



**LIGHTHOUSE
GUILD**
Vision+Health

Vision+Health

INSIDE



2 More Services
Greater Access



5 Answering
The Call



7 Bressler
Symposium



9 Grunwald
Award

GuildNet Makes Life Easier

A pioneer in managed long-term care, we have 14 years of experience helping seniors remain safely in their homes. We specialize in caring for people who are chronically ill, multi-disabled and who have low vision, as well as those managing chronic diseases such as diabetes. Helping people lead productive, dignified and fulfilling lives is central to Lighthouse Guild's vision + healthcare mission.

At 92 years old, GuildNet member Sarah Simpkins is active in her Brooklyn community, serving on committees that represent her housing complex and senior center at monthly meetings at City Hall, and helping run community services at her senior center. She has been a member of GuildNet for seven years.

Coordinated Services Make Life Easier

Ms. Simpkins' GuildNet Care Manager coordinates services to help her remain safely at home, such as home health services, medical therapies, prescriptions, dental treatment, necessary medical equipment as well as transportation to and from her medical appointments. By coordinating all of the details of daily living, we're able to make life easier for Sarah and her family.

"My Care Manager is very understanding," said Ms. Simpkins. "When I have a problem, I call her and she explains things to me and she gives me the help I need when I



GuildNet member Sarah Simpkins (right) with her daughter Sandra Shepherd.

ask her for it." Ms. Simpkins' daughter, Sandra Shepherd, who keeps a close eye on her mother, said, "I'm here a lot of the time, but GuildNet has helped me a great deal. Her Care Manager calls my mom regularly to check on her, to make sure she's received her medications, follows up with her medical appointments to find out who in the family is available to help her when the home attendant isn't there. She also connects with my Mom on all of her medical needs and concerns." ■

GuildNet is offering a new managed care FIDA (Fully Integrated Duals Advantage) plan. To learn more, call **800-815-0000** (TTY 800-662-1220), Monday through Sunday, 8 am to 8 pm or visit **GuildNetNY.org**.

More Services Now Even More Accessible

Our ability to impact the lives of those we serve is at the heart of Lighthouse Guild's mission. We're proud to have successfully developed an integrated vision + healthcare model of care – an approach that can most effectively provide specialized, comprehensive healthcare services to people who are blind or vision impaired. To better meet the growing needs of those we serve, we're delivering on our promise of providing broader access to services.

Building on the success of our medical clinic at 15 West 65th Street, we've now begun providing endocrinology, diabetes and primary care services at our 111 East 59th Street location. This expansion brings more care to more people.

Maintaining Independence

That's welcome news for clients like Gilbert Melendez and Wayne McKenzie, who rely on Lighthouse Guild for much of their medical care. Gilbert, who has Stargardt macular degeneration, a genetic eye disorder that causes progressive vision loss, has been receiving services from Lighthouse Guild's low vision clinic for nearly seven years.

After his first assessment at our clinic, and the doctor's recommendation of vision aids, such as magnifiers, he received a visit from our rehabilitation professionals who advised Gilbert and his wife on safety in their home, how to label items properly and also provided him with a talking glucometer and instructions on how to use it.

Accepting Changes in Life

Gilbert regularly shares his experiences of coping with low vision as well as his successful diabetes self-management with the other members of his senior center in Astoria, at the Ravenswood NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Community).



Gilbert Melendez with Miriam Summerford, Intake/Activities Coordinator, Ravenswood NORC in Astoria

He's looking forward to visiting Lighthouse Guild's 59th Street clinic and being able to receive multiple healthcare services in one location. "Lighthouse Guild has given me an awareness, has opened up my mind to challenging my condition by accepting change in my life," said Gilbert.

Like Gilbert, Wayne lost his sight later in life. After a successful career as owner of a hat shop in Brooklyn, he found himself facing a host of challenges. "After losing my sight I had trouble coping with my family life. Not being able to provide an income like I used to for my three sons and my wife weighed heavily on me," explained Wayne. "I first came to Lighthouse Guild to see my general practitioner and my endocrinologist for my diabetes, and then began coming for other services."

Coping with Life's Problems

Thanks to our continuum of care, Wayne has been able to receive rehabilitation services to help regain function and develop the skills and strategies necessary to remain safe, independent and active. To cope with his feeling of being overwhelmed, our staff has helped him address the anxiety and depression often experienced when losing vision.

"I'm very lucky because my social worker in the behavioral health clinic has really helped me cope with a lot of life situations that I just couldn't deal with before. It's really hard becoming blind as an adult. I've received therapy from the psychiatrist and my social worker, as well as group therapy," said Wayne, "and it's been of great benefit to me."

While making health services such as endocrinology, diabetes education and internal medicine available for clients to receive at the East 59th Street location, we continue to look at ways to further enhance service delivery options making it easier for clients like Gilbert and Wayne to receive the comprehensive care they need and deserve. ■



Wayne McKenzie

HEALTHY EATING/MANAGING DIABETES TO SAVE SIGHT

Photo: Ben Asen



At an outreach presentation, Brenda Dash, Registered Dietician and Certified Diabetes Educator, explains the importance of being aware of portion sizes.

Gilbert Melendez brought his diabetes under control through successful self-management. That's the message that Lighthouse Guild's outreach program has been bringing to senior centers throughout the five boroughs and Westchester County this past year.

"When I was diagnosed with diabetes, I accepted that I would have to make changes in my life," said Gilbert. "I eat less, watch my portions, walk more and I gave up smoking. I have it under control."

Miriam Summerford, Intake/Activities Coordinator at the Ravenswood NORC in Astoria said, "I encourage our members to attend these educational programs, particularly those on low vision and aging and I've asked Gilbert

to share his experiences at the same time. If I hadn't met Gilbert I would never have understood what Lighthouse Guild can contribute to the lives of our members." ■

A Preschool with Universal Impact

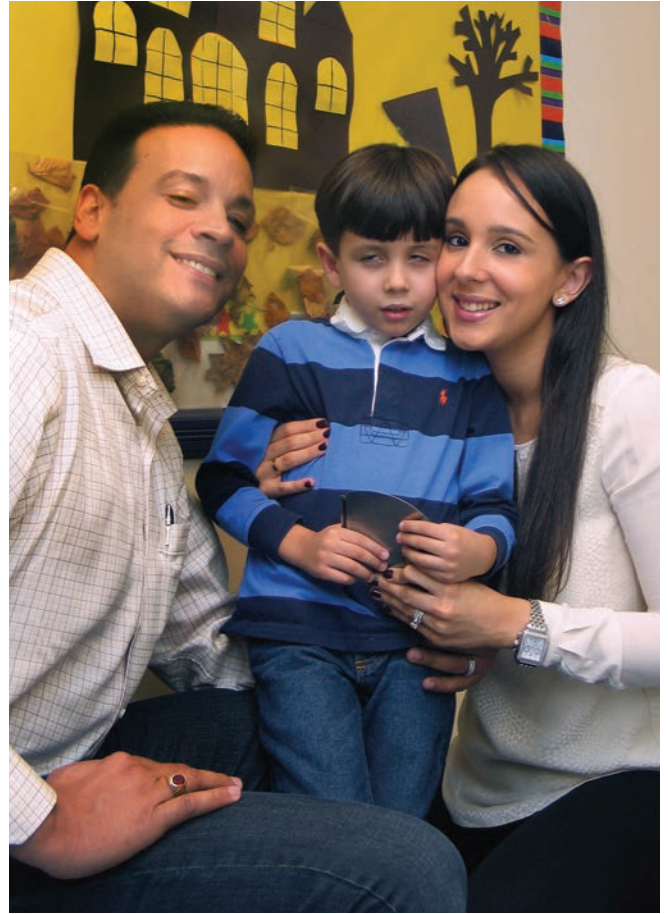
Lighthouse Guild's Ethel and Samuel J. LeFrak School has long recognized the critical role early education programs play in preparing children for success in school, home and life. Our program's integrated model, in which preschoolers who are visually impaired learn side-by-side with their sighted peers, delivers an enriching experience that is universal in its impact.

The LeFrak School is working to meet the increasing demand by New York parents for high-quality pre-K programs. We're pleased that the New York City Department of Education approved our request to offer 24 children a full day of instruction. Our model curriculum was designed to build social and emotional development, and our small classes foster socialization, thinking skills and physical development.

Meeting Educational and Social Needs

Among our community of 70 students is four year old Jason James "JJ" Ferreira, who is in his second year of preschool. At five months old, JJ was diagnosed with Leber Congenital Amaurosis, a severe visual impairment. While finding the right preschool can be daunting for any parent, JJ's parents, who live on Long Island, discovered it was even more challenging to find a learning environment that could meet both his educational and social needs.

"We looked all over our area, but the preschools didn't offer what JJ needed," said his mother Jennifer Ferreira. She explained, "We wanted him to be taught by people who would understand him and his needs as a child with vision impairment. But we didn't want him to be in a school where all the children had disabilities because we thought he'd be missing out on things we take for granted. The LeFrak School, with its integrated classrooms,



Preschool student Jason James Ferreira, his mother Jennifer and his father Jason

has been the best of both worlds."

Alongside his classmates – blind, visually impaired and sighted – JJ is enjoying creative and fun activities, making new friends and discovering new experiences in a safe and nurturing environment. He has already been introduced to Braille, and to the use of a cane, which will contribute to his growing sense of independence. Most importantly, he is a typical developing preschooler – excited about another field trip to the Central Park Zoo, completing art projects and playing with his best friend, who does not have visual impairment. "This is a great opportunity for our son," said his mother. ■

Answering the Call to Prevent Avoidable Blindness

Each year, vision organizations around the world come together to recognize World Sight Day and raise global awareness about the many issues related to blindness and vision impairment. Lighthouse Guild was proud to join this international call to action by organizing a series of events in the week of October 6th that showcased our multi-pronged approach to eradicating avoidable blindness. Through education, awareness, training, and solutions-based advocacy, we demonstrated some of the ways Lighthouse Guild is working to take a stand against preventable blindness.

Community Education on Diabetes

Diabetes is an epidemic in our communities, and is the leading cause of new and often avoidable cases of blindness. By reaching high risk older adults, we are helping individuals and their families learn about the many resources avail-

able to reduce associated complications, avoid unnecessary vision loss, and improve quality of life. We are proud to partner with New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer in hosting a series of diabetes awareness and prevention programs at senior centers throughout New York City. Through these community-based education programs, Lighthouse Guild dietitians and certified diabetes educators provide tips for preventing the onset of diabetes through good nutrition and exercise and discuss services and resources to help those with diabetes manage the disease and avoid complications such as vision loss.

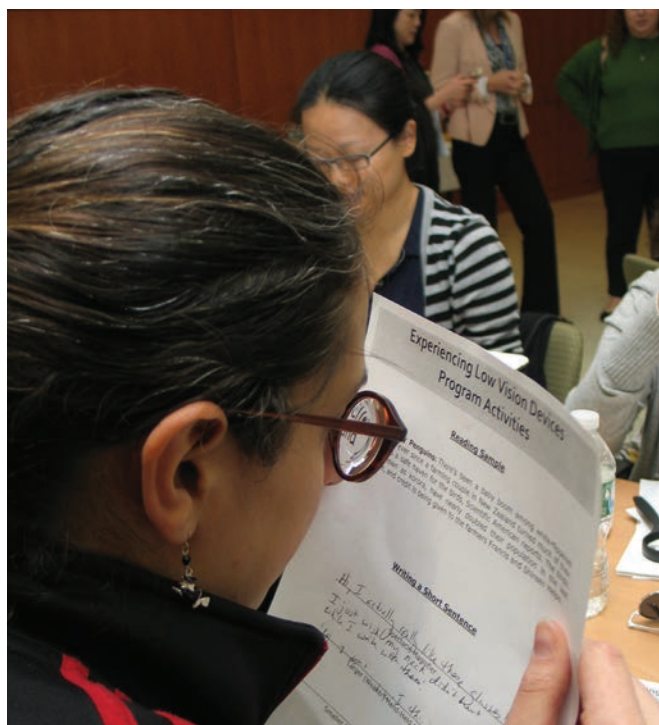
Expert Vision Training

We are uniquely positioned to provide training in low vision rehabilitation to tomorrow's health care practitioners. Through our workshops, occupational therapy students and other providers of
Continued on page 6



Lighthouse Guild's Director of Outreach Janet Weinstein (third from left) and Registered Dietician and Certified Diabetes Educator Brenda L. Dash (far right), share nutrition tips for managing or preventing diabetes with senior community members in the Bronx.

Answering the Call *Continued from page 5*



Students from the Geriatrics Course at Columbia University's School of Occupational Therapy practiced the use of common low vision devices as part of their day of training at Lighthouse Guild.

rehabilitation services receive the knowledge and tools they'll need to screen their patients for functional vision problems and provide therapeutic solutions. These training programs enable us to expand our community impact exponentially as each future health care professional we train will someday touch the lives of countless patients in need of low vision care.

Drawing Policymaker Attention to Vision Issues

Recognizing that eradicating avoidable blindness will also require the support of policymakers, Lighthouse Guild continues to work to increase awareness among Members of Congress about the economic and societal impact of vision loss and to promote policies that provide greater access to care.

Through our co-sponsorship of briefings for the Congressional Vision Caucus, we are increasing awareness about common blinding disorders and the transformative role played by consumer electronics in enabling people with vision loss to have better access to printed material. These interactive presentations use vision loss simulators to allow policymakers to experience how someone who is blind or visually impaired might navigate their world.

Through Lighthouse Guild's multi-pronged and comprehensive approach to vision + healthcare, we are answering the call to action for the prevention of avoidable blindness. ■



The Congressional Briefing, held in September, focused on retinal diseases and vision loss. The featured speaker was Howard Kaplan, MD, of Hudson Retina, Vassar Brothers Hospital, Poughkeepsie and Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, New York City.

Bressler Symposium: Reducing the Burden of Global Blindness with Epidemiologic Research



Lighthouse Guild President and CEO, Alan R. Morse, JD, PhD, presented the 2014 Bressler Award in Vision Science to Dr. Emily Chew.

Lighthouse Guild hosted its annual Alfred W. Bressler Vision Science Symposium in October, honoring 2014 Bressler Prize winner Emily Y. Chew, MD, for her work in advancing the understanding of retinal diseases. Dr. Chew is a medical retina specialist with extensive experience in designing and implementing clinical trials. She is recognized by her peers as the driving force behind critical advances made in the understanding of retinal diseases, and leads the Clinical Trials Branch of the National Eye Institute's Division of Epidemiology and Clinical Applications at the National Institutes of Health. Her strong clinical and research interests lie in diabetic eye disease and age-related macular degeneration.

A panel of experts selected by Dr. Chew presented their research on topics related to using epidemiological data to understand patterns, causes and effects as well as the treatment of eye diseases in defined populations. Eleanor Faye, MD, FACS, was also recognized at the event for her esteemed 56-year career of leadership in low vision care and rehabilitation. ■



Dr. Eleanor Faye was recognized for her leadership in low vision rehabilitation.



2014 Bressler Symposium speakers: Douglas Jabs, MD; Sheila West, PhD; Emily Y. Chew, MD; Julia A. Haller, MD (Moderator); Lloyd Paul Aiello, MD, PhD; David Musch, PhD, MPH.



Juan Pablo Horcasitas, faculty pianist, The Filomen M. D'Agostino Greenberg Music School

PRINCIPALLY PIANO

Faculty pianist Juan Pablo Horcasitas kicked off the Fall 2014 concert season for The Filomen M. D'Agostino Greenberg Music School at Lighthouse Guild, with a recital entitled "The Art of the Transcription". He performed works by Albeniz, Bach, Gershwin and Rachmaninoff, all transcribed for the piano.

Four more performances are scheduled in the Fall concert series: an all-Chopin recital by Hannah Sun, First-Prize winner of the 2004 New York International Piano Competition, a lunchtime 'jam' session by the school's Pop/Rock Ensemble, an All-School Performathon fund-raiser, and a holiday caroling tour. The Filomen M. D'Agostino Greenberg Music School is the only community music school for people with vision loss in the US, offering accessible instruction and a music technology center. ■

A VISIT TO THE MUSEUM



Clients from Lighthouse Guild's Adult Day Health Care program recently visited the Jewish Museum. The Museum educator gave them a verbal description tour of the current exhibition *From the Margins: Lee Krasner and Norman Lewis 1945-1952*, where they were able to respond to tactile canvases created for them and listen to the jazz music that inspired Norman Lewis. ■

Explaining the Unified Braille Code



Rehabilitation Instructors Audrey Schading (left) and Maureen Moscato discuss the Unified Braille Code with Shirley Pickman (right), Senior Rehabilitation Counselor, New York State Commission for the Blind.

Lighthouse Guild offers a broad range of educational services to people who are blind or visually impaired. Clients can learn English as a Second Language, earn High School Equivalency diplomas, and attend an intensive Pre-College Summer Program. We provide instruction in word processing, spreadsheet and database programs adapted with Braille, audio and/or large print output as required.

On Louis Braille's birthday, January 4th, 2016, The Braille Authority of North America will officially replace the current Braille code in use in the United States, with the Unified English Braille (UEB) code, already in use in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Official teaching of the UEB comes into effect in September 2015 in the United States. Lighthouse Guild staff hosted a seminar for counselors from the New York State Commission for the Blind to introduce the UEB, and to explain how it differs from the current code. ■

Visionary Philanthropy: A snapshot of events hosted in support of programs and services

The Grunwald Award for Public Service Norman Pearlstine, Executive Vice President and Chief Content Officer of Time Inc. is the recipient of this year's Henry A. Grunwald Award for Public Service, which recognizes an individual who is committed to advancing public awareness of vision impairment and vision rehabilitation. Mr. Pearlstine was recognized for his work during his career in journalism, which began at *The Wall Street Journal* in 1968. Joe Ripp, Vice Chairman of Lighthouse Guild's Board and Chairman and CEO of Time Inc., presented the award at a luncheon in September at the Metropolitan Club in New York, where Barbara Walters served as Master of Ceremonies. ■



Photo: ©HechlerPhoto

Lighthouse Guild President & CEO Alan R. Morse, JD, PhD, Virginia Ripp, Honoree Norman Pearlstine, Master of Ceremonies Barbara Walters, Lighthouse Guild Board Vice Chairman Joseph A. Ripp and Louise Grunwald.

The Young Visionaries held their annual Fall Fundraiser at The Brickwood, a nightclub in New York's trendy Meatpacking district. The Young Visionaries is a volunteer leadership group committed to supporting Lighthouse Guild's mission-related services for people who are visually impaired. ■



Linda Siegel, Rachel Wolf, Siena Kissel, Annie Skidmore, Elizabeth Pugatch, Lauren Watt, Jesse Berland and David Sandler

Terrence McNally's *It's Only a Play*, performed at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre was attended by Lighthouse Guild's supporters, preceded by dinner at the Marriott Marquis Hotel. ■



Co-chairs: Jane Rittmaster, Pauline Raiff and Susan Mendik Tarkinow



Mark G. Ackermann, Thomas Graham Kahn and Alan R. Morse, JD, PhD



Anita and Howard Blatt

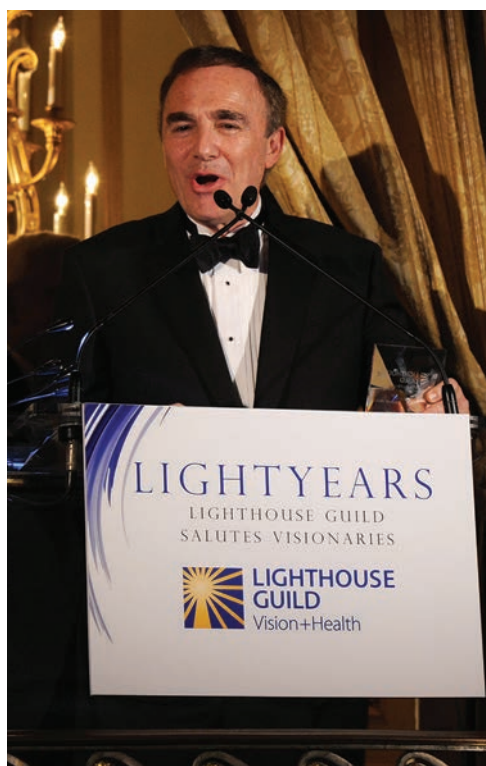
Light Years Gala: Lighthouse Guild Salutes Visionaries

The LightYears Gala was held at The Plaza Hotel, honoring Lighthouse Guild's Board Chairman James M. Dubin, philanthropists Donald and Barbara Tober and the corporate visionary Bausch + Lomb. ■

Photos: Patrick McMullan



Frederic and Pauline Raiff



Calvin W. Roberts, MD



Susan and James M. Dubin, Carol Alt, Alan R. Morse, JD, PhD and Judy Morse



James M. Dubin, Barbara and Donald Tober, and Carol Alt



Mark G. and June Ackermann, Francine LeFrak and Rick Friedberg



James M. and Susan Dubin, Francine and R. Richard Leinhardt, MD



Thomas and Marilyn Kahn



Bruce and Elizabeth Levitt, Neil Janovic and Cathy Hull



Lawrence and Dorothy Philips, PhD



Lynne and Jack Dodick, MD



Susan and Dennis Sprung



Jean Shafiroff and Barbra Tober



Anna and Marios Damianides



Andrew Marks and Steve Okinow



Jean Denoyer and Karin Hehenberger, MD, PhD



Ann Thivierge and Richard Durkin

Philanthropy

ENJOY THE SATISFACTION OF GIVING – AND RECEIVING – THROUGH A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

It is often said that it is better to give than to receive, especially during the holiday season. However, more and more savvy supporters are discovering the satisfaction of year-round giving and receiving, with charitable gift annuities from Lighthouse Guild.

What is a Charitable Gift Annuity?

A charitable gift annuity (CGA) is an increasingly popular “life income” gift. It is an agreement, under which Lighthouse Guild makes fixed payments to you (and/or your chosen beneficiary) for life in exchange for your gift of cash or appreciated securities. The amount you receive is based on your age(s) when the gift is made and current annuity rates. A CGA may be established for the lives of up to two beneficiaries.

Benefits of a CGA

A CGA requires a minimum contribution of \$5,000 and provides you (and/or your beneficiary) with a guaranteed income for life. You also receive an immediate charitable income tax deduction for a portion of your gift.

To establish a CGA, you must be at least 55 years of age. You may also establish a deferred charitable gift annuity at age 50 which will start making payments to you when you turn 65. The deferred annuity is a good way to enhance your retirement income.

And, you will know that your gift – the

amount available to Lighthouse Guild once the annuity payments are terminated upon the beneficiary’s death – will help our future clients overcome the challenges of vision loss.

Sample Single-Life Current Gift Annuity Rates*

| Age at time of gift | Rate of Return |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 65 | 4.7% |
| 70 | 5.1% |
| 75 | 5.8% |
| 80 | 6.8% |
| 85 | 7.8% |
| 90+ | 9.0% |

**Lighthouse Guild follows the rates set by the American Council on Gift Annuities. The rates above are the most current rates as set on January 1, 2012.*

For a personalized, free and confidential illustration of how a charitable gift annuity could work for you, contact Annette Dorsky, Director of Gift Planning, at 212-821-9443 or dorskya@lighthouseguild.org.

The Generous Legacy of Marian Blakeslee Butler

You may not know the name Marian Blakeslee Butler, but she has made a lasting difference in the lives of thousands. In an age of unbridled consumerism and great socioeconomic inequality, it is rare to find someone who gave as selflessly of themselves in service to others as she did.

Mrs. Butler was born in Binghamton, New York in 1916. She graduated from Vassar College in the late 1930s and, after WWII, she married Arthur Leon Butler. Together, they ran the Cambridge Business School, Inc.

For over 40 years following her husband's death in 1967, and despite a debilitating eye condition, Mrs. Butler presided over the school. She expanded the curriculum to include English as a Second Language, and provided hundreds of foreign-born students with the skills to find work in the United States.

Marian Blakeslee Butler left a generous and lasting legacy to friends and family as well as to charitable organizations including Lighthouse Guild. She was grateful for the care she received over many years at Lighthouse Guild, particularly from Bruce P. Rosenthal, OD, FAAO, Chief of Low Vision



Services. Her philanthropy will continue to have a profound impact on the thousands of individuals of all ages who rely on our services now, and in the future.

Mrs. Butler's life was guided by hard work, great intelligence and a concern for the well-being and advancement of other people. We are most grateful to her and we share her story in the hope that others may be inspired to follow her example.

Honor Someone You Love

If one of your relatives or friends is affected by vision loss, make a gift to Lighthouse Guild in his or her name. When you honor someone this way, you receive the added satisfaction of supporting our work, while also receiving some financial benefits.

Gift options include:

- **Make a gift today.** With an outright gift, you can help fund our immediate needs or those of an ongoing program, while also receiving an income tax deduction and the possible elimination of capital gains tax.
- **Make a gift through your estate plan.** Include a gift in your will or living trust stating that a certain dollar amount or percentage of your estate will pass to Lighthouse Guild at your death.
- **Establish a charitable gift annuity.** Donate cash or marketable securities and receive an immediate charitable deduction and fixed payments for life.
- **Designate a portion of your retirement plan assets.** For example, designate a 401(k) or IRA to Lighthouse Guild and avoid some of the heavy taxes levied on these assets at death.
- **Donate life insurance.** Make a gift of an existing paid-up policy, or of a new policy, and take a charitable deduction. Future premium payments will also be deductible. You can also name Lighthouse Guild as the beneficiary.

Become a Member of The Holt Society

You can create your personal legacy with a bequest in your will or trust or by naming Lighthouse Guild as a beneficiary of a savings account, retirement plan or insurance policy you may no longer need.

You may also wish to consider establishing a charitable gift annuity or charitable trust that can provide you with financial benefits now and the satisfaction of helping our clients in the years ahead.

By letting us know of your intention to include a legacy, we will welcome you as a member of The Winifred and Edith Holt Society. You will receive benefits that include special invitations to film screenings, our author series and discounts in The Lighthouse Guild Store.

Lighthouse Guild Contributes Expertise to Professional Community

Executive Vice President and COO **Mark G. Ackermann** has been elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Age Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) Alliance International. **Mr. Ackermann** also presented “Mergers: An Imperative for Not-for-Profit Vision Agencies?” at the 2014 Envision Conference in Minneapolis.

Roy Gordon Cole, OD, FAAO, Director of Vision Program Development, presented “Caring for Your Visually Impaired Patients” at the XXXVI Inter-American Course in Clinical Ophthalmology, held in Miami. **Dr. Cole** also presented “Optics Review for the AAO Low Vision Diplomate Exam” as part of the one-day Low Vision Diplomate Exam Preparatory Course at the American Academy of Optometry’s annual meeting in Denver. **Bruce Rosenthal, OD, FAAO**, Chief of Low Vision Services and Karen Squier, OD, Low Vision Optometrist, The Chicago Lighthouse, presented “Low Vision Rehabilitation Grand Rounds”. Together, **Drs. Cole** and **Rosenthal** presented “The Low Vision Evaluation”.

Yu-Pin Hsu, EdD, OT, SCLV, Dr. Cole and Vice President of Education and Training **Annemarie O’Hearn, MPA**, presented “Low Vision in Older Adults” at the American Occupational Therapy Association’s Specialty Conference: Improving Health and Participation of Older Adults.

Linda Gerra, EdD, Director, Educational Services, authored a review of *Essential Elements in Early Intervention*, (2nd ed., 2014) for the November-December issue of the *Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness*, (108) 6.

NAPVI’s Executive Director, **Susan LaVenture**, was Guest Editor for the July 2014 issue of *The Educator*, (xxviii) 1, a publication of The International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment.

Charlotte Surkin, MA, Voice Instructor at The Filomen M. D’Agostino Greenberg Music School, has been named to the Board of Directors of the New York Singing Teachers’ Association.

Academic Rehabilitation Instructor **Audrey Schading, MA**, led a panel discussion on Unified English Braille at the American Council of the Blind of New York’s 2014 annual convention, held in Ronkonkoma. ■

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY:

Lighthouse Guild and its affiliates and subsidiaries do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, sponsorship, marital status, citizenship or national and ethnic origin. This applies to all programs and services and all policies or practices.



Lighthouse Guild

15 West 65th Street
New York, NY 10023-6601



THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER INTERNS

High school and college students gained valuable work experience in programs throughout Lighthouse Guild this past summer, providing assistance in a wide range of programs and activities for clients of all ages with vision loss.

The internships were arranged through New York City's Summer Youth Employment Program, the PENCIL Fellows program, the Virtual Enterprise Program, Pace University's Pforzheimer Fellowship program, the CUNY Service Corps, and the Rusk Institute. ■

At Lighthouse Guild's Harriet and Robert Heilbrunn School, Intern Mei Zhao watches over student Benjamin Miller's cookie break.