



**LIGHTHOUSE  
GUILD**  
Vision+Health

# Vision+Health

## “LIGHTHOUSE GUILD VISION AWARENESS DAY”

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“We’re proud to be recognized here today as we move forward in our mission to provide more service and care to more people than ever before.”

– Lighthouse Guild’s  
President & CEO  
Alan R. Morse, JD, PhD

## The Importance of Vision + Healthcare

Lighthouse Guild marked its official launch as a united organization on April 10th, bringing together more than 200 combined years of knowledge and experience serving people who are blind and visually impaired. In recognition of Lighthouse Guild’s unequalled level of understanding and expertise in vision care, city and state officials gathered at the West 65th Street campus to highlight the organization’s commitment to underscore the importance of vision and healthcare.

On hand at the event were Assemblyman Richard N. Gottfried, Health

Committee Chair, State Senator Liz Krueger, and Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, who called attention to Lighthouse Guild’s ongoing commitment to improving the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired with an official proclamation.

New York City officials including Mayor Bill de Blasio, Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, and City Council Members Daniel Garodnick and Helen Rosenthal marked the occasion by proclaiming the day as “Lighthouse Guild Vision Awareness Day”.



*Executive Vice President & COO Mark G. Ackermann, Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer, President & CEO Alan R. Morse, JD, PhD, Chairman James M. Dubin, New York State Senator Liz Krueger and New York State Assemblyman Richard N. Gottfried.*

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## “Lighthouse Guild Vision Awareness Day” *Continued from page 1*

The official Mayoral proclamation observed, “For decades, Lighthouse International and Jewish Guild Healthcare have provided the highest quality vision care and health services to our residents... My administration and I are committed to ensuring that all our residents, no matter what obstacles they have to overcome, have an equal chance at success, and Lighthouse Guild is sure to be an important ally in this mission.”

here today as we move forward in our mission to provide more service and care to more people than ever before.”

Following the event, which drew nearly 100 attendees, there were employee luncheons at the East and West side campuses in appreciation of Lighthouse Guild’s dedicated staff and the work of all those who helped make the merger and official launch a success. ■



*Somers Farkas, President & CEO Alan R. Morse, JD, PhD, Marc Rosen and Ann Lydecker.*

“The merger of Jewish Guild Healthcare and Lighthouse International is a great step for both institutions,” said Assemblyman Gottfried. “I’ve worked with them for years, and together they will form New York’s leading healthcare organization for the blind or visually impaired. I look forward to working with Lighthouse Guild as both a healthcare provider and as an advocate for New Yorkers with vision loss.”

Alongside the elected officials, Lighthouse Guild’s President & CEO Alan R. Morse, JD, PhD, said, “At Lighthouse Guild we’re focused on treating the whole person. We have a wide spectrum of high quality, integrated programs and services that address the special and diverse needs of people with vision loss. We’re proud to be recognized



*Board Members Neil S. Janovic and Andrew H. Marks.*





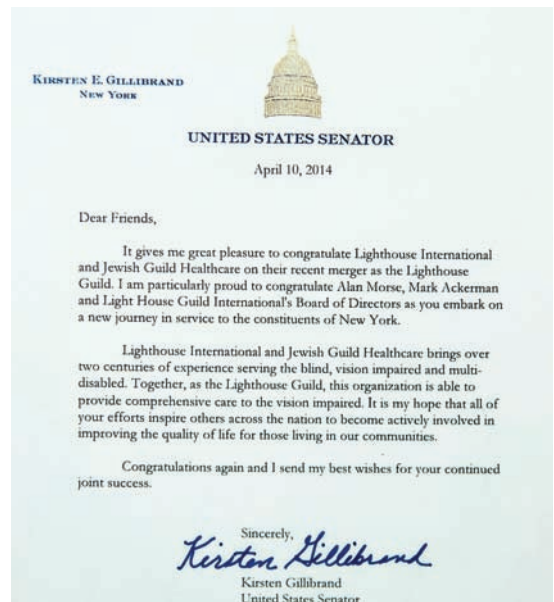
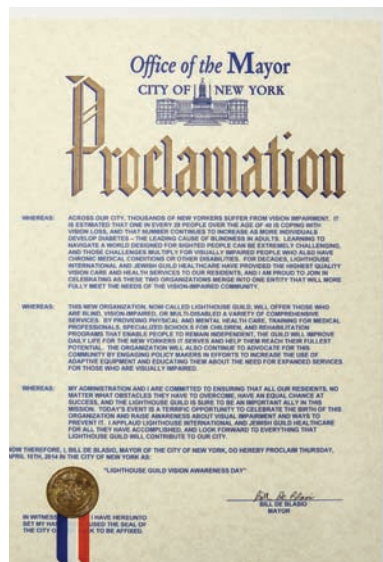
Lighthouse Guild adaptive technology staff members Dorrie Rush and Fred Quick explain a refreshable Braille display to Bill Seiple, PhD, VP of Research.

Elliot J. Hagler, Executive Vice President & CFO, and Board Member Beth Rogers.



GuildNet President Wanda Figueroa-Kilroy with some of her senior staff: Michelle Sulfaro, AVP, Population Health Management; Laura Brannigan, Senior VP Quality Assurance; Joshua Ardise, MD, Medical Director and Eileen Hanley, Chief Operating Officer.

Anita Volz Wien and Bruce Rosenthal, OD, FAO, Chief of Low Vision Service.



The Council of the City of New York proclaims April 10th, 2014, to be "Lighthouse Guild Vision Awareness Day".

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio proclaims Tuesday, April 10th, 2014, in the City of New York as "Lighthouse Guild Vision Awareness Day".

United States Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand congratulates Lighthouse International and Jewish Guild Healthcare on the recent merger.



## Raising Diabetes + Vision Awareness in West Harlem



Opening the community education program were Fidel Malena (left) and Dana Wax, from the office of Council Member Mark Levine, Lighthouse Guild Executive Vice President & COO Mark G. Ackermann, Martin Smith, from the office of Senator Adriano Espaillat, and Danita Hammock, Executive Director, Wilson Major Morris Community Center.

On Friday, April 11th, Lighthouse Guild partnered with New York State Senator Adriano Espaillat and New York City Councilman Mark Levine to host a free community education program for West Harlem residents that focused on diabetes awareness, prevention, and management.

The event was held at the Wilson Major Morris Community Center and provided an opportunity for local residents to learn about and discuss diabetes, diet improvement, and the best ways to help maintain healthy vision with Lighthouse Guild staff, including a nurse practitioner, diabetes educator, registered dietitian and optometrist.



Janaki Sengupta, Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator, discussed using the pedometer and measuring cups as good ways to keep tabs on intake and activity for diabetes prevention.





*Brenda Dash, Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator, described how much sugar was contained in various sizes of soda.*

"In a part of our community where so many suffer from the ill effects of diabetes and related loss of vision, I am proud to have partnered with the Wilson Major Morris Community Center, Lighthouse Guild and Council Member Levine to bring much-needed education resources to our constituents," said Senator Espaillat.

Lighthouse Guild is dedicated to building community awareness and advocacy for issues affecting those who are blind, have vision loss, or chronic conditions such as diabetes. Each year, we partner with fellow non-profit and healthcare organiza-



*Brenda Dash explained the importance of watching your portion sizes.*

tions, community programs, and elected officials to provide educational resources and raise awareness to help keep our neighbors informed, safe and healthy. ■



*Roy G. Cole, OD, FAAO, talks to an attendee about the potential eye damage brought about by diabetes.*



## Bronx Borough President Visits Lighthouse Guild School

Lighthouse Guild launch week also included a special visit by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., to the Harriet and Robert Heilbrunn School. On Monday, April 7th, Mr. Diaz was there to visit the classroom of Angel Santana, a Bronx resident and student of the school.

Last fall, Angel wrote to Mr. Diaz for a social studies assignment – in Braille – asking how to be an active member of the Bronx community. Mr. Diaz was so impressed that he invited Angel to visit him at his office in February. During the visit, Angel showed him a tactile map of New York City, a transcription of one of Mr. Diaz’s recent speeches in Braille, and demonstrated the use of accessible technologies.



*Arnaldo Hinds shows Ruben Diaz, Jr., the VisioBook, a portable CCTV used in the classroom to enlarge type.*



*Angel Santana demonstrates the use of a Perkins Braille, watched carefully by Ruben Diaz, Jr.*



*Michael Lewis shows some of his class work to Ruben Diaz, Jr. watched by fellow student Jaelyn Maldonado.*

During the classroom visit, Mr. Diaz was able to learn more about Angel's life as a dedicated student who is also visually impaired, and the challenges he overcomes each day. He also met Angel's teachers and classmates.

Following the event, Mr. Diaz shared news of his visit on Twitter and Facebook. He wrote, "This morning I visited the Harriet and Robert Heilbrunn School. This school provides education and therapeutic services to New York City children who are blind, visually impaired or deaf blind. It was a heartwarming experience and I saw how talented and passionate these students are regardless of their disability. I was inspired by their positive outlook in life. My visit was also

"It was a heartwarming experience and I saw how talented and passionate these students are regardless of their disability. I was inspired by their positive outlook in life."

– Ruben Diaz, Jr.

a reminder of how we take things for granted. I know that the students I met today will grow up to be successful leaders and contributing members of our society and I cannot wait to see each and every one of them reach their goals." ■

## VISION+HEALTH

**James M. Dubin**  
*Chairman*

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## **Lighthouse Guild**

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