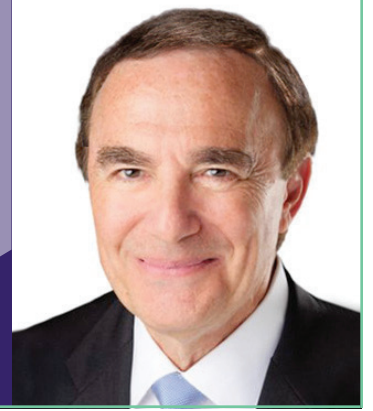


August 2021



Lighthouse Guild

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



Dear Friends,

August is Children's Eye Health and Safety Month

Whether your children are going back to school in a physical classroom or remotely at home, we encourage parents to help their children start the school year off right by making sure they get their vision screened.

"The most important thing you can do to protect your child's vision is to make sure they get an eye exam," says Dr. Laura Sperazza, Director of Low Vision Services at Lighthouse Guild. "An eye health professional can determine if your child needs eyeglasses or contact lenses, or if there is a vision problem that requires further intervention."



Talk with your children about the importance of eye health. Here are some tips to discuss with them.

- **Eat Your Carrots** – Encourage your children to eat a well-balanced diet loaded with different types of fruits, vegetables and fish.
- **Speak Up** – Tell your children to let you know if they notice any changes in their vision.
- **Wear Your Glasses** – Help your children understand how important it is to wear their eyeglasses. Talk with them about how to clean and store them.
- **Rest Your Eyes** – We all spend a lot of time looking continuously at a computer, phone, or TV screen which can tire our eyes. Encourage your children to take a break from staring at the screen.
- **Wear Safety Gear** – Make sure your children wear goggles or other types of protective eyewear while playing sports, using chemicals or tools for school projects, or engaging in other activities.

For more on tips, visit the Lighthouse Guild [website](#). And if your child is visually impaired – we have a wealth of support services for parents – visit our [Tele-Support Group for Parents](#).

Career Pathways

Our Lighthouse Guild Pathways Program is an intensive, multidisciplinary, and, most importantly, fun summer program designed to teach students who are visually impaired, aged 14-18, about career readiness and independent living, while also making friends and exploring the community. This summer's program included a tactile art education workshop from Lighthouse Guild's collaboration with The Metropolitan Museum of Art and field trips to the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, and the Museum of Natural History, where students experienced a verbal description and touch tour while also trying out several of their new skills in the "real world." At our neighborhood Target, they went on a special tour and learned about the skills required to operate a large retail store.

Summer may be coming to an end, but our programs continue! Visit our [website](#) to learn more about our Academic & Career Services for people of all ages.



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Meet Our Summer Interns

Organizations like Lighthouse Guild appreciate the gift of time and talent that interns provide. This summer, we were fortunate to have the support of interns who dedicated six weeks to helping us and the people we serve. I am pleased to share about some of these future leaders and professionals:

Tanzum Kabir “always wanted to be in the field.” A rising sophomore and Biology major at The State University of New York at Stony Brook, she hopes to become a surgeon. Tanzum worked in our Outreach Department, promoting Lighthouse Guild’s offerings to doctors and clients who might benefit from our services. Even in her short time here, she learned a lot from Janet Weinstein, Director of Outreach, and Lisa Miller, Outreach and Referral Coordinator. Their “conversations with clients are so helpful. They want to speak to people to let them know that if they need help, there is somewhere they can go.”

Dalia Pacio worked in the Stephen T. Pearlman Volunteer Center. She came to us from the W.I.S.E. (Women Inspiring Successful Enterprise) program at Manhattan College, and is a rising senior studying psychology. Dalia worked closely with Renita Carter, Volunteer Administrator, and Cheryl A. Pemberton-Graves, Chief Volunteer Officer, on a crucial survey project focused on the needs of our clients. She appreciated the atmosphere at Lighthouse Guild, a sentiment echoed by the other interns: “Everyone’s very welcoming here. It’s a good work environment. I’m able to approach my supervisors with questions.”



Interns, starting left to right: Madeleine Panek; Huo Na “Nora” Lai; Tanzum Kabir (in back); Dalia Pacio (in front); Taneisha Johnson; Wai Zhu Ge; Anthony Tran and Michael Yu

Our Finance Department was supported by several interns, two of whom are **Anthony Tran** and **Wai Zhu Ge**. Anthony, another Stony Brook student, is a rising senior in Business Management. As a business student, he’s eager to “learn about an organization like [Lighthouse Guild] and how to make it grow.” Wai, a rising senior at the Zicklin School of Business at Bernard M. Baruch College, is getting her degree in Accountancy. She applied for the internship because of “the organization’s strong commitment to people who are visually impaired.”

I also want to mention some of the other wonderful interns who spent the summer helping us:

- **Taneisha Johnson**, a Medical Assistant student at Eugenio María de Hostos Community College of The City University of New York, worked in the Health Center.
- **Huo Na “Nora” Lai**, a Marketing major in the Macaulay Honors College at Baruch College, worked in the Finance Department.
- **Madeleine Panek**, who hopes to become an ophthalmologist, will enter S.U.N.Y. Binghamton this fall as a freshman. She supported our research initiatives by working on data analytics, participated in our Pathways Program, and helped with our client survey project.
- **Michael Yu**, an Accountancy major at Zicklin School of Business, Baruch College, worked in the Finance Department.

On behalf of Lighthouse Guild and those we serve, I applaud our interns and thank them for all their efforts, enthusiasm, and energy! For information on internships and other volunteer opportunities, visit our **website**.

New Site that Reflects Our Vision

Check out our **new website**! We’ve redesigned our site to better align with our mission of providing exceptional services that inspire people who are visually impaired to attain their goals. You’ll find the latest on Lighthouse Guild news, services, technology, and resources for people with vision loss.

Join Us: Become a member of Lighthouse Guild’s community of support and care by volunteering, donating, and spreading the word on **Twitter** and **Facebook**. And for the latest on technology to help people with vision loss, listen to our podcast: **On Tech & Vision with Dr. Cal Roberts**. Link: <https://bit.ly/3zDRXyr>

Be well and stay safe,

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

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