



Lighthouse Guild In Brief

From Dr. Cal Roberts, President and CEO

Dear Friends,

This month we are recognizing our community of **Lighthouse Guild Volunteers** and their dedicated gifts of time and talent. Volunteers are crucial to our mission. Some highlights from the past year included:

- **173 volunteers** provided almost **8,000 hours of service**.
- Nearly **50 Lighthouse Guild clients** were able to have their taxes prepared by our volunteers during the pandemic.
- **62 clients** received virtually **2,000 hours of reading assistance** safely at on-site and off-site locations.
- Our volunteers selflessly donated their services – an in-kind contribution of **\$241,000!**



National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week began with our volunteers receiving a video e-card of personal thanks from Lighthouse Guild staff. We held a virtual reception to celebrate the naming of our Volunteer Center in honor of one of Lighthouse Guild's most dedicated volunteers, **Stephen T. Pearlman**.

The reception included the unveiling of the Stephen T. Pearlman Volunteer Center plaque and a video of many friends, family, and Lighthouse Guild colleagues paying tribute to Mr. Pearlman.

The week ended on a high note as Lighthouse Guild staff and volunteers gathered at our virtual town hall for a presentation in recognition of the volunteers, their years of service, and those we have lost. Cheryl Pemberton-Graves, Chief Volunteer Officer, led the celebration, which concluded with a look to the future and the return of on-site programs to connect the volunteers with the people we serve.



Photo: Chief Volunteer Officer Cheryl A. Pemberton-Graves and Peter Slatin unveil the new Stephen T. Pearlman Volunteer Center plaque.

Watch the video:
<https://bit.ly/3xUDQ7x>

One of the Many Highlights

We shared a lot of inspiring stories about our volunteers this week on social media. Here is one about an intern that highlights the connection and care that volunteers bring to our patients and clients.

As a mental health counseling intern with Lighthouse Guild's Vision Rehabilitation team, Stephanie conducts one-on-one and group sessions to help people with vision loss gain confidence in their ability to continue to do the things they need and want to do. Stephanie says, "Watching their growth as they recognize their resilience is the most rewarding part of my internship."



Noting that she has a mobility disability, Stephanie says she believes that the clients gain confidence from learning about her adjustments and all she has achieved. They also benefit from the support and encouragement they receive from other Lighthouse Guild clients. "We all need a sense of community, and our group counseling sessions provide that. This was especially important during the pandemic when many people felt isolated."

Stephanie will graduate in a few months and will pursue a career in counseling. "I love my clients, and I love what I do," she says.

At Lighthouse Guild, we are very fortunate to have the support of volunteers like Stephanie. To read about some of our other amazing volunteers or to join us, visit the volunteer page of our website at: <https://bit.ly/3xXxp3o>

From keeping people safe to helping them live the lives they aspire to, Lighthouse Guild could not do this without your help. Please join Lighthouse Guild's community of support and care by **donating, volunteering** and **sharing** about us on Twitter and Facebook!

Be well and stay safe,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cal".

Calvin W. Roberts, MD
President and CEO, Lighthouse Guild
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Podcast



Cortical Brain Implants: Paving the Way for Visual Restorative Medicine

Our latest episode of **On Tech & Vision with Dr. Cal Roberts** highlights how innovations happen through a long chain of science, research, and developments that build on each other. I talk with Dr. Shelley Fried about his work that enabled cortical brain implants to restore the ability to perceive light for a person with blindness. Dr. Fried took inspiration from the artificial retina, developed by Dr. Mark Humayan. Dr. Humayan prototyped his design from a device used for hearing impairment called the cochlear implant. The episode also features Rebecca Alexander, author, psychotherapist, group fitness instructor, advocate, and extreme athlete who is almost completely blind and deaf. She shares how she is helping her clients through the pandemic and provides insights as a user of cochlear implants. Listen at: <https://bit.ly/3vOlcFz>

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