology training. Combining innovative technologies with the support and education will no doubt lead to incredible outcomes,” said Steve Ewell, Executive Director the CTA Foundation.

For more about this support that will change the lives of many, visit our [website](#).

Events

Don't miss some of our upcoming virtual and in-person events:

July 10 | Tech In-Session: Artificial Intelligence: Chat GPT & More | New York City

July 11 | Ask the TVI: Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) | Online

July 16 | Tech Talk: Accessible Notetaking and Access to Media Content:
Victor Reader Stream 3 | Online

July 23 | Lighthouse Guild at AARP Senior Planet: Wearable Assistive Technologies | New York City

July 27 | Lighthouse Guild & The MET Virtual Art Workshop for Children and Teens | Online

August 6 | Seeing AI Workshop | New York City

August 7 | Tech In-Session: Accessing Digital and Audio Media Platforms | New York City

August 15 | Accessing Entertainment & Panel Discussion for People
with Vision Loss | New York City & Online

August 19 | Tele-Support Talk: Returning to Routine with Purpose | Online

August 20 | Tech Talk: Tech Updates and Community Q&A | Online

At Lighthouse Guild, we are unwaveringly dedicated to helping individuals who are blind or visually impaired to thrive and excel beyond their dreams. Your support is crucial. Please consider **donating**, **volunteering**, **referring** people who can benefit from our programs and services, or spreading the word on **X** and **Facebook**.

Be well and stay safe,



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

Donate: lighthouseguild.org/donate/

Volunteer: lighthouseguild.org/volunteer/

Share: X @lighthousegl | Facebook @lighthouseguild



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