

 **Lighthouse Guild** **Lighthouse Guild News** from Dr. Cal Roberts, President and CEO
Fall 2020

Dear Friends,

At Lighthouse Guild, our work has accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have adapted our services and continue to provide care and support to our patients and the local community. We are offering tele-health and tele-support services and our on-site services, such as low vision exams, are provided with strict adherence to social distancing and all safety requirements.



Our staff remains dedicated to offering the highest level of service to children and adults who are blind or visually impaired. Since April:

- Our Health Center provided over 3,500 visits including low vision exams, primary care and specialty physicians, diabetes care and self-management education, occupational therapy and physical therapy. And we have added new [state-of-the-art technology](#) to help our low vision patients.

During this crucial time, our Behavioral Health services were extremely important to our patients and through telehealth we were able to offer continuity of mental health care. We provided 8,400 visits, including individual and group therapy, and medication management.

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- From navigation to computer learning, teen programs and career and daily living skills, our Vision Rehabilitation services were provided to clients and patients via phone, video sessions and in-person meetings. We helped over 600 individuals of all ages; teen – older adult. And our experts shared our guidelines on remote instruction to other agencies to insure as many people as possible receive the services they need. [Read how our services changed Shanell's life.](#)
- GuildCare, our adult day health care program conducted 8,346 wellness checks and 2,668 health education and diabetic teaching sessions for patients and caregivers. GuildCare also arranged for home health services, assisted with obtaining food and medications, and assisted with health insurance issues for 458 patients.
- Our Adult, Young Adult, Teen and Parent Tele-Support Groups have helped participants in 38 states address concerns such as coping with isolation during the pandemic, the impact of online learning on children with visual impairments and how to manage the basics of daily living. One of our client's shares his experience — [read Suvro's personal testimony.](#)
- The Lighthouse Guild Research Institute continues to focus on studies and initiatives to help people who are blind or visually impaired. [Read about a new method](#) for training eye movements to help people with age-related macular degeneration read faster.
- We awarded 12 college [Lighthouse Guild scholarships](#) to graduating high school students from across the country who are legally blind. The awardees also include three students to attend graduate schools. COVID-19 has dramatically changed the education experience, especially for students with vision impairment and other disabilities. Our scholarships could help support specialized equipment or other preparations related to distance learning.

- Our Volunteers dedicated 1,090 hours in support of our Reading Services Program. We are employing new options to continue the program during this time of social distancing. [Read more about our volunteers](#) and their commitment to helping people with vision impairment.
- In response to the surge in professionals working from home and the cancellation of in-person continuing education, we are providing free access to our eLearning program. Since March, over 350 professionals have accessed over 600 hours of online training. [Learn more about our eLearning offerings.](#)

We are moving forward with new initiatives even through the pandemic. As we reaffirm our commitment to providing the most innovative and supportive services to people with vision loss, I am excited about the launch of our new podcast series, On Tech & Vision with Dr. Cal Roberts, in which I talk with experts about new and emerging technologies that can improve life for people who are blind or visually impaired. [Listen to our podcast.](#) Our new podcast is one of many technology initiatives that will ensure people with vision loss have access to the latest devices and innovations. I will be announcing more in the months to come.



We also have many more [highlights](#) to share, learn about new staff, achievements and presentations that help us evolve our programs and services.

It is impossible to fully capture how Lighthouse Guild is benefitting people with vision loss through this pandemic. A member of our Teen Tele-Support Group said, “I liked how the calls were laid back and relaxed. I would definitely recommend that all blind and visually impaired high school students join these calls —you will enjoy them!”

We are extremely proud to be helping people who are blind or visually impaired through this difficult time and to know we are making a real difference in their lives.

Be well and stay safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Calvin Roberts, MD'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Calvin W. Roberts
President and CEO
Lighthouse Guild